

**St Dunstons Review October '79**

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

No. 711

OCTOBER 1979

10p MONTHLY

## Message from the Chairman

### A Tragic Day

The murder of Earl Mountbatten, two members of his family and a young boy, while on holiday in Eire, and of eighteen members of our Armed Forces serving in Northern Ireland will make Bank Holiday Monday, 27th August, 1979, a day of tragedy which will long be remembered in history.

Many St. Dunstaners will have been under Earl Mountbatten's command at some stage in their service careers and others have served in the past with units on duty in Northern Ireland, giving us all a sense of comradeship.

We pay tribute to those who died on that day and in recent years, whilst serving our country on peace-keeping duty in Northern Ireland, and extend our deep sympathy to their relatives and friends.

### St. Dunstan's Chaplain

Readers of the *Review* will be glad to know that the Reverend George E. Meek has been appointed as our Chaplain, at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House.

Mr. Meek was ordained in Gloucester and had wide parish experience before and after the Second World War, in which he served with the Infantry for six years. He retired in 1977, as a Rural Dean in Buckinghamshire. By the time this *Review* is published, he will have taken his first Service in the Chapel at Ian Fraser House.

We all welcome Mr. Meek and his wife to St. Dunstan's and extend our best wishes to them both.

### News from Canada

During the summer, news reached me that Mr. D. M. Dorward had been elected Executive Secretary of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded in Canada, at the same time as he was appointed National After-care Officer of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. He is a World War II St. Dunstaner who has already had various appointments with the C.N.I.B.

We all wish Dave Dorward the best of luck in his new work, particularly with regard to our Canadian St. Dunstan's friends.

### Research at St. Dunstan's

Many readers of the *Review* will have noticed in the middle of August, radio or television references to the first demonstration in this country of the

**COVER PICTURE:** Ray Hazan has his first encounter with the Kurzweil Reading Machine. (See 'To Make the Printed Word Talk' on centre pages.)

Kurzweil Reading Machine, which is housed at our Headquarters at Marylebone Road. This issue contains a great deal more information about it.

St. Dunstan's has always been actively interested in every invention which might benefit the blind and we are proud to be working with the Royal National Institute for the Blind on a year's trial of the usefulness of this wonderful machine, which turns the printed word into speech. We are very fortunate in the appointment of our special instructor, Mrs. Alison Dodd, a trained teacher, whose father is a South African St. Dunstaner, and we wish her and all who take part in this important research programme every success in their work.

### Retirement of our Secretary

As St. Dunstaners will know, Mr. C. D. Wills, O.B.E., our Secretary, is to retire on the 31st December.

During his thirty-one years with St. Dunstan's Douglas Wills has had a wide experience of the administration of our organisation. In 1948, he joined as Accountant and later, in 1953, he became our Welfare Superintendent and the friend and adviser of St. Dunstaners at home and abroad. He has served as Secretary, with continuing responsibility for Welfare matters, since 1973.

Several St. Dunstaners, and particularly Mr. Ernest Russell and Mr. George Eustace, have expressed the wish to establish a fund to make a presentation to Mr. Wills and a small committee will be organised to decide what form this should take. Mr. Weisblatt, who succeeds Mr. Wills, has kindly offered to act as Treasurer of this presentation fund and subscriptions should be sent to him at St. Dunstan's, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN. Please indicate if you would like to have a receipt.

Jon Earnest-Dune

## DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

by Phillip Wood

The shocking death of Lord Mountbatten must have evoked many memories among the men who served in the Far East. We had recently been liberated from the Siam-Burma railway and were housed in Rangoon University, hastily converted into a reception hospital.

When the news came that we were to have a visit from Mountbatten, the authorities were not a little worried about the picture which these wild jungle rats would present to our distinguished visitor. We were given strict instructions, upon pain

of terrible punishment, to wear our newly-issued shirts.

As we had been virtually naked for three-and-a-half years, wearing shirts was sheer purgatory. As Lord Mountbatten entered the room we sat there, scratching, wriggling and fidgeting.

"What on earth is the matter with you lot?" he asked.

"It's these shirts, Sir! They're murder!"

"Then take the damn things off!" As one man we peeled.

"You see, Sir," said one man, "this is all

### DISTINGUISHED VISITOR—continued

we've been wearing." He held up a "Jap Happy", a kind of G-string made from thin cotton material stolen from a Japanese "mossie" net.

Mountbatten examined it curiously, took out his pen, autographed the "garment" and handed it back to the delighted soldier.

Suddenly we all felt very very much better!

### Have You Got It Taped?

Earlier this year mention was made of a possible get together for St. Dunstaners interested in tape recording and Hi-Fi as a hobby. The weekend of 2nd-3rd November has been allocated and provisional plans for the programme are being made. Mr. Don Roskilly, of the Talking Book Library, has already agreed to be one of our guests. Mr. Tom Eales will be contributing on the music recording side, and we hope to cover various other aspects of recording. Accommodation is limited. Names direct to Miss Guilbert at Ian Fraser House, but those who have already given in their names need not re-apply.

### 'IN TOUCH' PROGRAMME TO BE EXTENDED

*Reprinted from the 'In Touch' bulletin*

The 'In Touch' programme is to be extended to 25 minutes from the autumn, and will be broadcast on Tuesday evenings at 8.05 on Radio 4. The first of the longer 'In Touch' programmes will be broadcast on Tuesday, 2nd October. The change is made in response to constant requests from many listeners for a longer programme, and also takes into account the complaints of many 'In Touch' listeners who find Sunday tea-time an awkward time to hear their programme. The evening broadcast will also mean that 'In Touch' can be heard on VHF as well as long wave. It is planned to follow the programme with an hour long 'off-air' phone-in to give listeners, particularly those who find it difficult to write, a chance to pass on comments, criticisms or suggestions to the 'In Touch' team, as well as to check details of any information given on the programme.

### JACK JARROLD

St. Dunstaners will wish to send their good wishes to Mr. Jack Jarrold who recently had to give up his voluntary reading, at the Brighton Homes, due to his own failing sight. Mr. Jarrold was the Sports and Recreation Officer at Church Stretton from December, 1944, until February, 1965 and later, at Ian Fraser House.

### FRED HAWKINS

Fred Hawkins died on 24th July. He will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners and their families. Fred taught in the workshop at Brighton, from November 1950 to July 1969. We send sincere sympathy to Mrs. Hawkins.

### National Music for the Blind

All types of music are available from this organisation. The initial entrance fee is £5.00, which covers all services for 12 months, and in future years the renewal fee is £2.00. This provides a potential mail despatch to each listener of a maximum of 150 tapes per year. For further details write to:

National Music for the Blind,  
Radio Churchtown,  
Southport PR9 7QL.

Reader's Digest is recorded every month by National Talking Magazines. The cost of a special 6 month introductory subscription is £4.75. For further details and an application form write to: National Talking Magazines, Melbourne House, Melbourne Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8SD.

Cassettes on current affairs recorded by leading foreign correspondents and specialists in the fields of international relations, economics, science, politics and sociology, are available from Seminar Cassettes Limited, 218 Sussex Gardens, London W2, Tel: 01-262 7357.

RBS Audio Magazine is a monthly 90 minute information cassette. Free introductory copies of the tape are available from the Royal Blind Society, 4 Mitchell Street, Enfield, 2136, New South Wales, Australia.



*Laughter with the Chairman and applause for Lillian Brown at the London Reunion.*



## REUNIONS

### LONDON

Does the sun always shine in Russell Square? The question is prompted by another sunlit day for the London (Central) Reunion, held at the Hotel Russell, on 14th July. As visitors to London and locals all rested in the sun listening to a folk group giving an open air concert, 74 St. Dunstaners were gathering with their wives, or escorts, for the last, but one, of the 1979 Reunions. Altogether 180 people attended and among St. Dunstaners 63 came from the Second War and 11 from the First.

The Reunion was outstanding for its list of guests whom our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, welcomed in his speech: "We are delighted that Lady Ellerman has been able to join us today. Most of you will know what tremendously steadfast friends and supporters of St. Dunstan's she and her late husband, Sir John, have been over many years, and on your behalf it gives me great pleasure to thank her for coming and for her continuing encouragement and interest in our affairs. Other friends and helpers here are Mrs. Spurway, whose courage and determination have brought her back to full mobility, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson, Miss Grant, Miss Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. McLeod, Mr. Mills, and Mrs. Welch. Retired members of the staff who have returned to meet you all again are Mr. Ferguson, Miss Stevens and Mr. Townsend, and Miss Lord is here from headquarters and Miss Davis has been responsible for organising our Reunion."

Mr. Garnett-Orme conveyed Mrs. Opperman's message of greeting from St. Dunstan's (South Africa) before mentioning members of the staff present, representing every department. "As well as those I have mentioned there are with us two members of the staff, who, sadly for us, are retiring this year.

"Mr. Wills retires on 31st December and he will be succeeded by Mr. Weisblatt. It would take too long to tell you now how much Mr. Wills has done for St. Dunstan's over many years, but I would like you to know that he has attended every Reunion, except one, for the past 26

## REUNIONS—continued

years and when he started there were 22 Reunions each year. The one he missed was because he was representing us at a conference in Russia and his carefully planned timetable was upset by a rail strike, which meant the date of that Reunion had to be altered.

"This is a record which I am sure will never be equalled and I think the greatest compliment he would wish us to pay him, would be for us to see that this Reunion, his last in London, is a particularly happy one.

"Mrs. Brown leaves us after years of devoted and most able service to St. Dunstaners. Good fortune smiled on us 33 years ago, for it must be rare indeed that such personal charm, warmth of understanding, and persuasiveness, can be combined with deep technical knowledge. This combination has not only secured good jobs for many St. Dunstaners, but also has brought her the life long friendships of both St. Dunstaners and, in many cases, their employers. She retires with our gratitude and regret, for we shall miss her sadly, and we wish her and her husband many happy years ahead."

### Their first Reunion

The Chairman mentioned St. Dunstaners attending their first Reunion: Mr. Collins from Enfield, Mr. Gardner from Tunbridge Wells, Mr. Tanner from Morden and Mr. Heselden from Eltham. Finally, he introduced Mr. and Mrs. Eric Boulter: "we are proud that Eric, who has done so much for the blind, is a St. Dunstaner. In the last year he has received three well earned awards and holds the very important post of Director General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Northern Ireland is represented here by Mr. Humphrey from Belfast and Mr. Leggett from Bangor, while visiting us from Australia are Mr. and Mrs. Alton of Victoria."

Stan Coe, replying to the Chairman on behalf of St. Dunstaners, used an original simile. "Although our electric power is the same all over the country, a 40 watt bulb doesn't shine as bright as a 100 watt. It is the same with people: now and again we meet a 250 watt person, despite the fact that we all have the same power when we are born".



Dr. Neil McDonald speaking at Bristol.

Stan referred to the work of St. Dunstan's, "So many people have been helped by St. Dunstan's. Everything is provided to make life easier and we have had everything through the power of these people, shining like 250 watts.

"When you are sitting at home in your garden, or in your homes in winter I hope you will remember Arthur Pearson, Ian Fraser and Ion Garnett-Orme and all those who help them."

