



St Dunstons Review November

Message from the Chairman

Retirement of Dr. Donald Hopewell

"Old friends" have always meant much to St. Dunstan's. Men and women who have served on the Council, or our staff, or as voluntary workers have often maintained their connection with the organisation and their friendship with St. Dunstaners over many years. In writing about Dr. Hopewell, who has retired from our Council on health grounds, I am referring to one of our most outstanding supporters.

He was a close personal friend of Lord and Lady Fraser and, through them, became involved in the affairs of St. Dunstan's. On another page you will find an account of his work, but no brief statement can adequately describe everything he has done for us.

Through his long association, Donald has come to understand truly the aims and spirit of St. Dunstan's. He has met St. Dunstaners and their wives at Reunions and on many special occasions and taken deep interest in them individually; and he has come to know many of our staff and often visited Headquarters, Pearson House and Ian Fraser House. At all times he has been one of our wisest advisers and I thank him most sincerely for the great help he has so ungrudgingly given me and the Council and indeed, many St. Dunstaners.

We shall all miss seeing Donald Hopewell quite as frequently as hitherto, but he is a Vice-President and our hope is that he will visit us as often as possible. He takes with him our respect, gratitude and deep affection for a much valued "old friend".

St. Dunstan's Film

We all know that St. Dunstaners will tackle most things if they are given half a chance. The latest activity for quite a number has been taking part in the film we have made this year, called "To Live Again", which had its first showing at our Annual General Meeting on 4th October. This half-hour documentary shows some St. Dunstaners' activities, but the necessity for brevity has meant that many occupations and interests have had to be excluded. Men and women appear individually and in general scenes and I congratulate them and thank them all for their help in demonstrating various aspects of their lives and for their many spontaneous comments, which add so much to the reality of the film.

COVER PICTURE: "Hello, you lot". Dick Brett greets the film unit and the audience of St. Dunstan's new film, "To Live Again". See article on centre pages.

I should also like to pay tribute to David Castleton, our Public Relations Officer, who was behind the idea; St. Dunstaner Jimmy Wright, who produced the film; St. Dunstaner Esmond Knight, who spoke the commentary and all the technical team. Their skill and concern for the quality of the film have contributed greatly to the success which I am sure it will achieve.

St. Dunstaners living in the London area will be interested to know that "To Live Again" will be shown on London Weekend Television on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November, at approximately 11.30 a.m. We hope it may also be networked to other regions.

Jon Earnest-Dune

MR. DONALD HOPEWELL

His many friends amongst St. Dunstaners will regret to learn that Dr. Donald Hopewell, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Hon. LL.D. (Leeds), the senior member of our Council, has had to resign for health reasons.

Since he joined the Council in 1948, Dr. Hopewell has been deeply involved in the work of St. Dunstan's and has presided at many Reunions in all parts of the British Isles.

His kindly interest, great sense of humour and warm personality endeared him to all who met him.

Dr. Hopewell represented St. Dunstan's on the Councils of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded and was St. Dunstan's official representative at the Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral for Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

In 1977, Dr. Hopewell was elected a Vice-President of St. Dunstan's, an appointment he will continue to hold.

DISCRIMINATION

The Committee on Restrictions Against Disabled People, CORAD, was established under the Chairmanship of Peter Large. The Committee is now seeking views and evidence on the question of discrimination.

CORAD is very keen to know what individual disabled people think about

the subject of discrimination. Readers who would like to help CORAD can get details of what is required by contacting: The Secretary, Committee on Restrictions Against Disabled People, Department of Health & Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, London SE1 6BY. Tel: 01-407 5522, extension 6443.

RETIREMENTS

MR. ALBERT STROUD

On 21st September, Mr. Albert Stroud of Crawley, retired after 33 years continuous employment with a large electrical company. The firm arranged a buffet reception for Albert, entertaining 70 guests, including many past and present employees. The Production Director presented Albert with a handsome car-coat, a tape recorder, a radio and tapes of Freddie Trueman's cricketing career and David Niven's latest book, as well as a beautiful garden seat.

MR. PERCY SAYWELL

On 31st August, Mr. Percy Saywell of Leamington Spa, retired after 35 years with Automotive Products Limited. Percy worked in the clutch division as machine operator. "I was trying to keep my retirement quiet, but it leaked out somehow". The firm presented Percy with a silver tray, while his colleagues gave him a silver tea service. He plans to sit back and enjoy his presents.



After dinner Mr. Wills and Mr. Fawcett pose with the "Handy Andies".

HANDLESS REUNION

by David Castleton

Our Chairman said it is always a highlight for him and for Mrs. Garnett-Orme. It is certainly one of the jolliest Reunions in St. Dunstan's calendar. It was the 19th Handleless Reunion in a series dating back to 1960.

This year's roll call was David Bell, Dick Brett, Fred Higgs, Tommy Gaygan, Bill Griffiths, Wally Lethbridge, Joseph Loska, Ted Miller, Gwen Obern and John Proctor. Madam Chairman for the weekend was Gwen Obern.

As always an interesting and varied programme had been arranged for the Reunion, beginning with dinner on Thursday 20th September with Commandant Fawcett, Matron Pass and Dr. Stilwell.

Friday saw the "Handy Andies" at Chiltdown Vineyard, near Goodwood, for a morning tour and commentary. In the afternoon the party toured Chichester Barracks, where the Commanding Officer of the Royal Military Police presented Gwen Obern with a "red cap" and a

large fig leaf, which, incidentally, figured very prominently in the evening of entertainment, "Do Your Own Thing", in the Winter Garden.

There was time for the shooting and bowls competitions on Saturday, before a dinner dance at Avisford Park Hotel. Competitions were continued on Sunday and in the evening the group was entertained at a party arranged by the past High Sheriff of East Sussex, Mr. George Edward-Jones, at Wadhurst, before dining at the Roebuck Hotel, Forest Row.

It was down to business on Monday, with discussions through the day with Mr. Wills, Commandant Fawcett, members of staff and Dr. I. Fletcher. The finale of the weekend was dinner presided over by Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, with Mrs. Garnett-Orme, in the Gold Room at the Eaton Restaurant, Hove.

Mr. Garnett-Orme said in his speech that he had heard St. Dunstan's described as one of the most exclusive clubs

imaginable: "The qualifications for belonging are purely the service you have given your country and you are doubly qualified members. I prefer to think of St. Dunstan's as a family and I am proud to be your Chairman and, I hope, your friend".

There was a tinge of sadness on this occasion the Chairman pointed out: "This is the last of your Reunions in their official capacity which three of our middle-aged, very dear friends here tonight will be attending. Mr. Wills has devoted 32 years of his life to helping St. Dunstaners in every way possible. Commandant has done the same in a different capacity for 33 years and Miss Allison here has served for something more than a decade and perhaps has been in as close touch with St. Dunstaners as anyone".

He concluded by proposing, "rather a large toast to St. Dunstan's, coupled with the names of Douglas Wills, Lawrence Fawcett, Miss Allison and Dr. Fletcher."

Replying, Dr. Fletcher recalled that the first of these Reunions was held in 1960 and that he and Mr. Wills had attended every one of them. He congratulated Mr. Wills on the award of the O.B.E., and expressed his thanks and good wishes to



Tommy Gaygan, Bill and Alice Griffiths, David and Sybil Bell and Dick and Peggy Brett with Matron Pass and Jean Allison.

St. Dunstaners, their escorts and everybody concerned.

Gwen Obern is seldom lost for words and she soon had her audience laughing at her light-hearted résumé of the weekend's activities. She also paid tribute to the retiring members of the staff in song.

At the vineyard Freddie Higgs, Ted Miller, David Bell and Tommy Gaygan listen to the speaker.



SAINT OF THE SIGHTLESS

Reproduced by kind permission of *Clocks Magazine* 1979

Not far from the Law Courts in the Strand, on the further side of Temple Bar at the western end of Fleet Street, is the well-known church of St. Dunstan-in-the-west. The earliest written reference to the church is in a document of conveyance at Westminster Abbey dated AD 1185. The advowson, the right to present the person in charge of a church, was then in the gift of Westminster Abbey.

