

# St Dunstans Review June 1979



## Message from the Chairman

### Turkish Delight

Towards the end of March, my wife and I packed our bags and departed to Genoa. Crossing the Channel by Sea Link was rather like sardines in a tin, except that they have room to lie down!

At Genoa we boarded a most comfortable Greek ship for fourteen days in the Eastern Mediterranean, visiting Italy, Egypt, Israel, Turkey and Greece.

From Alexandria we had a long day, starting at 4 a.m. in order to visit Cairo, the Museum and the Pyramids. Some St. Dunstaners will have known Cairo; our impression was of the same dust and flies and general chaos on the roads as they would have known, but on a much bigger scale, owing to a greatly increased population.

Calling at Istanbul was a return visit for us and we were delighted to see more of the wonderful jewellery and ceramics in the Topkapi Palace, the mosques and other buildings. As we were leaving, my wife saw a shop with turkish delight in the window – she disappeared and returned with a large parcel, which added somewhat to our luggage!

In all we had a wonderful time and hope to hear that many of you will have happy holidays wherever you go and that the sun will shine for those who stay at home.

*Ion Garnett-Orme*

## From the Chairman's Postbag

### From Mrs. E. Leete of Stanmore

I told 'St. D's.', at the time of 'Leeto's' funeral that I felt he would prefer any monies spent on flowers, to be given instead to his pet charity—the R.C.S.B. So I put a notice in our 'Local' to this effect and I also told close friends. The result was I collected £75 here. The R.C.S.B. were so grateful they wrote and told me they would be very proud to donate this money to an Eye Camp in

India, to the memory of 'Leeto', and this is the result:

"94 patients were treated for various eye diseases, one had an operation for the prevention of blindness and 25 were operated upon and their sight was restored", at an Eye Camp held at the village of Champa in Madhya Pradesh, which was organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, in memory of Squadron Leader Leete.

COVER PICTURE: *Father in the Kitchen: see Dick Hall's Way of Life on centre pages.*



*On behalf of the Council of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme presents an inscribed reproduction French carriage clock to Mr. Ron Priestley commemorating his retirement after 30 years' service as Physiotherapy Superintendent.*

### ON PARADE

On 10th May, Her Majesty The Queen, presented Colours to the 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. The ceremony took place at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. Some 200 veterans were present. Amongst them was Peter Watson, of Peacehaven. Peter was injured in Northern Ireland just under two years ago. The Queen had a short conversation with Peter, asking him where he was living and what he was doing. The Queen was then presented with, and accepted, a labrador puppy, which is going to be trained as a gun dog.

### CORRECTION

The new address of Mr. Danny Watkins of New Zealand was incompletely published in the March *Review*. It should now read:

Mr. D. Watkins,  
Leslie St.,  
Waiau,  
Canterbury,  
New Zealand.

### 7th ANNUAL ANZAC PARADE

Joe Kibbler of Warley, West Midlands, was one of 12,000 visitors who attended the 7th Annual Anzac Parade held at Cannock Chase on Sunday, 29th April. Although it was a cold day, the rain kept off. "It was a day you will remember for the rest of your life", said Joe. At the parade, the largest to be held outside Australia, there were 152 standards present. The organisers will be happy to see even more people next time.

### R. E. VETERANS' WEEKEND

This weekend is taking place on 14th to 16th September. All R.E.'s are welcome through their local branch association. If you are interested, please contact your local branch as soon as possible, as accommodation is limited.

The Brighton party have a provisional booking, would all members concerned please contact Harold Smith on Peacehaven 5581.

## JUBILEE OF BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND

by Richard Dufton

The appeal made on Christmas Day 1978, by Richard Baker, marked the 50th Anniversary of the above fund's first appeal made on Christmas Day 1929, by Sir Winston Churchill. In the past half century the appeal has raised sufficient funds to provide over three hundred thousand radio sets, for the blind of Great Britain.

At a Golden Jubilee luncheon, in the Clothworkers Hall, on 10th May, Mr. Duncan Watson, Chairman of the R.N.I.B., presided. He thanked the B.B.C., for their close co-operation with the R.N.I.B., and St. Dunstan's, in providing appeal facilities, including the British Forces Network Overseas who had contributed most generously over the years. Mr. Watson also thanked local authorities and voluntary organisations for the blind, for distributing the radio sets. He also thanked the Clothworkers Company for their generous hospitality.

Mr. Jack de Manio, before proposing the toast, spoke on behalf of a number of professional broadcasters, who like himself, had made the Christmas Day appeal in recent years. He regretted that his friends, Richard Baker and Alvar Lidell,

were prevented from attending the gathering. Speaking in a serious vein, Mr. de Manio said, that he had been greatly moved as a result of an interview with Lord Fraser 12 years ago—ever since that time he had had a far greater appreciation of the frustrations that could daily confront blind people generally—in obtaining information mainly presented for a sighted world.

Mr. J. C. Colligan, who has been the Honorary Secretary of the fund for the past 30 years, briefly reviewed historical aspects, mentioning a long line of distinguished statesmen and public figures who had made the Christmas appeal. The continued co-operation of the B.B.C., had resulted in a service to the blind of the United Kingdom that was enormously valued. Mr. Colligan referred to the contribution of Lord Fraser and Sir Beechcroft-Towse, in setting up the fund in the 1920's with the aid of the B.B.C., which was an historic moment in the fund's history. He thanked all who had furthered the Committee's work whose aims were epitomized in an eloquent quotation, which he read from Sir Winston's first appeal in 1929.

### On Television

Friends of Jimmy Wright may be interested to know that he is appearing in a film about the Guinea Pig Club, which will be shown on Thames Television, on 6th June at 9 p.m.

### Puzzle Corner

Phillip Wood gives us the solution to last month's puzzle, which is as follows:

Being a small boy, he could only reach the seventh lift-button!

### Sports Programme

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

### 1980 Disabled Games Bowling Team

The following bowling tournaments will be taking place this summer. From the results of these three tournaments, the team to represent Great Britain's Visually Handicapped section in the 1980 Disabled Olympics will be selected. Any St. Dunstan bowlers wishing to take part, should write to me for entry forms and further details.

Hastings Blind Bowler's Tournament  
26 Aug. to 1 Sept.  
Lowestoft Tournament 3-7 Sept.  
Senior Disabled Games, Stoke Mandeville  
15-16 Sept.

JOCK CARNOCHAN  
Sports Organiser

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Mrs. P. A. Hatt of Clacton, Essex, has spent sixteen years working for Essex County Council caring for the elderly. Mrs. Hatt misses her work. She now wishes to continue working with people and would like to have guests in her home. She is offering the following holiday accommodation: one double room (single beds) and one single room. There is a good size bathroom, central heating and constant hot and cold water. Guests will have the use of the lounge, which has two televisions, black and white, as well as a colour set. There is a sun lounge at the back of the house, which overlooks beautiful country. Mrs. Hatt is prepared to drive people to the seafront, which is ten minutes walk away. The cost for full board is £30 each per week. Anyone wishing to avail themselves

of this accommodation must write direct to Mrs. Hatt at 87 Slade Road, Holland-on-Sea, Clacton, Essex. **No inquiries through the Review or Welfare please.**

### LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Ron Stanners, a First World War veteran, is a proud member of the High Wycombe branch of the British Legion. His son Geoff joined before the Second World War, at the age of 18, to help his father attend functions. Geoff was made a P.O.W. at Arnhem, but returned to the ranks of the Legion on his release to become a standard bearer, and to participate in fund raising. We wonder if there will be a third generation of Legionnaires?