Stan Coe concluded with an expression of thanks to the hotel staff and to Miss Barbara Davis, the Welfare Visitor, responsible for this Reunion.

## BRISTOL

The finale of the 1979 Reunion season was at Bristol where, at the Euro Crest Hotel, on 21st July, Dr. A. N. McDonald, a grandson of Lord Fraser and Member of our Council, presided over a gathering numbering 114, including 51 St. Dunstaners—9 from the First World War and 42 from the Second War, or later.

As at Southampton, there was an exhibition of craft-work on display in the reception area and another novelty was the presence of two charming young ladies in Dutch national dress, who were distributing tasty morsels of Dutch cheese, in connection with a Trade week in Bristol.

After luncheon Dr. Neil McDonald welcomed everybody on behalf of the Council, to which he said he had been honoured to be elected two years ago.

He was sad, he said, that this was the first Reunion he had been able to attend because: "I have for a long time felt very close to St. Dunstan's, meeting many, many St. Dunstaners over the years at St. John's Lodge and occasionally at Marylebone Road and I have spent hours, as you can imagine, talking of St. Dunstan's with my grandfather, Ian Fraser."

Dr. McDonald welcomed especially six St. Dunstaners attending their first Reunion: Alan Duffy, Plymouth, Herbert Elford, Temple Cloud, Edward Glazebrook, Burnham-on-Sea, Evan Price, Neath, Alan Wagstaff, Whimple, and Raymond Yablsley, Tredegar. He said there were three other St. Dunstaners worthy of mention through their achievements during the year: Trevor Tatchell, of Cardiff, who was awarded the M.B.E., for services to the blind in Wales, in the New Year's Honours list, Freddie Morgan, of Bristol, who was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 30 years with the Civil Service and William Kennedy, of Maidenhead, who has completed 50 years service with his firm McGraw-Hill, from which he will retire next year.

### A Friend to All

"Talking of newcomers and retirements it is with sadness that I have to tell you that this is Mr. Wills' last Reunion. He retires at the end of the year. A friend to all of us, we owe much to him for his efficiency and the quiet and thoughtful way he gets things organised."

Dr. McDonald concluded by telling his audience a story about the pupils of his school, proving that all young people do not regard the two World Wars and those who fought in them, as just history. Explaining that special secular assemblies are arranged on Sundays, for those not wishing to attend Church, Dr. McDonald said that for those asked to address these assemblies, they could be rather difficult occasions:

"I have had to address the school in assembly twice in the last seven years and I make no pretence to being a good speaker. On both occasions my topic has been St. Dunstan's and I could tell you

that throughout the assembly, 30 minutes long, you could have heard a pin drop on both occasions."

Usually at the end all the pupils rush away to enjoy their day off, he said, "But when I spoke about St. Dunstan's, there were crowds of boys who stayed on for another half-hour, asking questions about you and what you do. The triumph of both those assemblies is not mine at all—it is yours."

Mr. Wills then spoke, beginning by mentioning the presence of Miss Phyllis Rogers, Miss Joyce Meyer and Mrs. Avis Spurway among the guests. He also listed the members of staff present.

Mr. Wills looked back over the years to 1953, when he became responsible for Welfare. "I have many recollections—voices and faces long ago. I shall remember you all as I see you at reunions: your cheerfulness, your courage, and I shall always marvel at your victory over blindness."

Tom Daborn, of Parracombe, proposed the vote of thanks mentioning in particular, Miss Muriel Meyer, Miss Irene Newbold and the staff of the hotel.

### Long Line of Service

"Dr. McDonald, you link us with your grandfather and back to Sir Arthur Pearson, and a long line of service to us is remembered on this occasion.

"I feel that among us today are a few ghosts walking, friendly ghosts, mind you, brought back by our memories and us talking about them today."

Tom Daborn said that the mainspring of St. Dunstan's is the service and dedication which helped St. Dunstaners all their lives, "and today, we have Mr. Wills here, the top of the tree...! I ask him to take my thanks on your behalf and we hope to see him here in the future as a guest. I will bring this speech to a close by asking you to drink a toast to Mr. Wills, wishing him a happy and peaceful retirement."

Before the company sat down there was a spontaneous and spirited rendering of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" for Mr. Wills.

Thanking them all, he brought the Reunion back to the business of the afternoon—good fellowship, dancing and talk among friends.



Tony Dodd kicks for goal.

## 1979 Camp at H.M.S. Daedalus

by Tony C. Dodd

Photo: H.M.S. Daedalus

In brilliant sunshine we congregated at H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, for the annual camp for St. Dunstan's. Being a 'new boy' I had no idea of what to expect. It was a great experience, which I enjoyed from beginning to end. There were so many things going on, that it is almost impossible to recall them all. Anyway, to do them all justice would fill a book.

The things that stand out as highlights of the camp, were meeting our hosts and our 'dogs', or our 'gentle giants', as we liked to call them. They were so anxious to do as much as they could for our comfort and entertainment, that I heartily endorse every word of Austin Kent's, when he said, during the Dennis Deacon Memorial Concert; "that going around the countryside seeing the vandalism and beating up of folk by the young people of today, it is refreshing to come to Daedalus, to see the care and thought that was going into making such a happy camp". He said that it renewed his faith in the goodness that is in most people.

Out of all the activities my personal favourite was gliding. Something I had never done before and I found it most exhilarating and very exciting, especially as the pilot of the glider calmly informed me, when we were at 2,000 ft., that he was nearly 80 years old! Nevertheless he

was a very able pilot and we landed after 20 minutes of glorious 'freedom in the skies'.

Another great occasion was the two mile walking race, round the airfield. We mustered for this event, with me in my wheelchair, (I am a double amputee as well) and my 'dog', Del, proceeded to push me back and forth at a great speed giving encouragement to all the competitors. We must have covered at least four times the actual distance. These were the results:

### Handicap Result

First Arthur Carter  
Second Trevor Tatchell  
Third Charles McConaghy

### Dennis Deacon Veterans' Cup

Charles Stafford

### Bridget Talbot Novices Cup

Charles McConaghy

### Fastest Losers Cup

Ted Jinks

Then there was the trip to Cowes, to the British Legion, where we enjoyed marvellous hospitality all afternoon. We were entertained on the boat, going over and coming back again, by sea-shanties and songs, by Joe Humphrey and his accordion.

Tuesday was the black day of the gales that decimated the Fastnet Race so disastrously and caused so much damage everywhere, but here in camp, we had a very successful sports tournament. We were divided into four teams—A to D. The sports included such things as javelin and discus throwing, goal kicking and so on, which were all sports I wanted to have a go at. So with Del's help I threw everything I could lay my hands on. He sat in my chair holding me upright and I even scored three goals at my first attempt and two at the second. However, it was all rather hazardous for Del, who had to keep dodging all this stuff, as I kept throwing it around. Team 'C' were the winners in the end, but we all gave them a run for their money. Mick Sheehan captained the winning team consisting of: C. McConaghy, J. Cope, R. Forshaw, J. Fraser, T. Tatchell, J. Taylor.

### Other results were:

Doubly Handicapped

Winner: Mick Sheehan  
Victor Ludorum Sighted: Trevor Tatchell  
Victor Ludorum Totally

Blind: Johnny Cope  
Prize for Best Beginner: Tony Dodd

Goal Kicking

Competition: George Hudson  
Swimming Cup: Joe Humphrey

I must recount another episode. The Marathon walk took place on Wednesday morning. Everyone made such a great effort and the refreshments at various inns, en route, were much needed. My 'dog' was untiring, pushing me all the way round. He won a bet with Davey Bell, as we arrived at the Osborne View Hotel first, even though we had to go the long way round to get there.

On Thursday, we were taken for a good long trip on a Hovercraft, up into Southampton Docks. Our pilot was extremely interesting, giving a full commentary as we passed places of note.

Our evenings were all very well taken care of. Although dancing isn't really in my line, I enjoyed the company and the music. I must make special mention of the excellent concert party, on Monday, of the kind friends who entertained us in their home, on Tuesday, and the evening with the ladies of the Titchfield Community Centre. That evening was further

enhanced by the marvellous playing of the St. Dunstan's Band. Bob Forshaw on the double-bass was particularly excellent.

On Thursday evening, Captain Bastick and his wife came to present the prizes. Johnny Cope proposed a vote of thanks to all officers and staff of H.M.S. Daedalus and Peter Spencer gave a vote of thanks to the Mess Presidents, Field Gunners and all the helpers. After this, two presentations were made. Mrs. Spurway paid tribute to Mrs. Sheila McLeod, for her 34 years of devoted service as Camp Treasurer. Charles Campkin, who was at Sheila's first camp 34 years ago, then presented her with a silver and gold replica of a St. Dunstan's badge, inscribed, "To Sheila from all St. Dunstan's Campers". Our thanks to everyone who so willingly subscribed to this trophy, on her retirement. Good luck Sheila.

The second presentation was a clock and picture of H.M.S. Ark Royal. These were given to the First Trainer, of the winners of the 1979 Field Gun Crew, F/CREL George Gilholm, on behalf of all the campers for whom he has done so much for over 20 years. His wife was presented with a bottle of champagne, festooned with green ribbons. Our grateful thanks to both of them.

We had a telegram of 'good wishes', from Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme. We also had a message from Dr. and Mrs. Parkes, wishing us all well.

Our vast raffle was drawn on the last Friday evening. The gifts were so generously given, that £217 were raised for the Camp Club funds. A great show—thanks to all concerned.

We sincerely wish to thank our hosts, Captain A. Bastick, Commander R. Wren, and everyone who made this a really wonderful week, which we all enjoyed to the full. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Spurway, Elspeth Grant, and to each one of the helpers. An especial thank you to our wonderful 'dogs', our 'gentle giants', the Gladiators of the Field Gun Crew, to whom we give our congratulations for their tremendous achievement in winning everything, this year—may they continue to do it again in 1980 and beyond. For without each and everyone of the above-mentioned, the week would not have been so unforgettable.

## 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.*

**Henry Bowen** of Shrewsbury, who joined St. Dunstan's on 18th July. Mr. Bowen served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers during the First World War and was wounded at Passchendaele. He is married, with an adult family of six sons and two daughters.

**Dennis Brown** of Buckingham, who joined St. Dunstan's on 12th July. Mr. Brown served in the R.A.F., during the Second World War. He is married with two adult children.

## HELP FOR EAR TROUBLES

Tinnitus is an ear complaint which is much more common than we might suppose. It affects those with normal hearing as well as those with some impairment.

Its effect is to generate sounds in the ear which are inaudible to other people, but take the form of ringing, whistling, buzzing or other more complicated sounds which plague the affected person.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf is carrying out research into tinnitus. More than 200 people with severe tinnitus have been examined clinically in great detail. An interesting part of the research, as it is impossible to record the sounds heard by the patient, has been to create these sounds by means of an electronic music synthesiser.

As tinnitus is really the symptom of a very wide variety of different and mostly microscopic abnormalities in the hearing mechanism, due to damage to the nerve tissue in the auditory system, cure by treatment by drugs or surgery is unlikely to be successful. However, the R.N.I.D. has found that the condition is alleviated by masking tinnitus with another noise.

