

St Dunstons Review August '79

Message from the Chairman

Mrs. Lillian Brown, Telephony Supervisor

I hope Ernie Russell will forgive me if I take up the most apt title he suggested in last month's *Review* for Mrs. Lillian Brown, who is retiring shortly after 33 years' splendid service. She has indeed been our "Ambassador Extraordinary" and is a wonderful example of a most talented lady, who has combined expert technical knowledge with a delightfully feminine personality. She has made an outstanding success of supervising our telephonists in their work all over the country and I am sure employers and their sighted staff will have looked forward to Mrs. Brown's visits, just as she has been the ever-welcome friend of St. Dunstaners and their wives and families.

A note on another page of this *Review* will recall for readers the details of Mrs. Brown's work for St. Dunstan's, but no one who has ever had the pleasure of a serious discussion or a light-hearted joke with her will need to be reminded of her personal qualities of deep understanding, kindness and fun.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's and all her friends, I offer Mrs. Brown and her husband our very best wishes for her retirement.

Public Service in the Old and New Worlds

The Isle of Man and Oklahoma City are not places one would normally link together, but each has recently been the scene of special celebrations with St. Dunstaners well to the fore.

As you will know, the Isle of Man has been celebrating 1000 years of government by its own Parliament, the Tynwald, with visits from Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. We can all take pride in the fact that a St. Dunstaner, Howard Simcocks, M.B.E., is a longstanding and leading member of the Tynwald.

In America, the Ambrose M. Shotwell Memorial Award, for 1979, has been given to St. Dunstaner Ross C. Purse, the Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. This award is given annually for outstanding leadership and service exerted on a national and international scale in work for the blind and I congratulate Ross Purse on his achievement.

Jon Earnest-Dune

COVER PICTURE: During the Archery Championships, 'Curly' Wagstaff shoots and his arrow speeds towards the target.

MRS. LILLIAN BROWN RETIRES

Mrs. Lillian Brown retires at the end of August after 33 years as Telephony Supervisor. During this time she has been responsible for the training and placement in occupations of some 145 St. Dunstan's telephonists.

Lillian Brown became a Telephony Supervisor purely by chance. In 1938 she joined the G.P.O. as a clerical officer, then at the beginning of the war, the G.P.O. suggested that she transfer to the practical side of the business, telephony. She became a Supervisor at the Brighton exchange. While she was there, she saw an advertisement on the notice board for a Telephony Instructor at St. Dunstan's. As she had done some staff training for the Post Office, she applied for the job. In 1946, Mrs. Brown was seconded from the Post Office to St. Dunstan's. The position, she was told, was only a temporary one—for 18 months or possibly 2 years. 33 years later, Mrs. Brown is still with us.

Mrs. Brown took up her new appointment at the training centre at Church Stretton, and a few months later moved to Ovingdean, when it was re-opened. In 1949, she was appointed Telephony Superintendent for St. Dunstan's and she resigned from the G.P.O., becoming a full member of St. Dunstan's staff. This new job involved not only training, but placement too. Mrs. Brown says: "Joining St. Dunstan's was very different from the Post Office, but fascinating. I felt fortunate in having the opportunity to give something in return for what the St. Dunstaners had given on our behalf."

"It is hard to visualise how busy we were. There were long waiting lists for the training school and a very high standard was demanded." At peak times Mrs. Brown and two other instructors had four 'pupils' each, giving each man two lessons a day. Apart from training telephonists, Mrs. Brown also found them jobs. She spent much of her time travelling the length and breadth of the country, often being away for up to a week at a time. "Placement is not easy, the most difficult aspect being finding suitable 'digs' for people." Often there were no jobs for a man in his home town, so he would have to have somewhere to stay temporarily, in a different town, until he had proved himself in the job, when a house would be found and his family could join him. "I had great admiration for these men, doing new jobs in a new town, staying in a new home and away from their families." Placement involves contacting firms which have suitable switchboards in the appropriate areas or, in many cases, firms wanting telephonists approach St. Dunstan's. Mrs. Brown has always tried to ensure that each individual had a job to go to before completing his training course, so that the trainee could be prepared, in advance, for his specific job. The technical after-care service given by Mrs. Brown has reassured employers that St. Dunstaners will be good at their job and that, if there are any problems, they can be sorted out on the spot. St. Dunstan's is grateful that Mrs. Brown's 'temporary' job, lasted so long.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

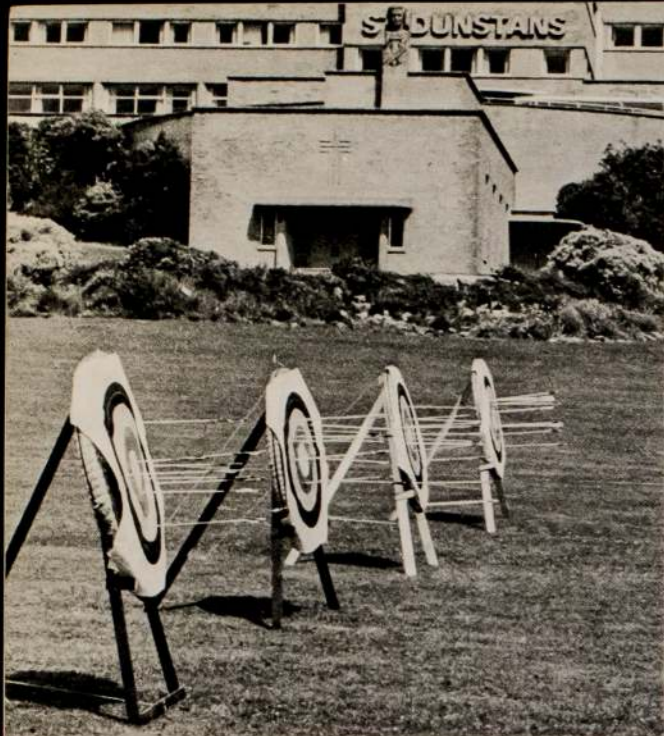
It is hoped that we will again be granted an allocation of tickets for the afternoon and evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance, at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 10th November. Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending, is invited to apply to Miss Bridger at Headquarters, not later than Friday, 28th September, if possible, for inclusion in the ballot for tickets, indicating which presentation he would prefer to attend.

Those St. Dunstaners allocated tickets who do not live within daily travelling

distance of London, will be assisted with fares and accommodation for one, or two nights at St. Dunstan's expense and will be invited to join the St. Dunstan's contingent attending the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on Sunday, 11th November.

MISS ALLISON

Miss Jean Allison, Assistant Matron at Ian Fraser House, is retiring at the beginning of October. Anyone wishing to contribute to a retirement fund, should send their donations to Mr. C. D. Wills, at Headquarters.



Archery Championships

Story and Pictures:
David Castleton

On target—evidence of good shooting at the Archery Championships.

Just 26 points robbed Norman Perry of a hat-trick of wins in the Totally Blind Section of the Archery Championships, when the third series was held at Ian Fraser House, on June 24th. He was beaten into second place by this margin, by Charlie McConaghy who, with Paddy Humphrey, had travelled from Belfast to take part.

There were eleven competitors this year, in the two sections of the championship and they were blessed with better weather than seemed possible when the day began. After a cloudy start, the late morning and afternoon produced some sunshine, but a fresh wind kept the temperature down and caused the range to be shortened.

In the partially sighted section, the two main contenders were Phil Duffee, who has won before, and Bob Forshaw, but in the end Phil finished a clear winner. It was good to see a number of new archers on the shooting line. If their scores were not so good, they can take heart from the thought that the sport of archery is still only a little over three years old in St. Dunstan's and great progress has been achieved all round.

This could not have happened without help from sighted archers and for the championships they were, of course, Laurie Austin, St. Dunstan's coach, his colleagues from the Newhaven Archery

Club: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Press; Ken Hale, Peter Langley, David Giles and three junior members. From the Forest of Bere Club came Mr. and Mrs. Williams and the whole tournament was under the direction of St. Dunstan's Sports Officer, Jock Carnochan.

In his speech, after the presentations were made by Mrs. Williams, Jock Carnochan thanked all the sighted archers who had given up their weekend time to St. Dunstan's, referring particularly to Laurie Austin.

