



**St Dunstons Review**  
**January 1980**

# St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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10p MONTHLY

## Message from the Chairman

### Retirement of Douglas Wills, O.B.E.

There are many sides to the work of the Secretary of St. Dunstan's and the responsibility is a heavy one. He is Secretary to the Council and chief adviser to the Chairman, head of all the staff at Headquarters, the Brighton Homes and throughout the country, a central figure to all St. Dunstaners and their families, and frequently our representative throughout the world.

Elsewhere in this *Review* you will be able to read in some detail the story of Mr. Wills' work for us all in various capacities since 1948 and there are some very happy photographs, but I would like to write here of the inspiration behind his long service to St. Dunstan's.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to meet and to work with Douglas Wills know of his deep interest in all welfare matters and this has been the background to his work. Nothing was too much trouble for him and I am sincerely grateful for his advice and help, which were always readily available to me or to the blinded men and women who consulted him. His kindness, readiness to listen to a problem, sympathy, generosity, good humour, and understanding based on over 30 years' experience have all contributed to his important share in the work of St. Dunstan's.

St. Dunstaners have already had opportunities of expressing their thanks to Mr. Wills at Reunions in 1979 and the London Reunion this year will be a very special occasion. However, as his retirement takes effect, I write on behalf of the Members of the Council, and personally for my wife and myself, to express to Douglas Wills our deep appreciation of his service to St. Dunstan's. We wish him, his wife and daughter the best of good fortune in the years to come.

*Jon Earnell-Dune*

### Thank you from the Staff

Mr. Wills, Miss Mosley, Miss Lord and other members of staff at Headquarters; Commandant, Matrons and staff at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, thank the many St. Dunstaners both at home and overseas, who have sent Christmas greetings and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you,

however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1980.

### Peggy Craik

Thanks everybody who sent Christmas cards and sends best wishes for health and contentment in the New Year.

COVER PICTURE: Mr. Wills speaking at the Bristol Reunion last year.

## 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.*

**Edward Laycock**, of Hull, who joined St. Dunstan's on 14th November. Mr. Laycock served during the First World War as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps. He is married.

**William Frederick Rees**, of Swansea, who joined St. Dunstan's on 19th November. Mr. Rees served during the First World War as a Private in the Welsh Regiment. He was gassed on the Somme. Mr. Rees is married with a grown up daughter.

**Mr. Henry Walter Sampford**, of Dunmow, who joined St. Dunstan's on 15th November. Mr. Sampford served throughout the First World War in the Hertfordshire Regiment and was wounded and gassed at Ypres. He is a widower.

**Father Frank Tierney**, of Blackburn, who joined St. Dunstan's on 14th November. Father Tierney served during the First World War as a Signaller in the Royal Engineers.

### AMATEUR RADIO A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society will be held at Ian Fraser House, on Saturday, 23rd February, 1980. If anyone has an item for the Agenda please inform Ted John, 52 Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside, L45 6TD. **Please make arrangements for accommodation with Miss Bridger at Headquarters.**

### APOLOGIES

We apologise to Phil Bicknell and Peggy Prinzen. In the report of the Deaf/Blind Reunion in last month's *Review* it was wrongly stated that Mrs. Peggy Prinzen has retired. In fact it was Mrs. Phil Bicknell who retired from the Police Force, after 30 year's service.

### HARROGATE 1980

Harrogate Week will be from Saturday, 27th September to Saturday, 4th October. The inclusive charge for bed/breakfast and dinner will be £80.50 for the seven days inclusive of service and V.A.T. The hotel insists on an early and firm booking and the prices are dependent on a party of at least the usual strength. Please contact Paul Nuyens, Hon. Sec., National St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, before the end of January—cheques payable to St. Dunstan's please, £80.50 or £90 if travelling from London.

### A FITTING MEMORIAL

The late Doug Cashmore was an outstanding St. Dunstaner so it is not surprising to find that his family is a talented and enterprising one. On 8th November, his sons Bob and John, with their wives, organised a memorial concert for their father at the Bourneville Concert Hall in support of the Poppy Appeal.

The programme, its cover bedecked with poppies, listed a splendidly varied evening of music, performed by the West Midlands Police Male Voice Choir and names well known in Midlands operatic circles: Andrea Calladine, Ralph Meanley, Margaret Edwards and John Cashmore. The compère was Bob Cashmore.

Doug would be proud of them, especially as the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, for which he worked so hard over the years, benefited to the extent of £1,000 from the proceeds of the concert and donations given in his memory.

### THANK YOU

From: Fred Bridger, Worthing

I would like to thank all those St. Dunstaners, their wives, and the widows of our late St. Dunstaners for their very generous and kind contributions to this splendid retirement gift. I shall always remember the very happy times I spent with them during the many years I had the privilege of knowing them.

As I still carry out some part-time duties for St. Dunstan's, I hope to have the pleasure of meeting many friends again in the not too distant future.

My very best wishes for good health and a Happy New Year to them all.



Mr. Garnett-Orme introduces Mr. Wills to H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent when she visited our Homes in Brighton in 1978.

## ST. DUNSTAN'S SECRETARY

### Douglas Wills Retires: Thirty-one Years' Service to War-blinded

On 31st December, Mr. Douglas Wills retired from the post of Secretary of St. Dunstan's, completing 31 years of service to war-blinded men and women.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1948 as Chief Accountant having worked in accountancy from leaving school. He served in the Army from 1940 to 1946 and during the last year was Staff Captain in charge of welfare, in the 152nd Highland Brigade.

His career in St. Dunstan's was to follow the same pattern: accountancy to welfare. After five years as Accountant he was appointed Welfare Superintendent in 1953.

Since then he has always been closely involved in the welfare of St. Dunstaners and their families because, although in 1971 he became Assistant Secretary, he still retained overall responsibility for welfare matters.

