



**St Dunstons Review July 1979**

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 709

JULY 1979

10p MONTHLY

## Increases in Pensions and Allowances

St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's widows will have heard about the proposed increases in pensions and allowances in the speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Very little detail was available at the time of going to press, but it would appear that the increases to take effect, at the end of the year, will be of the order of 19% across the board.

However, two items have emerged and they are that war widows' pensions will be totally exempt from income tax, only half being exempt at the present time,

and that future upratings of pensions and allowances will be geared to the increase in rising prices. Hitherto, the increases have been geared to the increases in prices or earnings, whichever would be more favourable to the pensioners. However, as prices are expected to exceed earnings, there should be no cause for concern over future upratings.

The *Review* will publish its usual supplement in its October issue, carrying detailed information of this year's increases.

*Anyone who would like to contribute to a retirement fund for Mrs. Brown, should send their donations to Mr. C. D. Wills, O.B.E., at Headquarters.*

### Mrs. Lillian Brown Ernie Russell writes:

This forthcoming August Mrs. Lillian Brown is due to retire after 33 years loyal service to St. Dunstan's.

Mrs. Brown may well be called St. Dunstan's Ambassador Extraordinary. She took over her present duties in 1949 and has carried the St. Dunstan's torch into commercial and industrial life of the United Kingdom. Her personality and business approach opened doors where mere St. Dunstaners feared to tread. Many of my colleagues owe their well being to her outstanding efforts. It is true to say that Mrs. Brown was a superb personnel officer and negotiator, but perhaps above all an adviser, and she earned the respect of employer and employee alike.

We St. Dunstaners owe Mrs. Brown a great debt of gratitude. I know she will be the first to say the reward, for her devoted service, has been the success of St. Dunstaners under her supervision. Nevertheless, I feel sure my St. Dunstan's friends would like to show their appreciation in a more tangible form.

All who know of Mrs. Brown's wonderful service will join with me in wishing her and her husband a long and happy retirement.

### THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

On the Queen's official birthday, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme sent a telegram of greeting. The text of his telegram and Her Majesty's reply appear below:

ST. DUNSTAN'S BLINDED  
EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN AT  
HOME AND THROUGHOUT THE  
COMMONWEALTH SEND YOUR  
MAJESTY THEIR LOYAL GREETINGS  
AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR  
BIRTHDAY.

ION GARNETT-ORME  
CHAIRMAN, ST. DUNSTAN'S

I SEND YOU AND ST. DUNSTAN'S  
BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND  
WOMEN MY SINCERE THANKS FOR  
YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE  
CELEBRATION OF MY BIRTHDAY.

ELIZABETH R.

COVER PICTURE: Mrs. Yvonne Lyall admires Col. Sir Mike Ansell's jig-saws at the Southampton Reunion.

## 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.*

**William Collins** of Liverpool, who joined St. Dunstan's on 7th June. Mr. Collins served as a Private with the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War, and is a single man.

**Ernest Ford** of Middlesbrough, who joined St. Dunstan's on 25th May. He served in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and is married with three adult sons.

**Ernest Hannant** of Hemel Hempstead, who joined St. Dunstan's on 7th June. He was a Leading Aircraftman in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and was injured in Egypt in 1944. Mr. Hannant is married with two adult children.

**John McCartan** of Porchester, who joined St. Dunstan's on 7th June. He served with the R.E.M.E. for 22 years and was an R.S.M. when he was discharged in 1950. Mr. McCartan is married with two adult daughters.

**John Raymond Yabsley** of Tredegar, who joined St. Dunstan's on 15th May. He served in the R.A.F. during the Second World War and is married with two adult sons.

### BOOKINGS—IAN FRASER HOUSE

Owing to the popularity of special weekends, and increases in the number of holiday bookings at Ian Fraser House, it is not possible to guarantee that a single room can be allotted to each St. Dunstaner. Therefore, priority for single rooms will be given in order of bookings.

Also please note that extensions can only be allowed if the bed position permits.

All bed bookings must be made through the Homes Bookings Section of the Welfare Department at Headquarters.

### RETIREMENT

Mr. Albert Mitchell (Mitch) of Guildford, has recently retired from Nelco Limited, Shalford, after 30 years with the firm. His retirement was marked with a sherry party, given by the Directors, at which his colleagues presented him with a cheque. Mitch is putting this cheque towards buying a music centre.

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The Derby Sweepstake again proved very popular this year. There were twenty-three runners and the pay-out was as follows:

<b>1st Prize</b>	F. Bennett
Troy	Ticket No. 3226 £300
<b>2nd Prize</b>	M. Tybinski
Dickens Hill	Ticket No. 1945 £120
<b>3rd Prize</b>	H. Downward
Northern Baby	Ticket No. 2145 £60

All those holding a ticket for the remaining twenty horses received the sum of £6.20.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please note that as from 28th June, Elspeth Grant's address will be:

High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XO

Telephone: Saffron Walden (0799) 22874

### PUZZLE CORNER

*From Bill Chamberlain of Reading*

Make a round plug fit in a square hole, in all four corners.

*Solution to last month's puzzle:*

Local number six must have been lying for, if he had told the truth, then so had numbers four and five as number four had said neither east nor west and number five had said neither south nor west, both of which would have been the truth.

Number one and three both said that the destination lay to the east. If they had been telling the truth, then so would numbers four and five who said that it lay neither to the south nor to the west.

Numbers five and six gave no distance and gave conflicting directions and, therefore, can be ignored.

Having ruled out all the above numbers, you are left with only one person giving the truth, number two, who said that H.M.S. Daedalus lay four miles to the west

# Reunion Roundabout

## Newcastle

The Royal Station Hotel in Newcastle has been the scene of many St. Dunstan's Reunions. The Geordie welcome was as warm as ever on 17th May, when 23 St. Dunstaners gathered there, together with their wives or escorts making a total of 56.

The official welcome was also a warm Northumbrian one, as Sir Richard Pease, Bt., Joint Honorary Treasurer, was the Member of Council presiding. He was accompanied by Lady Pease.

Speaking after lunch, Sir Richard told the guests that this was only the second Reunion he had attended, "and I'm absolutely full of admiration for the way you manage your lives and the extraordinary cheerfulness amongst you all".