In all five dozen arrows were shot by each competitor in the tournament, two dozen at thirty yards and three dozen at twenty yards. These are the detailed results:

T.B.		
1	C. McConaghy	252
2	N. Perry	226
3	J. Humphrey	36
	M. Pilbeam	Retired

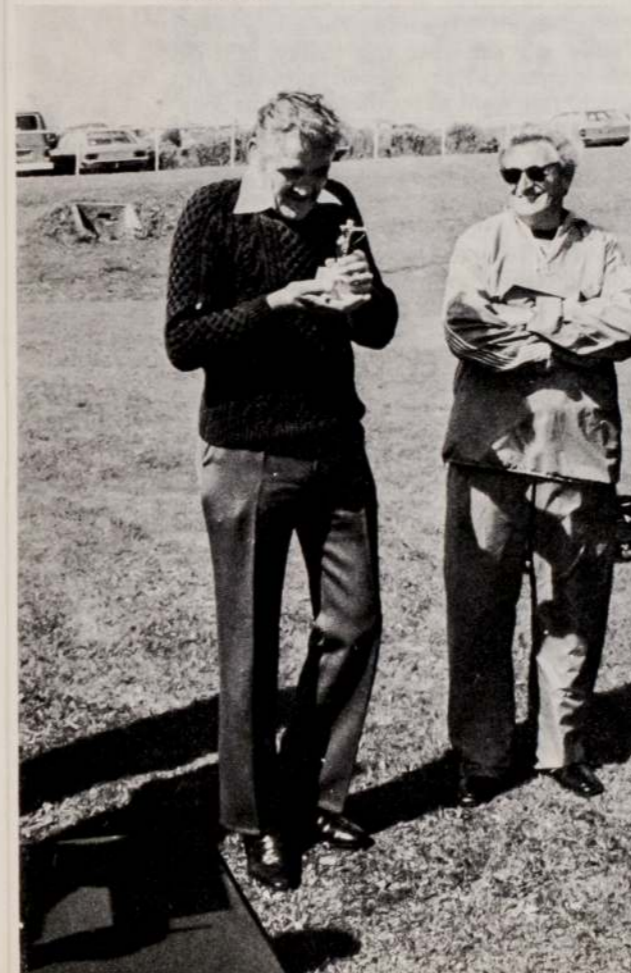
P.S.		
1	P. Duffee	434
2	R. Forshaw	340
3	A. Wagstaff	279
4	W. Davies	247
5	M. Noble	183
6	A. Carter	113
7	G. Hudson	85



Above: Competitors on the shooting line.

Below: Charlie McConaghy proudly examines his trophy.

Mrs. Williams helps Walford Davies check his score.



REUNIONS

IPSWICH

As the title implies, a reunion is the 'meeting again' of old friends. This indeed happened for two people, whose previous meeting had been 34 years ago. Eddie Brown of Huntingdon, and Reg Chapman of Cambridge, served as Sergeants in the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment together, in the last war. Both were taken prisoner in Singapore, and both worked on the infamous 'railway'. They last saw each other in 1945. Eddie joined St. Dunstan's in 1948 and Reg in 1975. It was only by chance that Miss Newbold, who made the travel arrangements for them both to get to Ipswich, sent the same car to collect them and they discovered the whereabouts of each other. It was an exuberant meeting and, though not the first of its kind at St. Dunstan's, it underlines the old spirit and makes these reunions all the more worthwhile.

The remainder of the Reunion, at the Copdock International Hotel, on June 14th, was a quiet affair, there being 20 St. Dunstaners present, out of a total party of 49. Our Chairman, accompanied by Mrs. Garnett-Orme, presided over the gathering. It was his first trip to Ipswich for six years. "I give you all a very warm welcome and I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mr. Sydney Bigman of Norwich, who is here for the first time. Mr. Bigman served in the Royal Canadian Air Force".

The Chairman introduced the members of staff present, but left mentioning Mr. Wills till last. This was his last Ipswich Reunion before retirement. "If there were a St. Dunstan's Guinness Book of Records, Mr. Wills would be in it. He has attended every Reunion except one, for the past 26 years. And when I tell you that in the early years, we had 22 Reunions

LIVERPOOL

As you come out of Lime Street railway station, a modern tower block rises before you; the St. George's Hotel. However, trying to get into the place is a different matter. Through subways, across busy roads and traffic islands, stumble through

a year, that is quite some record".

After giving the overall St. Dunstan's figures, 1070 in the U.K. and 513 overseas, the Chairman went on to stress the importance of keeping St. Dunstan's in the public eye. "I want to thank you, individually, your wonderful wives and families, for all the work you do in maintaining our high standards".

Mr. Wilfred Saxby of Bury St. Edmunds, replied on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present. He started by thanking the Council and staff of St. Dunstan's for all the help and opportunities they had given. Though she was unable to be present, Mrs. Adkins was thanked, for all the work she had done. Mr. Saxby also thanked Miss Newbold for organising the day and, in advance, he thanked Miss Davis who will be helping out.

"What we need today, are men and women of vision. Arthur Pearson was a man of vision, 60 years ago he saw a need. Today we see that the reality of that vision has certainly been proved. We would not want to let this occasion pass without thanking Mr. Wills. Some of the things we know he has done, but there are many things he has done which have never come to our notice". Mr. Saxby went on to recount his first meeting with Mr. Wills. How the latter had been such a good listener, and rather than offering help on a plate, had proposed the sort of help St. Dunstan's could provide, if the offer were taken up. He was sure Mr. Wills had made a mark over the years, and that mark will be both appreciated and remembered.

Mr. Saxby concluded by thanking the staff of the hotel, Miss Newbold and the Chairman, for his presence.

a swinging door, limp into a lurching lift and you are there. Indeed, on 28th June, 30 St. Dunstaners found their way to the ballroom. Air Vice-Marshal W. E. Colahan, presiding, with Mrs. Colahan had found their way from Lincoln.

The Air Vice-Marshal told two anecdotes, entirely inapplicable to himself, but which should be borne in mind by all public speakers. The first concerns Lord Birkenhead who, attending a dinner in Liverpool, had to sit through a very long introduction. Finally, the local dignitary said, "I call upon Lord Birkenhead to give his address". Angrily, the latter rose and gave it: "23 Cadogan Gardens, London", and then sat down.

The second tale concerned the leader of the House of Commons, Mr. Norman St. John Stevas, M.P., who has a reputation for name dropping and knows it. He stood up in the House and said, "I cannot stand name droppers, as I was saying to the Queen only last week".

He went on, "One of the best things that has happened in our lives, was having the great privilege and honour of being associated with St. Dunstan's. Never have we come across a more warm hearted and helpful organisation". He then welcomed new members, Mr. Robert Alty of Widnes, Mr. Thomas Clark of Newton-le-Willows, and Mr. William Collins of Liverpool.

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan made special reference to Mr. Bolestow Gutowski, of the Polish Army. "It is little known, that at one stage during the Battle of Britain, one out of every five pilots in Fighter Command, was Polish". After a couple more anecdotes, the Air Vice-Marshal concluded by saying "I shall not detain you any longer. There are old friendships to be pursued, new ones to be made, news to be

MANCHESTER

The morning of 30th June started with a fanfare, the beating of drums and the soft, metallic notes of a steel band. It was the Lord Mayor's Parade through the streets of Manchester. For some of the 46 St. Dunstaners attending the Reunion, it meant a very tortuous journey, to be able to get to the Midland Hotel, as the police had closed off many of the streets.

Major M.E.M. Sandys represented the Members of Council. Major Sandys

exchanged, and with so many occupations, hobbies and interests represented, there is much to talk about. Finally, I know you will wish me to thank Mr. Wills and all his staff for laying on such an excellent lunch".

It was during conversation, at lunch, that Air Vice-Marshal Colahan discovered he had served in the same squadron, No. 43, as the St. Dunstaner sitting next to him. Mr. Patrick Armstrong, of Formby, was an engineer with the squadron in Italy. Mr. Armstrong thanked the Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs. Colahan for their presence and went on to pay a special tribute to Mrs. Peggy Craik, who retires after 24 years as a welfare visitor. "We wish her every happiness for the future, and she knows she is welcome in any of our homes at any time". He welcomed our new visitor, Mrs. Susan Lord and wished her a "great time".