*Australian visitors to Ian Fraser House: Sir Richard Kingsland, C.B.E., D.F.C., Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs in Australia, visited Ovingdean in April. In this photograph are: (l.-r.) Dr. R. Stilwell; Matron A. Pass; The Rev. Arthur Wilkins, an Australian St. Dunstaner and his wife, Arlene; Sir Richard and Lady Kingsland and Mr. C. D. Wills—photo John Barrow.*



# TRAINING THE OBSTACLE SENSE

by Walter Thornton and Graham James

Those who knew Bob Bridger, Braille teacher in war-time Church Stretton, might recall examples of Bob's uncanny ability to spot obstacles, and features of the environment at a distance, despite his having been totally blind from birth. This perceptive capacity, generally described as "the obstacle sense", is the origin of the old myth that blind people have a mysterious sixth sense as an automatic compensation for their lack of sight. All sorts of theories have been produced over the years to try to explain it; one, which held credence until comparatively recently, was that it was "facial vision"—the sensing of pressure waves on the skin. At Church Stretton, another member of the Braille staff, Tommy Milligan, demonstrated that this obstacle sense could be acquired. He is a St. Dunstaner of the First World War, whose competence in getting about on his own at Church Stretton was an inspiration to those St. Dunstaners who were struggling to acquire the same facility, and who marvelled at feats such as Tommy walking parallel to a wall without touching it.

## Reflected Sound

There have been classic examples over the centuries of the use of reflected sound to distinguish large obstacles, as in the instance of the mariner shouting in fog to detect cliffs. However, it was not until the 1940's that researchers in an American university demonstrated conclusively that the principal constituent in the operation of the obstacle sense is that of reflected sound; that it is, in fact, the functioning of a natural echo-location system. Since then, other researchers have defined more clearly the limits of echo-location by blind people. They have shown that it is a capacity which is developed by experience; that the perception of small obstacles requires sound of higher frequency and shorter wave length; that the ability is adversely affected by hearing loss; that the process is obstructed by factors such as high wind, masking noise, heavy rain, or thick snow.

It is now well established that blind

people use ambient (environmental) or self-generated sound (such as footsteps, cane sounds, finger clicking, mouth noises, or the rustle of clothing), to detect, by their reflection, the presence of nearby obstacles, or gross features of the environment at a greater distance.

## Echo-location

Normally-sighted people can be trained to echo-locate, and development of the obstacle sense is an important element in the training given to would-be mobility instructors at the National Mobility Centre in Birmingham. (St. Dunstan's is a member of the consortium which administers this Centre, and was involved in the setting-up of the Midlands Mobility Centre, which preceded it). The obstacle sense is developed by carefully graded experience during the students' daily sessions wearing a blindfold. It is a vital part of their understanding of self-dependent blind mobility. Such direct experience is regarded as a basic requirement for which there is no substitute. However, the advent of high fidelity binaural recordings presented the possibility that training might be improved by utilising such recordings to enhance students' capacity to use reflected sound in echo-location.

A pilot experiment was, therefore, conducted recently in which ten students took part. Recent audiograms showed them all to have normal hearing. They were randomly assigned to an experimental group and to a control group, each of five members. At the start of their outdoor long cane training, and having completed such training indoors, they were required to carry out three mobility tasks, wearing blindfolds.

## Mobility Tasks

The first was a walk of some 80 metres to detect six bus shelters. The second was a walk along a driveway, to stop as soon as they detected the presence of a large church door. The third was a walk of some 25 metres, to perceive a recess in the shoreline measuring 6 metres by 1.2

metres. Field recordings had been made of these tasks by a blind demonstrator wearing Sennheiser tri-axial microphones in the outer ear, and linked to a Nakamichi 550 cassette system.

The microphones were sited in the outer ear, so that the sounds were recorded at the points where they reached the demonstrator, who wore steel-tipped shoes to provide a good, sound source. Every effort was made to secure ideal recordings; e.g., good quality chrome tape was used and recordings made when conditions were favourable, early on a Sunday morning in the case of the bus shelters. The aim was to have the minimum of distracting sounds and the maximum registering of the changes in sound which characterise the reflections. Two recordings were made of each task. The first carried a commentary indicating the nature of the task and when each feature was detected; the second was without a commentary. The members of the experimental group, wearing blindfolds, had fifteen minutes preparatory headphone listening before carrying out the three mobility tasks. The members of the control group did not have any preparatory listening to the recordings.

## Results

The performance of the members of the experimental group was better for each task than that of the control group, and significantly so for each of the tasks adjudged most difficult, i.e. bus shelters, where it was 83.4 per cent correct indications, compared with 67 per cent; and detection of the recess, with average results, in 4 attempts, of 2.8 detections compared with 1.2 detections. In Task B, church door, the average stopping distance of the experimental group was 1.65 metres compared with 1.08 metres for the control group.

## Conclusion

Although it cannot be too strongly stressed that there is no substitute for direct experience in mobility training, it would seem that preparatory listening to binaural tape recordings does transfer with benefit to the actual task, and that further such experiments are warranted in developing sensory training for blind people.

## 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.*

**Joseph Heselden** of Eltham, who joined St. Dunstan's on 25th April. He served as a Private in the Royal West Kent Regiment in the First World War. Mr. Heselden was wounded at Gallipoli in 1916. He is married with one son and three daughters.

**John Jiggle** of Great Barford, who joined St. Dunstan's on 18th April. Mr. Jiggle served as a Private in the R.A.S.C. during the First World War and was wounded at Arras in 1917. He is a widower.

**Joseph Jones** of Ledbury, who joined St. Dunstan's on 18th April. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1927 to 1948. Mr. Jones is married.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From: Norah Hobbs, Worthing, Sussex**

May I use your *Review* to say "thank you" to the Chairman, Staff, Retired Staff, St. Dunstaners and Widows of St. Dunstan's for their tributes and messages of sympathy on hearing of Jack's sudden passing. I am most grateful to you all and shall always have happy memories of the friends we made during our association with St. Dunstan's.

**From: George Jakins, Guildford,**

May I through the medium of the *Review*, on behalf of the men, who recently attended the Special Activity Garden week at Ian Fraser House, offer our sincere thanks to Miss Guilbert. The excellent programme she arranged for us must have entailed considerable planning and much hard work. I am sure that the highly successful week would not have got under way without Miss Guilbert's invaluable assistance.



Ken Revis is seen with a 50 kg. German bomb with fins, alongside a glass-fibre 250 kg. one made for the filming of 'Danger U.X.B.'. With him are members of the Oxford Round Table and he is holding a telescopic electric connector (part of the German plane) against a fuse head.

## DANGER U.X.B.

by Ken C. Revis

The recent television story of World War II Bomb Disposal certainly has created a lot of interest and David Castleton has asked me to talk about it in this article, which is as they say "something a little different".

It must of course be understood that when I think of a bomb I do not immediately imagine an explosive device thrown into a pub or an innocent looking milk churn waiting at a farm-gate packed with explosives, but of course something dropped from an enemy plane in wartime, with a very intricate electric fuse either

designed to detonate on impact or after an extensive delay. It was of course the delay or anti-handling devices on wartime bombs which caused the maximum of uncertainty, fear, sometimes panic, and always demoralisation and great interruption in the war effort.

German bombs came in six sizes or weights, 50kg., 250kg., 500kg., 1000kg. (Esau), 1400kg. (Hermann) and 1800kg. (Satan), and if we take 1000kg as being about one ton it is easy to calculate that they ranged from about one cwt. to about 1.8 tons. There was one exception to this

## Danger U.X.B. *continued*

line and that was the so-called 250 Flam. This was the same size as the 250kg., but it was filled with an incendiary liquid. It did not weigh a quarter of a ton like the normal 250 because of its filling and lighter case, and was fused in an entirely different way which I will come to later.