The R.N.I.D. has helped develop a

**Alan Budd** of Gosport, who joined St. Dunstan's on 14th August. He enlisted with R.E.M.E., in 1950 and has recently completed a period of industrial training, having been discharged from the Services earlier this year. Mr. Budd has been awarded the B.E.M., which was presented to him on 5th September.

**Charles Henry Fagg** of Folkestone, who joined St. Dunstan's on 5th September. Mr. Fagg served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery (H.A.A.) during the Second World War and was a Far East Prisoner of War. He is 73 years old and is a widower.

**Vernon Mason** of Embley, Hampshire, who joined St. Dunstan's on 1st August. Mr. Mason served as a Private in the Machine Gun Corps, during the First World War, and was injured by mustard gas at Rheims in 1918. He is a retired bank official and is married with one adult daughter.

device similar to a modern hearing aid worn behind the ear which gives a sound rather like rushing water. Trials have shown that many people prefer this masking noise to their own tinnitus and, in addition, that there is a possibility that the tinnitus may be quieter when the masking noise is turned off. As many patients are only troubled by their tinnitus at night, a bedside masker has been developed. This can be placed under a pillow, has variable tone and volume and a timer to switch it off after the user has gone to sleep.

Tinnitus maskers are now commercially available and ear, nose and throat surgeons may order them through their Area Health Authority. Maskers are also available through some private hearing aid suppliers. Prices vary, but may be as much as £80.00. A trial period is essential, but a small charge would be made in any event to cover the cost of fitting the masker.

A British Tinnitus Association was launched in July of this year. At present it is under the auspices of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and anyone interested should write to the Institute at 105 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6AH.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From: Charlie and May Hague, Merseyside**

To all the staff at Headquarters. My wife and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the staff for the kindness shown to us during my wife's recent stay in St. George's Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme: thank you for the beautiful flowers and card you sent into the hospital.

To Mr. Wills: thank you sir, for the kind words of encouragement you gave me whenever we met at Headquarters.

To Miss Mosley: it hardly seems sufficient to just say thank you, to you dear lady, your devotion to duty and deep concern for our welfare is beyond any words I can put to paper. You are an angel.

To the Canteen Staff: thank you for the wonderful meals and excellent service.

To the Front Hall Staff and Drivers: thank you boys for everything.

To Charlie and Mary Lawrence: thank you dear people for making my stay at Broadhurst Gardens so comfortable and treating me as one of your own family. We St. Dunstaners are indeed very lucky to have such wonderful people to look after us.

Once again, we thank you one and all.

**From: Reg Page, Cross-in-Hand, East Sussex**

As editor of the East Sussex Cassette, I always prefer to collect my own outside recordings for our "Come With Us", Cassette Magazine for the Blind. This means I must carry around my portable recorder which is supported by a shoulder strap.

In the spring of this year, a party of blind people from all over E. Sussex, planted trees along an area designed for a walk for the blind and disabled, at Abbot's Wood, Nr. Hailsham, E. Sussex. With the help of my wife Audrey, we made a recording of the event.

A few days later a friend was speaking with a gentleman who attended the tree planting project, and the gentleman's conversation went like this:—

"There was a blind man there carrying a black box, which was hanging from a strap on his shoulder, from the box was a cable with a thing like a microphone at the other end, the blind man was holding this and every time someone spoke he pointed this thing at them so that he could hear better."

**From: The Rev. D. S. J. Pettit, Northampton**

For long I have let pass in silent protest the occasional misuse of titles and words in the *Review*, but you have used a word in your August issue which deserves to be shot at.

*Hospitalization*. After hospitalization you say: What an ugly soulless generalization and technicality—Or should I write *Technichnicalitization*! "*Hospitalization*" I seem to hear it out of the mouth of some member of the hierarchy in Whitehall or Fleet Street. For mercy's sake what is wrong with "*Hospital treatment*"!

*R.D.* The Rev. Popham-Hosford, M.A., R.D., you have written. R.D., (i.e.) Rural Dean, is not a permanent appointment in the Church of England. Dear "Pops" had been R.D. with Missions to Seamen at Amsterdam for years. When he became Vicar of St. George's at Brighton, and later Padre to St. Dunstan's he ceased to be R.D., yet St. Dunstan's continued to use R.D. after his name.

*Enlist*. So-and-so enlisted, you record. When men of their own free-will offered themselves for service in the Forces of the Crown, the Regulars, they enlisted, as also did men joining the Territorial Army etc. Similarly when the late Lord Kitchener called for volunteers for the Forces in the First World War, we of our own free will "enlisted". As insufficient men came forward voluntarily to meet our country's needs, conscription was adopted by law. Under conscription men do not "enlist", they are "called up" or "ordered to report for duty" whether they want to or not. With exceptions, this applies to the whole of World War Two.

Now I feel better, yet...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—continued

*The following letter was received from M. J. Carlton, President of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded, in Canada.*

Bill Mayne, for many years well-known as Executive Secretary of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded, resigned from that position effective 30th June, 1979. Bill also retired from his position as National Aftercare Officer, CNIB, on 1st January, 1979. However, I know you will be as pleased as I am, to learn that he has accepted the office of First Vice-President of our Association; he was ever mindful of the needs and aspirations of the war blinded veteran—his interest and concern for our welfare continues.

Succeeding Bill Mayne, as Executive

Secretary, is the newly appointed National Aftercare Officer, David Dorward. Dave is a veteran of World War II. He took part in the Sicilian Invasion of 1943, where he was wounded, resulting in severe impairment of vision. He has a wide general experience in business, in private enterprise, with government, with CNIB. Dave's most recent appointment was Director of the Arthur Weir National Training and Vocational Guidance Centre, CNIB.

Dave Dorward is well equipped for his responsibilities, he is interested, competent, and effective and will devote his efforts and energies to further the causes of war blinded Canadians. Please join me in welcoming Dave. We expect great things of him.

## Around South Africa in 30 days

by Jean Blackford

In June I returned from a holiday visiting friends, who live in Gillitts near Durban, but before going there, I planned a trip by coach, plane and rail, in order to see as much of South Africa as possible. As I had never travelled alone before I was a little apprehensive, but I need not have worried, as there were plenty of others travelling by themselves. I made friends with people from Canada, Australia, South Africa, as well as from England. But there were so many unexpected and exciting bonuses that came about through St. Dunstaners and their friends. It is of these bonuses that I write now—to pay tribute and to thank all concerned. St. Dunstan's is a family, a world-wide one, and they made me feel this to be absolutely true.

### Johannesburg

I had 36 hours in Johannesburg, before my coach trip started. It is such a vast modern city, with tall sky-scrapers, a bustling commercial atmosphere and where no woman, I was warned, should

be out on her own after dark. I was feeling a bit lonesome, when an unexpected phone call came through to bid me welcome. It was the President of the Johannesburg Royal Air Force Association, Pat Stokes, ex-R.A.F. He and his wife, Barbara, came to visit me. All this came about due to Wally Thomas, who had blazed a trail for me. Thanks Wally, it was a good start to my holiday.

### Minefield Rescue

While I was there I had to perform a delightful task for George Brooks, of Saltdean. George was blinded at the Anzio Bridgehead, in 1944, and a South African Officer, Dennis Gourley, originally from Bonnie Scotland, picked him up and slung him over his shoulder and threaded his way through the minefield. Old George, I was told, despite his injuries, kept imploring his rescuer to tread carefully, as he 'tip-toed through the tulips'. Dennis and George kept in touch by letter, but the last time they heard from each other was in 1946. George commissioned me

to try and contact this gallant gentleman. Actually this was not difficult. What a thrill it was to be able to do so and to spend a happy day with the Gourleys. Before I came home Dennis had picked up his phone and spoken to George.

I had 3 days in Cape Town. It was unfortunate that Mrs. Natalie Opperman, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and Jimmie and Laura Ellis were away attending a Reunion in Johannesburg, as I should have liked to have seen them again. However, once again I received a very warm welcome. My new found friend, Violet Cooper, and I attended a Communion Service at St. Stephens Church, Pinelands. The Vicar of this Church is none other than the much respected St. Dunstaner, Michael Norman. He and his wife, Nora, took Violet and I out, on their precious day off, to the wine growing area and the University town of Stellenbosch. Here we had lunch at the Lanzerac Hotel, which is a beautiful Dutch-style country place, set in awe-inspiring scenery, surrounded by majestic hills. It was a day to remember. Incidentally, Michael's Church was packed. It was marvellous to see him so confidently moving about God's business. While I was in South Africa I went to many different Churches—all were filled to capacity.

### Table Mountain

I did not want to waste any time while I was in Cape Town and I spent a wonderful evening at the ballet, in the newly built Nico Malan Theatre, and had a trip up Table Mountain. However, I was slightly taken aback when I was buying a ticket for the cable-car. I was asked whether I wanted a single or a return ticket. I wondered if I looked like a potential suicide. I did not realise that some stalwart people climb up and down those daunting precipitous rocks!

Soon I was boarding the famous Blue Train—bound for Kimberley—alas, no free samples from the Diamond Mines! While I was on the train I had an astonishing meeting. Over lunch a South African lady asked me what part of England I came from. "Rottingdean, near Brighton", came my reply, adding that I did not expect her to know it. "Oh yes, it's near St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean. I visited there once, to

see a St. Dunstaner." Yes, Mike Tetley it was you. I wonder if your ears burned that day?

I stayed for a month with friends at Gillitts, near Durban. While I was there one more exciting incident occurred. A neighbour, who was a keen bowler, asked me if I knew St. Dunstaner, Dennis Dilworth of Johannesburg, who is a Springbok bowler. It was such a coincidence because I had known Dennis in 1967, when he was at Ovingdean. The result of this idle conversation was a reunion at Johannesburg airport, on the day of my departure. Dennis, his wife, Sheila and two of their friends met me off the Durban plane and stayed with me until I had to board the plane for Heathrow—a good three hours—it was a real mini-reunion and we never stopped talking. During the conversation it emerged that Dennis and his friends, Pat Fitzgerald and Ken Mackenzie, were all active committee members of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, belonging to the Stoffelsbult Shell-hole, in Johannesburg. I had thought and intended that they should be my guests for lunch. How wrong can one be? I had not taken into account the incredible and generous hospitality of the South Africans. So you see, not only did I have a marvellous welcome to Johannesburg, but also a wonderful send-off—all thanks to St. Dunstaners.

### RATS OF TOBRUK MEDAL

Les Thompson of Gateshead writes to ask if there are any St. Dunstaners who consider themselves eligible for the above medal. To qualify for the award, you must have been in Tobruk throughout the nine months of the siege, from April to December. Would anybody interested please write to the Editor, who will forward letters to Les.

### RECORD BREAKER?

William Wainman of Sheffield, wonders if he holds a record among St. Dunstaners? He has 26 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. During a recent holiday at Ian Fraser House, he was delighted to receive an unexpected visit from his grand-daughter and her family from Australia.



'Tiny' Pointon (centre) with John Catherwood and Mick Bronson of Lydd Water Ski Club.

## WATER SKIING By A. C. Pointon

Before I start this story, I would say that there is no such thing as sea level owing to tides, nor water level except in a glass, owing to waves of various kinds and of course there is the story of the Irishman who wanted to water ski, but couldn't find a sloping lake.