Mrs. Craik was then called upon to say a few words. She thanked St. Dunstan's for 24 happy years and she said that she knew she was leaving St. Dunstaners in very capable hands.

During the afternoon a bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Colahan by Mrs. Stokes and to Mrs. Craik by Mrs. Delaney. The gathering then sat back to listen, the music being quite loud they had little option, to the band and their singer Marie, who led a little community singing. A splendid tea ensured that all guests departed replete, with both food and contentment, as a result of a day with friends.

started his speech by alluding to members of staff and their work, making special mention of Mrs. Craik.

Major Sandys went on to compare St. Dunstan's with the Guinea Pig Club, which was recently featured on television. They are also diminishing in number, but that means at least, that there are few new victims to take their place. The guests were then given a few tales about Major Sandys' home county, Cumbria, which was formerly in north

REUNIONS—continued

Lancashire. He spoke of the Cumbrian countryside, its traditions and people; "What's the difference between a Cumbrian and a coconut?—you can get a drink out of a coconut!" We heard about the Grasmere sports and also Cumbrian wrestling, which seemed to mainly consist of a local lovely awarding a prize for the most highly embroidered wrestling shorts, adorning an 18 stone behind!

Major Sandys concluded by saying: "We are going to see some fundamental changes in our country over the next few years. Never again will we have cheap energy. We have been living beyond our means. We are bound to see a slight drop in living standards. This period of adjustment is going to give rise to many strains on our society. There will be difficulties for many families, including St. Dunstaners. There will be a call for

BIRMINGHAM

Having shown a film at two Reunions we reversed the process at Birmingham, where the event at the Albany Hotel, on June 16th, was filmed, as part of a documentary being prepared on the work of St. Dunstan's. By rigging all the necessary lights from the ceiling, the film crew were able to work without unduly disturbing the guests—although Sir Edwin Arrowsmith very kindly agreed not to start his speech until the lights came on. This produced a short delay until the electricians sorted out the problem.

At last the lights came on, and, with the film camera running, Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, the Member of Council presiding, began his speech of welcome. There were 45 St. Dunstaners at the Albany Hotel and with wives, or escorts, and guests there were 101 in Sir Edwin's audience.

After briefly giving the numbers of St. Dunstaners throughout the world alive today, Sir Edwin gave his listeners a list of the occupations followed by St. Dunstaners at the Reunion. He welcomed especially St. Dunstaner, Sidney Dodd of Coventry, who was attending his first Reunion. Sir Edwin also welcomed Mr. Weisblatt, our Secretary-designate, to the Reunion.

effort and inventiveness. I am confident that our great organisation will not be found wanting, where help is needed."

Mr. Moseley of Blackpool replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He started by thanking Major and Mrs. Sandys for being in Manchester, and Mr. Wills and his staff, for all their help and advice. He had two further items; firstly he welcomed Mrs. Lord, and secondly he wished Mr. and Mrs. Craik a very happy retirement. "She has performed more than just a service, Mrs. Craik has been a real friend for many a long year."

Before bouquets were presented to Mrs. Sandys and Mrs. Craik, Mr. Wills announced the presence of two former members of staff: Miss Midgley and Mr. Harris.

Dancing, the draw and tea concluded a quiet, but pleasant Reunion.

"Mr. Wills," said Sir Edwin, "Although we hope to see him at other Reunions, it won't be in his capacity as Secretary, because he is retiring at the end of this year. We're sad to be losing Mr. Wills and also Mr. Fawcett from Brighton, but St. Dunstan's will go on as it has done in the past and we will do our best for all St. Dunstaners."

In referring to other members of staff present, Sir Edwin particularly mentioned Miss Mosley, Northern Area Superintendent, and Miss Newbold, Welfare Visitor responsible for arranging the Reunion.

"You've heard of our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan. He is a comparatively young man by our standards. When money means so much these days, he is a Merchant Banker and with him and our Chairman we could not have better care of our money".

"Money is not everything", he said, "and what does St. Dunstan's mean? I am connected with the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. It may perhaps surprise you to know that there are no fewer than 40 million blind people in the world today, and the tragedy is that 75% of them are blind through lack of treatment and through lack of preventative care earlier. So our particular organisation

MANX MILLENNIUM

by Howard Simcocks

There are three St. Dunstaners, Norton Christal, Albert Corrin and Howard Simcocks, and Mrs. Alice Christian, widow of our St. Dunstaner William Christian, living on the Isle of Man. For them and other members of the Manx Community July was an eventful month, as it saw the celebration of the millennium of the Constitutional Assembly.

July 5th is not just the day after American Independence Day. At least not for those St. Dunstaners living in the Isle of Man, and certainly not in the year 1979.

The Isle of Man, all 220 square miles of it, in the middle of the Irish Sea, enjoyed a quiet existence until the ninth or tenth century A.D. At that time the Viking longships from Norway found their way down the Western Isles of Scotland, to this strategically placed Island. For two centuries, the Island was used as a summer base, from where the surrounding coasts of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales were ravaged by the fierce Vikings in their longships. In 979 (or so the Manx people and their public

relations advisers tell us) a Norwegian Prince, called Orry, decided to stay permanently in the Isle of Man to establish his own kingdom. It is said that he was the first to organise the Island with a system of government.

Orry's original government scheme consisted primarily of an annual gathering of the tribes, for the express purpose of renewing their oath of loyalty to their new King. From that beginning this Island can now trace an unbroken millennium, or a thousand years of parliamentary government; not all of it democratic, but certainly representative and unquestionably based on a Scandinavian pattern, called the Tynwald, and owing little to the Westminster style of government.

The Isle of Man is an early example of a pirate base. The Island was divided into six areas, each responsible for providing and manning a longship, in which to pillage neighbouring coasts. Each area was called a 'sheading' or 'shipping'. To provide defences, the new King
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REUNIONS—continued

is concerned very largely with preventing blindness. But there is also the very important other side—that is the care and training of people after they have become blind. In this St. Dunstan's has set a record, which I think is without compare and has proved an inspiration to blind people all over the world.

"This is universally recognised and I am very proud to be associated with an organisation which has done such magnificent work and with the example set by St. Dunstaners." Sir Edwin concluded: "Let us never forget the debt all St. Dunstaners owe to their wives. You can all recall Lady Fraser, I know, who was so loved by us all. This is a wonderful organisation and so it will go on."

Frank Cross of Birmingham, had the privilege of replying on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He began by thanking Sir Edwin and Lady Arrowsmith for coming to the Reunion. He mentioned the names

of staff attending, "I'm sure we would all want to wish Mr. Wills well in his forthcoming retirement. I hope he won't mind if I make free with his name and say that, for me at any rate, he is the embodiment of that old saying: "Where there is a will, there's a way".

Frank Cross said that it only remained for him to thank everyone who helped St. Dunstaners in their lives. "If we think about it, Sir Edwin has already reminded us of the numbers of people in the world who haven't our advantages and I think we should remember this at times. We have a much better organisation behind us and I hope that you will all join with me now in drinking a toast to St. Dunstan's."

The afternoon was spent in traditional Reunion fashion. The Richard Manning Trio played for dancing, while around the dance floor there was a great deal of talk between old friends and new.

MANX MILLENNIUM—continued

divided the Island into sixteen parishes, each with a length of coast line and each narrowing as it ran inland to the hills. Every parish provided a company of soldiers.

On July 5th, this year, the millennium of Tynwald was celebrated at the ancient site of St. John's, in the middle of the Island. On this unique occasion Her Majesty the Queen made a special journey to the Island, to preside over the annual gathering of her Parliament in the Isle of Man and to greet her subjects there.

Amongst those who took part in the ceremony were the Captains of each Parish, the successors of those who had commanded a company of troops to defend the Island. Also present were the House of Keys, consisting of twenty four elected members, and the Legislative Council, comprising of ten people. In accordance with ancient custom, authentically recorded for over 700 years, the Queen followed the Manx Sword of State from the Royal Chapel to Tynwald Hill, along a path strewn with rushes and lined by an escort of Royal British Legion Standards and Scots Guards. She finally took her place on the highest point on the hill, just as the young Norwegian Prince did, a thousand years before.