### Types of Bomb

As to types of bombs they were basically thin walled or thick walled. The thin walled bombs were used for general purposes and civilian targets, we called them SC, short for Sprengcylindrisch, while the thick walled ones were for concrete and targets needing armour piercing bombs and were known as SD, from Sprengdickenwand.

### How did they Work?

Now how does, or did, a German bomb work? The really most incredible thing about this is that the allies could have known the secret of these electrically operated impact and time fuses, many years before 1939, by searching the records of the patents office, because there they were for the cost of a search fee. This was before Hitler practiced with them during the bombardment of Spanish towns and cities in his dress rehearsal for World War II.

In all cases but one, as I have said, the enemy bombs were fused electrically in the following manner. From the electric circuitry of the Heinkel or Dornier or whatever, a telescopic connector was attached to the fuse-head of the bomb. When the armourer loaded the bomb into the belly of the plane it was also slung on a carrying hook which naturally took the weight of the bomb. Now when the bomb aimer pressed the release switch over the target area, this automatically closed a contact which allowed current to flow into the head of the fuse. The bomb was of course mechanically and ballistically clear of the aircraft, but remained with its electric connection for about the first five inches of its fall after which it snagged away. The bomber was, therefore, protected from premature detonation of the missile. During the first few

seconds of its downward flight, the current was allowed to flow into a condenser which held the charge until impact. At this a trembler switch operated whereupon the charge flowed across a match-head or cap which ignited. The heat from this detonated the gaine, a small quantity of penthrite wax, this in turn detonated picric acid pellets, yellow circular pellets about the size of large pill boxes, in the exploder pocket. Finally this pocket detonated the main charge or filling of the bomb.

### Time fuse

This has taken a few seconds to describe, but when it is considered that the detonation of these primary, secondary and main charges took place at nearly 8000 metres per second, it will be clear that the bomb could only penetrate a short distance into the ground or the building before it exploded. Now of course all bombs did not form a crater, or shatter the building just like this. Some were fitted with a clock, the number "17" fuse, and in this case the trembler merely started the clock which might have had anything from four to about ninety hours to run before detonation. This kept everyone, including the B.D. boys guessing, and depending upon where the missile fell, causing alarm, despondency and upsetting the prosecution of the war.

### Confusion

To add to the confusion the fuse might contain two types of booby trap. One to prevent withdrawal of the fuse, and the other which caused the bomb to go off, if disturbed in the slightest way. These little devils usually had a "nought" as the last figure marked on the fuse head.

The Germans, a methodical race, seldom deviated from the type markings on their fuse bosses. Ending in a 5, i.e. the "15", this meant an impact fuse. After digging down ten, twenty, thirty or more feet and removing the locking ring from the fuse head, the fuse could generally be removed by remote control after short circuiting the charge with a special cap. The "50" was more tricky.

This one was so delicate that an electrolytic fluid had to be injected into the fuse head to earth away the charge. After this it could usually be withdrawn in the same way, except that sometimes it was accompanied by a clockwork number "17" in the adjoining fuse pocket. This needed a huge and heavy magnetic clockstopper activated by large batteries in boxes, to render the hairspring inoperative after the "50" had been dealt with.

#### Fuse extractors

There were simple fuse extractors. One used a drum and cable which turned and unscrewed the fuse slowly out of the pocket while another, called Freddie, achieved the same objective with a small compressed carbon-dioxide bomb as used in sparklet soda syphons. The next ticklish fuse was the "Y" type. This was so delicate that it needed liquid oxygen to freeze the area around the fuse head to spoil the effect of an internal battery before it was safe and could be removed, especially as it might arrive alongside a clockwork "17".

#### Odd man out

The odd man out that I have mentioned is the 250 Flam and this fire raiser was provided with an air pressure switch actuated through a funnel shaped opening near the nose of the bomb. On impact, pressure was immediately built up and the bomb exploded, showering the area with incendiary oil mixture.

Perhaps I could give a couple of examples of jobs I became involved with near the South coast. On one, the tower of a church had to be removed stone by stone as the bomb was somewhere under the building. Then after digging down 43 feet in chalk, pumping water all the time, we came across the bomb. The one tonner, protruded from the roof of a 19 foot tunnel. The strange thing was that this one was pointing nose uppermost. After defusing, it really took some manhandling to get it along the narrow tunnel, up the shaft and over the disturbed graveyard.

In another case a quarter ton bomb, from a low flying plane, had scooped an

enormous trough in a tarmac road, dived clean through a service station, leaving its tail fins in one of two parked cars, gone out of the building across a churchyard and straight through a schoolroom and out the other side. When I reached it early one morning it was lying ready to be rendered safe in the small brick privy of a pub, having slightly cracked the lavatory pedestal.

It really was great working with the film crew for the T.V. series. I have made a lot of new friends and met again some old ones. I think they all appreciated talking to someone who had gone sky high, so to speak, and I hope I was useful on the parts of the programme in which I was involved.

Recently I was able to borrow two glass fibre bombs to help with a lecture I gave. I hope this last remark has not shattered too many illusions as to the way films are made. But there, you knew all the time didn't you.

I suppose this really has nothing to do with this article and sentimentality makes me write these few words, but literally within seconds of writing the preceding paragraph one of my old sappers phoned me from Leicester and we had a great old chat, it simply was marvellous. I had just spoken to a solicitor friend and he must have put my old friend in touch with me after 36 years!

#### Another Puzzle from Alan Noakes

A St. Dunstaner and his driver were taking part in a car rally. They knew that when they reached the last check point there would be six locals from whom they could ask directions about how to get back to H.M.S. Daedalus. They wanted to know the distance and direction in which the camp lay. Of the six locals, only one would tell the truth.

This is how the six locals answered:

- 1st: "It be three miles to the east."
- 2nd: "It's four miles to the west."
- 3rd: "It's seven miles to the east."
- 4th: "'Tis neither east nor west."
- 5th: "'Tis neither south nor west."
- 6th: "It's fifteen miles to the north."

In which direction should they go?

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

Our entertainment in the house this month has been a little more varied than usual, with the original Eddy Ford and his group of talented singers and musicians giving their renderings of salty ballads, and by contrast the ever popular Brunswick Readers, who gave us an evening of laughter with their comedy play readings. Our St. Dunstaner Ray Benson set Ian Fraser House to music, which he must have put a lot of thought into. Amongst his choice, one which raised a laugh, was the Slaves March from Aida for the V.A.D.'s, and Elmer's Tune for Elmer Richards.

We have missed Tom Eales and his magical evenings of music, unfortunately, Tom is in hospital at the moment. May we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return.

#### One-man band

Cliff Gibbons and his band had some able assistance from our St. Dunstaner, Johnny Sugden, when he accompanied them with his mouth organ and played the bones, almost a one-man band.

The weather has been kind to us on our drives so far, and as the season progresses we hope to travel further afield and are busy looking for places of interest.

I notice that the House of Pipes is now listed in Sussex Life. Not only does this small museum house the most unique collection of pipes and articles to do with smoking, but it is the very personal service that is extended to us by the owner and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Irvine, that we so much appreciate. They have such a warm

#### El Alamein Reunion Correction

Please note an important correction to the date of this reunion, to be held in October. The date should have read 20/21st October, 1979. Also, the name of the secretary should read Mr. A. Lewis. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

spot for St. Dunstaners, and their welcome extends to waiting on table personally.

The Theatre Royal has excelled itself lately, we have been having some very good plays. The most popular being "Can you hear me at the back", with Peter Barkworth and Hannah Gordon playing to a packed house.