Dedicated to St. Dunstan, appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in AD 951, later Saxon saint who died in AD 998; the first church on the site was probably built between AD 1060 and AD 1065, just before the Norman Conquest of Britain, at the same time as Westminster Abbey was nearing completion under the patronage of Edward the Confessor. After the Norman conquest dedications to Saxon saints was prohibited by Lanfranc who was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by William the Conqueror in AD 1070.

Rebuilding

Nearly six hundred years later an extensive building programme was undertaken in 1613, to restore the church, not many years later the church had the good fortune to escape unscathed in the Great Fire of London in AD 1666, the same disaster which razed the great Gothic Cathedral of St. Paul's. Further rebuilding of St. Dunstan's church took place in 1701, the church survived another fire of 1730. However, by this time little of the original fabric remained and it slowly deteriorated. In 1829 it was approaching a ruinous state, whereupon the decision was made to demolish it and rebuild a completely new church, the one we see today. The new church was designed and built by the architect John Shaw, and the present tower is regarded as Shaw's masterpiece.

In 1670 a new clock for the church was decided upon. Thomas Harrys, a clockmaker practising in Water Lane, Blackfriars, London, whose workshop was not far from the premises of the famous Thomas Tompion, made appli-

cation to provide the new clock. He submitted his proposals which were quite startling for the time. The clock was to strike the quarters by means of two large figures of men striking on two bells with pole axes, and what was very unusual was to show both minutes and hours, the very first clock in the city of London to do so. Furthermore he would provide a double dial placed back to back to project over the pavement in front of the church.

Harrys's clock was placed in a chamber above the main entrance gateway, a rod communicating the motion from the clock to the dials within which the motion work was housed for each set of hands. The dials were enclosed in a square case surmounted by a semi-circular pediment projecting from the gatehouse over the street by means of a long bracket supported by a carved and gilt wooden figure of Time. Harrys completed his task on 28 October 1671, it was not as ambitious as he first planned, for a further dial at the east end of the church was abandoned, as were the plans for a set of chimes. For supplying the new clock Harrys first required £80 plus the old clock, for which sum he would also keep the whole in constant repair. In the event the church wardens voted him the sum of £35 and the old clock, and on completion of the clock he was offered £4 *per annum* to keep it in repair.

Gog and Magog

The main two figures striking the bells were gaily painted and gilt, eventually gaining the names of Gog and Magog, although they were merely known as giants when first erected. They were an immediate success with the London sightseers and greatly appreciated by the Fleet Street pickpockets who emptied the pockets of those gawping at the sight of Gog and Magog striking the bells. In 1737, almost 70 years after it was installed, Harrys's clock still looked in excellent condition to the crowds of passers-by, yet the following year, in 1738, the parish had to find £110 for repairs, a considerable sum of money at that time.

The multitudes continued to gather to watch the figures as a writer in 1828 reported. A small boy earlier in the century had often viewed these wonders and longed to possess these giants for himself, an impossible dream so it would seem. Yet by 1830, the church was being dismantled, the gatehouse and clock were taken down, and the clock and figures were offered for sale by public auction. By now the young boy had become the Marquis of Hertford and he purchased the clock with its two figures by private contract for the sum of 200 guineas or £210 from the auctioneer, Mr. Creaton, on 22 October 1830. Inflation being what it is even then, the Marquis paid rather more than all the sums expended on the clock and its original purchase price, so the church did rather well out of the sale, and Harrys would have been pleased to know that his clock was worth six times as much as he was paid, and that 160 years after it was first made!

St. Dunstan's Villa

By coincidence the Marquis of Hertford was then completing a fine residence in the north west of Regent's Park. In the grounds near the house he erected the top part of the clock edifice, sufficient to raise the bottom of the dials about ten feet (three metres) from ground level. As erected by the Marquis it had the appearance of not quite belonging where it stood as far as the clock dials were concerned, although the figures of Gog and Magog were much more visible to the spectator. The stone alcove remained substantially as it was at St. Dunstan's church, whereas the clock dials were housed in a circular case and the supporting bracket renewed. Through acquiring the clock and the figures, the Marquis of Hertford decided to call his new house St. Dunstan's Villa. As the clock and figures were placed so that they could be viewed from the public part of Regent's Park, the sight remained a great attraction to sightseers. Also incorporated into the clock design were the figures of King Lud and his two sons, the Marquis having purchased these too from another building. The cost of refurbishing the clock and rebuilding the clock case is not known but it must have been an expensive project.



St. Dunstan's clock, in Fleet Street.

Here we must digress from horology briefly to give the account of how the name of the clock spread until it was known all over the world. It started through a remarkable man, Arthur Pearson, who commenced his career working for Sir George Newnes who produced the topical magazine *Tit-Bits*. By the time he was twenty-four, Pearson left to start his own magazine on borrowed capital, and within three weeks the first issue was produced and sold a quarter of a million copies, it was called *Pearson's Weekly*. Ten years later he founded the daily newspaper the *Daily Express*, four years later he bought the *Evening Standard*, and at one time had ambitions to buy *The Times* (the whole business, not a newspaper).

Sadly, at the age of forty, his sight began to fade; shortly after he realised he was going to be blind he joined the Council of what later became known as the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Within three months he was made its treasurer and he rescued the organisation from impending bankruptcy. Shortly afterwards Pearson organized the first radio appeal to ships at sea to raise funds for the blind, and in the ensuing years he was extremely successful in securing large sums of money to help the blind.

At the outbreak of the First World War the Council, in the absence of any official organisation, resolved to help all those who were unfortunate to lose their sight whilst on active service. Pearson founded a hostel 'The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel' in a house in Bayswater Road lent by Mrs. Lewis Hall, early in February 1915, the numbers increased in a few weeks and so a move to larger premises was soon necessary. A New York banker, named Otto Kahn, lent Pearson the use of his house in Regent's Park standing in 15 acres of ground, an ideal place for newly blinded men to come to terms with a new life and learn how to continue a career in the face of eternal darkness. The house was named St. Dunstan's Lodge, having been the St. Dunstan's Villa built by the Marquis of Hertford, and it gave the new organisation its name 'St. Dunstan's', a name which is now world-wide and universally known.

In 1921 Arthur Pearson died, as a result of an unfortunate accident at home, he was only 55 years old. His place was taken by Ian Fraser, an army officer who was blinded in France on 23 July 1916, later to become Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. He had been a member of the St. Dunstan's Committee from 1920, and in that same year Otto Kahn requested his house, St. Dunstan's Lodge, be returned to his own use. The organisation moved into the town house of the Marquesses of Bute, opposite the Royal Botanical Gardens, called St. John's Lodge but renamed St. Dunstan's Lodge at Christmas 1920. In the *Sunday Times* of 27th May, 1951, the year of the millenary of St. Dunstan's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, Alfred Noyes published a beautiful and moving poem entitled 'St. Dunstan's Prayer' with the additional comment—Yesterday was the feast day of St. Dunstan, the 'Minister of Eternal Light'. St. Dunstan is the patron saint of goldsmiths and is honoured by the Goldsmiths' Company, St. Cecilia had always been officially recognised as the patron saint of the blind, however, in 1951 St. Dunstan was adopted as the patron saint of the blind as a result of Alfred Noyes's poem.

Although Ian Fraser asked the owners

of the old St. Dunstan's Lodge to relinquish the title in favour of his organisation which had its headquarters in the old St. John's Lodge renamed St. Dunstan's Lodge, it was not until Miss Barbara Hutton obtained the property and rebuilt a new house that the name of St. Dunstan's Lodge was given up, the name of the new house being changed to Winfield, later given to the American nation to house the American Ambassador in London. The precise details of the demolition are not known, it seems that the clock was offered and returned to St. Dunstan's church circa 1932. In that year F. W. Britten had published the sixth edition of *Old Clocks and Watches . . .*, writing of it as it being still in Regent's Park when evidently Lord Rothermere had had the clock taken down and given it back to St. Dunstan's church.