As a reminder of the Norse connections with the Isle of Man, a replica Viking longship, called Odius Raven, was made. It was manned by Manxmen and Norsemen and journeyed 1,500 miles from Norway to the Isle of Man, making landfall dead on time. Odius Raven entered the harbour of the little town of Peel, to the triumphant sweeps of the huge oars, which are the longship's most dependable source of power.

The Manx people will long remember the millennium celebrations of its proud heritage of Government, which has contrived to bring prosperity and co-operation to the Isle of Man.

All the laws passed in the previous year were then read out in English and Manx Gaelic. The petitions of redress were handed in for consideration. To conclude the ceremony there was 'three cheers', from the thousands of natives and tourists, for "The Queen, Lord of Man".

During the afternoon, Her Majesty

opened a new £1,000,000 High School, to which she had given her name. Afterwards she held an informal garden party in the school playing fields, before flying away to her duties as Queen of Scotland to Holyrood Palace.

MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

The Minister for the Disabled has brought forward the potential claims for Mobility Allowance. He has extended the age categories from 61 to 64 years of age. St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstaners' widows, who are in this age category and feel they have a claim, should obtain, from their local office of the Department of Health and Social Security, leaflet NI 211 and complete and submit the claim form contained in that leaflet, after 5th September. Successful applicants will be paid the allowance as from 28th November.

BRIDGE MASTER

A member of the Dunstable Bridge Club, Harold King, of Dunstable, has just been made a County Master. Harold plays with his wife, Bertha, who is also a County Master. This high ranking bridge appointment is gained by winning points in bridge tournaments.

PUZZLE CORNER

The solution to last month's puzzle from Bill Chamberlain, of Reading:

Take a piece of dowelling whose diameter is the same as the side of the square. Cut the dowelling to the same size as the square, and turn the plug so that the cut ends point to the sides of the square hole.

This month's puzzle is from Alan Wagstaff, of Whimble, Devon

Can you write in these boxes the numbers 1-8 so that no consecutive numbers appear in adjoining boxes?



IT STRIKES ME

by
Magog

Imperial Service Medal

Congratulations to Mr. Freddie Morgan of Bristol, who was recently awarded the Imperial Service Medal. This was presented to him by Mr. Humphreys, Service Controller of the G.P.O., where Freddie worked, until November last year, as a switchboard operator. Freddie started work in 1944, as a telephone operator, at the then Ministry of Labour.

He now intends to work on wrought-iron and turn his amateur radio 'B' licence into an 'A' licence, which will permit him to make contacts throughout the world.

Off the Road

After nearly 33 years at Cowley, **Ken Revis** has reached retirement. However, he will be taking up a consultancy post with BL Heritage Limited. BL Heritage is a subsidiary company of BL Limited, which looks after the preservation of historic cars and commercial vehicles from all BL companies, as well as supplying information and drawings for these vehicles. It is responsible for the museum at Donington Park, where some of the vehicles are displayed for public viewing.

Ken's responsibilities as Consultant to BL Heritage Limited, which he will conduct from his home, will include lecturing on the history of motor cars, advising on restoration programmes, as well as general liaison with motor clubs and various other public relations activities.

This is your life, down under

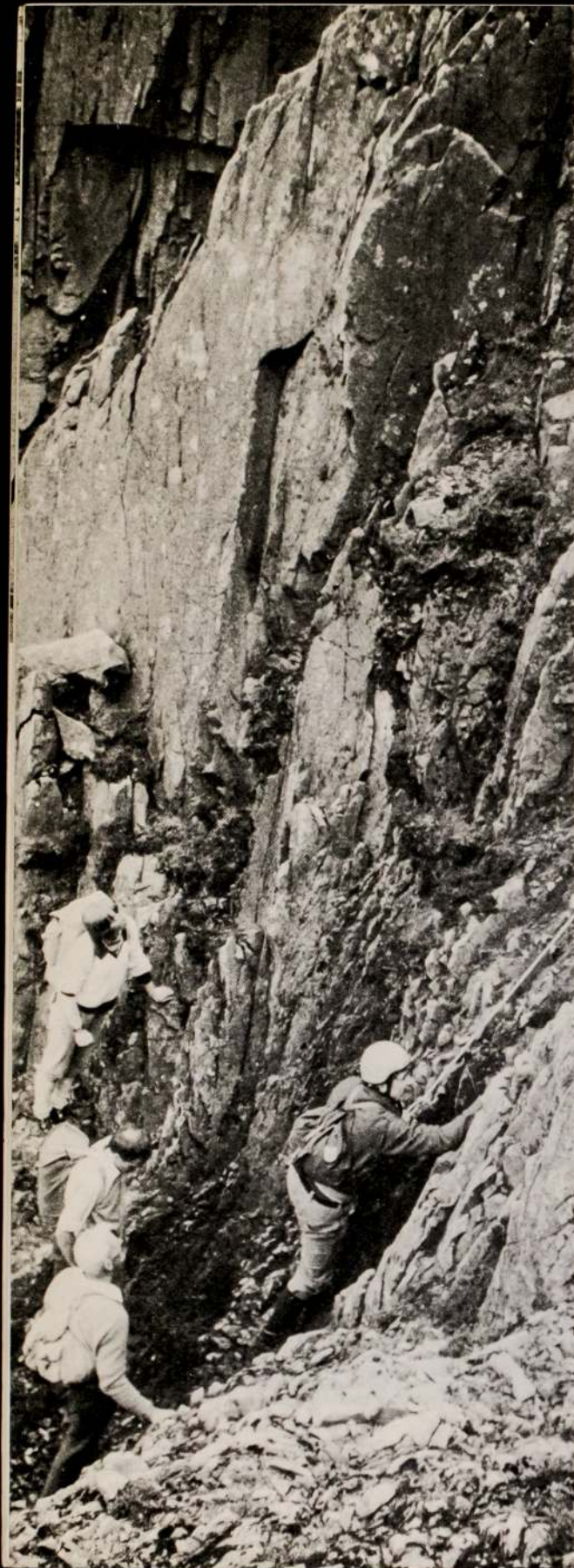
Last month, on the point of leaving for a holiday in Italy, Bill Griffiths, of Blackpool, received a telephone call from Sydney, Australia. Did Bill know one Sir Edward Dunlop? Apart from the fact that this man had twice saved Bill's life in a Japanese POW camp, Bill said "yes." Was Bill prepared to fly out to Australia to appear on, 'This is your life' honouring this well known Australian surgeon.

Bill and Alice's holiday took place in Italy as planned. Since they were staying with a former POW, the two were filmed together for the show, and then Bill flew on.

Bill appeared on the programme with 11 other ex-Japanese POW's. At the allotted minute Bill announced himself as follows: "I lost my eyes, I lost my hands, but, Sir Edward, I found you." He went on, "In spite of the long air journey, it was an honour and a privilege to appear among the relatively few paying tribute to Sir Edward. He was not only a surgeon who saved the lives of hundreds of prisoners, but a man of brilliant leadership, courage and example".

Bill Griffiths with Sir Edward Dunlop.





The Welsh Week-end

by Bert Ward

Photographs:
Bob Thomas, Ruth Evans

Hopefully we speed down the M1 heading for mid-west Wales, accompanied by my friend Harry Royston. A certain amount of anxiety, will we have petrol for the return journey? But like all hopeful travellers we will think about that later. Reaching the Midlands all mobility ceased—"clutch trouble". Harry contacted the A.A. and after many telephone calls and negotiations and a subsequent three hour delay, the repair was effected. We are hopefully on our way again. Soon we are entering the beautiful countryside of mid-west Wales, arriving at the Red Lion Hotel in Dinas Mawddwy, beautifully situated in the foothills of the Cader Idris mountains, tired and hungry, but happy to be there. On entering the Red Lion we met Jock Carnochan, who was responsible for the St. Dunstan's party. Jock introduced us to the rest of the party of St. Dunstaners, wives and escorts, and in no time at all we were tucking into a fine evening meal, provided by the proprietors Mr. and Mrs. Rowlands.