#### Brighton Festival

The Brighton Festival started on May 5th. This year the Festival ranged from large scale symphony concerts, to a series of chamber programmes given by leading specialist ensembles; from the National Theatre Company's production of Somerset Maugham's "For Services Rendered", to the Brighton Festival Tattoo; and a concert of British Jazz. Something for everyone.

The new Marina is an interesting place to visit, especially now the new Jet Foil has started. You might care to take a day trip to Dieppe. I understand the fare is £19.50 return, this may seem a little high, but think of all those lovely goodies you can bring back duty free, this more than compensates for the price. Dieppe is a lovely little old world town full of charm and character. However, providing that the all-important sun should shine, we need not move out of lovely Sussex or even Brighton, with the Royal Pavilion and surrounding gardens, the shops, the sea and Downs, as well as other entertainments. We are fortunate indeed to be in this ideal position. So let's look forward to this coming season.

#### Royal Engineers Veterans' Association Reunion

Anyone requiring details about this event should contact their branch, or write to the R.S.M., Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent. Those association members in the Brighton area should contact Harold Smith on Peacehaven 5581.



## WAYS OF LIFE—39

### FATHER IN THE KITCHEN — Dick Hall

Talking to  
David Castleton

Back in 1947 they were building an estate on the outskirts of Brighton and the contractor was having trouble with his labour force because there was nowhere nearby for them to obtain refreshment. A young representative on his way to Eastbourne became lost in the area and stopped to obtain directions.

"I found myself on a building site and the chap was crying his eyes out because his men were disappearing into the pub for their break. They'd gone off at ten o'clock and at half-past eleven they were just coming back. He said that anybody that cared to set up a canteen would in the first place get his all-out support and, secondly, would make a small fortune."

The young man to whom fortune beckoned was Dick Hall. About three weeks later armed with an old army Soyer stove, designed during the Crimean War, he arrived on the site to serve tea and cakes in the open air. "I started up, I remember, around eight o'clock on a Monday morning and at ten when the lads broke off for their tea-break I was inundated. I just about managed to cope and between that morning break and lunch-time I knocked at the doors of some houses just occupied that week-end by

incoming tenants and found three people prepared to give me a hand. Of those three people, one became my Area Supervisor, Mrs. Lowe, and another, Mrs. Harle, became the finest cook I ever employed. They were both with me for twenty years".

Now his Red Ball Catering Group employs around 400 people and one of its constituent companies provides industrial catering services—staffing and providing canteens and staff restaurants in factories and offices all over Sussex. Our own restaurants in Ian Fraser House and Pearson House are operated by Red Ball.

Another Red Ball company supplies equipment to hotels and catering establishments, planning and installing kitchens and a third operates and maintains automatic vending machines providing beverages and snacks.

During the Second World War, Dick Hall served with the R.A.O.C. and at one stage in the Middle East he was responsible for disposing of unserviceable ammunition by exploding it, "I'd been on the job about nine months and I noticed these floating things before my eyes. The consultant got his hooks on me and I was taken off the job. I never did any more demolition, but the thing caught up



with me in 1956 and this was a bit more serious". It was serious because it cost the sight of his left eye through damage to the retina, "Then, in March 1957, again I saw the tell-tale signs of detached retina in the other eye and was operated on at Moorfields. They caught it in time, its a bit patched up, but I am very lucky that I have this residual vision. I know jolly well that it will disappear one of these days but . . .".

Dick described his anxiety on going into hospital, "There were two things worrying me to death. One was that my wife was pregnant and the other was that I had worked like mad to build up a business and I was convinced that without me—big head—nothing would work. What happened was that after twenty-six days, three and a half hours in bandages, I found my wife had had the baby, Mark, he was a gorgeous lad—he's coming up to 22 now. It was three or four months before I was able to get back to work and then I found the business had never flourished so well. In that, I learned one of the biggest lessons of my life".

By the time Dick's sight deteriorated to the point of admission to St. Dunstan's, his business was solidly established and

his Group was already providing catering services at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House as it does today. He took a mobility course at Ovingdean, "I really did learn an awful lot. I think the great thing you get from St. Dunstan's is what you learn from your mates. You get confidence because you are all in the same boat. When you see people who are that bit worse off than yourself getting around, then you've simply got to match up to their performance".

A Londoner by birth and a native of the Old Kent Road, Dick was an amateur boxer pre-war and his sporting prowess helped him turn a temporary job with J. Lyons—a company interested in sport—into a permanent one during the depression of the 1930's. His catering experience began there but, "I got my real education in the market place in Tower Bridge Road, Bermondsey, where my mother had a cats' meat stall for twenty odd years. That's where I learnt a little bit about life, anyway".

All this must have contributed to the progress Dick Hall made from the humble beginning on that Brighton estate, to his present small 'empire' which he directs from the Red Ball Group's base in

Brighton. "I'm an unabashed disciple of St. Michael. I've studied the Marks & Spencer operation. The secret is a very simple one, once you've unwrapped it. It's quality, service and price in that order".

Dick himself conducted me round his establishment explaining first how it got its name: "That goes back to Army days. The Yanks used the term in the last war as part of their logistical supplies system. If they wanted to get something from, say, Taunton to Newcastle by four o'clock and it was already ten o'clock in the morning, they'd send it Red Ball and that meant it would get there by whatever means at their disposal. The Red Ball idea goes right back to the old pony express days in the Wild West when it was the name of one of the pony express services".

The Red Ball as a symbol of service is something to live up to, "We have three degrees of service here. One, normal, which means that from the time we receive an order or instruction through the post or over the telephone we reckon that all the action that is necessary will be completed in a cycle of seven days. That's normal. Hurry up—that's our second category—means that service, whatever

it is, will be dealt with that day and be on its way. Emergency—that's the third class of service that we are prepared to undertake—and that will be carried out within the hour. We're very proud of that. Just to show how business can work when it's not too top-heavy, when you've got the right sort of number, the right sort of balance and the right sort of back-up".

This applies to all areas of the Red Ball Group's activities, but especially where they are responsible for kitchen installations or machines. To this end the spare parts department holds more than £22,000 worth of parts: "You cannot give service in terms of equipment unless you do have the back-up of spare parts. In these days of speciality spares the lead time that you get from manufacturers could be anything from two weeks to six months and that's no good for a caterer who's got a piece of equipment that's waiting to be put right".

On the vending machine side his service engineers carry a full complement of spares to replace defective items on the spot. They're in constant communication with head office so that when a beverage machine breaks down: "We are very disappointed if we cannot service it within

the hour. It has terrific value as far as our goodwill is concerned. Many of our best customers have been obtained by virtue of giving them service when they want it and people never forget when you do them a good turn".

As well as spare parts, Dick Hall has a showroom full of every item a caterer might need, from the humblest saucepan to the most advanced kitchen ranges. In the production unit one-off pieces of equipment can be fabricated: "Whenever something has to be made specially and out of the normal production run, it is very difficult to get manufacturers to do this these days. In order to keep up the sort of service we want and, incidentally, not have people idle where a large installation is involved, this ability to produce one-off is of immense value".

The sort of component that is made in this way might be a corner unit to finish off a run of steel work-top in a kitchen design where no manufacturer produces a unit to fit. A commission to plan and install a kitchen begins in the design office: "You do this by close consultation. You've always got three people in a design operation, particularly in the case of a kitchen. First you need someone to design it, you've also got to have the person who is going to pay for it and you also have to have, most important, the person who is going to use it. Having got the approval of the design from everybody concerned the next step is to order the equipment and arrange for the installation, finally you run through with the customer so that they know what they are doing with the kitchen".