A Credit to him

Why St. Dunstan's clock should have achieved such renown when two hundred years earlier a more complicated mechanism incorporating angels striking sweet sounding bells with hammers, chiming an appointed hymn at certain hours of the day and night, had been in Fleet Street without particular renown, is hard to say. We must admit that Harry's words 'I will do one thing more which London shall not show the like; I will make two hands show the hours and minutes without the church, upon a double dial, which will be worth your observation, and to my credit'; whilst they have been outdated by later events, have proved correct. His dials and figures must have been observed by hundreds of thousands if not millions of people over the ages, and his work has been a credit to him for over three centuries.

Many church clocks have taken on a new lease of life by being installed in a church after first serving in another. There can be few that returned to the church where they were first installed after being on another site for a century. Long may St. Dunstan's clock continue to function, and long may St. Dunstan continue as the patron saint of those who have lost the most precious gift of all.



Major General Robert Urquhart looks on as Burgemeester J. Bolt presents an address from the Municipality of Driel to Stan Sosabowski: "On the 35th Anniversary of the historic Battle fought in September, 1944 by the 1st Polish Independent Para Brigade, under command of your honoured father, General Sosabowski".

35th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem

by Dr. S. J. Sosabowski

On Thursday, 12th September, I found myself and my wife in a coach, with a group of ex-Polish Paratroopers. We were travelling to the Netherlands. Some time ago, I was invited, by the representative of the Municipalities of Arnhem, Heteren and Oosterbeek and the Polish Forces Airborne Association, to officially participate in a celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. I was to represent my late father, Major General S. Sosabowski, C.B.E., who was the Commanding Officer of the Brigade Group at the battle.

I was also present as an associated member of the Wessex Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association. A few years ago Colonel C. Morgan, O.B.E., invited me to join this branch; not only as the son of a famous father, but also because of my war connection with

Paras and O.S.S. (now S.A.S.). I was then fighting deep in enemy-occupied Poland, and our Commanders were often led by the officers of these units. I was greatly honoured by the Colonel's invitation and accepted gladly.

We arrived at Oosterbeek Town Hall at 9.30 p.m., and the huge reception hall was filled with hundreds of people, speaking English, Dutch and Polish. One could see Regimental Colours and many Red Berets. We were greeted by the Mayor and introduced to our hosts, Dr. Jan Smits and his charming wife. I will never forget the kindness of my colleague and his family.

On Friday, 13th, we were driven by our host to meet the Baltusson family, who are wealthy merchants and 'squires' of the Municipality of Heteren. Mr. Baltusson's sister, Cora, was the first Dutch

person to meet my father after his landing. It was a pleasure to meet her. Cora guided us to the battlefield and to the exact place where my father had landed. This was near an orchard, where in spite of enemy fire, he picked some apples! I was taken to the very tree by the farmer's son, 35 years later, and I also picked some apples to bring home. We also saw the dyke where, on a lady's bicycle, my 'Old Man' led two Sherman tanks.

Afterwards, on the spur of the moment, we visited the local school. In St. Stanislaus' School there is a special room converted to a museum and a classroom with stained glass windows, with the Polish emblems and a prominent white eagle on them. Photographs of my father and other mementoes are on display. Amongst all this, Dutch children were cutting out coloured pictures of parachutes, soldiers and so on. When they heard who I was, they begged me for my autograph. This episode really made my visit. Curiously enough, the present Headmaster is the son of the previous Headmaster, who had met my father and he was delighted to see me so unexpectedly. Finally, we went to the large Driel square, which is called General Sosabowski Plain.

The Ceremony

On Saturday, at 9.00 a.m., a silent procession of pilgrims, all with full military decorations, Regimental Colours, etc., left the Platz, in front of the Town Hall, Arnhem, to go to the General Frost Bridgehead which is in front of the monument. This is the famous bridge, where the gallant General and his Paratroopers fought for their lives, until they were overwhelmed by the relentless and savage assault of the Germans. A Military Band played the British, Polish and Dutch National Anthems, the Bugler sounded the Last Post and many wreaths were laid in front of the monument. General Frost was presented with a gold medal, especially struck for him by the Burgers of the Municipality.

After the ceremony we returned to the Town Hall for a glass of sherry. It was then I met General Sir John Hackett, K.C.B.E., and Major General Robert Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., the Commanding

Officer of the First Airborne Division. Sir John greeted me very warmly and said: "Listen, Doctor, I loved your father".

High Mass was celebrated in Driel, at 3.00 p.m., by the Right Reverend Szczepan Wesoly, of Rome. After which came the ceremony of unveiling the Polish Memorial and Tablet bearing the names of the fallen Paratroopers. We sat in the front row with the Generals and other officials and again the National Anthems were played and the Last Post sounded. Then came the laying of wreaths. I was the third person to place mine. After this there were official addresses. Talking to General Urquhart during one of the intervals, I suddenly heard my name come over the loud-speaker. The General grabbed me by the arm and took me to the Mayor, who, with a few words of welcome, presented me with a commemorative folder, especially prepared for me with a dedication in Braille.

That night there was a social evening in the huge concert hall. Dutch Male Choirs sang English songs, young people colourfully dressed, of Polish extraction, performed Polish folk dances and songs. The evening culminated in a ball.

Religious Service

The next day, at 11.00 a.m., we drove, amid a great security guard of Police, Army and helicopters, to Oosterbeek War Cemetery. We were led by an official along a path, separated by ropes from the huge crowds, to a couple of rows of seats, occupied by high ranking army officers, Ambassadors and Government officials. The Dutch National Anthem was played as Prince Bernhard arrived, representing Queen Juliana, to open the ceremony. The religious service was conducted in English, by the Chaplain of the Airborne Forces. In front of me the graves were surrounded by a detachment of the Red Berets in their full battle uniform and war veterans with the Regimental Colours. The service ended, the Last Post sounded and countless wreaths laid and Dutch children placed bunches of flowers on individual graves. As H.R.H. elected not to sit during the whole of the service, everyone else had to stand in the hot sunshine.

On Monday, we embarked on the long

journey home, with all the veterans singing rough soldiers' songs, encouraged by duty-free whisky.

These few days in Holland left a very moving and unforgettable impression on me; a very real appreciation of all the hard work, thought and time that the venture involved, and the unbelievably kind hospitality and real affection we received. I made many friends and will keep in touch with them.

One final but lasting thought is—the cleanliness of the country as a whole and the generosity of its inhabitants.

Far East Prisoners of War Association

by Bill Stalham

I was disappointed to miss the FEPOW Reunion Weekend at Ian Fraser House in September, as it clashed with my departure date for a Reunion Tour of ex-FEPOWs to Singapore and Thailand.

We met up at Heathrow about 7.0 pm. This was very exciting as I was to meet comrades from my own regiment, that I had last seen in 1940. Also, I hoped to meet people who had been in the same camps as myself during our imprisonment, which in the event proved negative. You can imagine the many stories that were told when about 90 ex-FEPOWs with their families, and some who were relatives of men who had died, and were hoping to get information. We arrived in Singapore on 18th September at 4.0 am. This delay was due to a fault discovered on our aircraft.

On arrival at the hotel, I was staggered at the response to a report I had inserted in the *Straits Times*, a pile of telephone messages awaited me, and I was virtually tied to the telephone for about two hours, resulting in meetings of old friends and many new ones who had also been prisoners of war. Our stay in Singapore was very hectic, trying to compress 34 years of news into 3 days!