Next morning, promptly at 9 o'clock, the Forestry Commission party arrived, headed by Bob Thomas, a splendid fellow, who subsequently introduced me to Eric Williams, who was to be my guide. A rare species, Eric, a Welshman, who openly admitted having no interest in the Welsh national game of "rugger", ex-bomber pilot, DFC, who I found to be a wonderful pilot for me up Cader Idris. Thank you Eric, you handled me with care. Unfortunately at this stage an enveloping mist hindered the photographers in the party, who wanted to take advantage of the breath-taking scenery of our climb, especially Harry Royston. However, the drop in temperature was certainly much appreciated in assisting our climb. It was noticeable, on reaching over fifteen hundred feet, how sparse the trees became and finally disappeared. At this

Roped for safety, Tom Lukes scales the rock face on Exercise Penalltau, Top of the Rocks.

time the climb was assisted by a job creation project, where local youngsters had built slate steps into the mountain-side over difficult scree country, thus affording easy access to the climb. Of course, the experienced climbers, headed by Jock, namely Tom, Trevor, Eric and Ray, took the hard way up armed with helmets and ropes and we all said "Good luck to them".

At this point Ray Sheriff takes up the Story

At the base of the escarpments we were issued with three commodities, haversack rations, helmet, and a carabiner. The latter I knew not and so had to be told what to do with it. My guide and friend, Meirion Jones, informed me that it was a safety belt, thus worn around the waist. Made, I would guess, of canvas-nylon inlaid with a strong fastening buckle and metal ring, probably steel, approximately 3 inches in diameter, which contains a safety spring clip, which when depressed allows rope to pass through, the clip is then made fast by a thumb screw. Sounds complicated, but is really simple. I understand it to be an essential part of a rock climber's equipment. So, a length of rope is made fast between two rocks. The rope is then inserted into the carabiner. If there is a fall then it is checked at the last support rock. A real ideal set-up for a blind climber in a rock situation. One has a rope, guide, and support all in one.

We move off from the starting point at 10 a.m. In the lead Bob Thomas, Climb Master, with other experts to advise our progress. There were healthy young lads who had given up their leisure time to lend a hand in carrying necessary ropes and other tackle. We each had our guide, in my case, Meirion Jones, fortunately we had been linked on previous climbs, which made the going very much easier. Being only in his twenties Meirion set quite a fair pace. He did the talking, I only managed the "puffing and blowing". Our first objective was a lake, roughly three miles away, at an approximate height of 1,800 feet. I think we covered this phase in reasonable time, doubtless because the gradients were not too severe. We rested at this point, chewing our cud and taking our water. The next phase became more



Bert Ward takes a breather during the climb.

Rock climbers, Tom Lukes, Ray Sheriff, Trevor Tatchell and Eric Bradshaw.





St. Dunstaners on the approach slopes are Bill Shea, Roy Haslam and Bert Ward.

arduous, our rate of knots slackening considerably. Perhaps aptly described as a free scramble to a further four to five hundred feet. As this path was mainly negotiated through large boulders, I was glad to take a welcomed rest at this point.

From thence on I really gained the impression that I was involved in real rock climbing. At this juncture the angles of ascent appeared much more acute, almost sheer at times. I remember thinking at this moment that I had "bitten off more than I could chew". Alas! But thank God, the rope sections had been set out to aid the oncoming assault to the summit at around six hundred feet above. Here I experienced, for the first time, the use of the carabiner, previously mentioned. There were roughly ten stages of fixing and unfixing ropes to this safety device. A drill which became quite automatic as one completed each section and commenced the next.

On the penultimate section, of around thirty feet, we were left to our own salvation, no supervision. I can find no words adequate to describe my inner feelings in this situation. I progressed upwards slowly, but with deliberation. Remembering what I had been told by the experts, whom I knew, in the dead silence which seemed to echo within the

mountains, were near at hand, and watching my every move. I made sure that my hand-grips and foot holds were sure and so I finally reached the end of the section to the rock, to which my safety rope was secured. The final leg to the summit at 2,800 feet seemed quite easy going, perhaps I was spurred on by a sense of achievement—or, alas!—just second childhood?

Cyril Wood describes the descent

You would think that the descent would be easy, but it doesn't always work out that way. You definitely don't get as breathless, or as hot as when ascending, but the effort of coming down the mountain seems to jolt the spine more. After about half an hour's walking from the summit the mist lifted and the guides could see the lake hundreds of feet below.

We arrived back at Ty Nant, our starting point, soon after 4 p.m., a little tired and maybe a little stiff, but we all had a feeling of satisfaction at having completed the climb. We returned to The Red Lion Hotel at Dinas Mawddwy, for really good hot baths, after which we all felt ready for the Saturday evening "Sing-Song" in the concert room. This was an experience we shall long remember—you

could have been forgiven if you thought you were at a Welsh Rugby match—the Welsh people certainly enter into their singing with gusto.

On Sunday we went along, with our wives or escorts, to the Coed-y-Brenin Forest, visited a gold mine (which hadn't been operative since 1934) and then on to the Forestry Museum and Information Centre. We found all these really instructive and interesting and it makes one aware of the amount of work that goes into forestry work. At the Centre, Rowena Thomas and her helpers gave us a sumptuous tea of home-baked cookies etc., after which we returned to Dinas Mawddwy. Monday morning we all left to return to our homes in various parts of the country, I think, secretly hoping we may return to do one of the rope climbs, or maybe climb some other mountain.

Bert Ward concludes his account of a Welsh Week-end

Returning to the Red Lion that evening, Bob Thomas and Rowena were our guests, having dinner with us. Bob, responding to my vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstan's, made special reference to the memory of the late Robin Buckley, our former Public Relations Officer, who was responsible for arranging these weekends initially and saying what strong connections the Buckley family had in the area.

I am sure I echo the sentiments of the whole of the party of St. Dunstaners and wives, when I say this was a weekend to remember. Splendid Welsh hospitality was shown to us by the Forestry Commission, as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Rowlands and the Red Lion Hotel. May we all come again soon.

In the forest seven St. Dunstaners pose with Arthur Rowlands (third from right), a Welsh policeman blinded in a shooting incident; they are Cyril Wood, Robert Alty, Bill Shea, Ray Sheriff, Eric Bradshaw, Trevor Tatchell, Roy Haslam.



Gardening Column

I hope that the weather has been a bit better lately and that it will be a bit more like summer for the next couple of months, so that all the fruit and vegetables will ripen. I read in one of the newspapers that years ending in a nine, have poor summers following hard winters. So far this seems to be true. Still, we hope that we will have plenty of crops to keep us going through the winter and that prices won't be too high. I am afraid that most garden equipment items, such as plants and seeds, will be more expensive next season, due to VAT increases. So remember that seeds are much cheaper than buying plants. Those of you who haven't greenhouses, or only have a frame, will find that by sowing seeds a little later in a shed, garage, or even in the kitchen (if you are allowed to have some space) you will get quite good results.

Naturally these notes are written fairly early but now, at last, I have my bedding plants showing their worth, the vegetables are doing well too, and I've a good crop of tomatoes. I only hope that we don't get any freak storms to wreck everything.

The notes for this month can be used for September as well, except that in September take more cuttings from all types of plants, and it is often a good time of year to get some of the perennials you want for next season. They will get a good hold before the hard weather sets in. You should also be potting up the bulbs for a winter and spring show for the house.

Vegetables

Water vegetables well during dry weather, but I doubt this will be necessary this year. Watch out for pests of all kinds. Use a spray or bait for snails, slugs and the like. Harvest the beans and peas as they ripen. When they are over, clear the ground and consign the debris to the compost heap, or bonfire (if you live in an area where you are allowed one). If the runner beans are growing above the canes, stop them and you will increase the yield.

You can still sow lettuce and radish seeds, as they mature very rapidly. Potatoes and onions can be harvested as they mature. You can leave them on the top of the soil to dry off, before storing them for later use.

Dig over any parts of the vegetable patch that have been used, leaving the soil rough, for the winter to get at it and break it down to a good workable tilth. I know that it is a bit early, but it is a time when you can get at the beds. Keep all crops clear of weeds, by hoeing, or forking, regularly. This will open up the soil and any rain (during dry periods) can get down to the roots.

Fruit

If you have a heavy crop of apples and pears, then thin them out in order to get good sized fruit, as well as good quality. I know it goes rather against the grain to pick out some fruit, but harden your heart. Cut away all unwanted runners from the strawberries and remove the straw that you used to keep the fruit clean. Cut out the canes from the raspberries and loganberries which have borne fruit. Any fruit growing against a wall must be protected from all climbing and winged pests, by spraying and setting bait at soil level. Check the bait regularly, clean out and renew. Give expensive fruit, such as peaches, as much sun as possible by cutting away some of the leaves actually surrounding the fruit. Even when fruits have set, insects can damage them, so do use insecticide and fungicide. Cut away any broken twigs of branches, since disease can easily set into breaks, so cut them off cleanly with the secateurs.