I think that the blame for my interest in both snow and water skiing must be laid at the door of Ray Hazan. However, I must say that I could not even have started to water ski, but for the fact that my wife takes me for a three mile walk every day, so my legs are in a condition to take the demands made on them.

Snow skiing has already been written about, this story is about water skiing and really started in the early part of the Second World War, when Anthony Travers-Edge, who was one of the crew of a bomber, crashed. The crash caused him to lose one leg below the knee and the other one to be rather mashed up. In spite of this, he was determined to water ski. This he did without the aid of an organisation, such as St. Dunstan's. He also got the idea that if he could do it, so could other disabled people and for years he tried to get something organised. He put a considerable amount of work into this task, and finally got the British Disabled Water Ski Association registered as a Charity, under the auspices of the British Water Ski Federation.

The first practical event took place at Storrs Hall, on Windermere, where we all arrived on 23rd June, enjoying three days

of strenuous skiing, before returning home on 27th June.

On the course were Mike Brayford, who lost an arm, above the elbow, while swimming in Spain, when a power boat went over him. Over these few days, he was testing a device which allowed him to get up on the skis from a deep water start, with much less effort, thus leaving him more energy for the actual skiing.

A doctor, Norman Peacey, was also with us. He too has an above the knee amputation and is, by the way, one of the original Pathfinders of the War. He ski'd for the first time on his one leg.

There were two civilian blind, but experienced skiers on the course; 27 year old Sandy Gray, who was taught by David Nations, O.B.E., of Ruislip, and 46 year old Gerald Price, who has been skiing for years.

There were also two leg amputees, Mike Hammond and Bob Newington, already experienced skiers. Due to these three days they improved their technique.

I was also a member of the party and I returned home having ski'd solo for the first time—thanks to the considerable ability of Robin Nicols, an airways pilot, who was in charge of training. Judith Davis, of Pierpoint Club, Nottingham, and Alf Walsh were also helping with the course. In addition, there were two very able power boat drivers, Tom Jackson and Harry Gilmore, who really knew their stuff and had volunteered to do the driving for us. The blind skiers were help-

ed by the amputees, who acted as observers in the power boat.

To say that it was all a lot of energetic fun is an understatement. The only thing I found surprising was how warm the water was; in fact with a slight breeze, it was warmer in the water than out of it, which was fortunate as one drops into it fairly often, at the beginning.

Robin's wife told me that on the first day, it was rather amusing to see able-bodied, beefy men walking to the jetty and decorously arranging themselves in various sailing dinghies, being gently wafted away in the breeze. They were followed onto the jetty by a group of amputees and blind people going skiing! We were ferried from the jetty to a raft, from which we took off, to spend some time on the skis and a lot of time in the water.

The fact that a totally blind person can ski has already been proved, by Gerald and Sandy, whose fiancé Pete Edgar drove us up from London, and I have proved to myself that I can, despite the lateness of the hour, also ski unaided.

### Lydd Water Ski Club

Before this expedition to Windermere, I had ski'd at Lydd Water Ski Club. This is the technique we used there, which got me skiing to start with. We used a six feet long piece of metal tubing, with one inch dowelling through the middle, and four lugs fixed on at two foot intervals, with the necessary ropes to form an apex of a triangle attached to the lower rope. It has to be about an inch thick so that you can get a good grip, if it were thicker, this would not be possible. The ropes are fitted with floats so that the whole thing won't sink. In the water, I had an experienced skier on either side of me, with their hands inside mine and their elbows under mine. When everyone is in the correct position, with knees up to the chest and skis straight forward, the person in charge shouts "Hit it" and the driver opens up the throttle. By the way, they never shout "Go", as this can be confused with "No". Your arms take a considerable pull and you move forwards, which brings the skis onto the top of the water. Once you are on top of the water, and going about 20 m.p.h., you begin to straighten up from a crouched position,

until you are standing, more or less, erect. You must remember to keep your knees slightly bent, so they act as shock absorbers, because the water is anything but level. When your instructors are happy that you are in the correct position, they then lower their arms from under my elbows and if that is alright they take their hand nearest to me off the bar and providing that all goes well, the person in charge then shouts "Solo" (and he isn't playing cards). They then simultaneously let go of the bar and you enjoy the exhilaration of skiing alone—or at least until you wander off into the wake of the boat, or lose concentration and you go zonk into the drink!

### Matter of Balance

Now all I need is experience, like riding a bike or driving a car, I think the more one does a thing, the better one should become, and take it from me, like snow skiing it is all a matter of balance. I think that most of us have fallen from a bike at about 14 m.p.h. onto a hard road, but I assure you that hitting the water at about 25 m.p.h. is much more pleasant, and one surfaces in a second or two, and of course the skis come off (sometimes too easily).

In one year it is not bad to have snow ski'd and water ski'd, both for the first time. Now does anyone know how I can arrange to do a parachute drop? Seriously, I'm not joking. It would be an advantage if some kind of walkie talkie could be developed, which a blind skier could wear, but it would have to be able to withstand total immersion and be so constructed that it would not impede the skier in any way. Sighted skiers get hand signals from the boat, and although a loud hailer can be used from the boat, the skier cannot ask a question back—well not yet—still perhaps someone will come up with a solution in this day of advanced electronic development. I hope so as it would give one the same degree of independence as one enjoys snow skiing.

Finally I think that it is obvious that it is only possible to get going with the good will and practical help of sighted people, willing to encourage one in every way.

Anyone wanting further information about the Association should contact A. C. Pointon.





Alison Dodd coaches Ray Hazan on the use of the Keyboard.

## To Make the Printed Word Talk

by Ray Hazan

Photos: David Castleton

The week of the 13th August was an historic period, not only for St. Dunstan's, but for the blind population of the United Kingdom as a whole. That week transformed into reality the words of Lord Fraser, with which he opened a scientific conference in London, in 1966. He said; "Braille, talking books and radio provide access to a great deal of the world's literature. But even so, it is only a tithe of what is available to other folks. Therefore, the idea has been in our minds, for a very long time, to make the printed word talk. "This dream has now come true. For, established at St. Dunstan's headquarters, in cooperation with the R.N.I.B., is the first commercially available reading machine, from America, which instantly converts print to speech; the Kurzweil Reading Machine, mark III.

### History of the Kurzweil Company

*(In Talking Review, this paragraph will be read at the end of the article, by the Kurzweil Reading Machine.)*

The history of the Kurzweil Reading Machine dates back to 1963, when the Company founder, Raymond Kurzweil, developed an interest in pattern recognition, while he was studying computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Kurzweil tackled the then unsolved problem of programming a small computer to recognize printed and typed letters in any standard type font.

This task was made particularly difficult by the existence of several hundred different styles of print, as well as a variety of printing processes, each with its own set of "errors", such as letters that touch

one another, fragmented or broken letters, and pages printed with poor and varying contrast. After exploring a number of possible applications, Kurzweil became familiar with the reading problems of the blind, and the attempts to solve them. The need for a reading machine which would actually recognise printed characters, and present the information in an easy-to-use form, such as speech or braille, became obvious.

### The Next Step

In 1973, he decided to establish a company to begin an inter-disciplinary approach to the development of a full scale working model. Kurzweil organised a team of experts skilled in all the disciplines necessary to carry out the project; linguistics, phonetics, electrical and mechanical engineering, software design, object image processing, education, marketing and management.

The young professional team, assisted by many others, worked round the clock and completed the prototype, by the end of 1974. While continuing to revise the Optical Character Recognition, linguistic technologies, and conducting the complex preparations for manufacturing, the Company began demonstrating the reading machine to interested agencies and groups. In March 1975, prototype demonstrations were conducted for representatives of the government and of the National Federation of the Blind of America. These led to major evaluation programmes, by the government and the N.F.B. The extensive consumer feedback, which resulted from these programmes, led to many valuable modifications being made to the machine; such as better handling of varied formats, increased reading speeds and improved user control.

### St. Dunstan's Involvement

St. Dunstan's interest in reading machines was first aroused, during the First World War, by the development of the Optophone. This machine, which never reached commercial production, converted print into a series of musical tones. Future research into synthetic speech was sponsored during the 60's, at Sussex University and the National Physical Laboratory. Then, three years ago, the name Kurzweil was heard on the B.B.C.



Reading machine pioneer, Mary Jameson, with the Optophone.

Mr. Dufton, head of the Research Department, made use of his contacts and acquaintances in the United States to obtain more details about what was going on. Indeed, articles on the subject have appeared in previous *Reviews*. In January, this year, the decision was made to cooperate with the R.N.I.B., to purchase a reading machine for a year's evaluation.

The KRM was to be installed, initially, at St. Dunstan's and we were to recruit a supervisor. Mrs. Alison Dodd duly started work at the beginning of July. Her first task was to oversee the preparation of a room. An office on the ground floor was redecorated and much consideration was given to the acoustics. Some furniture, of the right height, plants and pictures of former reading machines, viz the Optophone and Optacon, hopefully, turned the room into pleasant, conducive surroundings.

### Arrival of the KRM and Team

It was a cliffhanger to the end. The room was only just ready. The customs and excise men placed a ban on working overtime, just as the KRM arrived at Heathrow. The shipping agents failed to produce the right piece of paper to get

customs clearance, but finally on the morning of Wednesday, 8th August, it all came together. Four large boxes arrived in the front hall. That afternoon, Mr. Max Dannis, head of Kurzweil's Field Engineering Department, arrived. By 5.15 pm the first KRM ever to leave the United States had read its first line. Friday saw the arrival of Mr. Andrew Parsons, Marketing Manager, and Dr. David Ticchi, Head of the Educational and Training Department.

### How it Works

The KRM consists of three pieces of equipment. The scanner unit is approximately 24" x 20" x 8", weighing 49lbs; the computer unit is of the same dimensions and weight, finally the keyboard unit is 10" x 9" x 3", containing 41 keys and slide and rocker switch controls. Just as the human eye scans the print, then sends a message to the brain, which memorises and transmits the message to the vocal cords, so the KRM performs in a similar manner. The reading material is placed faced down on the glass top of the scanner unit. A high resolution camera, under the glass, scans the print line by line. An enhanced image of each letter is focused on to an electronic retina. The characteristics of each letter are converted into digital information, which then enters the computer units. Once the letter has been recognised, and the KRM can cope with 200 different type fonts, it is placed in a word. The word is turned into speech after the computer has gone through 1,000 rules of pronunciation, 2,000 exceptions to those rules and through its dictionary of 1,000 words with unusual pronunciation, such as those ending in 'ough', which are pre-fed into its programme. The word is then placed into the context of a sentence, so that the reading bears some degree of inflexion and stress. You can hear the voice go down at the end of a sentence and up at a question mark.