It is in this role that St. Dunstaners will remember him best: as an adviser and confidant at Headquarters, or on the many personal visits he made to St. Dunstan's families and as a genial master of ceremonies at reunions. Mr. Wills greatly values the informal contact between St. Dunstaners and staff that reunions provide and he, himself, has missed only one reunion in all his years in welfare. This

is surely a record that will never be equalled.

He succeeded the late Mr. A. D. Lloyds as Secretary in April 1973. In that position he has played his full part as Secretary to the Council and Head of the Staff of St. Dunstan's. He worked closely with the RNIB and other organisations for the blind in this country. He also represented St. Dunstan's abroad as a delegate to the Sixth Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind in Antwerp, 1979 and at other international meetings.

His overseas travels included visiting Russia, with Commandant Fawcett and Mr. Dufton, in 1970 at the invitation of the All Russia Society for the Blind and he attended the Sixth Quinquennial Reunion of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of the War-Blinded held in Winnipeg, Canada in 1977.

In recent year Mr. Wills has been responsible for the organisation of a number of international congresses in this country, notably the Third International Conference of the War-Blinded in Europe in 1973.

Mr. Wills' working lifetime of concern for the war-blinded was honoured in the 1979 New Year's Honours List, when he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.



Auld Lang Syne but not goodbye... Mr. Wills with David and Elizabeth Hodgson and Doreen and Leslie Thompson at a Newcastle Reunion.

#### BRAILLE BANK STATEMENTS: REMINDER

Lack of privacy is one of the most serious deprivations caused by blindness, therefore the availability of bank statements in Braille can be very important to blind people. Braille statements have been available on request from some banks for many years, but have taken so long to produce that the information shown has been of limited value. Warwick Research Unit for the Blind in co-operation with Lloyds Bank has now developed an automated system for producing statements in contracted Braille quickly.

Under this new system the bank supplies the data recorded digitally in print-image format on magnetic tape which is then input to a computer at Warwick University, programmed to convert the print image format to the Braille format. As well as changing the format the programme checks that the input data is in the correct fields and that the final balance is correct.

The computer is linked to a Braille printer which embosses the statements directly on to manilla paper within minutes. At the same time, a line printer produces a copy in ordinary characters in the same format as the Braille version to assist the customer's branch in dealing with any queries.

#### CHRISTMAS BONUS

The bonus is payable to all retirement pensioners, all war widows and all St. Dunstaners in receipt of constant attendance allowance. Those St. Dunstaners who also receive the Unemployment Supplement and an additional allowance for their wives should have received an extra £10 for their wives, provided the ladies are over 60 years of age. In some cases, those wives will be in receipt of a graduated pension of a few pence a week, and in those cases the wives should have received the £10 through their local Post Office but in all other cases the remittances would have come from Norcross, Blackpool. Should St. Dunstaners, their wives, or widows of St. Dunstaners have experienced any trouble in connection with the payment of the bonus, would they please contact our Pensions Officer, Mr. L. A. Slade, at Headquarters.

#### VANISHING CHEQUES

There is a new type of pen on the market which contains ink that can be erased. Banks are warning their customers that there is a risk of fraud or forgery and ask customers not to use such pens when writing cheques or other banking documents.

Oliver Evans has been quoted as to his aspirations. In 1805 he fitted a steam engine to wheels of a dredging machine, in order to move it to the harbour of Philadelphia which it was to clear. This episode makes history as being the first reported movement of a machine under its own power in America.

At about the same time that brilliant English engineer, Sir George Cayley, devised a hot air engine and a large open coach for it to drive. But perhaps Cayley is best remembered for the fact that he built a glider, just after the middle of the nineteenth century, and insisted on his long suffering coachman to be the first man to test it aloft.

The 1820's began the thick and fast arrival of steam coaches in Britain. Most of them were based on the designs of James Watt, the father of the steam engine, whose first model appeared in 1765. Symington and Fourness both had steam coaches in the 1780's and on Christmas Eve, 1801, Richard Trevithick, the Cornish giant, is said to have made the first journey in this country carrying passengers, in his high pressure steam carriage near Camborne.

#### Steam coach services

There were countless clumsy and bumpy steam coaches, some actually providing a so-called regular service between towns for passengers, in the first half of the 1800's, and as early as 1815 the Czech engineer Bosek adapted a Watt type engine and fitted it to a carriage. It seems to have run well, until its inventor was discouraged by having his machine banned after running over a dog belonging to a high official.

In 1834 Scott-Russell and some of his passengers were killed, in what was perhaps the first road motor fatality in Great Britain, when the boiler of his machine burst near Paisley. This accident might be considered the beginning of the end for the steam vehicles, certainly in this country. The landowners—this was before our roads were maintained by the public at large through the local authorities—were fearful of the damage to their roads and bridges which might be caused by these noisy, smelly, dangerous steam locomotives. The horse users and horse lovers, as well as those involved in stage

## Ken Revis' story of The Conception and Birth of the Automobile

### PART TWO

Photos: National Motor Museum  
David Castleton

coach operations, were dead against mechanical vehicles and the public were genuinely afraid of them. Many cases of bloodshed and even the calling in of troops have been reported to protect drivers from angry stone throwing mobs.

All this, as well as the stage coach proprietors and the powerful railway companies, prompted a rather gullible Parliament to pass in 1865 "The Locomotives on Highways Act". This crippling legislation severely handicapped the use of road vehicles with steam engines, by insisting on three men being in charge, one walking ahead with a red flag to warn horse drawn coaches and riders of horses that a dangerous machine was approaching, it also limited speed to 4 m.p.h. in rural areas and 2 m.p.h. in towns. There was an amending Act in 1878, but the Locomobilist or Automobilist were not finally emancipated until the great day of November 14th, 1896, when "The Highways and Locomotives Act" was passed. Drivers were free to travel the roads of Britain unhindered, except by speed limits, whereas their continental brethren had never been restricted by such ridiculous and hampering laws.