Lawns

Carry on with the mowing of the lawn and trimming the hedges to make the garden look neat and tidy.

A fertiliser cum-weed-killer can still be used and where you have a rather large number of plantains and dandelions, use the stick-a-weed which will destroy them completely.

Towards the end of September, cut down the number of mowings and it is

Gardening Column—continued

a good idea to raise the blades a little. In very dry spells give good dose of water, but I don't think that you will have to do much watering this season.

Flowers

Cut off the seed heads in order to prolong the flowering period, especially if the plants are old and the flowers are getting poor. However, only do this if you don't want to save some of your own seed. Towards the end of September, take cuttings from your favourite perennials and shrubs and they will have time to root before winter sets in. Place these cuttings in a sheltered place in the garden, or in pots. Pots are better protected if you put them in a shed, garage, cold frame or greenhouse.

Carnations and pinks can be layered. Carry on thinning out the buds on the chrysanthemums to make sure of having really good sized blooms, they will also need extra feeding to make them come up to scratch. Ensure that they are tied in to the canes, as gales can wreck all your hard work.

Perennials

Polyanthus should be divided if necessary and replanted. Other perennials of a tufty and bushy nature can also be divided, but only do these things after a showery spell and do water them in well.

Also at the end of September, a number of bulbs for spring can be set in place such as crocus, narcissus, scilla, tritonia, snowdrops, anemones, etc. but don't put in tulips just yet.

Don't let the hedges get out of hand, prune them back. Also cut back any of those tree branches which overhang the garden, or the path, as one often gets rude remarks from pedestrians as they go by.

Cut off all the dead heads on the roses as this will prolong the blooms and act as a slight pruning for the winter.

Keep the hoe going to get on top of the weeds and to open up the earth.

There is still time for the insects and plant ailments to appear so give regular sprayings with a combined insecticide/fungicide.

Greenhouse

Plenty of things to do here still, though the watering needs to be cut down a bit, at the end of September. Keep a drier atmosphere. Have the windows open as long as possible, but they need to be closed down a bit earlier now, as temperatures drop as the nights get longer.

Still quite a number of annuals can be sown, in order to give a bit of colour in the early New Year, or to have well grown bedding plants for 1980.

Tomatoes

Harvest tomatoes as they ripen and get rid of plants which have given the last of their fruit. Where you have trusses that are rather slow to change their colour, let the light get at the trusses by taking off all the leaves, apart from one or two. Certainly take out any new growths. It is often a good idea to take the tomatoes off and lay on the bench by the window, or hang the truss up near the glass and get rid of the plants so that one can get the cleaning done in good time.

Cuttings of geraniums and other pot plants can be taken at this time of the year.

Tuberous items such as begonias, gloxinias, achimenes etc., which are coming to an end of flowering, should be gradually dried off, so that the soil is dry before the winter and they can be kept in their pots, tilted on their sides or when the soil is completely dry the tubers taken out and stocked in dry peat and stored in frost free quarters.

Pot flowering spring bulbs can be set in bowls or pots but store them under the staging in cool conditions, or in the shed or garage, etc., in a dark spot with a covering of soil or peat. Put some soil pest powder down to discourage insects getting at the bulbs. I find that a weak solution of Jeyes on floor round about, deters many pests.

NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

by Jimmy Wright

The 3rd National Athletics Championships for the Visually Handicapped took place on Saturday 7th July, at the East London Stadium. Mike Brace, Chairman of the Metro Sports Club, and Roy Smith, Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Sports, and their team of officials should be well pleased with their efforts for organising yet another highly successful day, which enabled visually handicapped athletes, not only from all over Great Britain, but from the Continent also, to come together and compete under ideal conditions, some 89 competitors having taken part.

World Record

A number of U.K. national records were broken, as well as one world record and a Dutch National record for the Men's Totally Blind 100m. One of the Norwegian competitors in the totally blind men's Javelin, J. Bengtson, broke the U.K. record with a throw of 26m.62.

U.K. Records

The following U.K. records were broken: Totally Blind Sprint 60m in 7.7 sec by Graham Salmon; Partially Sighted Men High Jump—1m.51 by Roy Smith; Partially Sighted Men Discus—29m.46 by John Howie; Partially Sighted Women 400m in 1 min 29 sec by G. Brindley; Partially Sighted Women High Jump—1m.15 by M. Message; Totally Blind Javelin Men—26m.62 by J. Bengtson; Totally Blind Men 100m—New Dutch record 12.45 sec by R. Van Der Louw; Partially Sighted Men Javelin—39m.62 by D. Savage.

All the record holders will be presented with a plaque by the A.A.A. at the Southern Area Championships, at the Crystal Palace, during their meeting on 17th and 18th August, when a special 100m Sprint will be arranged for the totally blind and also for the partially sighted.

Junior Events

For the first time, schools for the disabled were invited to participate, so that a series of Junior events took place throughout the morning, culminating with two more Junior events interspersed with the Senior events in the afternoon. This proved to be a great success and the youngsters were obviously extremely keen, several putting up performances almost as good as their senior counterparts.

Three St. Dunstaners took part in the Sports, Mike Tetley, Gerry Jones and yours truly. Mike Tetley was bidding for his hat-trick in the Totally Blind Men's 3 kilometre walk, as he had won the Bill Harris Trophy for the previous two years. However, the event was won by B. Waltier from Northern Ireland, with Mike Brace in second place and Mike Tetley in third.

From Cornwall

It was good to see Gerry Jones take part in the Sports for the first time, he had come up all the way from Cornwall with his friend, Ian, who had accompanied him in his 60 mile sponsored walk last year. Gerry gained third place in the Partially Sighted Men's Javelin event. Unhappily, although Gerry seemed to be doing very well in the Partially Sighted 3 kilometre walk, he was sadly disqualified for an infringement of the rules when he was lying in second place near the end of the race.

It was good to see Bill Harris, who attended the Sports as one of the Judges and to present the Bill Harris Trophy.

FEPOW Week end

A FEPOW week end has been arranged at Ian Fraser House from Friday, 14th September to Monday 17th. Write to Miss Bridger at H.Q. for accommodation and travel arrangements.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

BRIDGE SECTION

Our 5th Individual and Pairs competitions were held on the 2nd and 3rd of June, respectively. The results were as follows:

Individual competition

P. McCormack	69 pts.
J. Padley	69 pts.
B. Simon	62 pts.
C. Walters	62 pts.
W. Phillips	60 pts.
W. Lethbridge	60 pts.
F. Griffiee	59 pts.
R. Fullard	59 pts.
H. Preedy	55 pts.
W. Burnett	55 pts.

Pairs competition

North—South	
Joint 1st	
B. Simon and Miss Sturdy	53.5 pts.
B. Ingreby and Mrs. Gover	53.5 pts.
East—West	
1st R. Fullard and Mrs. Buller-King	66.5 pts.
2nd J. Padley and Mrs. Padley	51.5 pts.

Our 6th Pairs competition was held on Sunday 10th June. The results were as follows:

North—South	
1st V. Delaney and Mrs. E. Carter	55.8 pts.
2nd R. Fullard and Mr. C. Turner	53.3 pts.
East—West	
1st A. Dodgson and Mrs. E. Dodgson	57.5 pts.
2nd W. Lethbridge and Mr. N. Carter	50.4 pts.

Our 6th Individual competition was held on Saturday 16th June. The results were as follows:

F. Griffiee and F. Dickerson	80 pts.
H. Preedy and W. Allen	73 pts.
W. Phillips and J. Whitcombe	73 pts.
B. Simon and V. Delaney	68 pts.
J. Padley and G. Hudson	62 pts.
C. Walters and Partner	59 pts.
W. Lethbridge and P. McCormack	48 pts.
R. Fullard and I. Pellington	41 pts.