The synthetic voice comes out of a speaker on the keyboard. It takes a little getting used to, but within an hour comprehension rises considerably. If you have problems understanding, then you can delve into the memory of the computer for repeats of sentences or words, or even for the spelling of words. The many keys enable you to ask for punctuation, make

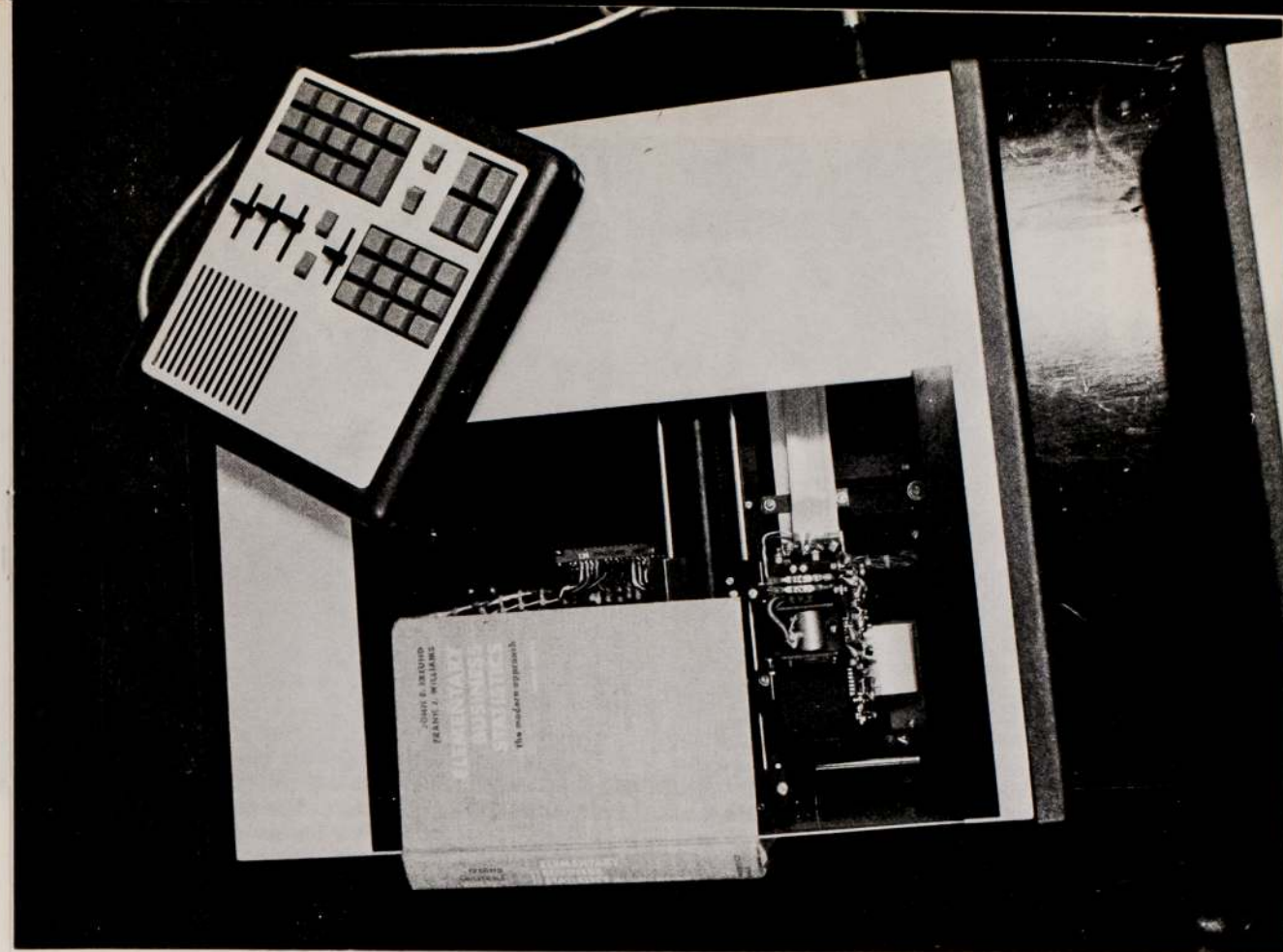
reference points, read columns, read from about 80 to 250 words a minute and alter the pitch of the voice from bass to tenor. Kurzweil is continually working on improvements of voice and function. There is no need to send the machine back to America, they simply send a new cassette, containing the improved programme and the cassette is fed into the computer. A repair and maintenance contract has been negotiated with an English firm. How servicing and the reliability of the machine will work out, remains to be seen. Though the cost price of £10,000 may sound a lot, compared to other machines, with a very limited capacity, the KRM is very cheap.

### Training Programme

The week of 13th to 16th August, was used mainly to instruct the supervisor. Mrs. Dodd spent several hours at the machine, blindfolded under sleepshade. During the latter half of the week, the opportunity was taken to introduce the first of a cadre of students to the KRM. Mr. Tony Aston, Employment Officer, R.N.I.B., Mr. Gerald Alner, a computer programmer at B.P., and St. Dunstaners, David Clark and Ray Hazan received some basic instruction. All of the students had learnt sufficient to be able to demonstrate and talk about the machine during the press conference, on Friday 17th August. A very fair coverage was given on radio and television. Since then, several firms and libraries have expressed an interest in this new development.

### A New Style of Reading

Since I work three floors above where the KRM is housed, I have a distinct advantage over any other student. But even now, three weeks after its arrival, and having used it nearly every day, it never ceases to amaze and thrill me, every time I sit down at the machine. The very act of taking virtually any printed book or paper and having it read to you by an artificial voice, is difficult to comprehend. Now that I have got used to the voice, almost every word is understandable, and I find myself listening comfortably to the content and ignoring the odd, strange pronunciation. I have been able to read about 70% of my correspondence, though it cannot read handwriting. My word speed



Looking down on the keyboard and scanner unit—through the glass on which the reading matter is placed can be seen the electronic camera on its sliding mounting.

is about 200 words per minute. While the KRM cannot replace the human reader, it gives the blind a high degree of independence and instant access to the printed word.

### Future Evaluation Programme

The sort of questions that are going to be asked over the coming year are: how well do people learn to use the KRM? How much comprehension do they get? Do they enjoy listening? How does the KRM cope with different formats? These questions will be posed in three areas: social reading (day centres, libraries), the working environment, and education, primary, secondary and higher. The sort of limitations that have already been encountered are its inability to read news-

print, handwriting, telephone directories, complex formats and some column material. Before the end of this evaluation programme, it is hoped the prototype of the TSI print to speech converter, for use with the Optacon, will be introduced. A very useful comparison could then be made. The Germans are also working on a reading machine.

We live in exciting times. Hopefully, those people for whom these aids are too late, will console themselves with the fact that it was their experiences, their needs, which led to such a development. One person rang up after the T.V. showing, and said; "Quite frankly, I don't believe it. It must be a fraud!" Rest assured, "the printed word has talked".



## IT STRIKES ME

by  
Magog

### At Royalty's Elbow

A television appearance by Stanley Fowler took place on BBC 1, on 5th September. He was one of several people recounting wartime experiences. However, this was not a story of bullets flying, strays, shrapnel and shells. In 1943, Stanley was staying at Park Crescent, after coming out of Moorfields hospital. He and several others were invited to attend the Royal box, at the Albert Hall, with the King and Queen. Unfortunately, Beethoven was unable to command Stan's attention throughout. "I received a sharp dig in the ribs from Matron, and woke up to find Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret laughing at me". Stanley has never received another invitation!

### House Builders

A doll's house, designed and built by Ted and Iris Miller of Leamington Spa, appeared on BBC television, in the Midlands, on 9th September.

The real story is, of course, that Ted is one of our handless St. Dunstaners. Readers will remember the photograph of the house reproduced in our March issue. Ted designs the houses, Iris builds them. The thatched roof of their latest house, for example, is of knitted string!

All the houses are furnished and most of the furniture is also designed and made by this remarkable husband and wife team. The models are so beautiful that it almost seems wrong to regard them as toys, but Ted and Iris insist they are dolls-houses and their grand-children delight in playing with them.



James Forbes-Stewart and Percy Stubbs.

### Top Bowlers

Two St. Dunstaners in East Anglia have been carrying St. Dunstan's Bowling Flag and proving the value of our own indoor rink at Brighton. Our picture shows James Forbes-Stewart and Percy Stubbs (right) with the cup they won in a competition against blind bowlers from Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Cambridge.

### Very Contented Sole

A cruise of well over 400 miles and three trophies at the end. That was the performance of a team of three British yachts under our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan's leadership.

The British team swept the board in the Minquies week, the equivalent of Cowes week in French sailing. They sailed from Cowes to St. Malo, from St. Malo to St. Helier, in Jersey, from St. Helier to Granville, on the French coast and finally back to St. Malo.

The team won the James Cook Trophy, a splendid bronze model, of Cook's ship, while Michael Delmar-Morgan's yacht, the Contented Sole, navigated by his wife, Mardie, was awarded the President's Trophy, a silver cup, for its performance in its class and the Trophee Sovac, a handsome sword, the overall trophy for the best performance in all classes.



Len Curnow, President of Liskeard Branch British Legion (centre) at the opening of the branch's new club. Seen here with the Mayor, Len has been a prime mover in the establishment of the new club and the strengthening of the Legion in Liskeard.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 289*

**Seven Years in Tibet**

By Heinrich Harrer

*Translated by Richard Graves*

*Read by Eric Gillett*

*Reading Time 11 1/2 hours*

At the outbreak of the Second War, Harrer was a member of a party passing through India en route for Everest. They were arrested and interned. Harrer, an Olympic skier and mountaineer (he had climbed the North face of the Eiger) was soon making plans for escape. His first attempt was abortive, his party were picked up after eighteen days freedom.

The second attempt was successful, Harrer and one companion finally reaching Tibet. The journey must have been a

stupendous tour de force. With little food and no equipment they scaled the roof of the world, often climbing at 17,000 feet.

After many adventures they arrived, emaciated and in rags, at Lhasa and entered the Forbidden City unchallenged, although they had no permits.

They were treated as honoured guests, feted and lionized wherever they went. They were given food, shelter and clothing. They began to work for the government, supervising building and drainage work.

Then one day Harrer was asked to shoot some film for the Dalai Lama, the young Living Buddha who was virtually a prisoner in the gloomy Palace. Gradually a strange friendship developed

## READING TIME—continued

between the German and the fourteen-year-old God-king...

Here, the lucky reader gets two books for the price of one, so to speak – the fascinating story of the escape and journey to Lhasa, and a closely-detailed account of everyday life and customs in the Forbidden City.

*Cat. No. 2031*

### **The White Nile**

By Alan Moorehead

Read by Alvar Lidell

Reading Time 16½ hours

For thousands of years men had speculated about the source of Egypt's great waterway, but it was not until the last

century that the location was finally discovered.

This book deals with the exploits of the men who sought the answer to the age-old riddle. They endured savage physical hardship and bitter disappointment. They saw at first hand the appalling horrors of the slave trade, the dirt and disease, the barbaric cruelty of Africa.

The two most famous explorers of the day were, of course, Burton and Speke and the writer deals at length with their searches, the gradual break-up of the partnership, the bitter public quarrels ending with Speke's tragic death, on the very eve of his public debate with the man who had become his implacable enemy.

The book is long (possibly over-long) and could tax the endurance of any but the most experienced armchair traveller.