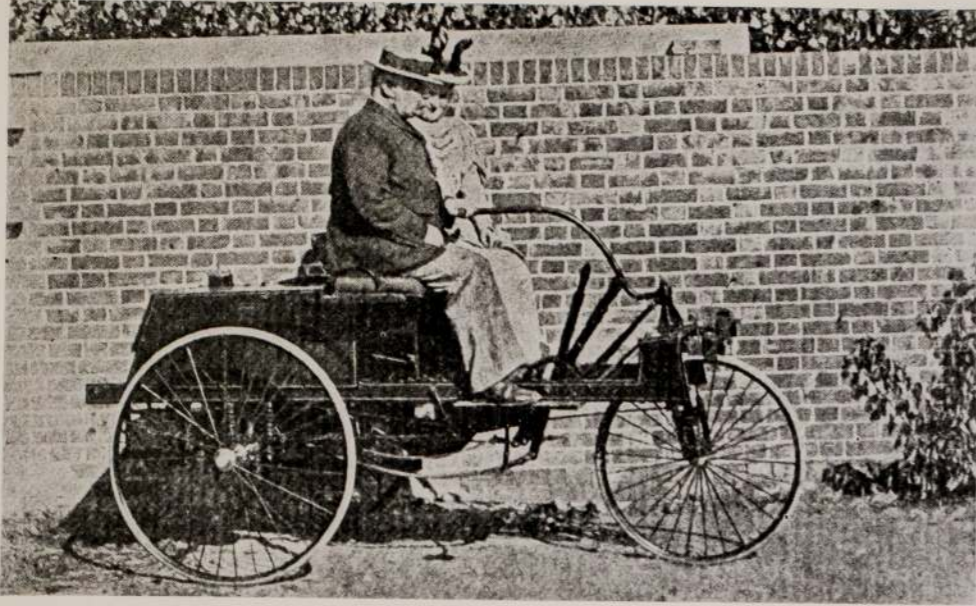
*With the aid of a little manpower, the 1901 Wolseley begins the 1977 London-Brighton Run, with Ken Revis among the crew.*

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Channel, there were some important developments in the quarter century before the practical working automobiles of Daimler and Benz made their first runs. In 1860 Etienne Lenoir produced a working two cycle piston engine, powered by a mixture of coal-gas and air and using Ruhmkorff spark ignition. This was however an atmospheric engine, that is the piston did not compress the mixture. A little later Alphonse Beau de Rochas submitted designs to the Paris Patent Office describing a four cycle engine. Although these did not come to light until some twenty years later and of course no engine was built, some importance is attached to the designs and Beau de Rochas might have been the inventor of the four stroke motor.

Then came Nicholas August Otto who, with his partner Eugen Langen, had worked for years with gas engines trying to perfect a four cycle motor. Success came at last and in 1876 a practical four stroke engine was made to work. That is to say an engine which first sucked in the combustible mixture, then compressed it by the upward movement of the piston and thirdly by providing an electric spark,

the piston was forced downwards, the power stroke, until finally on the fourth stroke the piston moved back up the cylinder to expel the spent gases. Now Otto was still using his coal-gas mixture, but in 1875 Siegfried Marcus, an Austrian, discovered that a spirit vapour mixed with air would provide the explosive force to drive a piston and so work the engine. When Langen's former professor told him about Marcus, he and Otto, with Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach, should have jumped for joy, but as we have seen it was not until over ten years later that Benz and Daimler produced their history making cars. Maybach perfected the spirit vapour carburettor and for some time Daimler stuck to his hot tube ignition, while Benz moved to electric ignition by Ruhmkorff coil.

In this country Knight built a three wheeled petrol car in 1895 in Farnham said to be the first in England. Herbert Austin designed and built the first Wolseley cars in 1895 and 1896, but only the latter survives, while Royce bought a Deauville from France, improved on it and later teamed up with Charles Rolls the car salesman, aviator and racing motorist. Dr.



J. H. Knight's 'Petroleum Motor Cycle', built in Farnham in 1895, had a top speed of 7-8 m.p.h.

Fred Lanchester, perhaps the greatest of the English designers, made his first car in 1896.

It has to be said that the French with such names as Peugeot, Darracq, Mors, De Dion Bouton and Leavassor did much more to develop the motor car after the original ideas of the Germans and that the British and Americans were some years behind. In fact the Duryea brothers, who had read about Benz, produced the first practical American car in 1893, which had a single cylinder two cycle engine.

George B. Seldon, a patent attorney, applied for the patent on the Brayton single cylinder two cycle engine in 1879, keeping his application alive by repeatedly amending it, until it was granted in 1896. However, he sold his rights three years later and they came under the control of the Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers. When Henry Ford became established, he and others, including Olds and Panhard in Europe, contested this and won not only the legal, but the public relations battle. The court holding that although the Seldon patent was valid, it did not cover the Otto type Daimler engine.

The early motor industry was littered with patent actions. Otto figured in many himself. While in England Harry J. Lawson

regarded by some as a get-rich-quick merchant, attempted unsuccessfully to gather to himself the Otto rights, hoping to control the whole of the British motor industry. There were other names in America, some of them well known today as makes of cars, but it was Henry Ford, as we have seen, who opened the flood-gates for the development of the great American motor industry and established himself as the champion of the little man.

Perhaps gasoline won the battle against steam. Certainly this is more true in the U.S.A., when Kettering and Bendix combined to perfect the electric starter-motor in 1913, and Burton devised a cracking method which greatly increased the amount of petrol obtainable from crude oil, just when a boost was needed in the comparatively new oil industry.

Many of the problems of steam propulsion were overcome, when Serpollet invented the flash boiler in the middle eighties, although it was not put into regular use until 1901. While in America the Stanleys and the Whites had limited success with their steamers during the first two decades of the twentieth century. In Europe, as we have seen, the original idea of the gasoline motor car which germinated in Mannheim and Stuttgart

was encompassed with enormous enthusiasm by the French, followed more hesitatingly by the law-hobbled British. It has to be said that although there was the undoubted mechanical skill and ingenuity in America, the automobile had to be re-invented there after experiments by Hiram Percy Maxim and others, including the cycle maker Pope and R. E. Olds. In fact, in his book *The American Automobile*, J. B. Rae says, "The automobile is European by birth and American by adoption". For instance Buick was a maker of plumbers' materials and Pierce-Arrow started making bird cages, the transmutation from cages to bicycle spokes, then motorcycles, then to cars, is not difficult to imagine.