On the morning of 19th September, we arranged a tour of Kranji War Cemetery, Changi Prison and Selerang Barracks. At the cemetery, we were joined by another 150 FEPOWs and families from England,

several Australian families, and one from New Zealand, also a few of the local residents. After going round the graves, looking for our personal friends, we held a commemorative service. This was led by Bob Chapman, an ex-RAF FEPOW. The Lament then followed, played by Jim Porter. It was a very moving ceremony, there was not one dry eye, and many people were heard to be sobbing. Although it was a sad occasion I think in this precious hour many friendships were formed.

We were granted special permission to enter the Changi Prison, which is still being used for long-term criminals. This was where the civilians were interned when Singapore fell, but they were later dispersed, and many servicemen, after completing their stint on the Death Railway, came back to finish their days in this prison. In the prison chapel many regimental plaques could be seen hung on the walls. After leaving the prison, we visited Selerang Barracks, where there are murals in what used to be the hospital, scenes of Our Lord's life including His crucifixion—partly painted with the blood of prisoners from the hospital. We were not allowed to see the notorious square of the "Selerang Square Incident", as it is now being used by the Defence Department.

Bridge over the River Kwai

20 of us, led by Bob Chapman, made a visit by coach to Kanchanburi, and after a brief service, orchids were laid on the Memorial, then we wandered around this beautiful place of rest, full of flowering trees, shrubs and flowers. The air buzzed with dragonflies and butterflies hovered over the colourful blossoms. I think, one of the most touching incidents occurred here, when I met a couple who could not trace their own relative, and placed a bunch of orchids on a grave marked "Known Unto God" and said, "We may have chosen the right one".

Then we went up to the nearby small town of Kanchanburi, where we had lunch in a restaurant overlooking the famous Bridge over the River Kwai, after which we then formed into single file, I put my hands on Bob's shoulders, to negotiate the narrow floating jetty whilst he informed me of hazards ahead, which were many! We safely stepped on to the stilted quay and presently boarded the

narrow Thai launches, sitting very low on the keel. We rapidly proceeded down river, passing floating villages, grazing water buffalos, and surrounded by lofty mountains to Chungkai, a spot of utter tranquillity and peace; I found more graves of my comrades there. Returning by boat to Kanchanburi again, we made our journey back to Bangkok, content that our pilgrimage was most successfully accomplished. Although we had our sad moments, we also had our happy times. All in all a very pleasant holiday which I would not have missed for all the world.

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

The Rotary International Organisation is this year celebrating its 75th Anniversary and the service theme chosen for the year is a sponsorship scheme to assist blind people in competitive sports.

The scheme is centred around a national competition in each of the major competitive sports practised by the visually handicapped. All 1,400 (approx) clubs of the organisation have been invited to "adopt" at least one blind sportsperson to facilitate his/her participation in a (RIBI) district competition to be held on a knock-out basis in their regions. It is then hoped that as many of these 23 districts as possible will enter teams for a final national competition being organised for 1/2 May at Crystal Palace.

The sports involved are athletics, swimming, bowls, goal-ball and judo, and competition will be held under ISOD Rules. Anyone interested in entering should contact their nearest club of the Rotary Organisation for further details as soon as possible.

Your local RIBI secretary's address can be obtained from your nearest library/town hall, or failing that write to their headquarters.

This exciting opportunity for the V.H. will, we hope, reach isolated sports-persons and bring them together for a local competition.

REPAIR OF BRAILLE WATCHES

The Supplies department regrets that owing to rising costs, they will only be able to pay for the repair of one issue Braille watch only. Any second watch will have to be paid for by the owner.



Fred Bridger with his two presentation paintings: Still Life and Fishergate Farm. "A reminder of the hospitality and kindness shown to me by the many friends I have made".

GARDENING WEEK

by Fred Barratt

The second 'Gardeners Week', held at Ian Fraser House, like the exploratory week last spring, was a great success, with more gardeners attending.

We covered various subjects, ranging from an introduction to gardening, by a well-known local gardener, to tools and gadgets for the blind gardeners and trips to Kew and other garden centres. From these talks and visits I am sure that every gardener gleaned some knowledge to the benefit of his garden.

Sir Michael Ansell came to talk to us and fascinated everyone with his very wide knowledge of fruit, flower and vegetable growing.

We hope there will be another 'Gardeners Week' early next year. It was suggested that special groups were arranged, to enable new gardeners to plan and grow plants of their own choice, so that they can enjoy the fruits of their own labour the same year.

I can honestly say that my garden will be very much improved, in both quality and variety, thanks to what I have learnt during these two gardening weeks at Brighton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

George Followfield

From: Mrs. Grace Hollins

I feel that there are few in St. Dunstan's who knew George when he came to St. John's Lodge in Regent's Park in 1923, and being the first "Muffled Drum" he was a pioneer of their training. Being his Braille teacher, I found he had a wonderful memory, great patience and a determination to succeed, which he did, passing his tests and gradually building up his own library of over 100 books. His typing was most expert, as also was his basket making, which the Sales Department were most anxious to obtain.

Having been taught to scull on Regent's Park lake, he won trophies at the Annual Regatta at Putney, for single and double sculls. He was a keen walker, representing the London Club, and with an ex-policeman friend walked many miles.

His great wish through life was to help others and many with the same problems as he will miss their happy visits to his home. As was his wish, he was buried amongst other St. Dunstaners, in their section of the Brighton Cemetery.

Our special praises go to Marjorie, his wife, who devoted so many years to him.

From: Mrs. Lillian Brown

May I, through the columns of the *Review*, thank those St. Dunstaners who so kindly and generously contributed to a present for me on the occasion of my retirement. I have bought an occasional arm chair, upholstered in tapestry. The design is a multi-coloured floral motif, with a beige background, on the seat and back. The chair frame is mahogany. It is most comfortable and elegant.

With the remainder of the cash I have bought a wooden garden seat. I am hoping to have a small plate suitably inscribed to place on the back of the seat. May I also thank everyone who sent me cards and letters. I have been overwhelmed by the kind, generous tributes and feel most unworthy.

I have been privileged to do a job that has been both challenging and rewarding and also to work on behalf of a most wonderful and unique group of people. It has also been my good fortune to enjoy the friendship of those St. Dunstaners and their families and their courage and fortitude in overcoming so many difficulties has never ceased to command my admiration and enrich my own life.

I wish you all good health and happiness and success in all your endeavours, and look forward to our next meeting.

From: Miss Jean Allison

I am overwhelmed by your generous donations to my retiring present and all your kind messages. I have had a great deal of pleasure choosing a divan for my comfort and an electric cooker, to literally learn to cook on, which will mean I shall be constantly reminded of so many friends.

You have no idea how much I shall miss you all, but consider myself so lucky to have belonged to such a wonderful organisation. Please accept my grateful thanks.

MISS ALLISON'S RETIREMENT

The Commandant writes: "Miss Jean Allison retired on 30th September, after 13 years' service. She joined St. Dunstan's in March 1946 and as a VAD was known to many of our Second World War St. Dunstaners at Church Stretton and Ovingdean. She had a long break in service, until April 1969, when she rejoined us as a VAD.

Always a popular and cheery individual, Miss Allison had a special regard for and, indeed, was especially regarded by our more elderly men.

She made a most valuable contribution to our work at Ian Fraser House, particularly as Assistant Matron in 1975, and during the change-over period of new matrons. I have greatly appreciated her loyalty and devotion to the job in hand."



Director, Nick Galtress, discussing a scene with Alan Milne and his rowing coach, Eric Halladay.

To Live Again

Story and pictures: David Castleton

For more than 60 years some 7000 men and women blinded in war or in peacetime service with the forces have been rehabilitated and trained by St. Dunstan's. The aim has been not to shelter them in a 'Home', but to put them back in the everyday world of the sighted community.

How this work began and how well it has succeeded is the subject of the film "To Live Again".

From surviving archive film shot at the first training centre in Regent's Park during the First World War, the film brings us up to the present at the St. Dunstan's training centre in Brighton and to the future through the active lives of men and women blinded on service—at their work in industry, physiotherapy, telephony, in University, or at play: rowing, horse-riding, sailing, archery, bowls.