The kind of efficiency and service that Dick Hall aims for, depends on the quality of his staff: "In the first place by far the majority of people in key jobs here, managers and so forth, have been with us for a good period of time. Obviously you have to progress and people join as you go along, but most of those who started up with us in the early days are still with us. I don't know whether it is luck or judgment, but it is a fact that every single one at managerial level is an ex-serviceman or woman. I think, on balance, that must be an advantage to the type of business we are running".

Heading a thriving and competitive business, Dick says he finds job satisfac-



*In the fabrication shop, Charlie Puttick describes his work on a kitchen canopy.*

*Even the humble stand tall in the Red Ball showroom.*



*Dictating letters to Personal Assistant, Margaret Read.*

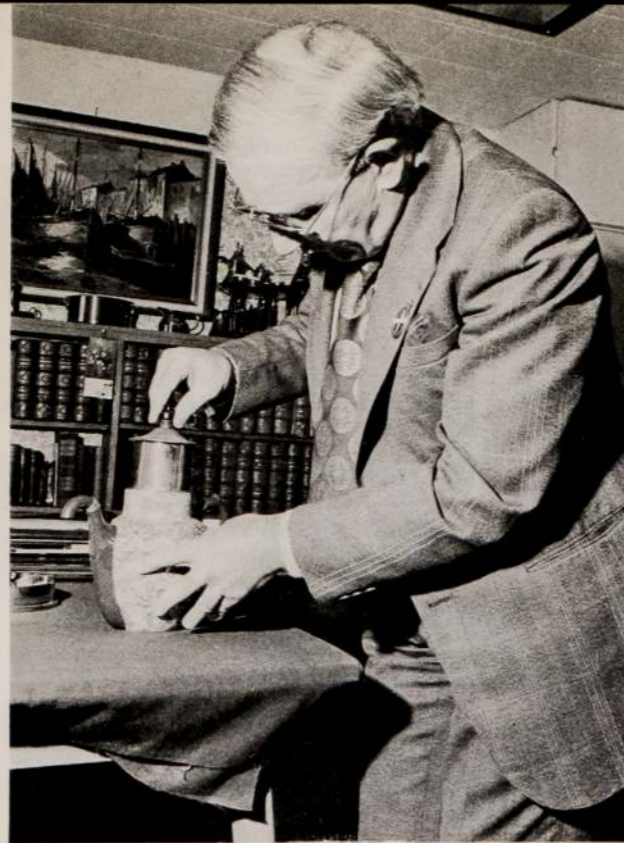




tion more important than money, "I, and I think I can speak for the majority of people around me here, get a great kick out of the job we do. We know all of us are working for the future because everybody that works in this building is a member of a profit sharing scheme. It's something we've had for the last eighteen years".

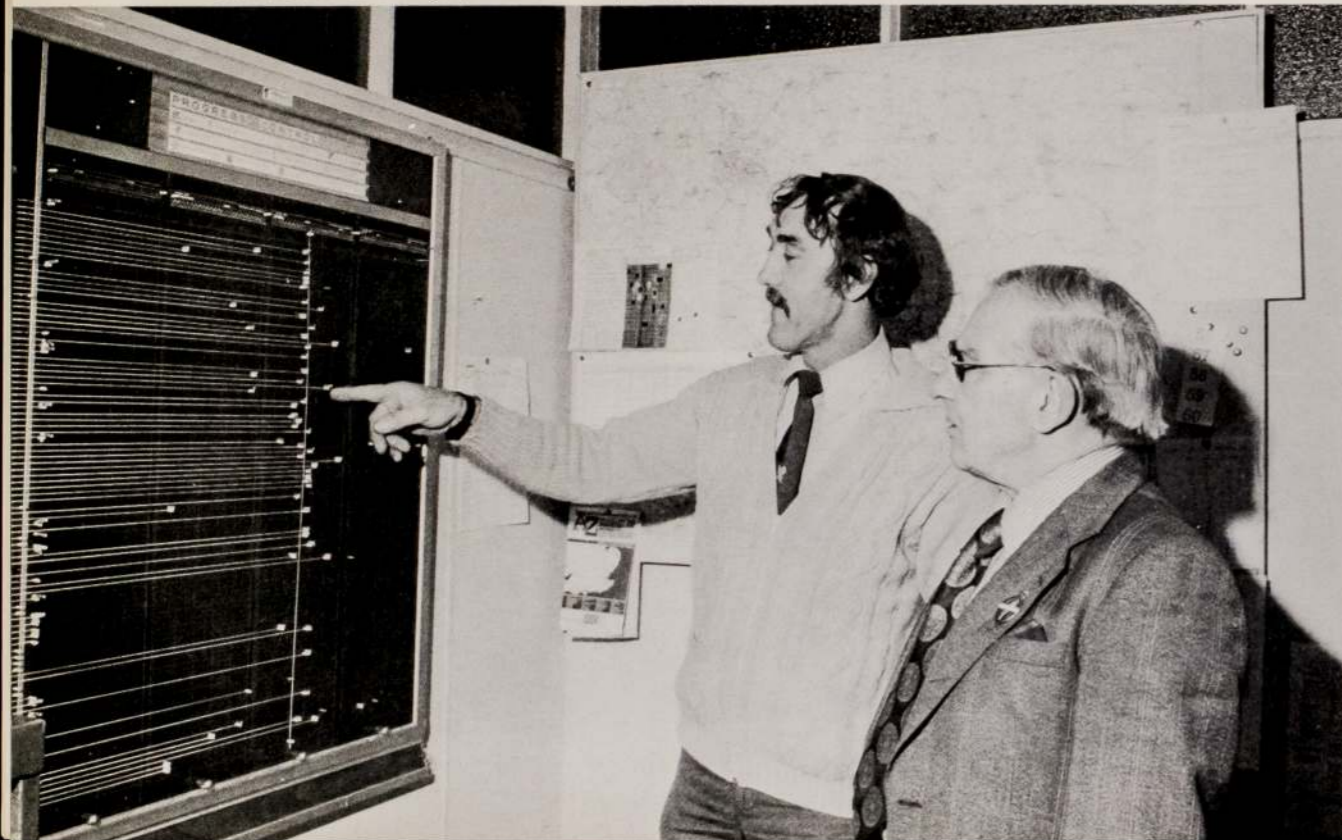
The atmosphere at the Red Ball headquarters is a friendly one and all levels of staff have a greeting for Dick Hall as we move from department to department. "I'm not supposed to know it, but it's an open secret that I'm called 'Father' around here". One of the reasons may be the 'surgeries' he holds: "Every Friday morning, between ten and ten-thirty, my office door can be opened by any member of my staff and they can walk in and discuss any subject with me. It doesn't get used all that much, but it acts as a safety valve. There is nobody in this building who has any reason to have a chip on their shoulder".

After talking to Dick Hall and seeing the way he runs his business, with virtually no sight and with no sign of a chip on his shoulder, it is no wonder that they call him 'Father'.



Above: Appropriately, Dick Hall is a collector of antique tea-pots. This one pumps out the tea.

Below: Contracts Manager, Brian Green, reports progress on a kitchen installation.



## D. F. Robinson's Gardening Column

Everyone thinks that when one retires the days will be too long and it may be difficult to keep interested. Well, I can't say that is the case with me. I never seem to have enough time to do all that I want in the garden. Especially after that awful weather we have been having, which set everything back, making us very late.

As you probably guess these notes are always written well in advance. I only hope that things are better when you get these words. Since the end of the snows, we have had a few days of sunshine, but with cold winds and plenty of rain, so that the ground doesn't really dry out. One wonders what the crops are going to be like at harvesting, which will, I'm afraid, be rather late this season. However, a little dry warm weather always makes the seeds and plants buck up and really race away again.