Giving his audience the current statistics of St. Dunstaners, Sir Richard commented on the fact that there are no less than 235 who served in the First World War. "To me this is a real indication of

how tough a race you are. All those who fought in the First War can't be less than 79".

Wishing St. Dunstaners a very pleasant afternoon Sir Richard introduced Mr. Wills, who was attending his last Reunion in Newcastle as Secretary and head of staff. Mr. Wills first of all introduced retired staff, in the persons of Mrs. King and Mrs. Plaxton, and he asked St. Dunstaners to welcome a new member Cecil Wilson, of Brough, North Humberside, attending his first Reunion. Looking back over the years, Mr. Wills recalled that since he became responsible for Welfare in 1953, he has missed only one Reunion.

"We have always regarded Reunions as a valuable part of our Welfare Service. Not only do they provide an opportunity for you to meet each other as well as many friends and helpers of St. Dunstan's, but also for members of the staff and

At Newcastle Sir Richard Pease enjoys a joke with Frank Howe, Les Thompson and David Bell.



At Sheffield the toast proposed by Ernie Russell is "St. Dunstans".

Council to meet you. They help us to keep a finger on the pulse of St. Dunstan's, as it were to learn how things are going with you all and also, as Sir Mike Ansell would say, to see if you've had a short back and sides and to see if all your buttons are done up!"

"I shall remember you all", he concluded, "as I see you at Reunions, your cheerfulness, your courage and I shall always marvel at your victory over blindness".

Les Thompson spoke for his fellow St. Dunstaners when he proposed the vote of thanks. "I can speak very highly of St. Dunstan's standard of service", he said, "and also the encouragement that has always been given to anything I have ever wished in my life".

Les referred to the many years St. Dunstaners had known Mr. Wills and concluded with an expression of thanks to Mrs. Inman and Miss Skinner, the Welfare Visitors responsible for the Reunion, to all the staff at Headquarters and "the ladies who are looking after us at the Newcastle Reunion".

The afternoon saw a little dancing and a lot of good conversation among the guests, which Sir Richard Pease clearly enjoyed, sharing jokes and listening to anecdotes with the St. Dunstaners of the North Eastern Counties.

## Sheffield

At the Sheffield Reunion, on 19th May, there was an addition to the normal routine, when a film on gardening was shown to wives and escorts, as well as to a few St. Dunstaners.

Before this, however, the Reunion continued in the traditional way when Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme greeted guests on arrival and later moved among the company meeting many St. Dunstaners and their wives.

In his speech after luncheon Mr. Garnett-Orme welcomed 44 St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts. He began by introducing Herbert Holden of Huddersfield, Arthur Lewis of Rotherham, and Oswald Thompson of Bradford. He also referred to the presence of William and Mrs. Brocklehurst, visiting from Canada.

There was warm applause when the Chairman introduced Miss Midgley, retired Welfare Superintendent for the North of England, as there was for those members of Headquarters staff who were present. He expressed appreciation to the Welfare Visitors responsible for the organisation of the Reunion, Miss Broughton, Miss Newbold and Mrs. Inman.

"This is the last Reunion Mr. Wills will be attending as our Secretary", he said. "His well earned retirement takes place on

the 31st of December, but I am delighted to tell you that he hopes to come as guest to several reunions next year". The last person mentioned in the speech by Mr. Garnett-Orme was Joe Nicol, who was celebrating his birthday.

Mr. Garnett-Orme told St. Dunstaners that the newly-blind must be greatly encouraged by the published stories of the achievements of St. Dunstaners, "and I want to thank you for the way you continue to keep up the very high standards St. Dunstan's has always tried to attain".

Proposing the vote of thanks, Ernie Russell of Leeds, welcomed Mr. Garnett-Orme to Sheffield for the first time as Chairman. "Last time he was with us, he was Vice-Chairman but we have not noticed any difference through this change. We do thank him and Mrs. Garnett-Orme for the interest they display in our welfare".

Mr. Russell congratulated Mr. Wills on being made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, "It was an honour richly deserved for all the work he has done, not only for St. Dunstan's, but for the blind in general in the United Kingdom".

He concluded by thanking Miss Broughton for all the arrangements she had made and the staff of the hotel for a "magnificent repast".

A number of St. Dunstaners joined the sighted audience for the showing of "Gardening for the Blind", a film made from a series of T.V. programmes shown on "Gardener's World" about a blind gardener. The film was presented to St. Dunstan's by a Committee of the Horse of the Year Show at the suggestion of Sir Mike Ansell. It was voted a success by the audience.

For the remainder of the company, the Reunion show went on as usual, with dancing in the afternoon until tea and the prize draw.

## Southampton

Guests arriving at the Polygon Hotel on 2nd June for the Southampton Reunion, found a fine display of handicrafts on show in the reception room. Mrs. Yvonne Lyall had invited St. Dunstaners and their

*Mr. & Mrs. James Cooper, Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Wood and Mr. & Mrs. John Dickey admiring the exhibits of craft work at the Southampton Reunion.*



wives to bring along the products of their hobbies. There were no prizes, just the pleasure of seeing some of the excellent craft work. Exhibits ranged from pottery to paintings, from wrought-iron to embroidery. St. Dunstan's President, Sir Michael Ansell, brought along two of his jig-saw puzzles and two knitted sweaters, proof that he lives up to the theme of his speech later: the importance of being busy.

There were 81 people at the Reunion including St. Dunstaners, their wives or escorts and guests. When Sir Michael began his speech after luncheon he said that the last time he had been in Southampton was in 1928, on his return from a tour of duty with his regiment in India. He welcomed five St. Dunstaners attending their first Reunion: Edward Cork of Salisbury, Tony Dodd of Lee-on-Solent, Clarence Gibbs of Stubbington, Dorothy Martin of Emsworth, and Kenneth Walker of Sutton Scotney.

"I am always inspired when I come to one of these reunions and proud of being a St. Dunstaner", he said. "There are, in fact, 27 different units represented this afternoon".

Sir Michael said that in his experience of being blind there was no doubt that you could only be happy if you were fully employed, doing things and being independent. "Independence is desperately

important and it came very much from Lord Fraser's example".

"Through the advance in technology employment has become more difficult and we are very fortunate in having Ion Garnett-Orme, Mr. Wills and our staff who think out what we can do and keep ourselves occupied. If we were not occupied and living, to a certain extent, independent lives, I think it would be absolute misery".