The Dacre Trophy (Pairs competition)
The total of the best 5 results to date, played with any partner:

W. Phillips	208.8 pts.	can lose	52.1
W. Lethbridge	273.3	" "	46.5
B. Simon	267.2	" "	46.2
R. Fullard	260.6	" "	40.5
J. Padley	258.5	" "	49.6
H. Preedy	252.6	" "	46.0
F. Griffiee	240.7	" "	42.5
B. Ingreby	238.2	" "	44.5
P. McCormack	188.6	" "	34.0
A. Dodgson	210.3	4 played	

The Gover Cup (Individual competition)

Total of best 5 results to date:

F. Griffiee	330 pts.	can lose	56
W. Phillips	322	" "	58
J. Padley	320	" "	62
W. Lethbridge	313	" "	58
H. Preedy	310	" "	58
P. McCormack	309	" "	48
R. Fullard	302	" "	41
C. Walters	296	" "	56
B. Simon	258	4 played	

W. LETHBRIDGE

BOWLING SECTION

After our enjoyable trip to Bexhill Bowling Club, on June 12th, we were disappointed that St. Ann's Well cancelled their fixture with us, but this was overridden by a most successful visit to Southampton. It was very pleasing to have such a strong representation of our non-local membership included in our party. The weather, the bowling and the fellowship were all at their best, which made it a memorable occasion for everyone.

The following is an up to date list of fixtures for the last two months of the outdoor season. All club members wishing to be included on these trips, please notify the Hon. Secretary.
Saturday 4th August—Mayford, Woking
Wednesday 8th August—Eastbourne
Tuesday 21st August—Hove Kingsway
Wednesday 29th August—Storrington
Wednesday 12th September—East Preston
Saturday 22nd September—Old Woking.

To all members who can make these dates and have made our earlier trips, thank you, your support is greatly appreciated.

The Bowling Section A.G. M. will be held at Ian Fraser House on Tuesday 25th September, at 2.45 p.m.

JIM PADLEY
Chairman

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

The evening spent at the Torino Winery was a great success, with plenty of wine tasting and cheese and biscuits. Those attending agreed a return visit is a "must".

On 11th July, we made our annual visit to Eastbourne, and although the weather was dull during the afternoon, we all enjoyed the ham and tongue salad in the Congress Restaurant and it was unanimously agreed that the Tom O'Connor Show was the best we had seen for a long time.

Plans are being made for the annual Club dinner/dance, which will be held at the Dudley Hotel, Hove, on Saturday, 10th November. We have once again been able to arrange for a four-course dinner and I am pleased to announce that the committee have agreed that the cost to members will be £4 and £6 for non-members. As there will be no *Review* in September, we will be pleased if anyone wishing to join us at the Dudley Hotel will let me know as soon as possible. This date is the Saturday before the National Bowling Competition, which starts on Monday, 12th November.

Our next dance will be held on Saturday, 11th August.

R. OSBORNE,
Chairman.

MIDLAND CLUB

It was with heavy hearts that the club met on Sunday 13th May. We all missed Doug Cashmore's cheerful greeting to each member on arrival. Also we were all sorry to hear that Mabel Ashmore was ill, and unable to bring Bob to the club meeting.

Guy and Sally Bilcliff called in to see us, while visiting their new grandchild, and

were given a very warm welcome. Final arrangements were made for our outing on Sunday 3rd June, and we played off one game of dominoes in our tournament. The ladies put on an excellent tea for us and we thanked them in our usual way.

The club meeting broke up a little later than usual, owing to the fact that we tried to make arrangements for all club members to attend Doug's funeral the next day and to take the wreath from the club.

Outing to Slimbridge

Our outing this year was to Slimbridge Wild Fowl Trust in Gloucestershire. The weather was kind to us; fine and dry, if a little cloudy.

We left our club rooms in Broad Street at 10.30 a.m., arriving at Slimbridge about 12.30 p.m. We were able to hire cassettes and recorders, which helped to make our walk round more enjoyable. There were roughly twenty pens, with wild fowl of all colours of the rainbow, including three different species of Flamingoes. We learnt, through our tapes, that the Flamingoes are fed on a 'shrimp soup', to help keep their wonderful colour.

There are several 'hides' where, during the winter months, one can sit and watch the wild geese etc., that have flown in from Russia and Iceland. Also there are plenty of seats with tables at each pen, where we could sit and 'watch' through our tapes, whilst having our picnic (which we had to share with the geese walking around).

We all visited the souvenir shop and finally left Slimbridge at 4.30 p.m. to go on to Evesham for our meal at the Marine Ballroom on the river's edge. After a walk around the shops and along the river bank, we left Evesham to go on to the Royal British Legion at Bretforton, where we had been invited to spend the evening. We were given a very warm welcome and the Women's Section put on a wonderful buffet for us.

We arrived back in Broad Street around 10.30 p.m., after a very enjoyable and interesting day out.

MARJORIE HORDYNEC

Only a small gathering of members were present at the June meeting, but two games were played off in the Sir Arthur Pearson Dominoes Competition.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Finch and our sympathy and flowers were sent to Bob.

Arrangements are now being made for the annual visit to Stratford Royal British Legion and the North Birmingham Legion. The venue for the annual Christmas dinner was also discussed.

John Cashmore is appearing at the Birmingham Hippodrome in 'Annie Get Your Gun', from October 29th to November 3rd. If anyone is interested, will you please contact me.

The ladies were thanked in the usual manner for the very excellent tea. The next meeting will be held on Sunday 8th July.

JOAN CASHMORE

Mr. Ted Thompson

Mr. Ted Thompson died, after a short illness, on 20th June. Mr. Thompson joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in 1971, and he was in charge of the Basket Section of The Homecrafts Department. Mr. Phil Townsend represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thompson and all members of the family.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

On Thursday morning a suspiciously damp parcel lay across the threshold of Ian Fraser House, close inspection revealed a distinctly piscatorial aroma. Something "fishy" was going on. The week was marked by the lobster pink complexions of fishermen who had "caught the sun" and the slightly upturned noses of V.A.D's who'd "caught a whiff" of the contents of some of our sea anglers carrier bags.

The week-end came with a happy twang of bowstrings, as the archers took over the front lawns at Ovingdean.

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.

Ralph Aldridge of Westcliff-on-Sea, who joined St. Dunstan's on 4th July. Mr. Aldridge was a Regular soldier and served as a Private with the Middlesex Regiment during the Second World War. He was a P.O.W. in Hong Kong, from Christmas Day 1941, until his release on 3rd September 1945. He is married, with one adult daughter.

Cecil Barker of Westward Ho, who joined St. Dunstan's on 26th June. Mr. Barker was a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force and served during the Second World War. He was a Far East P.O.W. from March 1942, until his release in 1946. He is married with four children.

AMATEUR DRAMA GROUP

Would you be interested in joining a new amateur drama group of blind and partially sighted people in London? If so (no previous experience necessary) please contact John Wilson Goddard, 24 Lanacre Avenue, Grahame Park, Colindale, London NW9.

Nobody could be persuaded to stand still with an apple on their head, so the intrepid bowmen stuck to target practice. It was good to see Laurie Austin looking so fit, after his retirement, and it was encouraging to hear the interest shown by several newcomers to the sport.

At this time of the year, people come and go so quickly one hardly gets a chance to speak to everybody, especially since the sunshine entices so many out from the house. With two afternoon outings and frequent trips to various race meetings, the weeks flash past with

Ovingdean Notes—continued

scarcely a moment to chat to old friends who are passing through. Several of the tea shops we regularly visit have changed hands, in some cases to provide even better teas along with the same friendly greetings.

The holiday season has brought plenty of variety to the Theatre Royal, from Tom Stoppard's witty modern comedy "Dirty Linen", to Eric Sykes and Hattie Jacques, by way of the "Duchess of Malfi". I think we can safely say there has been something for every taste. For the month of August 'The Dome' variety will be a weekly feature of our programme, as they begin to cater for the holiday trade.

Many of our men spent an enjoyable evening listening to the Brighton Youth Orchestra, conducted by David Gray, with John Lill as piano soloist, which just goes to show that we enjoy a bit of culture, as well as sport and entertainment.

At the time of writing we are awaiting the visit of the Radio Hams, not that we ever see much of them while they are here, but it is good to know they are around.

Finally, in these rather hastily penned notes, we just hope all of you have a lovely summer wherever you may choose to spend it.