My first lot of peas came to nothing. The broad beans are just about to show their heads, plus beet and lettuce. I am waiting to see if the carrots will germinate in my very clayey soil, though I incorporated a whole lot of sand in the drills to a fairly good depth. Here's hoping.

Bulbs have done very well and have given a long show of colour and I have been able to cut some for the house, as bought in flowers are so expensive. I saw some pot plants of various types and asked prices. I was shattered when given the answers. It seems that pot plants are now like pots of gold and in a lot of cases not very well produced, so try and raise some from seed. It's cheaper, a challenge, and gives one great satisfaction to have a really good plant in the house or greenhouse.

### Vegetables

Keep the hoe going regularly to open up the soil and stop the weeds from taking over. Various types of insect pests will be on the rampage now, so get the insecticides sprayed on all the plants. It may be a good plan to use one of the combined sprays to take care of all the ailments at plant level. Don't forget that there are a

number of soil pests, which can be taken care of by powders spread around and raked into the soil between the rows of growing plants.

Runner beans should be coming along well by now, so see that the poles and strings are in position for them to climb onto. Ensure that the whole thing is really secure, as in some gales they will be completely wrecked.

Tie in the outdoor tomatoes as they grow. If they are the normal type, don't forget to nip out all the side shoots. Certain varieties such as Amateur need no stopping, since they grow as bushes. Give them a dose of fertiliser as the fruit sets.

Harvest the beans and peas regularly. When they are over get rid of the debris. Dig over in preparation for a further crop but not the same type of thing. Water in very dry conditions and soak thoroughly, not just a drop, since this may lead to the roots coming to the top, as the water will not really penetrate to a good depth. It might also be a good thing to water in the late afternoon or early evening, so that scorching of the leaves doesn't occur.

Salad items can be sown as one crop ends, to keep you going all through the summer; sow in small quantities. One always tends to sow too many seeds and then a whole heap of good items have to be thrown out. In any case seed is wasted and this can be used over a long period.

Pay plenty of attention to those outdoor cucumbers and marrows, and give them a good dose of fertiliser regularly and plenty of water. Remember, if you are growing marrows for exhibitions let only a very few go on to maturity. As they grow you may have to discard further fruit to get maximum size.

Broad beans nearly always attract the black fly, which seems to like the top growing shoot rather than any other part of the plant. So it is a good plan to nip this shoot out. Some people I know just let the insects get on with it. I must say that there is not much deterioration in the crop, but I don't advise this. I have found

### Gardening—continued

these black flies are not so readily controlled by the normal insecticides. However, early spraying before they arrive is a deterrent. Birds can also be a nuisance to young plants, some silver foil on the end of sticks helps to keep them away, as wind tends to make the foil noisy. I used this on my fruit trees, as they were about to come into blossom, and it saved a lot of destruction.

Earth up the potatoes as they grow. Often a catch crop of lettuce or radish can be grown between the rows of potatoes if you are rather short of space.

Firm in any plantings of any of the cabbage family, especially those that have grown a bit leggy following spells of strong winds.

### Herbaceous Border

Quite a busy time here with the planting out of those half hardy annuals, which you have raised from seed or bought in.

Try and make a banking of flowers, with the dwarf items in the front, ranging back to the really leggy plants which will need staking. It is a good plan, before putting these items in, to sprinkle some 'Growmore' on the ground and fork it in as you plant.

Stake all those tall perennials, especially the chrysanthemums, if you want to have good straight stems. The stakes will protect them from the wind. Where there are rather a lot of breaks, cut away some of them. In other cases where the plants are only growing on one stem, pinch out the top to induce side shoots. One can get good sized blooms by restricting the number of blooms in each head later on.

Cuttings of many perennials can be taken now and will be nicely rooted by the time the winter comes along.

Make sure that you cut off all dead heads from plants, to ensure a continuous supply of colour and cut flowers outdoors. Some of those tuberous rooted double begonias will be better off if they have those large heads supported by short stakes. These stakes will not be noticed, but save a lot of heartache when losing the best blooms. These plants plus fuschias, geraniums and chrysanthemums will benefit from an occasional liquid feed.

Here, as with everywhere else, pests are on the rampage. Deal with them at once and water thoroughly in very dry conditions, but not in the middle of the day. Keep the beds clear of weeds and open up the soil by hoeing every so often.

Many of the spring bulbs will have their leaves going off now, so that they can be cut away at ground level to make things look more tidy.

### Lawns

Mow the grass regularly, with the cutters down at almost the lowest level. If rain is forecast, or the lawn is damp, then this is the time to use lawn fertiliser-cum-weed killer. Keep the edges cut tidily and if you have a smallish lawn, try and get the dandelions out by hand. Use a fork and ease them out. Always remember that dandelions have a long root and if these roots are broken off whilst weeding, they will come again. There is a special stick, rather like a stick of shaving soap, which can be used to dab on the leaves, although you must be careful not to get it on anything else. It is possible to attach this stick to a long pole, so that there is no bending to be done.

### Fruit

One will now have an idea as to the kind of crop to be had from the hard fruit. A certain amount of thinning out can be made where there is a very large set, but leave the main thinning till next month just in case of a late frost or inroads by birds whilst the fruit is so small.

Pick all the soft fruits as they ripen, don't leave them on the bushes, since moulds may set in especially after wet weather and affect the rest of the crop.

Layering of strawberries can be undertaken but don't take too many from each plant.

Once again as with other parts of the garden, beware of insect invasions and deal with the trouble at once or spray as a deterrent.

### Greenhouse

Plenty to keep you busy here, with all the plants growing rapidly and needing a lot of attention to be kept up to scratch.

### Gardening—continued

All young plants which were grown for flowering in pots, now and later on, should be in their final pots.

You can sow those spring annuals for pot work now, such as cineraria, calceolaria and various primulas and polyanthus. Cyclamen can be started for next autumn's pot show and those that are over can be rested in a shaded spot outdoors and watering cut down to a minimum, until all leaves have fallen. Then dry them off till early autumn to get colour back again.

Tomatoes will be needing a feed at least once a week and plenty of water in hot sunny conditions. Pick off any side shoots and leave growth on the main leader only. Stake properly and tie in loosely.

Give some shade when there is a lot of sun about, I have often found that newspaper is quite efficient and cheap. Another way is to use Netlon greenhouse netting, which is very fine and acts as a shade, best put on the outside. Keep a fairly moist atmosphere with plenty of ventilation. Use smokes against all types of pest and disease, last thing at night with everything closed up, but ventilate freely in morning before entering.

### NOTHING CHANGES

"We are living in difficult and dangerous times. Youth has no regard for old age, and the wisdom of centuries is looked down upon as stupidity and foolishness. The young men are indolent and insolent and the young women are indecent and indecorous in their speech, behaviour and dress".

No, these are not the words of some disenchanted social observer. They were written by Peter the Hermit in the twelfth century!

### NEW TAPE RECORDING SERVICE

The ADA Reading Services for the Blind will record material onto tape, free of charge, for blind students and others, and can also undertake some tape copying. A taped version of the 'Manual for Blind Gardeners' is included in the services provided. Requests for copies should be accompanied by two C60 blank cassettes and a self-addressed label. Further information about ADA from Mrs. Audrey Artus, 12 Renhold Road, Wilden, Bedford. Tel: Bedford 771693.