Sir Michael concluded by saying how much he was enjoying the Southampton Reunion, "I get inspiration by being with all of you and seeing what you all do and the example St. Dunstan's sets to the world of the blind".

It was Charles Rentowl who expressed the thanks of St. Dunstaners to the Council, through Sir Michael. He gave St. Dunstaners' good wishes to Mr. Wills on his last visit to Southampton as Secretary. Finally he thanked St. Dunstan's staff and that of the hotel for another fine Reunion.

In addition to the exhibition of handicrafts there was also another showing of the gardening film. This time in the presence of Sir Michael Ansell, whose enthusiasm persuaded the Committee of the Horse of the Year Show to present it for the benefit of blind gardeners.

A very pleasant Reunion day ended with tea and the prize draw.

## Bridge Club Annual Meeting and Congress

### The 41st Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Winter Garden at Ian Fraser House on Saturday 12th May, 1979 at 6.45 p.m. Commandant L. Fawcett took the Chair. The outgoing Committee, consisting of Messrs. R. Armstrong (Captain), R. Fullard (Hon. Treasurer), P. Nuyens (Hon. Secretary), R. Evans, R. Goding, H. King and W. Lethbridge, were duly proposed and unanimously re-elected.

Minutes from last year's A.G.M. were confirmed, as were the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports. In his report the Secretary told the meeting that he had received from the Tournament Director, a synopsis of all the Acol System, so far as it had been taught. It was proposed that a cassette

version of these notes be made available. The Secretary said he would undertake to see if a recording could be made. This tape is now available from the Public Relations Department at Headquarters, by sending a C60 cassette and quoting reference G9.

### Any Other Business

The Captain put to the meeting the suggestion, made by Geoff Connell, that Mr. Roland Bolton should be asked to assist him in next year's Congress, and indeed every year, so as to maintain continuity. Before closing the meeting, the Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to Commandant Fawcett for presiding over the meeting so efficiently once again.

### The Bridge Congress

The 41st Bridge Congress was held on Saturday 12th May and lasted till Monday 14th. 43 competitors entered, but unfortunately, due to illness, only 39 players were able to take part. 32 of the competitors were seasoned players and seven were beginners.

Matron Pass presented the cups to the respective winners, and on behalf of the winners, Vi Delaney gave Matron Pass a bouquet, and she presented Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Pugh with boxes of chocolates, for all their help and assistance. Mr. Armstrong gave a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Geoff Connell and presented him with a punch bowl and glasses, for having given up much valuable time to make this Congress so successful once again.

### The Results:

The results of the various cup events were as follows:

#### Arthur Pearson Cup for Pairs

1st	Paul Nuyens and Bill Miller	129 pts.
2nd	Wally Lethbridge and Peter McCormack	114 pts.
3rd	George Hudson and Collis Walters	105 pts.

#### Arthur Pearson Cup for Teams of Four

1st	Bill Allen and Reg Goding Ron Freer and Harry Preedy	49 pts.
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2nd	Bob Fullard and Ike Pennington Mike Tybinski and Bill Burnett	24 pts.
3rd	Vi Delaney and Ralph Pacitti Roy Armstrong and Freddie Dickerson	10 pts. 10 pts.

#### Alf Field Memorial Cup for Pairs

1st	Reg Goding and Harry Preedy	31 pts.
2nd	Mike Tybinski and Bob Fullard	30 pts.
3rd	Joe Huk and Jo Majchrowicz	23 pts.

#### Lord Fraser Individual Cup (in which all competitors took part)

1st	Bill Allen	98 pts.
2nd	Freddie Dickerson	97 pts.
3rd	Jo Majchrowicz	94 pts.

#### Drummer Downs Cup for Pairs

1st	Bob Fullard and Collis Walters	2,670 pts.
2nd	Wally Lethbridge and Bill Burnett	2,400 pts.
3rd	Ike Pennington and Ron Freer	1,470 pts.

#### Bridge Drive

1st	Jim Padley and Jo Majchrowicz
2nd	Mike Tybinski and Mrs. Barker
3rd	Roy Armstrong and Miss Bushell

Matron Pass presents the Alf Field Memorial Cup to Harry Preedy and Reg Goding.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From: C. Beaumont-Edmonds, Folkestone

I am entirely in sympathy with Paul Baker's comments on the inconvenience caused by having to switch from V.H.F. to either the long or medium waveband.

So much so, that in March I wrote to Lord Geoffrey Lloyd, who used to be my M.P., to Albert Costain who is now my M.P., the Controller of Radio 4, and the Kent Association for the Blind, for, without V.H.F., this corner of Kent is particularly vulnerable to poor reception and interference from French stations.

As a result I have had copies of replies or extracts from them, from the then Home Secretary, the Chairman of the B.B.C., the Controller Miss Monica Simms, and finally from an official of Radio Medway, whose transmissions don't reach Folkestone.

The sum total of these replies is that the B.B.C., would like to have a special V.H.F. channel for all educational broadcasts, and that in the autumn a meeting is to take place between the government and the B.B.C., to discuss the allocation of further V.H.F. channels with all interested parties.

There are many claims upon the available wavebands—the seamen for their coastal weather reports for one—so the greater the pressure that we can all bring, on behalf of the ordinary listener as well as the blind, for whom the inconvenience is greater, the better.

I imagined that the problem was local, but Paul's letter shows that it is widespread, so perhaps St. Dunstan's might like to add their weight to our case, while St. Dunstaners draw the attention of their M.P.'s to the problem.

### From: Mrs. Joan Cashmore, Bromsgrove

I would like to thank Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, Mr. Wills and Miss Mosley for their messages of sympathy, kindness and help, especially Mr. Slade the Pensions Officer and Mr. Weisblatt.

My sincere thanks to Miss Newbold, without whose help I do not know what I would have done. My thanks especially to the many St. Dunstaners who attended the Thanksgiving Service held at the Crematorium and the beautiful floral tribute from the Midland Club and donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal from St. Dunstaners too numerous to mention. To date the figure is over £250 and donations are still coming in.

If I can be of any help at any time to the Midland Club please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanking you all once again.

### TAPE RECORDING SERVICE

Readers are reminded of this tape recording service. Any non-fictional material can be recorded. For further details send a stamped addressed envelope to Charles Cadwell, 48 Fairfax Road, Grange Estate, Farnborough, Hants, or telephone (after 7.00 p.m.) 0252 47943.