Back in this country the great joy of the motorist was unleashed on 14th November, 1896, the day the Emancipation Act was passed, and 33 happy car drivers and motorcyclists and their frail machines set off for Brighton. On a filthy day, it is said that only 11 vehicles arrived on the front

at Brighton having started from London, and some say that most of these pushed their cars on to the train at Victoria Station, and removed them just short of their goal for the final mile or two, in a flurry of rain and mud. What is certain is that Leon Bollee was the first to arrive in his lovely little single cylinder tricycle and the London to Brighton Run is still held on the first Sunday in November, to commemorate the freeing of the British motorist all those years ago.

Our automobile is born and with the passing of the Motor Car Act in 1903, which brought in a rudimentary kind of registration for motor vehicles, and incidentally this was the first time officialdom had deigned to use the word "Motor Car", and with the Roads Act of 1920 when the modern licence disc was introduced, the car must surely be considered to have reached a sturdy adolescence.

We are on the threshold of the golden age of the Motor Car.

*Concluded*

The Duryeas' 1893 car, in the Smithsonian Institution.





## IT STRIKES ME

by  
Magog

### ASPECTS OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This photograph, taken by Mrs. Garnett-Orme, showing our Chairman chatting with Charles Stafford, captures the spirit of the occasion as the St. Dunstan's contingent prepares for the March Past.

Meanwhile in the village of Bridgefoot, Strathmartine, near Dundee, another St. Dunstaner, Sydney Scroggie, had been asked to speak at a ceremony at the war memorial. His words are well worth reproducing here:

"These lads, whose names are here inscribed, knew in their day the Dighty's sound, the whistle of a Rosemill blackie, the heather when it turns on Craigowl hill, the leaves yellow as now we see them in the Strath. They knew the old Strathmartine, for it was their home. What did they do that we should pay them tribute here today? They stood between the Kaiser and his bad intentions, Hitler and his; and if, unsubjected to any tyrant hand, some remnant of Strathmartine is preserved today, at least in part we owe this to their sacrifice. It was not so much for Britain that they fought, died, and came to be inscribed upon this stone, but for Bridgefoot. For it was here, or hereabouts, that they were born and bred, learned their letters, took on a local colour that distinguished them from other men. The hero Martin here slew his dragon in bygone times; these men, in their day, ours; and in so doing preserved to us some essence of the life they knew and loved. And so, in those same yellow leaves, Rosemill blackie, Craigowl heather, and Dighty's



swirl, as these are part of us, must there not always linger also something of them. Such sons, long buried in a noble grave, are nothing if not Strathmartine; Strathmartine, as this is precious to us now, nothing if not such sons as these."

### WINKLE UP

Leslie Webber, formerly in practise as a physiotherapist in Tewkesbury, where he was Mayor for two terms, and now retired to Goring-by-Sea, is a member of an unusual club.

His badge of membership is a winkle shell filled with sealing wax and the club is the Hastings Winkle Club. If he meets another member, Leslie must be able to produce his winkle shell or face a fine.

This is one way the Winkle Club raises funds for its work for poor children, hospitals and other charities. The Club was founded in 1900, by a group of fishermen in Hastings Old Town to give a Christmas party for the children.

In 1927, the then Prince of Wales became a member when he was presented with a gold-cased winkle shell, during a visit to Hastings. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh is a winkler and H.M. the Queen accepted a gold replica of the Club's emblem mounted on a brooch. Other famous members over the years have included Sir Winston Churchill, Lord Montgomery, Richard Dimbleby, Sir Alec Rose, Norman Wisdom, Cyril Fletcher, Wilfred Pickles and many others—Leslie Webber is certainly in good company, but he must be able to "winkle up" when challenged.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 275

### Two Eggs On My Plate

By Oluf Reed Olsen

Read by Roy Williamson

Reading Time 10½ hours

When the Germans occupied Norway in 1940, the author was then in his late 'teens. A lucky meeting with a British officer gave him and his friends an opportunity to serve their country as members of an underground group.

During the ensuing months, Olsen made friends with a German A.A. gunner and took photographs of the gun, dismantled and photographed a crippled Heinkel, stole the plans of protective minefields, and generally played havoc with German security.

Then, with two trusted friends, he decided to make for England. After a nightmare journey of twenty-two days, running the gauntlet of German patrols, and lashed by storms, the little boat finally arrived in the U.K.

After two years training in Canada and England, Olsen was parachuted into Norway to continue his work, establishing constant radio communication with London. He and his organisation gave invaluable assistance to the Allies.

Olsen was never caught, but there were innumerable occasions when he escaped detection and certain death by what must have seemed Divine intervention.

A stunning book, thrilling and absorbing and proving (if proof were needed) that truth can really be stranger than fiction.

Cat. No. 1686

### A Roof Over My Head together with The Art of Coarse Sailing

By Michael Green

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 8½ hours

The author and his wife were quite happy in their rented London flat—until "The Australian Boys" moved into the one above. They proved to be such noisy neighbours that the Greens decided it was time to buy a place of their own.

They found it, a large Victorian house, conveniently situated. All it needed was just one or two things doing.

Unhappily the jobbing builder hired by Green had very different ideas as to what constituted "just a few things". He was also grossly incompetent and disarmingly dishonest. Each time the proud owner went to see how his house was going on, progressively larger chunks of it had been torn down.

Costs rocketed like the National Debt. He commuted his pension and sold the car in a despairing, but unavailing effort to keep pace with the ever-rising tide of bills. His health (and sanity) began to suffer.

Eventually, by some miracle, the Greens did manage to move into their now ruined house. But once again the author demonstrated his unerring genius for backing losers and chose the most incompetent removers in London...