The film is itself an example of the success of war-blinded people in their chosen careers. The producer is Jimmy Wright, blinded in an air crash while serving in the Second World War with the R.A.F. Film Unit, and the commentary is spoken by Esmond Knight, the actor, who lost his sight when the bridge of H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* was hit by an enemy shell during the Bismarck action. "To Live Again", as its title implies, is not about resignation to the handicap of blindness, but about its acceptance and the achievement of independent life.

That is the synopsis of a new film about St. Dunstan's. David Castleton, who travelled with the film unit, tells how the film was made.

It was not a glamorous introduction to film-making. Outside Samuelson's Film Service in Cricklewood Broadway at 7.30 on a June morning, I found the



Ray and Jennie Hazan follow a member of the riding school staff, in the horse riding sequence.

members of the unit gathering for their two week journey around St. Dunstan's. John Ignatius, who I later found to be the assistant camera-man, was on his back under a Sherpa van, busily unscrewing the passenger seats which were preventing the loading of equipment.

Eventually, somewhat dishevelled, but in great good humour, John emerged and the last of the offending seats were removed, allowing loading to begin. "We're taking two blondes and two redheads", I overheard someone say. On a film about St. Dunstan's? Perhaps here was some glamour—but I was disappointed to find that blondes and redheads are nicknames for different types of lights.

The Team

I was introduced to all the Team: Nick Galtress, Director; Mike Shackleton, Camera-man; Aubrey Lewis, Sound Engineer; Chris Gurney, Assistant Sound Engineer; the aforementioned John Ignatius, better known as 'Iggy', Assistant Camera-man; John Harman, Electrician; and last but not least, Terry Lock,

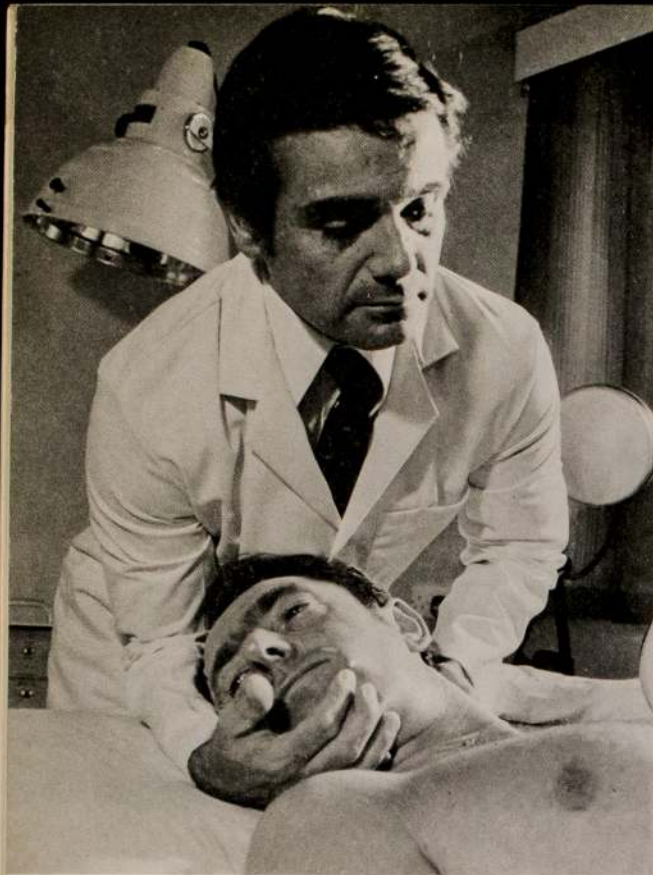
Assistant Director. His job, I soon learned, was to take from the Director's shoulders all admin arrangements—if anything went wrong Terry fixed it and he spent much of his time on the telephone, arranging ahead so that no time was wasted at each location.

Professional

Each member of the unit was very much an individual—all of them freelancers in a competitive world, yet forming a professional team. In the fortnight that followed we travelled across the country to locations in Brighton, Lincoln, Durham, Liverpool, Warrington and Birmingham. I was impressed by their efficiency and their determination that every shot should be perfectly lit for the camera and perfectly recorded for sound.

All this had begun in January at a meeting with Jimmy Wright. If you are planning a film about St. Dunstan's who better to turn to than a St. Dunstaner film producer?

It is still a source of surprise to me that at the first meeting with Jimmy and Jan



Darnley-Smith, who was to write the script, we roughed out a plan for the film, which although it was adapted and amended along the way, is still the broad basis of the version screened at St. Dunstan's A.G.M. in October.

For economy, shooting was compressed into two weeks in June, a period when we were enjoying a typical English summer. But *someone* was on our side, for, whenever we had to film outside, the rain stopped and, mostly, the sun shone upon our efforts.

Driving through lashing rain to Pyecombe in Sussex, where we were to film Ray and Jennie Hazan and John Simpson horse-riding, it seemed our luck had run out. But once again there was a break in the clouds and the rain held off just long enough for us to finish filming. Only the sound boys were unhappy—the hoofbeats they recorded were merely squelches!

Left: Alan Wortley is filmed treating a patient.

Below: A domino game, between Johnnie Sugden and Tom Flaherty, is a recurrent theme in the sequence shot at Pearson House.



Michael Delmar-Morgan, our Vice-Chairman, chats with Robert Pringle and Tony Dodd, after sailing.

The shooting was completed on schedule and, as Nick Galtress explained, the longest part of the film making began. A new member of the team now assumed great importance, Jim Elderton, film editor. On his skill depended the linking together of the various sequences and the library film material into a coherent whole.

Esmond Knight recorded the commentary and then came an interesting time in the dubbing theatre, where the film, original sound recordings, the commentary and effects tracks were all projected in synchronisation and one single sound track made to be married to the film. Once again the standard set was perfection, as film and recorded tracks were run and re-run until Nick Galtress, Jimmy Wright and Jim Elderton were satisfied.

Looking back, of course, the actual filming produces the most exciting and amusing recollections: Joan Wortley's surprise when the sound crew calmly removed her telephone when it was in the wrong place for filming and later reinstated it still in full working order; Tony Dodd's tin leg getting jammed between wheel and cockpit side, as our schooner headed straight for the Marina sea wall at high speed in a very fresh breeze; Alan Milne calmly backing his rowing 'shell' only feet away from the weir on the River Wear in Durham; Joe Britton telling his escort where the 'steps

down' were, on the way to his favourite pub; climbing in cobwebbed darkness via a rickety set of ladders, with several steps missing, to the top of a church tower in Warrington to film an 'establishing shot', which was discarded in the final version; the hotel in Lincoln, which shall be nameless, where, on arrival, my room looked as if there had been a riot in it—the bed had collapsed to the floor. . . . Terry Lock, who else?, sorted that one out. We certainly lived making "To Live Again".

Joe Britton downs his pint in a sequence filmed in the Cumberland Public House.





Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme with Lillian Brown and Peggy Craik after the presentations at the Council Meeting, held on 4th October.

MRS. PEGGY CRAIK

As mentioned in the reports on the Liverpool and Manchester Reunions in the August *Review*, Mrs. Peggy Craik retired as Visitor for Lancashire on the 30th June, 1979, after 23 years' service. As Miss Everett she joined the staff in May 1956, on the retirement of Miss E. Graham Doel. She came to us from the Kent County Constabulary where she had served for ten years.

In February 1973, she married Mr. Alexander Ballantyne and from October that year she went on to half time and has continued visiting about 90 St. Dunstaners in the Lancashire area until her final retirement. Mr. Ballantyne died in April 1975 and in February this year she was married again to Mr. Alexander Craik.

On Thursday, 4th October, Mrs. Craik attended Headquarters, accompanied by her husband, to receive a gift from the Council, which was presented to her by the Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, who thanked her for her much valued service which had endeared her to the many St. Dunstaners she had come to

know during her years with St. Dunstan's.