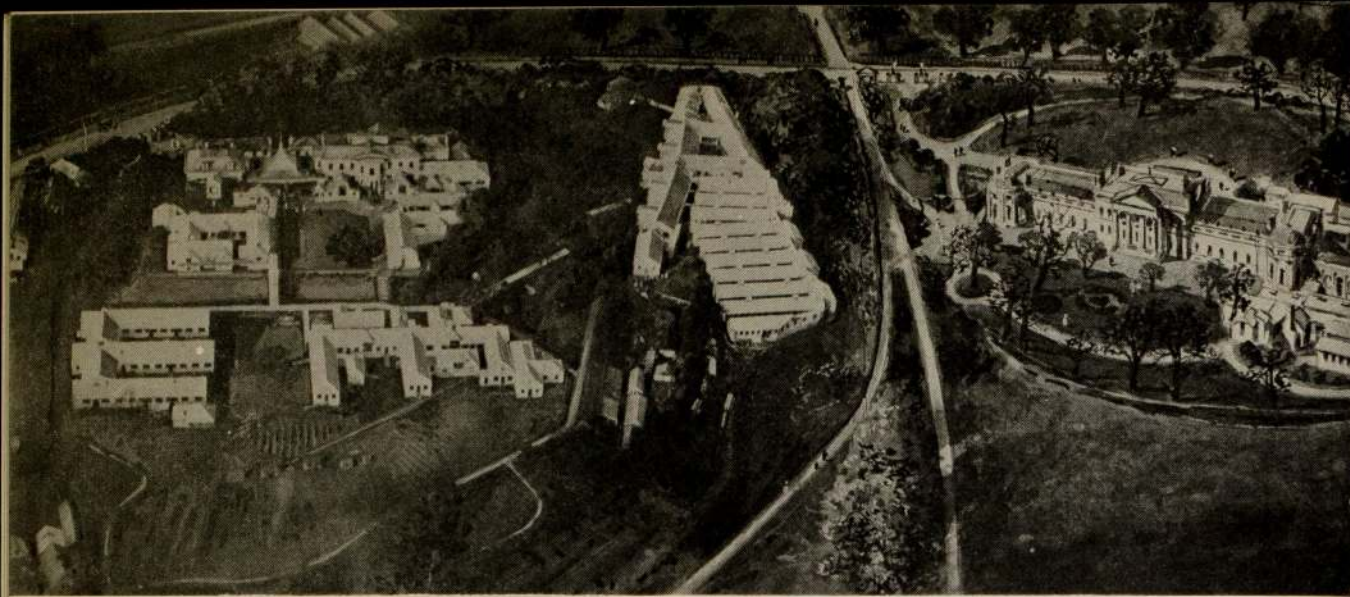
### British Rail Guide for Disabled

A revised edition of the British Rail Guide for disabled people has just been published. It gives general information on travel arrangements, special facilities for the blind and how to make journeys easier by giving prior notice of travel.

The guide is available from The Royal Association for Disability & Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1. Price: £1.15 (including post and packaging).

### AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The next meeting of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society is 20th/21st July, at Ian Fraser House. At this meeting Len Wooller (G8GEZ) is giving a talk on 'Telecommunications'. Members and other St. Dunstaners interested should contact Miss Bridger at Headquarters.



*A bird's eye view of St. Dunstan's and its annexes in Regent's Park during the First World War.*

## As I Remember

Paul Nuyens talks to Ray Hazan

We recently added to our cassette library seven tunes recorded in 1927 and 1928, by the St. Dunstan's Dance Band. Paul Nuyens was involved with the band from its formation. However, the full story of music at St. Dunstan's goes back to before Paul's arrival in England in 1921.

During the immediate post war years of 1919, 1920, there were some 800 men in training in Regent's Park. Music was an integral part of the training syllabus. The music department, under Miss Bald, who was succeeded by Miss Espire, gave people the opportunity to develop existing musical talent, and for those without previous experience, the chance to start on an instrument.

Miss Bald formed a band consisting mainly of banjo players, who played at venues in and around London.

Paul takes up the story. "When I arrived in 1921, I was soon roped in, because I was a violin player. In 1922, Captain Williams, the padre and sports officer, gathered a small group of us together, Bill Jack, Arthur Hazel, Daniel McLoughlin and myself, and he suggested the formation of a proper dance band. Since I had trained as a shorthand-typist and lived near headquarters, it was suggested that I look after its affairs. And

so, with the permission of Mrs. Chadwick-Bates, secretary to the Founder of St. Dunstan's, we were allowed to call ourselves the St. Dunstan's Dance Band".

The band comprised Paul on violin, Arthur Loveridge, saxophone, Dan Hunt, trumpet, Sid Peacy, trombone, souzaphone and double bass, Arthur Hazel, banjo, and last but by no means least, Bill Jack. He was a highly regarded member of the band, who was not only the drummer and vocalist, but also doubled on clarinet and saxophone.

Paul was responsible for obtaining engagements for the band and for organising their transport. This became so much of a full time job, that in 1924 he had to give up his work as a shorthand-typist. "The pianist was the only sighted member of the band, so he elected to drive the car". This was a Ford bought by Bill Jack for £5. "Once, when we got back to the car, there were some policemen examining it. We got in, whereupon the police told us that the car was not roadworthy—no lights. We had to explain, that unlike British cars with a battery, this American car had a dynamo and the lights only functioned once the motor was running".

The band played at private parties in



*An early post-card picture of the "St. Dunstan's Dance Orchestra".*

*This picture from our archives may be the original banjo band.*





Still with much the same personnel, the band is seen here in the 1930's with famous B.B.C. band-leader of the day, Henry Hall.

London, and places as far apart as Wolverhampton, Bristol and Bournemouth. They also played at nurses' Christmas dances, as well as at public venues, such as the Café Royal and the Imperial Hotel. "We would play for four hours at a London engagement and five hours in the country".

The band did not only cater for outside functions, but also played at the 'bungalow' three times a week. The St. Dunstan's bungalow, as indeed were all the workshops and classrooms, was situated in Regent's Park, in the house which gave us our name. St. Dunstan's House was later owned by Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth's heiress. She had wanted to rebuild it, but was refused planning permission, but then the house was accidentally set on fire by a workman. Now the building is the home of the American Ambassador. However, the bungalow was closed down a year after Paul arrived. Prior to that, the shorthand-typists were housed at Cornwall Terrace. Paul remembers being invaded by the 'spats brigade' who had to move out of

Sussex Place. The 'spats brigade' were trainee masseurs, who regarded themselves a cut above the shorthand-typists. The 'brigade', aware of their position, considered it important to stay 'à la mode' by wearing spats.