The second book "The Art of Coarse Sailing" is very much in the mould of the other "Coarse Art" books. The author defines a coarse sailor as one who in a moment of crisis forgets nautical terminology and yells, "For God's sake turn left!"

Incidentally, the reader apologises "most sincerely" for his "occasional loss of self-control"—which must be some kind of recommendation!

Cat. No. 637

### Tremor of Intent

By Anthony Burgess

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time 10 hours

Roper, a top-flight physicist, has an odd guilt complex about British conduct during the war. He meets and marries a German, but she soon proves to be no better than she ought—if you follow my meaning. She departs to ply her trade in more salubrious surroundings.

After this, Roper really goes to the dogs and begins to mix with quite the wrong people. Eventually he defects to the Russians.

READING TIME—continued

Denis Hillier, his old school chum, is a British agent on the verge of retirement. His masters ask him if he would care to bring back the erring scientist, with the promise of a golden (or at least gold-plated) handshake as reward.

The rest of the book deals with Hillier's battle to snatch the unwilling Roper from the bosom of his Communist mates.

A lively fast-moving tale. Very enjoyable.

Cat. No. 2667

**Circus**

By Alistair MacLean

Read by Stephen Jack

Reading Time 7 hours

As every schoolboy knows, matter is composed of negative electrons and positive protons, and it is a wholly satisfactory arrangement. But just suppose there appeared particles with reversed polarity, and some brilliant mad scientist started monkeying around with them. The result would be a weapon with an explosive force which would make the neutron bomb seem like good-natured fun.

This, then, is the set-up at the beginning of the book. The scientist—and his formula are in East Germany, and the CIA would give their collective eye-teeth to get their hands on him—and it.

But the laboratory is situated in an impregnable fortress, guarded by every known gadget of security. Only one man in the world has a cat in Hell's chance of getting in (and out) of the place.

And that's Bruno Wildermann. He is the greatest trapeze artiste in the circus world, he hates the regime which destroyed his family—and he just happens to be a native of Krau, where the fortress is.

As an elaborate cover-up operation, the whole circus goes on a European tour, one of the calling places being, of course, Krau. Will Bruno and his circus friends pull off the impossible?

A rattling good yarn, full of suspense and excitement, with the usual MacLean 'twist' at the end.

And what's more there are no swear-words and positively no explicit sex . . .

Which I find oddly refreshing.

Cat. No. 1595

**The Ascent of D13**

By Andrew Garve

Read by Stanley Pritchard

Reading Time 5½ hours

A British aircraft, testing a highly sophisticated camera for NATO, is hijacked by one of the scientists on board who is working for the Russians. He orders the pilot to fly to a destination in Russia.

The crew manage to overpower the defector, but by this time they are over Soviet territory. The plane is shot down by Russian fighters. It crashes on the summit of D13, a virtually unclimbable peak on the Soviet-Turkish border.

It is absolutely vital that the heavy camera be destroyed before the Russians can get to it. By chance a world-famous British Everest climber is in the area, and he and an American officer volunteer to attempt the dangerous ascent.

The account of their climb is absolutely stunning. Every pitch, every precarious toe-and-finger hold is described in the minutest blood-chilling detail. At times I felt proper poorly—I get vertigo standing on a kitchen chair.

A very enjoyable read, a nice balance between political knavery and the gutsy heroism of man against pitiless Nature.

Oh, and there is a love interest and a nice tidy ending.

Cat. No. 2802

**Old Customs & Ceremonies of London**

By Margaret Brentnall

Read by John Richmond

Reading Time 8 hours

The title says it all. This splendid book tells you everything you ever wanted to know about the ancient folk-lore and institutions of London. It is wide-ranging, from the Livery Companies to the Maundy Money, from the Gunpowder Plot to the time-honoured rituals still enacted annually in scores of churches in the city.

Many of the customs are as bizarre as they are old, others are quite delightful. My own favourite is the annual ceremony of Knolly's (pronounced 'Knowle's') Rose, which demonstrates just what can happen when a strong-willed medieval lady builds a bridge—without planning permission!

Cat. No. 1484

**Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone**

By James Baldwin

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 15 hours

Leo Proudhammer, a distinguished American Negro actor, suffers a heart attack while on stage. During his long convalescence he has time to think, and in a series of "flashbacks" traces his life from childhood to his present eminence.

His boyhood in the ferocious jungle of Harlem, with its despair and aching poverty, persecuted by the white cops, threatened by kids from rival neighbourhoods, his only friend, guide and protector is Caleb his elder brother. There is a deep and abiding love between the boys.

While still a teenager he joins up with a ramshackle Workshop Theatre Group. He is accepted by the other members, but not by the outside world, the white world.

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**THE OTHER SIDE OF STRATFORD**

by Phillip Wood

William Shakespeare is to Stratford-upon-Avon what cotton is to Manchester, or cups and saucers to Stoke-on-Trent; its staple industry. The town is naturally extremely proud of its illustrious son, and devoutly thanks God that he continues to be a splendid paying proposition.

Every other shop seems to be given over to the peddling of souvenirs, the usual graceless atrocities which one might expect, Ann Hathaway tea-cosies, Shakespeare ashtrays, car-stickers, pipe-racks and doorknockers. If all the plaster busts of "The Bard" were dropped into the deepest mine-shaft in the country, they would probably fill it to overflowing—and anybody with half a grain of taste would heartily applaud the exercise.

I suppose that one could easily forget that Shakespeare made spellbinding magic with our English language. Here in his birthplace his commercial value is calculated to the last egg-timer, the last ounce of candy-floss. All summer long, the cash-registers ring out their merry tune, "Will's in his Heaven, all's right with

There is a moving and dramatic scene where he is walking with his white girlfriend in a street in a small Southern township. They are forced to flee from the vengeance of the outraged townfolk.

During the next few years his undoubted talents begin to be recognised, and at the time of his illness he has enjoyed many years as a celebrated actor. But he is still "black" with everything that implies.