## TABLES ON WHEELS

by David Clark

It is said that most people remember what they were doing on Friday, 22nd November 1963, the day on which President Kennedy was assassinated. I remember that day for being the last time that I drove a car. I was working in London as a Chartered Accountant and had to attend a business function in Grimsby in the evening. My wife and I set off from Sevenoaks during the afternoon and I drove the car northwards towards London, crossing the North Downs, by way of Polehill. The road widened at the top into a three-lane highway and as the traffic moved faster, with overtaking in both directions, I realised that I could not see the approaching cars clearly. I pulled into a lay-by and said to my wife, "I can no longer see properly, you'll have to drive". She was understandably shocked, not because I could not see—I had been told a few months earlier that I would be totally blind within two years—but because I had always done the driving. She was suddenly faced with a long journey, the first part of which was through London.

I enjoyed driving and, much to my disappointment, I never drove again on public roads. However, my wife became a

very competent driver and we reversed roles—she drove the car and I did the nagging! I had always thought that, as the driver, I was doing the hard work—but after some experience I found that this was not the case. We had two small boys and in my new role it fell to me to look after them, while my wife concentrated on the driving. I had no idea how much skill was required for this task, particularly on a long journey. More than skill, it needed ingenuity, patience, kindness, courage, strength, and above all, stamina. A working knowledge of judo and karate would have been useful. I soon abandoned the front seat and sat with my sons in the back, for greater control. Compared with them, a couple of Irish Wolf Hounds would have seemed like two teddy bears.

As I gained experience I realised that for a happy family journey, two main problems had to be resolved. The first was for the children to be able to relieve themselves of boredom and the second was simply for them to be able to relieve themselves. I tackled the latter problem first, by equipping the car with a large plastic bottle with a screw lid. It was extra-

ordinary how the boys never needed to widdle at the same time, and as soon as we were on our way after stopping for one of them, the other one would begin to wriggle. To add annoyance, there always seemed to be a large, slow, smoky lorry, that we had just overtaken for the third time and which we did not want to get in front of us again. If they did happen to coincide in their calls of nature, we were invariably in a town with no car parks, or in a traffic jam. I avoided taking them into public lavatories anyway, because my younger son, with the charming innocence of childhood, would quite happily run his hand along any of the walls and within two minutes would be back in the car sucking his fingers with relish! So, the bottle became a constant companion on long journeys.

To relieve their boredom I kept them occupied for miles on end with an assortment of games. We played 'I Spy', counted the colours of cars to see which colour won and, as they grew older we graduated to 'Twenty Questions' and quizzes. On one trip we took a pack of cards with us and, after I had sorted out the usual fight which always followed 'Snap'. I devised a simple mathematical game using the numbers on the cards. This was fun and I realised that the boys were getting quick with the numbers and learning their tables. Everything had to have a name and we called it 'Top Table'. It became one of the regular features on our long journeys.

It occurred to me that if the multiplication table was printed on the back of the card, the children would be able to play the game without adult help, because they could check the answer themselves. I had some cards printed with a large number on one side, numbers from two to twelve, and the multiplication table on the reverse. I also had the rules printed as follows:—

The cards are cut by the players. The player drawing the highest card is the dealer. The dealer shuffles and deals any number up to 22 cards to each player. The dealer then places the top card from his hand on to the table, with the numbered side facing upwards. The other player does the same. The second player then has to state the product of multiplying the two numbers together. The accuracy of the players statement

is checked by referring to the multiplication tables on the other faces of the two cards. If the player is correct he picks up both cards. Then the second player lays down the top card from his hand, with the number facing upwards and the process is repeated. The winner is the player who wins all the cards from the other player, or holds the most cards after a predetermined time has elapsed.

I asked a number of teachers in different types of schools and with varying age groups to test the game for me. They all found it very successful. Several of them found that as the children became quicker with the answers they themselves devised a form of 'Snap', and instead of taking turns to give the answer, the winner was the first one to call it out. I added this to the rules. They had a lot of fun and were learning at the same time.

The game obviously had potential so I protected it with patent and, later on, copyright, and tried to find a publisher. This was more difficult than I thought it would be. One firm told me that they had an average of twenty ideas sent to them a week and, of course, each person thought that his own idea was not only original, but was the best invention since the wheel.

I felt a tremendous feeling of satisfaction, when one day my wife opened the post and read me the letter I had been waiting for. It was from E.S.A. Creative Learning Ltd., of Harlow, Essex, saying that they wanted to take up the game, and it subsequently found its way into their catalogue.

My children were past the stage of learning tables by the time I received the first sample pack of professionally produced 'Top Table', but we all had the satisfaction of remembering those riotous miles which we covered in the car, and which led to this neat, shining package.

## CORRECTION

In July, we reported that at the Newcastle Reunion Mr. Cecil Wilson of Brough, was attending his first Reunion. This was incorrect. At Newcastle Mr. Richard Wilson of Cleadon, Sunderland, was attending his first Reunion—Mr. Cecil Wilson was present at the Sheffield Reunion.

## Gardening Column

I expect that you are all back from your holidays. I trust that the garden is in good order, with plenty of flowers and vegetables showing. You ought to have a crop of tomatoes in the greenhouse, as well.

I am pleased to say that we have at last had some rain, which was much needed in this area. Rain is much better for plants than just watering. Perhaps I can now hope for a good crop of fruit.

Most of us experienced those awful gales in August. I only hope that not too much damage was done. We gardeners are always grumbling about something, but we manage to find a way out in the end. Wind is my worst enemy. It is essential to have a supply of canes, so you can tie up the taller flowers, especially Chrysanthemums.

At the bottom of my garden there is a large growth of Bindweed. Despite my digging out all the roots, or so I thought, they come up again year after year. However, this year I tried a new weed killer, which seems to be working very well. It has no drift back in the soil, because it is inactivated as soon as it reaches the earth. You spray it on to the leaves, so do not use it on a windy day and make sure none of it goes on to your cultivated plants. I will give you a further report when I know its full effects on my weeds.

### Poor Roses

Many flowers and vegetables have been very backward in this part of the world. The roses are especially poor. I hope you have been luckier. I have been trying out a number of unusual plants in the greenhouse. They have germinated well and it won't be long till they flower. You can grow very good Geraniums and Busy Lizzies (Impatiens) from seed. The Busy Lizzies come in all kinds of different colours; some with a white cross in the centre. They are good bedding plants for shady parts of the garden. Schizanthus (Poor Man's Orchid) and one I have not grown for some time, but everyone

admires the colours, is Salpiglossis, are quite easy to grow from seed. Sow them early on, with bottom heat, or if you plant them later, place them on a warm, sunny window sill. They also make good pot plants.

That is quite enough of my ramblings; there is real work to be done.

### Vegetables

Clear all the beds that you used for summer crops and fork them over, spreading compost on top, so that frost can get to work on it. Keep on weeding and hoeing, as this will open up the soil, which will help you when you have to dig up all the crops. All root crops must be taken out now and stored in earth clamps, old sacks, or well lined paper bags, with a few holes punched in them. It is inadvisable to use polythene bags.

Those of you living in the South can now plant late cabbage and lettuce seedlings, in a warm border. If anyone in the North wants to plant out these seedlings, have some cloches handy and put ends on to them, to make them into miniature greenhouses.

Get all your plants ready for the spring seeding and planting. Remember to rotate the crops, so that you do not plant the same vegetables in the same spot for at least three years. It is very important never to plant any of the cabbage family in the same place, since they have a tendency to club root, even if you try to prevent this occurring. Radish and early peas can be sown in a warm, sunny border. New crowns of rhubarb can be set. Give the rhubarb a good start by digging the soil well and incorporate plenty of strawy manure or compost when you plant it out. You can also sow broad beans now. It is best to start them off in trays. However, if you want to plant them later, say in the New Year, put them in peat pots in the greenhouse, frame, shed, or garage. Broad beans can be planted outside when the frosts are over and they will come up as early as those growing inside.

However, watch out for blackfly. I controlled these insects by using systemic insecticide from a watering can, which works through the leaves and roots. These types of insecticides are very good and are easy to handle. They can be used on all types of vegetables except for root crops (beet, carrot, potato, parsnip, etc.). I keep a watering can especially for this job to ensure that no traces of the insecticide gets on to other plants, as it would have fatal effects.

### Lawns

You won't need to do much to the grass at the moment. If you have to mow the lawn, do it at the beginning of the month, with the blades set fairly high. Keep the grass free from leaves. Clean and oil the lawn mower, before wrapping it up in sacking and storing it in a dry place for the winter. If you want to patch up the lawn, now is the time to lay turves.

If you want to set a new lawn from turves, do get several estimates as it can be very expensive. On the other hand, you can set a lawn from seed in the early spring.

### Flowers

The flower beds will be looking rather forlorn. Annuals will have finished flowering and perennials will be resting for the winter. Cut away all dead heads and most main stems, right down to soil level. If you want to increase some of your best plants, divide the roots by lifting them out of the soil and split them, so that there is a good root system on each piece. Plant flowers for spring, such as Wallflowers and all types of bulbs. When planting bulbs fork up the soil and put the bulbs well below the surface. Bring perennials, Fuchsias, Geraniums, etc., inside to protect them from frost. Fork over all flower beds to stop the weeds and to let the winter air get at some of the pests and diseases. It also breaks up heavy soils, making it easier to work in the spring.

### Fruit

New trees can be planted at the end of the month, but work the soil over in preparation, now. Some soft fruits, such as raspberries, can be put in too. On existing raspberries cut back the fruiting canes to

ground level. Cut away all fruiting growths on loganberries and gooseberries. All currant bushes need pruning. Cut away all surplus runners from the strawberries. Get new grease bands on the apple and pear trees. Finally remember to pick all the fruit carefully, so it is not bruised and then it will keep much better.

### Greenhouse

The growing period is nearly over, so do not overwater; keep plants a little dry. Do not water tuberous plants, Begonias, Gloxinias, Achimemes, so that they dry off gradually and then tilt the pots on to their sides. Put seedlings in the best possible position, so that they get maximum light. De-bud Carnations and Chrysanthemums to encourage larger blooms. Keep the greenhouse warm, about 45°F, or even a bit hotter if you can afford it. On a sunny day ventilate the greenhouse, but close everything up in the early afternoon. Feed everything regularly with insecticide and fungicide. Clear away any unwanted plants and wash the pots and trays ready for the new season. I suggest that you buy in a supply of peat, sand and fertilisers, as the prices are bound to rise and they may become difficult to get hold of.