The St. Dunstan's Dance Band was always up to date. The band had well over 100 popular tunes in its repertoire. How did they go about learning them? "St. Dunstan's hired 60 Paddington Street, in which there were several small rooms and a piano. Several helpers, such as Miss Dean, who later married Captain Arthur Pilkington, would come in and play our part of the tune, to which we listened very carefully. The music was given to us free by the publishers, of course. If any of the parts were augmented by outside players, they had to be ex-servicemen. However, soon after the outbreak of World War II, it became clear that it would be much harder for the band to operate, because of transport problems and so on. So in 1939, after 17 years, the band retired".

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Paul volunteered his services as an interpreter, for the many refugees heading to this country from Belgium and Germany. However, since many of them were able to use languages and so provide their own interpreting, Paul turned to the Belgian Government. An office was set up in Eaton Square, where Paul was offered a job as telephonist. Although he had been a signaller/telephonist with his Battalion, the 2nd Carabiniers, Paul decided to do a quick course of retraining with St. Dunstan's. However, when he reached Eaton Square, he found a very old-fashioned system with three outside lines and seven extensions. This was not at all what he had been trained on. "Anyhow I managed. Eventually, I moved on to a 30 by 10".

#### Degree Course

However, this job did not satisfy all of Paul's needs. "Under the auspices of the British Council, various foreign cultural centres were set up in London in 1941. The Belgian Institute, in Belgrave Square, ran educational courses for young refugees, enabling them to continue with their studies. So in 1943, I sat my 'matric', a mature student of 40 amongst 16 year olds. Anyway, I was the only one out of 20 entrants who passed!" Paul continued with his studies until 1951, when he got his B.Sc. (Econ.). While he was doing his degree course, Paul travelled from his flat in Abbey Road to Oxford Circus, by bus, carrying his heavy wire tape recorder which he used during lectures. The recording surface was literally a thin wire, which frequently broke. The broken wire then sprang back on itself, getting muddled up. So this meant cutting out about 10 feet of it and tying the remaining ends together with a fisherman's knot. The knot was then trimmed with scissors, so that it passed through the machine without too much difficulty. The tape recorder is now in the Science Museum. Paul must surely have been a pioneer in this particular field? One new St. Dunstaner accompanied Paul to a lecture and he decided to persevere with his studies, at the London School of Economics, and he now heads a department at Durham University: his name, Professor Alan Milne.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II has a few words for Paul Nuyens.

Today, 58 years after arriving in the United Kingdom, Paul is as active as ever. He frequently visits Belgium and recently travelled to the United States and Italy. While he was in Italy, Paul had an audience with the Pope. What of the atmosphere at St. Dunstan's today, compared with yesterday? "Can I just say there was a lot of comradeship in the old days. Spending literally years in a trench with comrades [and Paul spent 35 months] never knowing about the next shell, and seeing companions die stupidly, all this created a strong bond". However, it was that bond which provided the base upon which a formidable structure has been created.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Readers interested in obtaining the 1928 recordings by St. Dunstan's Dance Band mentioned at the beginning of this article, should send a C60 cassette to the Public Relations Department at Headquarters and giving the reference number SD3.

## Gardening Column

I expect that you, like all the rest of us, are fed up with the weather. Certainly up to the end of May, it has made gardening very difficult. It has been a case of taking the chance to plant out and do any digging up, when there was a break in the rain. Where I am, in the north-west, there have been a few dry spells, but the soil is so heavy that it has been terrible to work and the lawn has been getting waterlogged, in certain patches. Still, we have managed to get by and everything in the vegetable patch is coming along quite well, apart from the peas. I have tried all types of peas and different suppliers of seed, but they just don't seem to like this kind of soil.

Many plants in the garden and greenhouse are all on the slow side. Even nurseries are having their problems. I am told that they too have lost a lot of their stock plants, from which new stock should be raised to sell to us novices. I did not go to the Chelsea Flower Show this year, but I hear from all who went, that it was up to the usual wonderful standard, despite the weather taking toll of many specialist plants.

### Seeds

I have been told that vegetable seeds are rather late in arriving. On the whole, I think that it is better to be a bit on the late side in putting your seeds in the ground, as this saves great losses or complaints about bad germination, due to cold soil and bad frosts. I have found that seeds sown later, grow better and catch up seeds planted earlier and they have thicker and better growth.

May I suggest that those of you who want to sow some early seeds, buy a packet locally. If you want them to germinate, put them under glass. Please do remember to harden off these items, before putting them outside. It is also a good idea to cover them with a cloche covering or plastic sheet, when they are set, just in case of accidents.

I have noticed that all bedding plants in the shops and nurseries are at astronomical prices. You almost have to be a

millionaire to have a show of plants. Next season it will be worse. So why not sow your own seed in sheltered, sunny spots next year? The price of seed is not too bad and from a packet of seed you get lots of plants. However, don't sow them till the danger of frost is over and the ground has had a chance to warm up a little. You can sow them in a shed, garage or on a windowsill, but I will probably be in trouble with your wife for suggesting that.

### Vegetables

Pick the crops as they ripen. Where you have finished harvesting put all the stalks and so on, on the compost heap. However, put the really hard portions to one side, to be fired in the incinerator, which one will have going several times during the season.

Where you have empty spaces, lettuce, raddish and carrots, and other such items, can be sown. Don't use the ground for a second crop of the cabbage family, although I believe that a really good dosing with Calomel paste or dust should overcome this, but I don't think I would try this myself.

In dry weather (some hopes) water the vegetables well. Give the outdoor tomatoes a regular liquid feed and unless you want to have them as bush types, stop all side shoot growths. If you do want to have bush type plants, pinch out the main stem after four or five good side shoots have grown.

Ensure that the runner bean frame is off to a good start. Try to give the plants a helping hand by tying or twisting them up the string or cane. Hoe regularly in order to keep the weeds down and to open up the ground. A little extra fertiliser, such as Growmore, will help boost the growing crops. Insects are generally on the rampage now, so get out the sprayer and give the whole vegetable plot a good dose. Do this in the early evening, making sure that the leaves are coated on both sides.