This is not just the story of Leo Proudhammer. It is, as Baldwin surely intended it to be, the continuing story of the plight of the Negro as a second-rate human being in a white-dominated American society. As one of the characters says, "You ain't nothin' but a nigger an' the life they (the whites) makes you lead is the only life you deserve, because God says so!"

Savage, bitter and beautifully written, the book is eminently readable—but for adults only.

the world". Every prospect pleases and only the Baconian Society is vile!

But what surprises me about Stratford is that no amount of ruthless commercial exploitation has succeeded completely to spoil the place. The swans still glide majestically on the gently flowing Avon, and in the shadow of the ancient smiling houses, it is not difficult to forget the peppermint rock and the postcards.

For there is an "atmosphere" about Stratford-upon-Avon. Under the tawdry impedimenta of the tripper's Mecca, this small town, in the very heart of rural England, is undeniably Shakespeare's town. He knew the river and the narrow streets and the crooked little houses, benign and stooping with age. The café where you drink your afternoon tea is floored with two-foot square slabs, laid when he was a lad.

And if you truly love him, you might just catch, coming from infinite space, a soft chuckle and a rich Warwickshire voice, murmur in your receptive ear, "Lord what fools these mortals be!"



## INTO THE EIGHTIES

### A Comment on Research by Richard Dufton

Photos: David Castleton

*As Director of Research at St. Dunstan's, Richard Dufton experiments with the Sonic Torch. He is now a Member of our Council and consultant on research.*

If living standards are to be improved or even maintained in the eighties, much is likely to devolve on science and technology in finding solutions to some of the problems that beset the economies of most countries today. The massive increase in world demand for oil and its products, coupled with soaring prices, call as much, however, for changed attitudes by everyone for a more economical use of fuels in transport, heating and industrial processes as dependence on technology to improve the efficiency of energy conversion and ultimately to provide longer-term substitutes.

Of more immediate concern is the introduction of the new electronics technology—the micro-processor or silicon chip. Will its introduction raise more problems than it solves in the first few years as our primary industries rationalise and labour forces have to regroup into more flexible production units? It could

be that factories in the future will be smaller with a higher rate of specialist personnel and the whole standard of the works will be at a higher technical level.

Many observers believe that the micro-chip heralds a dramatic advance in the whole field of communications, from the way books are produced and read and the way children are taught, through to revolutionary changes in telephonic and satellite communications.

Clearly researchers and designers of special aids for the blind will have smaller and more rugged components to develop aids that are more widely acceptable to blind people. This article will attempt to identify some of the areas in which progress can be expected.

#### Industrial Employment

The national trend of new placement of blind people shows a reduction in the

numbers entering the metal working sector and a main recommendation, in a recent working party report on "Employment of Blind People", is for an in-depth investigation into this trend and also into opportunities for the blind in a wide range of vocational fields. Sharp increases in raw material, energy and labour costs have made it essential to modernise a wide range of machine tools and plant in factories, and many of the machines so successfully operated by St. Dunstaners since the forties are being superseded by semi-automatic or fully automated models. To increase the productivity of machines, inspection and gauging is usually undertaken during the actual machine cycle and this has had an adverse effect on the employment of blind people in inspection and quality control departments.

Micro-electronics has played a big part in this modernisation process, providing bright digital displays indicating the moment-to-moment changes in dimensions as the component is being produced, through to numerically controlled or even computer controlled sophisticated machines on which aero engine and air frame parts are produced.

Ahead of detailed investigations one could hardly predict whether selected bright digital displays could be handled by, say, partially sighted operators who may be already able to read large print. The question of a speech synthesis adaptation to make a digital display talk might be a possibility, but there are several factors to take into account, including the high noise levels in machine shops and the rapid action needed by the operator on the machine's control panel.

#### Commercial Employment

The numbers entering commercial employment have tended to increase in the past few years. A high degree of communications skills is usually a prerequisite for success in this area. Concern has been expressed by many blind people that it is very difficult to get on the "promotional ladder" and advance their career prospects as do sighted people. In business, government departments or public services generally, the traditional communications skills, Braille and typing, are insufficient, and there is probably

need for more business training and more technological aid in the way of special communications devices, some to enable blind people to use data-processing systems of all kinds to store information and to retrieve it at will, to make up complete personal filing systems of information and so on, thus going some way to restoring the imbalance with sighted employees. This is of course an enormous area to investigate. Business got off to a flying start, getting well ahead of industry in modernisation and making far greater use of computers and advanced data handling systems in the last decade.

Blind computer programmers have made significant penetration in recent years, over 100 now engaged in the U.K., and improvements to the terminal devices they use can be expected to advance considerably with the introduction of micro-processors and the possibilities they present for two-way communication in Braille or speech with the computer or other data-handling systems.

#### Reading Machines

The long-term goal—a synthesiser to speak direct from print—became a reality when a batch of evaluation machines was produced by the Kurzweil organisation in the U.S.A., the machines costing about £30,000 each. The production engineered stage was arrived at in 1979 and later in the year the first machine to leave America, as the subject of joint evaluation by the RNIB and St. Dunstan's, was installed at our London Headquarters in August. In America the machine is envisaged more as a group facility for libraries and schools, on account of the high cost of the back-up facilities that are needed. However, the production model costs £10,000, but this may have to be increased in the near future. To resolve technological and linguistic problems in a machine with full optical character recognition and weighing less than 100 lbs is an enormous achievement and great credit is reflected on its inventor, Raymond Kurzweil, and his multi-disciplinary team who have researched, developed and produced the Kurzweil Reading Machine.

It is not an automatic reading machine which one switches on and listens to;





*Child's play? Nine-year-old Carla Peach, who is among the blind people coming to St. Dunstan's to help evaluate the Kurzweil Reading Machine.*



*In 1972 the first class of instruction in the use of the Optacon was opened at St. Dunstan's Headquarters in London.*

the user himself is very much involved in the system, accommodating to a degree of error if need be when indistinct type, or low contrast, or italics, or other factors are met with. About 14 of the 30 control panel switches concern the movement of the scanner across the page. It can be varied in speed and direction, backtracking, spelling out an unrecognised word letter by letter, finding the top line on a page and so on. The Kurzweil Reading Machine has the great merit that it can be updated as the manufacturer's laboratories improve the quality of speech output. All that is necessary is for users to be supplied with a replacement cassette tape. This is a master programme that is fed into the machine at the commencement of the reading run, when the new improvements will be experienced.