### PUZZLE CORNER

To solve the puzzle in the August *Review* you must arrange the numbers as follows:

2	4
6	8
1	3
5	7

### Con-fusion!

Remember the poser (March *Review*) about the third word in the English language to end in 'shion'? Cushion and fashion were the first two. Freddie Barratt tells us that on page 411 of Chambers 20th Century Dictionary it gives an alternative spelling to the word 'fusion', as in nuclear fusion as 'fushion'. It's all a bit of con-fusion, really.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

#### BRIDGE NOTES

Our 7th Pairs competition was held on 8th July. A four table Howell movement was used. The results were as follows:

**1st R. Fullard and Mrs. Buller-King**  
60.3%

2nd W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad 59.5%

The 7th Individual competition was held on 21st July and the results were as follows:

**J. Padley and R. Fullard** 66 pts.

W. Burnett and F. Griffie 64 pts.

P. McCormack and W. Phillips 62 pts.

B. Simon and H. Preedy 60 pts.

W. Lethbridge and Partner 58 pts.

Our summer bridge drive, held on 28th July, was a great success. 15 St. Dunstaners and their partners took part and the winners were:

**1st B. Ingre and Mrs. M. Douse**  
3,310

Joint 2nd

J. Padley and Mrs. P. Padley 1,470

C. Walters and W. Lethbridge

4th M. Tybinski and Mrs. V. Barker 970

W. LETHBRIDGE

#### BOWLING SECTION

In August our members met with friends again at Mayford Hall Woking, Hove, Kingsway, and at one of our newer fixtures, Storrington Bowling Club. At Hove and Kingsway we were all delighted to have our Vice-President, Dr. John O'Hara and his young grand-daughter, Sarah, with us. Dr. John will have to keep his eye on her, otherwise he will be losing her to us as a lucky mascot. Dr. John, on our behalf, gave a most eloquent and humorous vote of thanks, which summed up our feelings to all the Bowling Clubs that we visit every year.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our trip to Eastbourne, let's hope we can make it next year.

Our indoor sessions will be starting on Tuesday, 2nd October, at Ian Fraser House. Morning practice sessions will

also start on that date, at the King Alfred Indoor Bowling Rink.

Home matches to be held this year at Ian Fraser House are:

Friday 12th Oct—Burgess Hill BC

Friday 2nd Nov—Worthing Indoor BC

Friday 30th Nov—Hove and Kingsway BC

Our visitors will arrive at 2.00 pm

JIM PADLEY, *Chairman*

#### ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

After the usual monthly closure in August, the Club is now embarking upon another year's activities.

The first was our dance, on the 8th September, and the Committee were delighted with the support they received and it was very nice to see some of our old friends, as well as new ones, which made for a happy evening.

Just a reminder that the Club's Annual Dinner Dance, at the Dudley Hotel, will be held on the 10th November, and I will be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join us.

The results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournaments will be reported in next month's *Review*.

R. OSBORNE

#### MIDLANDS

Our meeting in August was rather poor, due to many members being away on holiday. Only one game of dominoes was played. Our Chairman welcomed David Taylor, who has returned to the Midlands, from Swindon and we sincerely hope that we shall see him at future meetings. The ladies were thanked for the lovely tea, especially Marjorie for her beautiful home made cakes.

We are extremely grateful to Bill and Dorothy Richards, the Finance Chairman and Secretary, of the Women's Section of the Austin Branch, of the Royal British Legion, for all the help they give us at our meetings and for the marvellous raffle prizes they bring along.

Our September meeting was very eventful. The Sir Arthur Pearson Domino

Competition was played off and the winners were as follows:

1st L. Kibbler

2nd B. Tomporowski

3rd R. Ashmore

We hope to carry on with the doubles competition next month.

After tea we had a very successful 'Bring and Buy' sale and we raised £30.30 towards our Stratford outing. Thank you all very much indeed for this splendid effort.

We all wish Janet a speedy recovery from her operation.

#### Diary Dates

14th October

Next Club Meeting

29th October—3rd November

John Cashmore, in 'Annie Get Your Gun', at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

4th November

Club Meeting

8th November

John and Bob Cashmore are putting on a Grand Concert, in Bournville Concert Hall, Bournville Lane, in memory of their father. All proceeds from this concert will be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund. The tickets are on sale now at £1.00 each. If anyone is interested, please ring me on Bromsgrove 73856.

JOAN CASHMORE, *Secretary*

#### ST. DUNSTAN'S INDOOR BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

12-23rd November

Would all St. Dunstaners wishing to participate in these championships, please write to me for entry forms.

J. CARNOCHAN, *Sports Officer*

#### To all Bowlers

Once again I am organising a Bowling Handicap (7th-11th November). This is to get you all in practice for the Bowling Championship (12th-23rd November). If anyone is interested, please contact me before 7th November, at 66 Graham Avenue, Brighton BN1 8HD, tel: Brighton 500619.

A. ROBINSON, *Handicap Organiser*

#### Amateur Radio Week-end

by Charles Campkin

Difficulties are made to be overcome; however the effort is so often lacking. It would be very hard indeed to find a more dedicated and enthusiastic group of St. Dunstaners than those who gathered at Ian Fraser House, on 20th July, for the second weekend of the 1979 series, of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society.

The path that the innocents trod, through the jungle of strange jargon and unfamiliar nomenclature, led to the Winter Garden, with its equally strange assortment of apparatus, where the atmosphere was pierced with the call signs of old members and the triumphant newcomers, who had at last achieved their 'tickets'. The General Meeting over, we dispersed to talk about current problems, exchange views and information. Above all, the crackle of static and the interruptions of Charlie Whisky, gave an air of active energy.

After lunch on Saturday, the inner man having been attended to, an old friend, Len Wooler, G8 GEZ, faced the assembly. He demonstrated old relics, as well as the latest pieces of G.P.O. equipment. He guided us through the mysteries of G.P.O. telecommunications, including a diversion into the realms of G.P.O. finance, which earned him our appreciative thanks and a barrage of further questions. "Reception five strength nine, tone nine"—a good contact—call again Len.

The membership of the Society now stands at 40 and I feel that a fifty per cent attendance, at the peak of the holiday period, speaks volumes for the dedication of the members.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Ian Fraser House on 13th October, 1979. The speaker, H.M. Coastguard Officer David Foster, stationed at Fort Haven, Shoreham-by-Sea, will give a talk on radio communications in H.M. Coastguard Service.

Anyone wishing to attend should make arrangements through Miss Bridger at Headquarters, in the normal way.

Items for the agenda should be sent to Ted John, 52 Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside, L45 6TD.

## WARMINSTER CAMP

by Victor Harris

The spoken word is often inadequate to describe an event and the written word can be misleading. Those members of the Rotary Club of Warminster, who prepared a precis of the programme included under detail No. 3 the phrase, "Settle in at School of Infantry".

Our friends from St. Dunstan's certainly settled in—I don't really think they settled down; rather, I think they took over a fairly substantial portion adjacent to the Senior N.C.O. mess and dormitory block. One had the feeling that "things went on" after lights out; after all, what do St. Dunstan's care about lights? There was young Bob Evans—he's only been coming for ten years or so—sitting down in his bedroom to take off his socks, falling asleep, waking to answer nature's call, meandering fully dressed in corridors, lost, waking poor Harry Harding (who sleeps pyjama-less), wandering with naked Harry to find a guide to put him on the road to bedroom 49, 56, or 47 (choose the best of three?) In fact No. 46 was Bob's room, but 3.30 am is not the best time to ask the way of a sleeping Rotarian.

And who tried to start an illicit still? How could three bottles of whisky suddenly appear in a bedroom, and who has the constitution to drink the stuff out of pint mugs? Ask the St. Dunstan's boys, those iron men from Sussex.

So many local people are involved—the Commandant and all our friends at the School of Infantry, military personnel and civilian staff alike; the innkeepers, who gave hospitality on formal occasions at the Old Bell and at The George, Longbridge Deverill; Canon, the Reverend Anthony Johnson and the people of Upton Scudamore, where campers and hosts worshipped together on Sunday morning; our comrades of the Royal British Legion, who arranged their usual "night out" for the visitors; all the old friends, remembering especially dear Miss Oliphant, who preserves the link over two generations of service to the blinded servicemen and women, of which the past weekend is but a tiny part; many friends at Hinton Charterhouse who with Robin Robertson-Glasgow create a quiet, and enjoyable garden party interval; and

everyone at Salisbury racecourse, who cooperated to make the Saturday visit so successful; and, of course, the mainstay as always, the ladies of the Inner Wheel, who were there from beginning to end and who, on Sunday, with Round Table and Ladies Circle singers, arranged the farewell party.

What's it all about? Just entertaining a few blind chaps? Well, that's not quite true—they may be blind, but they've all got sight, of a very special kind. And it does us all good, those who took part in the past weekend; as one Rotarian says, "We're all worn out, but a lot better for it".

## BEAT JACK FROST

Don't leave home this winter for a long break, or the Christmas holidays and come back to find burst water pipes and your home saturated. Arrange for a friend or relative to keep a constant eye on your home. Alternatively, turn off the cold water at the main stopcock and leave all the cold taps open. Have a trial run before you go away and if things do not seem right, get the advice of a friendly plumber, or contact your Area Surveyor. This is important as insurance companies often accept no liability for properties which are left empty for more than a month at a time.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Marriages

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jubb* of Orpington, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Katryn, was married to Patrick Doherty, on 7th April.

*Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lynch* of Chichester, are pleased to announce that their son, John, was married to Susan Blanks, on 24th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. John McDermott* of Manchester, are pleased to announce that their son, Paul, was married to Lesley Woodhouse, on 18th August. It was a very special occasion in that their other son, Peter, his wife, Moira and five week old Mark, came from Dubai to attend the wedding.

## Family News *continued*

*Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGoohan* of Tolworth, are pleased to announce that their youngest daughter, Anne, was married to Steven McNab, on 11th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perrett* of Devizes, are pleased to announce that their granddaughter, Jayne Rosemary, was married to Stephen Edwards, on 1st September.

*Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rowe* of Minehead, are pleased to announce that their son, Mark, was married to Helen Page, on 28th July.

*Mrs. Enid Shorter* of Hove, is pleased to announce that her son, Graham, was married to Deborah Hounsou, on 8th September.

*Mr. Thomas Mara and Mrs. Ann Johnson*, both of Telscombe Cliffs, who were married on 25th August.

*Mr. Paul Nuyens* of St. John's Wood, London, who married Miss Rhys Morgan, on 21st July.

Two St. Dunstaners, *Brenda Bates and Loreto Rea*, who were married on 21st July, and are now living in Redcar.

### Pearl Weddings

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lynch* of Chichester, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary, on 20th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Steer* of Billingham, Teesside, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary, on 13th August.

### Ruby Weddings

#### Many congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Len Curnow* of Liskeard, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, on 23rd September.

### Diamond Wedding

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bruton* of Birmingham, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 18th September.

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Herbert* of Weston-super-Mare, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on 12th August, and received a telegram of congratulations from Her Majesty the Queen.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Poole* of Ross-on-Wye, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on 11th September.

### Grandchildren

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Austin*, of Halifax, on the birth of their fifteenth grandchild. Rebecca Gaye was born to their son, Derrick and his wife, Faith, on 14th May.

*Mr. and Mrs. Percy Blackmore* of Cardiff, on the birth of a grandson, Mark Raymond, to their daughter, Nesta and her husband, Raymond, on 16th June.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Collins* of Cardiff, on the birth of a grandson, Gareth, to their son, Terry and his wife, Pamela, on 17th April.

*Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lockhart* of Dagenham, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Siobhan Valerie, to their son, Alfred and his wife, Barbara, on 20th July.

*Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newton* of Oldham, on the birth of their first grandchild, Kelly Anne, to their daughter, Elaine and her husband, Andrew, on 10th July.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips* of Saltdean, on the birth of their sixth grandchild, Bradley William George, to their son, William, and his wife, Sue, on 23rd May.

*Mr. and Mrs. Abdul Rahim*, of Burnham-on-Sea, on the birth of their first grand-daughter, Georgina Louise, to their son, Graham and his wife, Jean, on 18th July.