Our Lancashire lads had subscribed to a fund, from which Mrs. Craik purchased a Parker Knoll easy chair with variable positions from upright to lying down, and, on the 10th October, a representative party of St. Dunstaners and Mr. Wills and Miss Mosley from Headquarters, attended a buffet lunch given by Mrs. Craik at her bungalow in Sale. The St. Dunstaners present, drawn by ballot to represent each district of her area, were Messrs. A. H. Boseley of Wallasey, J. E. Cooper of Rhuddlan, H. Frost of Manchester, H. Gallagher of Blackpool, J. Newton of Southport and Mrs. V. Delaney of Mossley Hill, and Mr. Holt and Mrs. Lord were also present.

The ceremony of unveiling and presenting the chair to Mrs. Craik was carried out by Vi Delaney, and Mr. J. E. Cooper proposed a toast to Mrs. Craik and her husband Alex, wishing them a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Craik expressed her thanks in reply and spoke of the pleasure and happiness her association with St. Dunstaners had brought her over the years.

The Talking Chess Game

What shall I get for Christmas?

No doubt the thought of finding a Kurzweil Reading Machine at £10,000 in your Christmas stocking seems a little remote! You may be able, instead, to persuade your beloved to buy you a Fidelity Chess Challenger, advertised at £249.95, but available to the blind at £220. This is a talking chess game. The board measures 13" x 7" x 1" thick. It comes in an attractive executive type carrying case and weighs 6 lbs.

There is a chess board on the left hand side, though this is not suitable for blind people, as the surface is not textured and there is no differentiation between black and white pieces. These adhere to the board by magnets. On the right is a speaker grille at the top, a visual display screen and four rows of four keys. The top eight keys enable you to set the level of game you wish to play (there are 10 levels), pose problems, ask for the location of pieces on the board and so on. The lower eight keys are the letters A to H combined with the numbers one to eight and these are for moving the pieces. The computer is very sporting and will offer you advice on the next move. Further information from:

Sales Manager,
J.R. 1 Ltd.,
212 Dudley Hill Rd.,
Bradford, Yorks. Tel: 0724.590518

We hope to demonstrate the above during the chess weekend at Ian Fraser House on 1st/2nd December.

IMPROVE YOUR GAME

The following titles are held in the P.R. Department at Headquarters. Simply write in and let us know which cassettes you wish to borrow.

Reinfeld:

Win at Chess. Quiz for self test—5 cassettes.

Horowitz:

The complete book of chess—9 cassettes.

Tiller:

Chess treasury of the air—8 cassettes.

Horowitz:

How to win at chess endings—4 cassettes.



Peter Jones demonstrates the Fidelity Chess Challenger at Headquarters. St. Dunstan's is purchasing one of these machines.

Abraham:

Teach yourself chess—9 cassettes.

Euwe:

Road to chess mastery—15 cassettes.

Levy and Keene:

How to play the openings in chess—11 cassettes.

Lascher:

Mastery of chess—13 cassettes.

These books have been copied by kind permission of the publishers and the Braille Chess Association.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From *The Advertiser* a free newspaper circulating in the Crewe area:—

CATERING

Consult Us About Your Private Parties, etc. We Specialise in Good Home Cooking. Our Prices are Very Competitive. Catering in Your Own Home if Needed. *EMUS* on Request.

Curried Emu? Emu *Au Poivre*?

Emu & Chips? Emuburgers?

The choice seems virtually endless!

Gardening Column

Winter is on the way. In fact we had a frost up here in early September and as I had no heat on in the greenhouse, the top leaves of some of the more tender plants have been affected. However, I think they will be all right, as I have moved them into the middle of the greenhouse, away from the outside edges of the glass.

The whole garden is looking a bit sad. So clear things up and pick the last of the fruit. Sweep up all leaves from the lawns and paths and pile them up ready for a compost heap, which is very good for the flower beds and for digging in when you plant vegetables.

Bring all sensitive plants indoors before they get caught by frost. Do any alterations to the flower garden now. Any perennials which you want to replant in different places can be moved to a reserved section, or put in an empty spot in the vegetable patch. Before winter is really upon us, make sure the paths are in a decent condition and re-lay paving stones now. Some of you may find growing annuals too much of a problem, so plant perennials instead, as they are just as colourful, but are not so much work.

Vegetables

Dig over the empty vegetable patch, leaving it rough for the frosts to break-down. You can put compost on the surface and dig it in at the same time. This will lighten the soil and give the vegetables a good base for their roots. Clear any parts that had late crops and put the remains of them on the compost heap. Add lime and one of the special compost breakdown products.

Lift all root crops. Celery and leeks should be earthed up and heel the leaves of the cauliflowers over the head, to protect the kernel. Check through your potatoes carefully, throwing out the bad ones. Those which have rather large shoots can be eaten, but they won't taste as nice as normal ones.

So long as it is not a frosty day, you can plant broad beans, winter peas and certain winter green seedlings outside.

Give the vegetables in frames as much air as possible, since they are often hardy enough to survive ordinary winter conditions, but do protect them from heavy snow. Most salad items can be sown in the greenhouse and rhubarb can be lifted to be forced for an early crop.

Clear all the flower beds and dig them over lightly. Spread compost over the soil and round the roots, to help them survive the bad weather and to give them a good start in spring. Cut all the dead shoots off the perennials to ground level and thin out the evergreen bushes. Tie up and stake the tall plants or they will be broken by the wind and snow.

Dig up the Dahlias and dry them off, keeping them in boxes filled with newspaper, straw, or peat and protect them from frost.

Bulbs

Plant spring bulbs now. Dig them in deep, about two or three inches, so frosts cannot ruin them. This may mean that they come up a bit late, but that is better than having none at all. Try to plant Wall-flowers, Canterbury Bells, Pansies, Primroses, Polyanthus and other spring flowers when it is neither too cold, nor too wet. Fork the soil over well first, so the roots can spread out, then they will grow properly and thus give plenty of colour in the spring. Place them well down in the beds, below the soil level in the pots. Plant roses now, spreading out the roots as you put them in. Prune the shoots back and if you live in a windy area, stake them.

There is not much to do in the greenhouse at this time of year. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean that the plants will look after themselves. Close the windows early in the afternoon and make sure the heaters work properly. Unless you've got some touchy plants, or large amounts of cash, a temperature just over 40°F is warm enough, but put the delicate plants near the heaters. Place newspaper around the glass, just above bench level, to help keep the greenhouse at a steady temperature.

Do not over water. Only water plants which are at their peak now, or will be at Christmas/New Year. Pot bulbs for

forcing, but store them in a cool, or even cold, place with a cover on top of them. Bring them out when some growth shows through, but only gradually introduce them to the warmth.

Remove dead leaves from Calceolarias and Cinerarias, keep the soil moist, but don't drown them. Treat Pelargoniums in the same way and thin out some of the weaker shoots to give a handsome plant with lots of colour.

The only seeds that you can plant at this time of year are Cyclamen, which will flower next Autumn. Dry off all tuberous and bulbous plants, Begonias, Achimenes, Gloxinias and so on, then tip them out of their pots and store them in dry peat, in a warm place. It is a good idea to sprinkle the tubers with sulphur dust, to prevent mould and mildew. If the greenhouse gets invaded by insects don't use a moist spray, but light a smoke bomb, but do so only when it is fairly dry. Remember that after you have used one, leave the windows and door open for a while to get rid of the effect of the pest killer, before you work in the greenhouse yourself.

I may have said this before, but try and get the glass really clear, so that the plants can have as much light as possible during these short dull months. The shading material comes off easily with a dry cloth and won't take long to put up again.

Ovingdean Notes

You will all be pleased to know that at long last it looks as though we may once again have a St. Dunstan's Band. Paddy Humphrey (Accordion), Ernie Cookson (Saxophone), Bob Forshaw (Double Bass) and Jerry Lynch (Drums), who along with Cliff Gibbons and his Trio gave a very good concert which Paddy Humphrey has taped. We will be able to enjoy this tape in the winter evenings. The musicians had only a couple of impromptu rehearsals beforehand, but the evening proved very successful, so much so that they would like to hear from any other musicians who might be interested. You might be in the "Top Ten" yet boys.