#### **Optacon Developments**

The first reading machine to reach the production engineered stage in quantity at the beginning of the seventies was the

Optical to Tactile Conversion of Print machine called the Optacon, and some 5,000 have been manufactured. The machine is compact and has been on the list of special aids that are issued on loan by the Employment Services Division of the Manpower Services Commission in this country in appropriate cases to those in employment who can use it effectively. The Californian company, Telesensory Systems, who developed and distribute the Optacon, plan to add a synthetic speech output in the early eighties, retaining the small hand-tracked camera which is a feature of the optical to tactile current design. Predictably the adaptation to synthetic speech output will take the form of a micro-processor in a small unit into which the present hand-tracked camera can be plugged, making possible the conversion of existing models.

This development will be awaited with great interest for the two speech synthesis systems will be quite different and will provide an interesting basis for com-

parison. Massive research and presumably very high costs will be involved to produce the speech synthesis in languages other than English, mainly on account of linguistic problems. At the same time, if a foreign country wished to purchase a Kurzweil, or an Optacon speech synthesis type machine, they might well support development by the manufacturers who have accumulated a vast amount of computational and linguistic expertise.

The whole question of optical character recognition in data entry systems in business and commerce is under intensive development and it may be that reading aids for the blind are already projected in other countries.

#### **Storage and Retrieval**

Braille is entering a new era in the storage and retrieval of information through the development of the compact personal aids where it can be stored magnetically on tape from a normal 6-key input and presented again as a temporary line of metallic reeds approximating closely to Braille dots. As the end of the

line is reached the next line is set up. No paper, of course, involved. The Versabrilie is typical of the class of aid incorporating voice recording and playback. These aids could have a significant impact on employment in the general area of business and commerce, going some way towards solving the problem already mentioned of compiling a store of general information by an individual blind person. Early models may cost as much as the Optacon, but there seems no reason why speech-only models could not be produced eventually at a fraction of the price, and have a much wider application domestically, keeping financial accounts and records of all kinds that modern society demands.

Another development which may extend opportunities of employment in business is the talking typewriter. The IBM Audio Typing Unit will record digitally on to the magnetic cards used in word-processing machines as the operator types. The special feature of the machine is that a spoken verification of the material typed in its entirety, or line

*The Versabrilie machine. Photo: Telesensory Systems Inc.*



by line, or even word by word and letter by letter, can be heard by the typist. This might open the door to a blind person seeking employment in a company employing modern word-processing systems.

#### Traditional Communications

It is well known that Braille's 6 dots can be arranged in 63 configurations and that by changing the rules and the meanings of signs additional codes such as mathematics, science notation, shorthand and computer languages can be learned and handled with facility.

Researchers report that the use of Braille is declining in some countries and limited research is currently in progress to discover if better teaching methods can be evolved. In some countries the code itself has been considerably modified to accommodate data-processing methods of production. In the U.K. the RNIB has invested heavily in technology and new premises to ensure that the supply of Braille and Braille services will in fact be increased during the eighties, when the "solid dot" system will become obsolete under the new translation system using computers. As mentioned under storage and retrieval earlier, Braille has attracted the attention of researchers in compact devices using "paperless" Braille displaying a line at a time.

#### Tape Recorders and Talking Books

In the past two decades magnetic tape recording has provided by far the greatest single advance in communications for the blind. Nearly one-half of the blind population of the U.K., for example, listens to the British Talking Book Service, whilst on compact cassette Talking Newspapers and other special recording services have made a significant contribution. For example, many readers of this article will listen on compact cassette. Improvements can be expected in the amount of material that can be recorded on a given length of cassette tape on account of new metallic coatings which are being evolved and permit very much slower recording and play-back without deterioration of speech. There are associated developments in the area of quick re-location of any part of a recording on the tape for re-play purposes. But a main need is for greater ruggedness and

reliability in the cheaper versions of portable recorders, where breakdown and repair costs cause serious inconvenience to users.

A new principle termed "digital recording" is likely to advance rapidly in the eighties, with the advantage it offers for improved reliability and fidelity, particularly in classical music. On the question of high fidelity keen international competition is likely to intensify in the eighties with each new family of tuner/amplifiers and music centres offering technological innovation made possible by the silicon chip. In a somewhat different area, no one could have envisaged the evolution of the modern pocket calculator from the early mechanical devices, let alone the development of the talking electronic calculator such as the Speech Plus, which made its appearance a year or two ago. Its semiconductor circuit boards are involved in projects in London and in New Zealand to discover if the recently introduced type of light-emitting diode telephone extension switchboards are amenable to adaptation to voice output. LEDs have insufficient electrical energy to drive the small arrays of solenoids that at present give tactual indication of incoming calls to blind operators.

#### The Transistor's Influence

None of the developments briefly referred to would have been possible were it not for the invention of the transistor about 30 years ago in the Bell Laboratories in New York. Together with its associated semi-conductor components it has made the evolution of the micro-chip possible and the storage of infinitely large amounts of information to be rivalled only by another system, not involving semi-conductors, bubble memories, whose capacity is also rated in millions of bits of information. Semi-conductors have also been at the heart of mobility aid developments and design in recent years, from ultrasonic to laser-light principles, and in the simpler devices giving vibratory or auditory coded information about obstacles in the path or other features of the environment. It may be that researchers will look into the possibility of voice displays with a comparatively small vocabulary, if further devices are evolved in the eighties.

## ROYAL VISIT

by Tommy McKay

In 1948 I had the great pleasure of meeting and talking to the Queen Mother, at Ovingdean. You can imagine my surprise and delight when I received a special invitation from the Queen Mother to be present and to meet Her Majesty at Gifford House, Worthing, on 6th November.