Finish off earthing up the potatoes, but be careful not to put your fork, or

spade, too near the plants or you will hit young tubers, as I did last season and spoil some potatoes.

Mow the lawn regularly. However, don't cut the grass too often in dry weather. If it is dry, give the lawn a good soaking to keep it looking green and growing well. Carry on feeding the grass with a special fertiliser containing weed killer, but ensure that none of this mixture goes on the flower beds, so do this when the weather is calmer and when it is a bit on the moist side.

Gather the soft fruits as they ripen and before the birds have a chance to get their large share first. Where you have a really good set of hard fruits, such as apples and pears, thin out the number of fruit, in order to get them to grow to a good size. Spray the fruit against insects and mildew. Give one of the large firms' combined sprays, which saves you a whole heap of trouble. Keep the fruit watered well, but don't just give them a light splashing, let the hose go on the roots for some time or use a sprinkler — provided it has been paid for on the water rates.

### Flowers

Keep the beds tidy by clearing away all the dead heads. This will also encourage the formation of more flowers. Tall plants will need staking, especially young ones, as they have not got a real hold in the earth because their roots are fairly small and are near the top of the soil. Get all the rest of the bedding annuals in their places, especially those of you in the north, who have been waiting for the weather to warm up.

You can take cuttings of most perennials now and put them under cover in a frame or greenhouse. Remember to dip the cuttings in a rooting powder to help them grow and to cut down moulds, which can be very prevalent with all types of cuttings.

Seeds should be sown in a sheltered, unused site in the garden, for the production of new perennials and biennials for next season's flowers.

Pinch the tops out of the chrysanthemums to induce side growths and more flowers. I was given a tip by a

chrysanthemum grower who said that, especially in the north, it is a good idea to keep rooted cuttings in small pots (about 4") till the end of this month, before planting them out. If you do this there will be less checking and they should flower much sooner. I am trying this myself and will pass on the results to you in a later edition of these notes.

As with everything else, water flowers well and a dose of fertiliser in liquid or pellet form will give one better results. Hoe regularly to open up the soil and to keep down those wonderfully growing weeds. I often wish that my cultivated plants would grow as well, under similarly adverse conditions.

With roses, especially older ones, suckers can be very troublesome. Get rid of them as soon as possible. It is better to pull them out, rather than cutting them. If you cut them, this acts as a pruning and encourages them to grow. Spray the roses with insecticides to keep those pests down. It is a good idea to use two or three different types, so that the insects can't get used to one. Slugs, snails and ants can be a nuisance, so put down the appropriate bait.

### Greenhouse

Keep the atmosphere moist during hot sunny spells. Water all the plants and feed them every other watering to help them to give of their best. Cut away all dead heads, to ensure more flowers and use smoke pellets or cones every so often, to contain all the pests and diseases. Ventilate the greenhouse well and keep the door open in really hot weather, but do try to put a piece of netting over the door, just in case stray cats or birds get in. Pot on those growing plants that are for show next Christmas and New Year. These should be the final size pots.

Stake the carnations and late flowering chrysanthemums. Keep picking the tomatoes regularly and feed them each week. Pick out all side shoots and if they have grown very tall, stop the main shoot so that all the energies of the plant can be focussed on the ripening of the fruit. I have four different ages of plant this season, to see if I can keep a supply of fruit till October or even November.



## Elizabeth Dacre's Visit to Australia and New Zealand

I am writing this in a Jumbo Jet on my flight from a memorable visit to Australia and New Zealand, where I had the greatest pleasure in meeting St. Dunstaners and their wives, as well as many influential persons who, over long years, have done so much for St. Dunstan's.

In Australia, Colin Johnston invited me to his home to meet the fabulous 84-year-old Colonel Rex Hall — friend of the ex-service world, and as young in heart as when he fought in 1915.

Colin arranged a gathering of St. Dunstaners and wives at the Naval and Military Club in Melbourne, at which greetings and warm speeches of welcome were exchanged. I was presented with a beautiful Australian ashtray which will always remind me of them all.

The miracle surgeon — revered by all ex-service men — Sir Edward Dunlop was with us. He sent special greetings to all P.O.W.'s who remember him.

Before I go on to describe New Zealand, I will explain why I made this trip. I had been invited to represent the ex-service women from the U.K., at the 1979 commemoration of Anzac Day in Melbourne. It turned out I was the only person from the U.K., and this, coupled by my great age, made me somewhat of a curiosity. Thus, I found myself at the head of the Commonwealth contingent of fifteen thousand ex-service men and women and some 30 bands. At the dinner, on the previous evening in the Town Hall, I was placed on the right of the Governor and brought greetings from the United Kingdom to all assembled in Melbourne for this unique pilgrimage.

We all know what ex-service people are like when they get together — well, this lot really went to town.

They had started betting that I would never complete the march at drinks in the hotel bar, and then at the dance as we danced until 2 a.m., odds lengthened gravely against me. To put it shortly, we assembled at 9.30 a.m. for the march next day. We proceeded along a wide avenue leading up to the splendid Shrine at the top of the hill and passed

the Saluting Base about 12.30. I confounded them all by doing it easily and a lot of money changed hands with high good humour. The gallant Rex Hall, with two others, led the column on horseback and St. Dunstan's were in the front, with other disabled ex-service men and women. Crowds lined the road and the sun came out. The foot of the Shrine was covered with wreaths and the Remembrance Service was deeply moving. After the march, I was swept up by a gathering of New Zealanders and taken to a pub, to have a drink and lunch about 4 o'clock. I think I must be tougher than many.

In New Zealand, Jim Scholes and his wife met me at the airport in Christchurch and in Auckland, a week later, I spent three memorable days with St. Dunstaners and their wives.

No words of mine can properly thank Jim May and his wife for their warm welcome and their care of me and all the others, in particular Bob Sadler. They sent lovely flowers to the hotel which lasted fresh until I left. I wore some of the nicest on my dress each day, as the colours were so lovely.

We had a gathering of some 70 people at the beautiful Commercial Travellers and Warehousemen's Club. These kind gentlemen, together with other influential persons have cared for St. Dunstaners and the Trust Funds raised, on their behalf, since 1917. Such a debt can never be repaid and it is hard to measure the goodwill and good fellowship this has entailed over so many years. They are indeed our friends.