*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Steer* of Billingham, Teesside, on the birth of two grandchildren. Paul Simon was born in March, to their daughter, Audrey and her husband, Albert Trippett, and Leanne Michelle was born in May, to their son, Gordon and his wife, Shirley.

## Family News *continued*

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Windley* of Manchester, on the birth of their ninth grandchild, Paula Ann, to their youngest daughter, Linda, and her husband, Gordon, on 23rd August.

### Great Grandchildren Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. George Cole* of Shoreham, on the birth of a great grandson, Anthony, to their eldest grand-daughter, Georgina and her husband, Kevin, on 12th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. George Viner* of Bristol, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Christopher, to their grandson, Kevin and his wife, on 15th March.

### Personal Achievements We warmly congratulate:

Brenda, daughter of *Harry Earnshaw* of Norwich, on receiving the Commandant's Commendation. Brenda, who is a nurse with the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, received this award in the Queen's Honour's list. Brenda is currently serving in Germany.

*Mr. and Mrs. Reg Craddock* of Warrington, whose son, Alan, has graduated from Sheffield University, with a B.A. degree in Geography.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Harris* of Reading, whose son, Duncan, has graduated from Bristol University, with a B.Sc. degree in Chemical Physics.

*Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jones* of Sheffield, whose daughter, Rosalind, has obtained 13 'O' levels. She passed 9 with grade 'A' and 4 with grade 'B'. Rosalind hopes to go to university in due course.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Marsh* of West Hartlepool, whose son, Phillip, was ordained a priest, on 8th September.

*Mr. Harry Perrett* of Devizes, whose grandson, Martin, has passed his final examinations to become a Chartered Surveyor.

*Mrs. Florence Revell* of Watford, whose daughter, Leigh, has obtained a B.Mus. honours degree.

*Mr. Bill White* of Fordingbridge, who has won the Fordingbridge Club, Whitbread Trophy for Dominoes.

*George Reed* of Farnborough, is pleased to tell us that his grandson, Steven, who is 12 years old, has raised £80 for the R.N.I.B. Steven and a friend went on an 80 mile sponsored bicycle ride.

### Deaths

#### We offer our sincere sympathy to:

*Mr. Bernard Blacker* of Peacehaven, whose father died, in hospital, on 17th August. He was 90 years old.

*Mr. Thomas Bradley* of Wilmslow, whose wife, Helen, the well known artist, died on 19th July, after a short illness.

*Mrs. Joyce Howard* of Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, whose father died at the end of March. He was 93 years old.

*Mr. William Scott* of Brighton, whose wife, Phyllis, died on 2nd August. They had been married for over 52 years.

*Mr. Ray Sheriff* of Gloucester, whose wife, Edith, died after a short illness, on 5th September.

*Mr. Alfred Smith* of Brighton, whose wife, Harriet, died in hospital after a long illness, on 3rd August. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had been married for over 63 years.

*Mr. Percy Soames* of Spalding, Lincolnshire, whose wife, Hollie, died on 17th July, after a short illness.

*Stanley Tutton* of Hounslow, whose wife, Lillian, died on 31st July. Mrs. Tutton was 59 years old.

## In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

### William Duncan Alexander 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers

William Alexander of Kirkcudbright, died suddenly at home on 5th August. He was 84 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for over 60 years. Mr. Alexander enlisted in 1916 and served as a Private with the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers, but was discharged in 1917, having been injured at Arras.

Mr. Alexander ran a successful smallholding, unaided, and at one time was rearing over 200 pullets, as well as attending to a large vegetable garden. He continued to rear poultry until he was over 80.

Despite advancing years, Mr. Alexander remained remarkably well, until comparatively recently. Since the death of his wife, in 1957, he was devotedly cared for by his daughter, Nancy. He leaves four children, Nancy, John, Duncan and Robert.

### Francis Lambert Davies Nottinghamshire & Derby Regiment

Francis Davies of Brighton, died at Pearson House on 20th July. He was 90 years old.

Mr. Davies enlisted in the Nottinghamshire & Derby Regiment in 1917, and was blinded by mustard gas. He had been a permanent resident at Pearson House since 1973, where he was the eldest survivor from the First World War. He retained his health and vigour until a few months before his death. He will be missed by all members of staff and his fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Fox, and four grandchildren.

### Vincent Geoffrey Docton, M.C. South Wales Borderers

Vincent Docton, of Dover, died on the 29th August, aged 63.

He was commissioned and served in the Second World War until he was wounded and lost his sight in 1944, when he came quickly to St. Dunstan's and trained at Church Stretton. He returned to business life for some years, but in 1953 started training in physiotherapy, qualifying and settling in Dover in 1956. He retired from hospital service, where he was Head of the Department, in 1975, but was still in practice at his home at the time of his sudden and unexpected death.

He leaves a widow, Pat.

### George Fallowfield Royal Garrison Artillery

George Fallowfield of Worthing, died, in Pearson House, on 1st September. He was 79 years old.

Mr. Fallowfield served in the First World War, as a Private, in the R.G.A. He was wounded in 1918, and for five years could see, but not hear. However, he joined St. Dunstan's in 1923, when his sight failed. When he first arrived at Brighton, hardly anyone knew how to talk to him, but within a few hours of his arrival, he had taught the manual alphabet for the deaf, to several men, Matron and some of the staff. He undertook a period of training in Braille, typewriting, netting and basket making. For some years he made many items for our Stores, from his own workshop.

Mr. Fallowfield was a born craftsman. Before joining up, he was a French Polisher and there was no end to his varied interests and hobbies. He made brilliant models with Meccano, and he took great pride in a model life-boat made from cigar boxes, provided by Winston Churchill. Many of his models won prizes in an open competition and the judges were amazed to learn that the winning entry was made by a blind man.

Mr. Fallowfield was always looking for ways to help other people. In the Second World War he held sales and raffles, of articles he had made, raising hundreds of pounds for War Charities. He celebrated the Coronation by making two beautiful baby baskets lined with silk, which he presented to the local hospital, for the first boy and girl born on Coronation Day.

He was a keen sportsman, an enthusiastic cyclist, energetic gardener, a chess player and attended football matches for over 30 years. Mr. Fallowfield was a prolific correspondent with fellow St. Dunstaners and friends throughout the world and he visited many countries, including Russia, Canada and Australia.

George Fallowfield was referred to in several pages of Lord Fraser's book, 'My Story of St. Dunstan's', and our late Chairman's own words are a fitting tribute to him; "don't feel sorry for Fallowfield; if with two good eyes and ears you get as much out of life as he does, you are an exceptionally happy man".

Despite failing health, Mr. Fallowfield retained his bright sense of humour and interest in world affairs. Unfortunately, his first wife died in 1963, but he remarried and was cared for devotedly by his wife, Marjorie.

He leaves a widow, Marjorie, one son and two daughters.



## In Memory *continued* —

### **Alfred Francis Groves** *Royal West Surrey Regiment*

Alfred Groves, of Southsea, died at Pearson House, on 30th August. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 61 years.

Soon after the outbreak of the First World War, Mr. Groves enlisted as a Private with the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was wounded in action, whilst serving in France.

Mr. Groves joined St. Dunstan's in 1918, and undertook a period of training in boot repairing and stool and mat-making. He ran his own small business until 1922. He then concentrated on mat-making, supplying our Stores until 1928, when deteriorating health made it impossible for him to continue. Nevertheless, Mr. Groves has a great interest in gardening and kept a number of poultry.

Despite the death of his wife, in 1942, Mr. Groves remained tremendously independent. However, for health reasons he moved to Pearson House as a permanent resident. He will be greatly missed by Matron Hallett, members of the staff and fellow St. Dunstaners. He leaves two sons and two daughters.

### **Robert Marsh** *Royal Canadian Legion*

Robert Marsh of Trail, British Columbia, died in hospital in June. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Marsh served in the Royal Canadian Legion during the First World War. He was born in England, but lived in Alberta until he moved to Trail, British Columbia, in 1941, where he worked for 'Cominco' until his retirement in 1953.

He leaves a widow, Julia, two daughters, Ilene and Irene, one grandchild and one great grandchild.

### **John Marsh Miles** *Royal Artillery*

John Miles of Faversham, Kent, died at home on 21st August. He was 83 years old.

Mr. Miles enlisted in the Royal Artillery in August, 1914, and served throughout the war until he was injured by mustard gas in 1918. He was a Cellarman with British Railways, until his sight deteriorated and, in 1964, he joined St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow, Annie, a son and two daughters.

### **Henry James Sherborne** *Royal Horse Artillery*

Henry Sherborne of Paulton, Bristol, died in hospital on 24th July. He was 96 years old. He enlisted at Bristol, in 1915, and served as a Signaller with the Royal Horse Artillery and subsequently as a Gunner in the R.F.A. He was totally blinded due to mustard gas, whilst on active service during the First World War and was discharged in 1918.

Mr. Sherborne, a widower with one surviving son, lived with his widowed sister-in-law, Mrs. May Small, who cared for him devotedly for over 52 years. Until 20 years ago, Mr. Sherborne ran a family bakery business from his home, before this he had served as a butler and for a long time drove a horse for the Co-operative Society, subsequently becoming an Insurance Agent.

Mr. Sherborne always remained remarkably cheerful and alert. He enjoyed listening to the radio and had a keen interest in current affairs. He was a member of a large family, many of whom live near Paulton, and he looked forward to their frequent visits.

### **Francis White** *Yorks and Lancs Regiment, Durham Light Infantry, Gloucester Regiment, R.F.C., and R.A.F.*

Francis White of Bedford, died at home, on 30th August. He was 82 years old.

He enlisted in 1914, serving as a Private, with the Yorks and Lancs Regiment, he was then in the Durham Light Infantry and later served with the Gloucester Regiment, before transferring to the R.F.C. and the R.A.F., in the rank of A.C.2. Mr. White was shot on the Somme, in July 1916, causing him to lose the sight in one eye.

After being demobilised, in 1919, Mr. White worked as a coach painter, later working for the local Corporation. In his retirement his hobbies included gardening and swimming. In 1973, Mr. White suddenly lost his remaining sight and joined St. Dunstan's the following year. Since the death of his wife, Mr. White lived with his daughter, Mrs. Frances Anthony, and her husband. He enjoyed many holidays abroad, with the Anthonys, as well as being quite a regular visitor to Ian Fraser House.

He leaves a daughter, Frances.

### **Christopher Charles Williams** *10th Corps of Signals*

Christopher Williams of Beckenham, died suddenly at home on 21st July. He was 61 years old. Mr. Williams served with the 10th Corps of Signals during the Second World War. He was totally blinded in Italy, in 1944, and joined St. Dunstan's the same year. Mr. Williams trained as a telephonist and started work with the Ministry of Labour, in 1946. In 1965, he transferred to Barclays Bank, in the City, and remained there until his retirement in July.

Mr. Williams and his wife, Cornelia, were a devoted couple and on her death, in 1972, his daughter looked after him, until her marriage this year. He was a good cook and housekeeper himself, having been the eldest of a large family, who were left motherless. He enjoyed his visits to Ian Fraser House and will be missed by the staff and his fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves a son, Adrian, and a daughter, Denise.