### Melbourne Reception to Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre

*Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., will be attending a Reunion of St. Dunstan's (New Zealand) this month. During her visit to Australia and New Zealand, in April, she attended a British Ex-Service Women's Reunion in Melbourne and a Reunion of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's (Australia).*

Australian St. Dunstaners living in Victoria were privileged to meet Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., at a reception in her honour at the Naval and Military Club, Melbourne, on Friday, 27th April. The reception was arranged by the Victoria Branch of St. Dunstan's, Australia, and was attended by eleven members and their wives, as well as a group of special guests: Sir Edward and Lady Dunlop, cousins of Mrs. Dacre, Dr. and Mrs. James Roche and daughter

Mary from Colac, Victoria. For Mrs. Dacre this was the climax of a week of functions to commemorate Anzac Day—25th April. Mrs. Dacre's boundless energy and charm inspired us all and she made many friends. In his welcoming speech to her, the President, Colin Johnston, presented her with a hand-crafted pewter plate with an Australian wild flower motif and a St. Dunstan's, Australia, badge which she said she would wear on each Anzac Day in the years to come. Sir Edward ('Weary') Dunlop, whose name was made legend by his heroic work in Changi Japanese POW camp, spoke briefly and recalled the name of St. Dunstaner Billy Griffiths, who was a fellow POW. Mrs. Dacre was given a standing ovation as she left with her relations for a well-earned rest at their country home in Colac.



Among a crowd of well-wishers, Bert Ward receives a presentation tankard from Leeds Chief Education Officer, Mr. R. S. Johnson. Bert and his wife, Mavis, were guests of honour at a reception on his retirement from work as a receptionist at the Education Department.

—photo Evening Post Leeds.

### R.N.I.B. to Sell Special Recording Equipment

Reprinted from 'In Touch' bulletin No. 15

The special equipment supplied by the Foundation for Audio Research and Services to blind people is now available to individuals, at special rates, through the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Details of the different types of recorders and accessories supplied by the Foundation, together with price lists, and of the new marketing arrangement can be obtained direct from the Honorary Director of the Foundation, Mr. Arthur Wilson, 12 Netley Dell, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Tel: Letchworth 74052. There are plans to extend the range of modified recorders specially adapted to the needs of visually handicapped school-children, students and working people.

Orders for any of these items should be sent to the sales department at H.Q. and not direct to the R.N.I.B.

A taped version of the 'In Touch' bulletin can be made by the Tape Recording Service for the Blind; send a five inch tape or a C60 cassette, together with a self-addressed label to Charles Cadwell, M.B.E., 48 Fairfax Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 8JP.

### GARDENING TAPES

A catalogue of gardening tapes, and how they may be obtained is available from:

Miss Kathleen Fleet,  
48 Tolcarne Drive,  
Pinner,  
Middlesex. Tel. 01-868 4026

## CLUB NEWS

### DOUG CASHMORE

The *Review* was very sorry to learn of the death of Doug Cashmore on 7th May. Doug was a mainstay of the Midland Club and regularly supplied notes to the *Review*, recounting the many activities he had organised for the club as secretary.

We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan, and sons Robert and John.

### BRIGHTON

#### Bridge Notes

The fourth Individual Competition was held on Saturday, 21st April, with the following results.

<b>W. Burnett and Partner</b>	<b>77 pts.</b>
P. McCormack and W. Allen	63 pts.
W. Phillips and R. Freer	62 pts.
J. Padley and M. Tybinski	62 pts.
H. Preedy and W. Lethbridge	58 pts.
F. Griffee and C. Walters	56 pts.

On Sunday, 22nd April, a team of twelve visited Horsham Bridge Club. This long-standing annual fixture was as successful as ever. St. Dunstan's team enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Horsham members and were served with delicious refreshments. To top it all, St. Dunstan's managed to win the match by a few odd points.

Our fourth Pairs Competition took place on Sunday, 29th April. As fewer players were available it was decided to use a four table Howell movement. The results were as follows:

#### 1st

**W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad 58.7**

#### Joint 2nd

J. Padley and Mrs. Green 56.4

W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad 56.4

*W. LETHBRIDGE*

### Bowls

Friday, 20th April, saw our final match of the indoor season with Old Woking Bowling Club. It was especially nice to welcome Old Woking because it was their first ever visit to Ian Fraser House and of course they were one of the Clubs that first invited our Bowling Club some 27 years ago. Besides the enjoyment of

the bowls, it was nice to hear the nostalgic reminiscing between our veteran bowlers and our friends from Old Woking. A most successful event all round.

We have completed our indoor competition for the Sir Michael Ansell Cup, the winner being Micky Robinson and runner up Jim Morrish, congratulations to you both for such fine scores.

Sunday, May 6th, was our first outdoor match of the season. Though a trifle fresh it remained dry. Once again it was very pleasant to meet our friends at Burgess Hill and the usual recipe of good bowling, good company and a jolly good time was had by all.

Please add the following fixtures to your bowling diary. Tuesday, June 19th, St. Ann's Well; and Wednesday, August 8th, Eastbourne.

*J. PADLEY, Chairman*

### Entertainment Section

The last two dances have been most enjoyable, especially the Easter one, when we held a Fancy Hat Parade. Apart from the lovely creations, there were some very original ones and the winners were as follows:

#### Ladies

Mrs. I. Flack  
Mrs. C. Preedy  
Mrs. M. Langley  
Mrs. P. Brett

#### Gentlemen

Mr. J. Langley  
Mr. H. Preedy  
Mr. J. Cope  
Mr. R. Brett

We would like to thank the Judges, Mr. and Mrs. Wood and Dr. J. O'Hara, and everyone who took part in the Parade.

The theme for the June dance on the 9th, will be "Song Titles" so get your thinking caps on now.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Tournaments are now coming to a close and the results will be given at a later date.

Summer programme: on the 6th July we are visiting the Torino Wine Company. This is an evening trip, the cost to Members will be £1 and £1.50 to non-Members, this includes wine, cheese and biscuits.

We still have a few vacancies for the visit to the Congress Theatre at Eastbourne. The Committee have revised the

### Club News—continued

cost which now reads: Members £2.50 and non-Members £4, including high tea.

Another trip has now been finalised, this time to the Merrydown Wine Company and Horam Manor, followed by dinner at the Plough Inn, Rottingdean. This meal proved to be so popular last year that Members have asked for it to be repeated, and I think everyone will agree that at £3 for Members and £4 for non-Members this is a very reasonable day out.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for the cards, telephone calls and good wishes whilst I have been ill, and they were greatly appreciated.

R. OSBORNE Chairman

## LONDON

### Bridge Notes

The results of the monthly bridge Individual Competition, held at H.Q. on Saturday, 5th May, were as follows:

R. Evans	and W. Miller	72 pts.
P. Nuyens	and M. Tybinski	68 pts.
B. Allen	and Partner	68 pts.
R. Armstrong	and J. Huk	59 pts.
H. Meleson	and J. Carney	54 pts.

The representative team of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, consisting of R. Armstrong, R. Evans, P. Nuyens and M. Tybinski, who competed this year in the Business Houses Competition, were again top of their section, after many years. As a result, they competed in the Wellcome Cup on Tuesday, 14th April, with eleven other section winners, in which they came half-way.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

The Reverend Denis Pettit of Northampton, conducted the wedding ceremony for his only grandchild, Anthony Price, who was married to Jane Allen on Saturday, 21st April, at Fawsley Parish Church, near Daventry.

Mr. David Smith of Worcester, is pleased to announce the marriage of his daughter, Heather, to William Martin Eden, on 7th April.

### Births

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Islwyn Hughes of Anglesey, on the birth of their fifth child, Mark, who was born on the 3rd May.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ward of Exeter, on the birth of two grandchildren, both born on 31st March. Their eldest son, Albert and his wife Jackie, had a son, Benjamin Elliot, and their youngest son, Ronald and his wife Rose, had a daughter, Francis Lesly. They now have 20 grandchildren.