"We do not make our friends — we find them only where they have waited for us many years. No explanation needed and no condition — that we are friends at once we understand."

Gwen Obern would like to thank the staff and friends of St. Dunstan's who sent letters and cards of sympathy on the sad loss of her uncle. Gwen also received many bouquets of flowers, for which she is very grateful.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 1302*

### **Horse Under Water**

By Len Deighton

*Read by Peter Reynolds*

*Reading Time 9½ hours*

This is one of those high-powered and rather complicated yarns of general skulduggery which Deighton does so very well.

The narrator is a British agent, a sort of general dogsbody, who gets rather more of the kicks than he does of the ha'pence. He is sent, with a select little band, to a spot off the coast of Portugal to rummage around in a sunken German submarine. The vessel is reputed to be stuffed to the gun's with counterfeit money.

He is instructed to hand over this dud currency to a Portuguese revolutionary group to finance a coup to overthrow their government (no, I didn't understand that bit, either!).

But that doesn't really matter. The U-boat is just a red herring, if you'll pardon the expression. There are a number of doubtful characters pussy-footing around, and none of them is up to much good. Where does the urbane Senor da Cunha fit in? And what's Harry Konditt's little game? Come to that, what about Henry Smith, British Cabinet Minister and dyed-in-the-wool dirty dog?

For the answers to these, and other questions, like how many murders are there, and what was the delectable "Charley's" real mission in life, and why was the agent's car dynamited . . . you'll just have to read the book.

It is very well worth reading.

*Cat. No. 1675*

### **Fiesta**

By Ernest Hemingway

*Read by Marvin Kane*

*Reading Time 7 hours*

This is not, I fear, one of "Papa" Hemingway's better efforts. I found it slow-moving, lacking in colour, and at times downright boring.

The story deals with the lives of a group of artistic types, British and American, in the Paris of the 1920's, pursuing the

boozy, café-society life of their kind, and generally getting their relationships in a terrible tangle.

I found the whole exercise disappointing. It could just be me, of course, for I happen to think that Hemingway is rather like the little girl in the poem—when he's good, he's very very good. But when he's bad . . . ouch!

*Cat. No. 1793*

### **A Dark Corner**

By Celia Dale

*Read by Peter Gray*

*Reading Time 4¼ hours*

Nelly and Arthur Diccot keep themselves strictly to themselves. They have no family, no visiting friends, no contact with their neighbours. Each evening Arthur goes off to do voluntary work at the hospital where he was employed until retirement, while Nelly, chairbound by arthritis, listens to her beloved radio.

One rainswept evening a young West Indian arrives on the doorstep, looking for lodgings. The Diccots take him in, giving him the little room at the top of the house. Errol Winston is a quiet, inoffensive, industrious young man, and soon the relationship grows into something warm and close. He is now one of the family, taking the place of the son who died as a child.

Then, in the silence of the night, Errol is shaken awake by Arthur. His eyes are blazing with excitement. "Get up, Errol!" he whispers "and come downstairs with me. I've got something to show you!"

Grumbling and still half-asleep, he obeys. Arthur unlocks the door of his "den" and pushes him gently inside. "Now, what do you think of *that*?" he demands in a triumphant whisper.

Errol stares into the dimly-lit little room and is instantly plunged into a nightmare which threatens to engulf and destroy the three of them . . .

This is a marvellous little story, brilliantly conceived, brilliantly executed. I needed a great deal of will-power to switch off—a long time past my usual midnight bedtime.

## OVINGDEAN NOTES

Our racing scene has started with a swing and a very nice day was had by all at Goodwood. In view of the weather we have had, it was grand to see and feel the glorious sun. Of course having an extra Bank Holiday, so soon after the so called May Day, the house was quite full, and we had a very good dance with a buffet bar. Everyone is aware that the Queen visited Brighton to officially open the Marina, have a walk-about in the Lanes, and see her horse run at Brighton Racecourse. Several of our men attended the meeting which had a very good atmosphere in spite of the weather.

Whilst on the subject of racing, we must say that the Derby this year was the highlight of the calendar. Being the 200th the world and his wife were there. The weather was most kind, plenty of blue skies, sunshine, and breeze enough to make things comfortable. We left Ian Fraser House earlier this year and did not stop on the way, thereby arriving early and getting a very good position on the course. Naturally, we had both winners and losers on the horses, but everyone

seemed happy and no one came home shirtless. The food provided was both plentiful and varied, and of course we had the usual strawberries and cream which were much appreciated. On the journey home we stopped at the Friars Kitchen, Hassocks, for a noggin, arriving home very tired and contented after a long and happy day.

Among our many visits to the theatre, was one starring Hinge and Bracket, covering thirty years of memories, which went down very well. We had a drive to the "Merry Tadpole", Pevensey, last week, which is run by Mr. and Mrs. S. Garnett. It was an amazing coincidence that Percy Acton, a St. Dunstaner, last met Mr. Garnett in 1942 in Changi. You can guess they had plenty to talk about. They have made many improvements to the premises, and they gave us a very warm welcome. Ian Fraser House will soon be a hive of activity with fishing, archery, ham radio, not forgetting our Sussex Fortnight of racing from Glorious Goodwood, so be prepared for further bulletins.

## CLUB NEWS

### LONDON

#### Bridge Notes

On Saturday 2nd June, the halfway stage in the competition for the Gover Cup (the best five results from nine games) was held at Headquarters. The results were as follows:

**B. Evans and R. Armstrong** 68 pts.  
P. Nuyens and J. Huk 58 pts.  
F. Dickerson and J. Majchrowicz 41 pts.

### BRIGHTON

#### Entertainment Section

A party of 25 members from the Brighton Club arrived at Babbacombe on the 19th May, to a warm welcome from Mr. and Mrs. Ian Morris at the Devonshire House Hotel. Although the weather was chilly, we managed to miss the showers and it

did not interfere with the various trips around Devon.

Among the places we visited were Cockington Forge, and the Shire Horse Farm, which was most interesting and where ex-blacksmith, George Brooks, gave us a lesson on how to make a horseshoe in the old forge; we also went to Dawlish, Exeter, Dartmoor, and Plymouth Hoe. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy rain, the journey home seemed very long, but I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

On June 9th the theme for our dance was Song Titles and we had quite a good turn out with a lot of original ideas.