Everyone looked as "brown as berries" after the Fishing Week, which proved both successful and enjoyable. Bernard Blacker

burst forth into the Escort Office with his "Ode to the Fishermen":—

I'm a Channel Whiting swimming at the bottom of the sea,
gobbling up the love worms the Anglers send down to me.

I get one now between my teeth and pull with all my might
and hear old Johnnie Wheeler shout
"I think I've got a bite".

The two drives each week are always well patronised and our friends at Tylden House gave us their annual Garden Party. This, as always, was a lovely day. We have also visited Drusillas at Alfriston, The Wishing Well, Wilmington, Boship Farm Hotel, Hailsham, and Gibbys at Polegate.

The Dome give a variety show each Tuesday in August, and the one on the 21st August, was televised, to be shown in January in a programme about Brighton—we hope you will be able to recognise your voices in the Community Singing—listen for Johnnie Sugden.

The Theatre Royal gave us an outstanding production of "The Case of the Oily Levantine", starring Hywel Bennett, Adrienne Posta, William Squire and Anna Quayle. This show was unusual inasmuch as the scenery was exceptional, the who-dun-it, kept you guessing and the acting, as always, was superb. Forthcoming attractions at the Theatre Royal in October include the comedy of the year, "Filumena", starring Diana Coupland and Patrick O'Connell and the musical, "Calamity Jane", starring Barbara Windsor, Eric Flynn and Norman Vaughan.

At Brighton Races the three gentlemen who celebrated a large win in the bar will have cause to remember the day with pleasure.

What a Winner!

In the Headstone Horticultural Society's 31st Annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show, on 8th September, Mr. Henry Haskey of Harrow won nine prizes: four 1st prizes, two 2nd prizes and three 3rd prizes.

Turn it off!

Remember to turn off the cold water at the main stopcock and leave all cold taps open, if you go away from home this winter and want to avoid having burst water pipes.



Ray Sheriff receiving the Medal of Freedom of Apeldoorn from Burgemeester Mr. F. Dijkmeester, who is himself wearing the Military Cross, awarded for his work with the Dutch Resistance.

A UNIQUE HONOUR

Ray Sheriff, of Gloucester, has received a unique honour. He is the first Englishman to receive the Freedom Medal of Apeldoorn, a Dutch village 20 miles from the scene of the Battle of Arnhem. Mr. Sheriff was one of the original Red Devils and was blinded by a grenade, at the Battle of Arnhem.

The award was given to him during the recent celebrations to mark the 35th Anniversary of the Battle. Mr. Sheriff, now a switchboard operator, said "The medal was first presented two years ago. I am only the third person to receive the honour and the first foreigner."

After Mr. Sheriff was injured he was treated in a hospital run by monks from the Order of St. Francis of Assisi and during his recent visit was made an honorary member of the Order. The monks presented him with a silver cross and chain with the Brotherhood's emblem.

Articles for the Blind Labels

Please remember that Articles for the Blind labels must only be used on Braille and cassette letters, or for other specific aids for the blind. They should not be used for ordinary handwritten or typed correspondence.

A Noble Veteran

On 18th April, representatives of The Sir Arthur Pearson Association attended the unveiling of a memorial plaque in honour of the late Colonel E. A. Baker. The unveiling took place at the Beulah United Church, Kingston, Ontario. Colonel Baker was a First World War St. Dunstan and was instrumental in the founding of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome a St. Dunstaner recently admitted to membership. The Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Charles Edward Smith, of Norwich, who joined St. Dunstan's on 12th September. Mr. Smith served with the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and was a Far East Prisoner of War. He is married with two adult sons.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1839

The Crock of Gold

By James Stephens

Read by Stephen Jack

Reading Time 5¾ hours

A most curious tale, as Irish as shamrock and Guinness, and full of the most preposterous fairy-tale characters.

It seems that there were these two philosophers living together in a cottage, on the edge of a wood. They were terribly wise and erudite and people came from far and wide for advice.

In the fullness of time they married the thin woman and the grey woman. The brides hated their husbands like anything, which is a perfectly valid reason for getting married—in any Irish fairy story.

In due course each couple had a child. The grey woman detested her own offspring, so she pretended that the other one was hers—are you following the story so far?

Then there was that disgraceful incident when the great god Pan abducted a maiden. And then the philosophers' children went off hobnobbing with the shoe-making leprechauns (bet you guessed there'd be leprechauns in there somewhere, didn't you?).

A funny gentle book for those of us who never quite grew up—and it's a great advantage if you happen to have Irish blood. Full marks to Stephen Jack for a darlin' of a brogue.

Cat. No. 532

Live and Let Die

By Ian Fleming

Read by Duncan Carse

Reading Time 7¼ hours

James Bond in fine swashbuckling form. In fact, I doubt if he's ever swashed a finer buckle.

The United States is being flooded with antique gold coins, undoubtedly part of the treasure of "Bloody" (afterwards Sir Henry) Morgan, the notorious pirate. But who has discovered the multimillion dollar hoard? Who is behind the distribution and sale? And for what nefarious purpose are the proceeds being used? Bond is sent from London to find out.

"Mr. Big" turns out to be a gigantic negro with a number of unpleasant habits, like having people killed in a most ungentlemanly fashion. In one scene, with Bond securely fastened in a chair, he instructs his henchman to break our hero's little fingers. The henchman eagerly obliges, but this is only good-natured fun, really.

The redoubtable James follows the trail across the States, down to Florida and eventually on to the West Indies, leaving behind him the usual quota of dead bodies, and collecting en route a lissom young lady, by the name of Solitaire.

A ripping yarn in which (need I say) the indestructible Bond wins out in the end.

OLYMPIC SELECTION

Percy Stubbs, of Norwich, has been selected for the National Blind Bowling Squad. Players were chosen on the consistency of their performances over three qualifying tournaments at Hastings, Weston-super-Mare and Stoke Mandeville. The final selection for a team to represent England in the Disabled Olympics in Arnhem, the Netherlands, will be made after trials in December but, in the meantime, while wishing him luck

in the trials, we warmly congratulate Percy Stubbs on reaching the national squad.

Golden Retriever

Vic Davies of Braunton is having continuing success with his dogs. Josie, a 17-month-old Retriever has won three cups. One for being the best Retriever, a second for being the best novice and the third for being the best bitch in the contest, in which 30 dogs took part.

CLUB NEWS—continued

J. Hudson	} 64
W. Lethbridge	
J. Padley	} 59
F. Griffie	
H. Preedy	} 58
C. Walters	

On Sunday 9th September, we held our 8th Pairs Competition with these results:

North-South

1st B. Simon & Miss Sturdy	55.8
2nd W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	52.5

East-West

1st A. Dodgson & Mrs. Dodgson	56.2
2nd J. Padley & Mrs. Padley	54.6

W. LETHBRIDGE

**St. Dunstan's Bridge Club
40th ANNIVERSARY VISIT TO
HARROGATE**

On Saturday, 29th September, there began a truly memorable week for the party of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club players. Memorable in that we had the pleasure of meeting members of two new fixtures, The York Bridge Club and the CEGB Bridge Club and in addition, the honour of being entertained in his parlour by the Mayor of Harrogate and his lady. Our party consisted of: Messrs. F. Dickerson, R. Evans, R. Fullard, G. Hudson, J. Huk, W. Allen, R. Goding, W. Lethbridge, J. Whitcombe, L. White, C. Walters, W. Phillips, P. Nuyens and Mrs. V. Delaney.

The *Yorkshire Post* referred to our having a "temporary base" at the Dirlton Hotel, Harrogate, and in fact, in order to achieve the combined operation of getting us to the right match at the right time, the discreet generalship of Mr. Ian Dickson, assisted by Mr. J. Kennedy and Mr. Norman Smith was very necessary.