GREEN FINGERS

by Fred Barratt

I doubt whether St. Dunstan's has ever promoted a project in the hobby field that has brought so much interest and dedication, as the week for gardeners, that has recently been started. From a small group of St. Dunstaners, whose dialects came from the four parts of the U.K. and spiced with a Polish accent, the first course was started at Ian Fraser House, on 23rd April.

This group varied from the novice, to the very experienced gardener. All were eager to collect knowledge and tips. The field of topics were as varied as the nationalities. Fruit, vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs were all at some time under discussion.

Our first meeting held some surprises one, was to meet John Walbrugh, an Australian who trained at Ovingdean in 1949. He had become quite an authority in the gardening world and was present at our first sessions to speak and advise.

Although quite a lot of work was carried out in the classroom, in the form of talks and discussion, none of this work could be classed as dull, as qualified people were brought in to pass on the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

I regret I cannot recall all the names, but representatives from horticultural colleges, forestry groups and garden centres came to pass on to us their knowledge in one form or other. Climatic conditions did not present any obstacle to this quest for gardening knowledge.

Trips to Brighton nurseries, forestry projects (designed for blind people), well maintained gardens of old English estates, and others were all included in our programme.

Although this gardening week was the first and an exploratory week, I am sure that every St. Dunstaner who took part in the experiment learnt something, and judging by the amount of plants and shrubs being taken home, I feel sure that the gardens of these St. Dunstaners, were really going to get a facelift.

It would be very wrong of me to end this article without a tribute to Miss Guilbert. As with a ship, the speed and ease it keeps to its course, very little is said about the engineer in the engine room. All credit to her for the manner in which she steered the St. Dunstan's gardening week into a very happy and interesting venture.

THANKS

Peggy Craik would like to express her most grateful thanks to her St. Dunstan's "family" for all their good wishes expressed to Alex and herself, on the occasion of her retirement. She especially thanks you for the beautiful bouquets so charmingly presented to her by Violet Delaney and Elsie Aldred, at the Liverpool and Manchester Reunions. Peggy sends her warmest good wishes to her friends and is happy to leave them in the kind and capable hands of Mrs. Lord.

FAMILY NEWS

Marriages

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Bocking of Bolton-le-Sands, who were married on 16th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Phillips of Steyning, are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, William, to Dorothy Parsons, on 30th June.

Pearl Wedding

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bradshaw of Northampton, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary, on 2nd July.

Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hannant of Hemel Hempstead, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, on 10th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Frost of Manchester, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, on 11th March.

Grandchildren

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Baugh of Stafford, on the birth of a grandson, Daniel James, on 23rd February, to their daughter Christine, and her husband, Michael.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bilcliff of Aberystwyth, on the birth of their fifteenth grandchild, Neil James, on 17th April, to their son, Brian, and his wife, Maureen.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Blackwell of Spaxton, Somerset, on the birth of their first grandchild, Kate, on 6th June, to their daughter, Joan, and her husband Keith.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cowan of Boreham Wood, on the birth of their third grandchild, Anna, on 8th June, to their son, Stuart, and his wife, Gillian.

Mr. and Mrs. John Whitcombe of Eastbourne, on the birth of their first grandchild, Mark Simon, on 3rd July, to their son, Anthony, and his wife, Angela.

Mr. and Mrs. William Crombie of Stoneleigh, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Sarah Rosalind, on 15th May, to their daughter, Alison, and her husband, Bernie.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Reilly of Blackburn, on the birth of their first grandchild, Lisa Clara, on 17th June, to their daughter, Kathleen, and her husband, Geoffrey.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vowles of Portsmouth, on the birth of a fifth grand-daughter, Charlotte Victoria on 6th July, to their daughter, Julie, and her husband, Geoffrey.

Personal Achievements

We warmly congratulate:

Mrs. Muriel Bryant of Midsomer Norton, who has won the presentation cup for handicrafts, at Bristol, for three successive years. She was presented with a replica silver cup, on 11th June.

Mr. Norman Dugdale of Manchester, whose son, Alan, has gained a B.A., from Bangor University. Alan will now be going to Teacher Training college in Manchester.

Mr. Tom Taylor of Preston, who is now in his final year of an M.A. course at Lancaster University. In addition to his studies, Mr. Taylor continues to serve as a Lay Preacher and has been made Chairman Elect, of the North Lancs. District Council of Local Preachers. He takes over this office in March, 1980.

Mr. Leslie Webber of Tewkesbury, who was made Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Tewkesbury, on 22nd May.

Correction

Mrs. Clara Nolan of Acton, has now informed us that her son, John, not David, obtained a degree from the Open University.

St Dunstan's Band

Anyone interested in playing in a St. Dunstan's Band at Ian Fraser House should contact Joe Humphrey on Belfast (0232) 658414.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. James Costello of Preston, whose mother died on 17th May. She was 99 years old.

Mr. Herbert Greasley of Coventry, whose younger brother, Harold, died at the end of May.

Mr. John Sedgley of Newquay, whose brother died on 1st June.

Mr. Arthur Simpson of Doncaster, whose youngest brother died suddenly on 26th June.

Mrs. John Wheeler of Wembley, whose mother died on 24th June.

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.

George Alfred Millen *Machine Gun Corps*

George Millen of Birchington, died on 21st June. He was 81 years old. He had been a St. Dunstaner for over sixty years.

Mr. Millen served as a Lance Corporal in the Machine Gun Corps, from his enlistment at the beginning of World War I, until he was discharged in 1917, after being totally blinded at Guillemont. He joined St. Dunstan's almost immediately afterwards.

Mr. Millen did a period of training in Braille, typewriting, mat and basket making. He commenced work on his own account, from his workshop. He was so successful in disposing of everything he made to local people, that he eventually opened his own shop, which he ran with his wife, until comparatively recently. Mr. Millen's standard of work was exceptionally high, and for many years he exhibited at local trade fairs and exhibitions, where he received many orders for his mats and baskets. Despite his age and failing health, he continued with his basket-work, as a hobby, until almost the end of his life.

He leaves a widow, Muriel, to whom he had been married for 56 years, and two sons.

Charles Albert Mitchell *2/5th Welch Regiment*

Albert Mitchell of Guildford, died suddenly on 27th June. He was 63 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 37 years.

Mr. Mitchell enlisted in the 2/5th Welch Regiment, in April 1940, and received injuries, resulting in total blindness, when a coastal defence mine exploded whilst he was on duty at Shoreham, in September, 1941. He was discharged from the Army in April, 1942 and following a period of hospitalisation, was trained for industry. He also became competent in Braille, typewriting and rug making.

In January, 1945 Mr. Mitchell obtained employment as a capstan lathe operator, with a large aero accessories company in Pontypridd. On moving back to the South, he commenced work, in early 1949, with a company close to his home, in Guildford. Mr. Mitchell remained with his employers for thirty years, until he was forced to retire, on health grounds, in March. He was a highly valued capstan operator, which was made self evident by the tributes he received on his retirement.

Mr. Mitchell enjoyed listening to the radio and his talking books. He was a devoted family man and had been married for 32 years.

He leaves a widow, Mary, a daughter, Susan, and a son, Nicholas.

William Cecil Rawding *Royal Corps of Signals*

William Rawding of Saltdean, died on 23rd June. He was 64 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1956.

Mr. Rawding served as a Corporal with the Royal Corps of Signals throughout the Second World War. Prior to enlistment, he had been a Post Office engineer.

After a period of training in Braille, typewriting, basket and rug making, Mr. Rawding commenced work, on a regular quota of baskets for our Stores, maintaining a very high standard of production, until he was forced to retire on health grounds.

Mr. Rawding remained remarkably cheerful, despite frequent periods of hospitalisation, and recently a major operation. In 1976, Mr. Rawding, and his wife, travelled to the United States to visit relatives and friends.

He leaves a widow, Freda, who nursed him devotedly during his illness.

Leslie Arnold Rogers *Machine Gun Corps*

Leslie Rogers of Alton, died on 2nd July, aged 80.

Mr. Rogers served as a Private in the Machine Gun Corps in the First World War and gradually lost his sight due to the effects of mustard gas. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1966. He was a piano tuner by trade and his interests included tape recording and gardening.

Mr. Rogers was a widower and leaves a son, Derek, and a daughter, Maureen.