### Grandchildren

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Bagwell of Salisbury, on the birth of their first grandchild, Matthew John Lynam, to their daughter Sylvia and her husband John, on 4th April.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brown of St. Osyth, on the birth of their first grandchild, Virginia Amy, to their son and his wife, on 6th March.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cowan of Boreham Wood, on the birth of their second grandchild, Anthony Denis, to their daughter, Linda, and her husband, Denis, on 18th April.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Daborn of Parracombe, North Devon, on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Toby Bruce, to their daughter June and her husband Bruce Aiken on 16th April.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Durrant of Norwich, on the birth of their first grandchild, Mark Daniel, to their daughter Patricia and her husband, on 13th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Serdet of Staines, on the birth of a grandson, Gavin Ryan, to their daughter, Brenda and her husband David Hoff, on 25th April.

Mrs. Evelyn Shirlaw of Charing, Kent, on the birth of her first grandchild, Nicola Sarah, to her daughter Karen, and her husband, Andrew Adam, on 27th April.

### Family News—continued

### Correction

In last month's *Review* we congratulated Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold of Keighley, on the birth of their eighth grandchild. We have heard from Mrs. Arnold that the baby's correct name is Stephanie and not Stef as she previously thought.

### Great Grandchildren

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. Charles T. Kirk of Lancing, on the birth of two grandsons; Jesse Lloyd Kirk, born in Canada, and Stuart, born in Scotland. Mr. Kirk now has twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

### Personal Achievements

#### We warmly congratulate:

Mr. John Simpson of Brighton, on the achievements of his two daughters. Marie, who will be nineteen this month, has been promoted to manageress of the shoe department at the new Top Man shop in Brighton. His daughter, Paula, is the first person at Stanley Deason High School for six years, to obtain a distinction for the Oxford English Oral Examination.

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. Anthony Hamilton of Chorltoncum-Hardy, on the death of his mother, on 2nd April.

Mr. Arthur Hill of Taunton, and all members of the family, on the death of his wife Phyllis, on 30th April.

Mrs. Gwen Obern of Aberdare, on the death of her uncle Lewis, on 1st April.

Mrs. Lilian Sedman of Bury, on the death of her mother, who died in January.

Mrs. Joan Shea of Brampton, on the death of her mother, who died in January.

Mr. John Swann of Cosby, on the death of his sister Edith, who died at the end of last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weeks of St. Leonards-on-Sea, on the death of Mrs. Week's mother, who died in South Africa, last November.

## 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.

### Edwin Bradford West Riding Regiment

Edwin Bradford of Sheffield, died at his home on 17th April. He was 93 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 47 years.

Mr. Bradford served as a Private with the West Riding Regiment during the First World War, from his enlistment in March 1916, until he was discharged in June 1917. Following his Army service, Mr. Bradford's sight deteriorated gradually and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1932.

Mr. Bradford undertook a period of training in the making of mats, rugs, string bags and type-writing. He continued to make rugs at home, until he was well over sixty years old. In later years his greatest interest was his garden and greenhouse, where he grew fine crops of tomatoes. Until comparatively recently, he attended our Reunions regularly, retaining a lively interest in everything going on around him. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Andrews, who cared devotedly for him, following the death of his wife, Beatrice, in 1967.

### Douglas Eason Cashmore First Worcestershire Regiment

Douglas Cashmore of Bromsgrove, died unexpectedly in hospital, a few days after admission, on 7th May. He was 59 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Mr. Cashmore served as a Lance Corporal in the First Worcestershire Regiment during the Second World War. He was blinded and severely injured in Normandy in 1944. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 and commenced training as a telephonist, which he mastered with great efficiency. He also learned braille, typewriting and hobby work.

In July, 1946, Mr. Cashmore took employment with Imperial Metal Industries, where he had been employed in pre-war days. Despite several periods of hospitalization, for plastic surgery, he was considered to be one of the most capable telephonists and his cheerful disposition endeared him to all members of the staff. In 1958, having completed 21 years of service with I.M.I., Mr. Cashmore was presented with a wrist-watch as a token of the Company's esteem. He became redundant in 1964, but continued as a switchboard operator at the Kalamazoo Works, North-

## In Memory *continued*

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field, until he was forced to retire on health grounds, in October 1977.

As a member of the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion, Mr. Cashmore received a rose bowl for collecting more money than any other male collector, for the annual Poppy Day appeals of 1975 and 1976 and about the same time was presented with their Life Membership Badge, although he had already been made a Life Member for Meritorious Service in 1949.

As a token of his gratitude to the Guide Dogs Association for his dog, Curtis, who was his 'seeing eye' for over eight years, Mr. Cashmore gave talks and collected for their funds in various ways.

Following a letter Mr. Cashmore had written to the 'Bromsgrove Messenger', in February, this newspaper published a long article about him and his achievements. They commented that it was one of the most impeccably typed letters they had received for a long time, and were amazed that it had come from a totally blind man.

'Doug', as he was affectionately known to so many St. Dunstaners, their wives and members of our staff, will be greatly missed, in particular by the members of the Midland Club for whom he worked so unceasingly as their secretary.

He leaves a widow, Joan, and two sons.

### **Harold Chilvers** *East Yorkshire Regiment*

Harold Chilvers of Scarborough, died suddenly but peacefully, in a residential nursing home on 9th April. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for only eight months.

Mr. Chilvers enlisted as a Private in the East Yorkshire Regiment at the beginning of the First World War. He was wounded on the Somme in 1916, causing him to lose one eye, as well as suffering severe damage to a leg. Nevertheless he faced the future bravely and without complaint and ultimately joined St. Dunstan's, when the sight in his remaining eye greatly deteriorated.

Mr. Chilvers was a widower and although living a considerable distance away, his daughter, Mrs. Ida Jolly, visited him every weekend.

### **Andrew Tracy Cropley** *Royal Naval Reserve*

A. T. ("Andy") Cropley of Hilton, Western Australia, died on the 22nd April, aged 83.

Mr. Cropley was a Chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy in the Far East and he served with the R.N.R. in the Second World War. He was

taken prisoner by the Japanese and was a P.O.W. for 3½ years, as a result of which he had serious health problems and his sight failed. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1950 and was later able to do some hobby training. He and his wife moved to Australia in 1963 and had lived there ever since with their family nearby.

He leaves a widow, Nell, children and grandchildren.

### **Phillip D'Hooghe** *20th Hussars*

Phillip D'Hooghe died suddenly on 13th April. He was 82 years old.

Mr. D'Hooghe enlisted as a Private with the 20th Hussars in August 1914. He was injured at Loos in 1915, where he lost his right eye. Mr. D'Hooghe was discharged from the Army in 1917. However, the sight in his remaining eye deteriorated over the years, and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1972.

For many years Mr. D'Hooghe was employed by Messrs. Boots the Chemists. After his retirement he derived much pleasure from his garden, talking books, draughts, dominoes and listening to the radio.

After fifty five years of marriage, he leaves a widow, Phyllis, and a son and daughter.

### **Benjamin Varley** *25th Labour Company*

Benjamin Varley of Colchester, died peacefully in Pearson House on 19th April. He was 86 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for over sixty years.

He enlisted as a Private with the 25th Labour Company in February 1916, and was discharged in November 1917. He then joined St. Dunstan's for a period of training in the care of poultry, mat-making and typing. Prior to his enlistment, Mr. Varley had been a farm worker and after his training was anxious to have land of his own. With the help of his wife, Alice, he successfully managed his own farm, being mainly concerned with egg production. At one time, Mr. Varley had nearly 400 birds and a number of pigs. However, due to deteriorating health, he was forced to dispose of a large part of his land. Until comparatively recently he made rugs and string bags and in his retirement derived much pleasure from his talking books and radio.

Mr. Varley leaves two daughters and a widow, Alice, and they would have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June this year.