After a high tea in our hotel, the Harewood Arms, off we went to play the York Bridge Club. Mr. Hall and his friends gave us a most enjoyable evening and our hopes are that this fixture will be included in our programme for 1980. After only one night in Harewood, our next encounter was with the teams of four provided by the Harrogate Bridge Club on Sunday evening. To mark our 40th appearance in Harrogate, one of our teams regained the St. Dunstan's Cup.

As a special tribute to St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, we were invited to the Mayor's parlour for a pre-prandial sherry, where we met Councillor Harper King, the Mayor of Harrogate and his lady, along with other councillors. That same evening, we were once again amongst our friends at the St. George's Hall, Civil Service Bridge Club, where we appreciated the usual lavish hospitality extended to us by its members.

On Tuesday afternoon we went by coach to Ripon, where much kindness was shown to us and true Yorkshire hospitality was again much in evidence. Thanks to Mr. Umpleby, we were able to enjoy yet another new fixture at the CEGB Bridge Club and the unanimous opinion of our St. Dunstaners was that this too must be a permanent fixture for the future Harrogate programme, and not just because we happened to win the match. On Wednesday afternoon we had a good win at Bradford. It was rather unexpected as they usually do rather well against us. Wednesday evening saw us cheerful, in spite of pouring rain, as we were bound for the Oakdale Golf Club; truly convivial surroundings for playing bridge and meeting old friends and also for making new ones. Thursday evening was one of the rare occasions on which we were defeated by I.C.I. Fibres Division, Crimple House Club: we accepted defeat without demur as it was inflicted by such charming people, who went out of their way to entertain us royally.

Friday was our last full day in Harrogate. It started with a coach trip to the Drovers Hotel, Bishop Thornton, where St. Dunstan's had invited representatives of all the local clubs to come for lunch with us. Councillor Harper King, the Mayor, expressed his pleasure at the longevity of our connection with Harrogate and wished that it might continue indefinitely. Mr. C. D. Wills, our Secretary, replied on our behalf to thank the people, many in number, who had contributed to make such a success of the Harrogate Bridge Week for St. Dunstan's Bridge Club.

Still, in an endeavour to reciprocate the hospitality extended towards us by members of local clubs, on Friday

evening we had our usual bridge drive at the Dirlton Hotel; thanks to the efforts of the Manageress and her staff, refreshments were provided during the drive, and as usual, prizes were offered in the form of articles made by St. Dunstan's men and women.

Saturday, and back to our various destinations in a tired but happy frame of mind, some already talking of plans for the return visit in 1980.

R. FULLARD

**HOW IT ALL BEGAN
by Paul Nuyens**

At the outbreak of war, Alf Field, who had been teaching St. Dunstan's bridge players the Austrain (Stern) system, was transferred to Harrogate. During the bombing of London he decided to invite some of the lads of St Dunstan's to pass a peaceful weekend in Harrogate. In 1940, Mr. Jack Habisch, the owner of the Salisbury Hotel, entertained the first delegation of 17 St. Dunstaners at the Salisbury, playing bridge, including a bridge drive from Friday to Monday.

This was the start of a series of visits repeated annually for 40 years. The short weekend became a long one and finally, a week. Until 1947 Jack put them up as his guests.

After the war, Mr. Field returned to London, having arranged for Frank Nokes to undertake the arrangement of future programmes. With the lengthening of our stay, other competitions were arranged, as well as a visit to Mrs. Whitsed's Bridge Club.

Mr. George Wilson, the well known snooker player, obtained a Cup from the Yorkshire Post, to be awarded for an Annual Competition, which was held at Johnny Morrison's Bridge Club, until his death in 1954. Apart from this competition, visits to other clubs were also fixed, such as the Oakdale, Pannal, Knaresborough and Harrogate Golf Club, and the Civil Service Club.

In 1955, the newly formed Campbell Bridge Club, in Victoria Road, undertook to hold the competition for the St. Dunstan's Harrogate Bridge Cup on their premises, giving in addition, their hospitality on three afternoons.

In 1966, it looked as if our visits had come to an end, because, for personal reasons, Frank Nokes had to give up

arranging our annual programme. A quick decision, however, on Charlie Gover's part resulted in six of us going that year. The good work of arranging our programme from then on was carried out by Margaret and Norman Green.

During the seventies our annual party ranged between 12 and 16 players. Venues changed and we made new Bridge Club friends round and about Harrogate, such as the I.C.I. Crimple House Club, Bradford, Ripon, Moortown, York and the Central Electricity Generating Bridge Clubs.

When, in 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell retired, the newly formed Harrogate Bridge Club took over arranging the St. Dunstan's Cup Competition and when, shortly after, Mr. and Mrs. Green gave up arranging our fixtures, the Secretary of the Harrogate Bridge Club, Mrs. Pritchard, and last year their Chairman, Mr. Pearce, carried on.

The story would not be complete without mentioning our other friends, such as Mr. Jessie Habisch, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkinson, Mrs. Nokes (who recently passed away), Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Fergusson (Angela Beaumont), Mrs. Venekamp (Pauline Webster) and the late Bob Herman.



Father Phillip Marsh is son of our St. Dunstaner Bill Marsh, of Walsall. Here he is seen after his ordination, with the Auxilliary Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, the Very Rev. Owen Swindlehurst—photo Hartlepool Mail.

FAMILY NEWS

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Chatfield of Chichester, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Jennifer, was married to Raymond Hanmore, on 8th September.

William Green of Solihull, who married Mrs. Hilda Harper, on 3rd October.

Mr. and Mrs. Lavery of Downpatrick, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Maureen, was married to Charles McKeown, on 25th September.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller of Leamington Spa, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Angela Margaret, was married to William Robert Good, on 14th September.

Mr. and Mrs. William Miller of Perivale, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Yvette, was married to Barry Hargreaves, on 13th October.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Many congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hitchen, of Nelson, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, on 31st August.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. Patrick Sutton, of Ashton-under-Lyne, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Clair Yvonne, to his son, Stephen, and his wife, Mary, on 11th September.

DEATHS

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mrs. Joan Ash, of Paignton, whose sister died in South Africa, on the 14th August.

Mr. Ronald Harmsworth, of Aldershot, whose sister died earlier this year.

Mr. Alfred Parslow, of High Wycombe, whose wife, Joan, died suddenly on 18th September. Mrs. Parslow was 62 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.

Roy Mendham *Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers*

Roy Mendham of Ilford, died suddenly on 24th September. He was 58 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 30 years.

Mr. Mendham was a motor mechanic with the Metropolitan Police until he joined the R.E.M.E., in 1941. He was discharged in 1946 and joined St. Dunstan's, undertaking a period of telephony training. He became an extremely efficient operator and a highly valued employee, only retiring from his job with the Commercial Union Group, on health grounds, in 1976.

Mr. Mendham was a great sportsman and had represented Essex in athletic competitions at the discus, shot and javelin. He was a regular participant in the London to Brighton walks and often took part in walking competitions. His other hobbies included gardening and wrought-iron work. He and his wife enjoyed a close and united family life, and always looked forward to attending Reunions and Sports Weekends at Ovingdean.

He leaves a widow, Ivy, a daughter, Jean, and a son, Brian.

Arthur Henry Cobbett *15th Battalion London Regiment*

Arthur Cobbett of Purley, died on 17th September, in Pearson House. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Cobbett served as a Private in the 15th Battalion London Regiment during the First World War and suffered serious gunshot wounds in August 1918, whilst on active service. His vision deteriorated gradually and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1968.

Mr. Cobbett retired from the Civil Service in 1956, but in his retirement kept up a keen interest in music. He always enjoyed his visits to Brighton and to Reunions and until recently he played an active part in the local Blind Club.

Since the death of his wife, in 1942, Mr. Cobbett was cared for devotedly by his sister-in-law, Miss D. Sandals.

He leaves a son, Cyril.