The winners were as follows:-

<i>Ladies</i>	<i>Gentlemen</i>
J. Osborne	W. Phillips
E. Simpson	R. Brett
P. Brett	P. McCormack

Our next dance will be on 14th July.

*R. OSBORNE,*  
*Chairman.*

## Club News—continued

### BRIGHTON

#### Bowling Section

On Sunday, 27th May, after driving through rain, we arrived at Castle Green, Guildford, in brilliant sunshine and, apart from a shower at teatime, it remained a glorious afternoon. Besides the enjoyment of meeting our bowling friends and the game, we were entertained by a brass band playing from the nearby bandstand. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of Castle Green Bowling Club for their generosity in making it such a memorable visit.

Monday, 3rd June, saw our bowlers at Seaford, where we were lucky once again with the weather and what a beautiful green to play on, just like a billiard table. It was very nice to meet some of their newer members, who showed a great interest not only in our bowling, but also in our personal achievements.

We are all sorry, that because of illness, Tom and Theresa Mugan, Bob and Joan Osborne and Eric Ould, were unable to accompany us on these two trips and we wish them all a speedy recovery to good health, so that they can join us once again.

The summer competition for the Quadling Cup started on 5th June, and how nice to report that Dickie Brett has taken the lead with a glorious five shots. Keep it up Dick.

*Jim Padley,*  
*Chairman, Bowling Section.*

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamilton* of Manchester, are pleased to announce the marriages of their daughter, Beth Anne, to Frederick Thompson, on 12th May, and of their son, Damian, to Patricia Mooney, on 2nd June.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to *Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gardner* of Tunbridge Wells, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, on 15th June.

### Grandchildren

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. John Morton* of High Wycombe, on the birth of their second grandson, Martyn Richard, to their son Edward and his wife Rosalind, on 28th May.

*Mrs. and Mrs. Joseph Mosley* of Solihull, on the birth of their second grandchild, Graham, to their daughter Jane and her husband Roy, on 20th April.

*Mr. and Mrs. James White* of Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Kate, to their son Terry and his wife Carol, on 15th February.

*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 Rosemary, had a daughter Francis Lesly, and their youngest son, Ronald and his wife Jacqueline, had a son, Benjamin Elliott. We apologise for publishing this incorrectly last month.

### Personal Achievements

#### We warmly congratulate:

*Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cotterill* of Walsall, whose daughter, Mandy, took part in the school play "Carousel", which was a tremendous success.

*Mr. Frank Hamilton* of Manchester, who has been elected a Member of the Institute of Works Managers, in acknowledgement of the work he did in the building of the harbour at Peterhead, and for his continued interest in management education.

*Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden* of Huddersfield, who celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary in February. They both had birthdays in April; Herbert was 83 years old and his wife, Emma, was 82.

*Mrs. Clara Nolan* of Acton, whose son, David, obtained a B.A. degree from the Open University.

## Deaths

### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Mrs. Brenda Duffy* of Plymouth, whose father died on 18th May.

*Mr. Alan Emerson* of Clacton-on-Sea, whose wife, May, died on 5th June.

*Mr. Robert Finch* of Solihull, whose wife, Gladys, died on 17th May. Mr. and Mrs. Finch had recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

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## 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.**

### **Alexander Alfred Gifford** *London Rifle Brigade*

Alexander Gifford of Gillingham, died in a Worthing nursing home, on the 26th May. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for only nine months. Mr. Gifford served throughout the First World War as a Sergeant with the London Rifle Brigade and was discharged in 1919 after being injured in France, where he was badly wounded in the legs and lost the sight of one eye. In civilian life Mr. Gifford was a Chartered Accountant and subsequently a Licensed Vic-tualler.

Although Mr. Gifford was 82 when he joined St. Dunstan's, he insisted on undertaking a period of training in typewriting at Ovingdean. He mastered this well and hoped to learn Braille. However, his health deteriorated and he was admitted to the nursing home a few days before he died.

### **Cecil Norman Jarvis** *Royal Engineers*

Cecil Jarvis died in hospital on 19th May. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for only seven months.

Mr. Jarvis took the 'King's Shilling' in 1914, having lied about his age in order to enlist. He was on active service throughout the First World War, serving in the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. He was discharged in 1919 due to eye injuries caused from mustard-gas poisoning.

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis lost one of their sons during the Second World War, on the Arctic Run. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis had been happily married for 57 years and after his wife, Beatrice's, death in February last year, he moved into a residential

home for the blind in Southampton near his remaining son and family. Mr. Jarvis derived much pleasure from playing dominoes, talking books and the radio.

He leaves a son, Charles, a daughter-in-law and two grandsons.

### **William Kerr** *Royal Field Artillery*

William (Willie) Kerr of Edinburgh, died in hospital on the 5th June, aged 80.

Mr. Kerr enlisted in 1916, was commissioned and served until he was wounded, only a few weeks before the end of the First World War. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1919, trained as a physiotherapist and practised successfully in Edinburgh for some fifty years. He did both private and hospital work. He was married and had two daughters. His wife died in 1965 and he later suffered very poor health, but was cared for devotedly at home, with spells in Pearson House. Recently, he had to remain in hospital, where he died very peacefully.

He leaves two daughters, Eileen and Elizabeth.

### **Victor Thomas Powell** *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry*

Victor Powell died suddenly, while on holiday, on 16th May. He was 57 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945.

Mr. Powell served as a Corporal in the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, from 1944 until he was discharged in 1945, when he was wounded in action in Italy and lost his sight. Before the war, Mr. Powell was a machine operator and after completing his training he returned to the industrial world, taking up inspection work with Messrs. J. Lucas in Birmingham. At the time of his death Mr. Powell had a splendid record of service, having worked there for 33 years. He was held in the highest esteem by all who worked with him. This was evident by the attendance, at his funeral, of directors, staff and colleagues from Lucas's.

He leaves a widow, Gladys, and a son, Stephen.

### **Leslie Gilesie Robinson** *Northamptonshire Yeomanry*

Leslie Robinson died in hospital on 29th May. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Robinson served in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry as a Trooper, having enlisted in 1914. He was wounded in the back and lost his left eye at Arras in 1917. Mr. Robinson, after he was injured, returned to farming until 1922, but was forced to give it up due to ill health. However, during the Second World War he took up Government employment and finally retired in 1972. He joined St. Dunstan's the following year.

He leaves a widow, Harriet May.