Gifford House is a home for severely disabled ex-servicemen. Her Majesty came to open a new Research Department, in memory of Sir James Bowes-Lyon.

We were sent an official card and sticker for the car as well as a plan of the private parking. Needless to say we arrived in good time and after having our credentials checked we were taken to the leisure centre.

The leisure centre is partly a workshop and partly a showroom for the many articles the men make in wood, leather, as well as pieces of jewelry. While we were waiting for Her Majesty we were introduced to quite a number of the Bowes-Lyon family, who were there.

We assumed that we would be with the staff and patients to meet the Queen Mother. Not a bit. I, much to my indignation, was whisked off in a wheelchair, with my wife, Phyl, following, to a small room to await Her Majesty. After going round the wards and talking to some of the patients and staff, the Queen Mother unveiled the Memorial Plaque and then went on to have tea with Matron.

Her Majesty, followed by her entourage, introduced herself to me by saying: "Mr. McKay. How kind of you to come and meet me," and shook us warmly by the hand. She had even taken her glove off. I told her I had not forgotten her kindness in 1948, to which she replied that it was so long ago. She asked me where I lived and I said "Brighton". She then inquired where I came from and when I said "Edinburgh", she repeated "Edinburgh" and accentuated the "R" and smiled. As she was leaving Gifford House, the Queen Mother shook hands with us again—which brought to the end a truly unforgettable day.

## OBITUARY

#### Professor Colin Cherry

We are sorry to report the death, on 23rd November, of Professor Colin Cherry, Henry Mark Pease Professor of Telecommunications at Imperial College, London University.

Professor Cherry had served on St. Dunstan's Scientific Committee since 1971. During the Second World War he was involved in radar research and was attached to an R.A.F. operational squadron as a civilian, to assist with the introduction of equipment into operational use.

In 1949 he became Reader in Telecommunications in the University of London and his professorship was conferred on him in 1958.

In later years he turned to the theory of communication of information and to its psychological and social aspects. His knowledge and experience were of great

value to projects in St. Dunstan's research programme concerning reading and mobility aids for blind people.

## RETIREMENT

Gordon Poole and Mrs. Poole retired on 27th December.

Gordon Poole was one of the advance party preparing the Ovingdean Home for re-opening in 1946, when St. Dunstan's returned from Church Stretton.

He was a Nursing Orderly until 1950 and Assistant House Steward until Ovingdean became Ian Fraser House and he took over the duties of House Steward.

Mrs. Erica Poole was appointed Housekeeper in 1975, having been with us from 1949-1961 as a senior domestic.

We wish them many years of happy retirement.

Commandant will be pleased to receive donations from St. Dunstaners who have expressed a wish to be associated with a retirement gift.



Ron Smith brought microphones and other equipment to the Tape Recording Weekend.

## Tape Recording Weekend by Cyril Wood

During the evening of Friday, 2nd November about a dozen of us gathered in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House for the preliminary meeting of the first tape-recording weekend. After introducing ourselves to each other, we adjourned until Saturday morning, when we were to embark on the interesting aspects of "Tape Recording".

On Saturday morning our numbers swelled to 20 and the first session was devoted to "All My Own Work". Various people had brought tapes with them which we played. Some were recordings from records, others from radio programmes, and what proved to be very interesting were Eileen Williams' tapes about the Girls' Reunion and their visit to Warwick Castle; and Barbara Bell's recording of bird songs was delightful.

After the coffee break we had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Eric Carey, who are members of the Brighton and District Tape Recording Club. They stressed the importance of joining a Tape Recording Club, if there is one in your area, not only for pleasure, but also because of the amount you can learn from others. Mrs. Carey gave a fascinating talk on

building up a recording and Mr. Carey played some tapes illustrating their achievements. We thanked them for such an informative talk.

In the afternoon Mr. Don Roskilly came to speak to us. His subject was "The Talking Book Library—Future Trends in Recordings". This too was very informative and was open to questions and discussion. Arthur Lowe proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Roskilly.

After tea we were treated to some music recordings by Mr. Tom Eales and we had a light-hearted quiz. To play the game you had to give the name of the tune, the artist or even the instrument. (*Editor's note:* The author, Cyril Wood, won the quiz.)

On Sunday morning Ron Smith came to give us an insight into the art of interviewing and how to use various types of microphones and recording machines. His talk was entitled "The Span of Tape Recording for the Blind Enthusiast".

In the afternoon he played us his "Outdoor Recordings", which were most absorbing. The length of tapes belied the amount of time and patience plus the

technical know-how which had gone into their preparation. We all realised the heights which can be achieved in tape recording by Ron's example, and we are deeply indebted to him. Later on that afternoon, Mr. Tom Eales demonstrated one of the latest of Sharp's Music Centres, which Messrs. John King, of Brighton, had lent St. Dunstan's for this special weekend.

This "get together" was rounded off on Sunday evening by one of Tom's music programmes. For this he had chosen a selection of music played by Werner Mueller and his Orchestra.

On behalf of all those who attended this special weekend, I would like to

thank everyone who helped to make it so successful, especially Miss Guilbert who made all the arrangements, Tom Eales for the music and Ron Smith for his encouragement. You do not have to be "blinded with science" to be able to enjoy taping—my music centre hasn't got a lot of sophisticated dials and switches, but what is taped on it is still quite pleasing to my ears and that, to me, is really what taping is all about. One thing we all learnt was to avoid chrome tapes, if possible, as these are hard on the tape heads and will cause more wear than other types of tapes. I am sure that this first tape recording weekend is only the beginning of many more to come.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

#### ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Our weekly Wednesday club meetings have been fairly well attended and quite a few first round matches of the Sir Arthur Pearson competitions have been completed.

One of our top social events, our Christmas Dance, was held in the Annexe of Ian Fraser House on Saturday, 8th December and 120 members, wives and friends attended this function.

Among our guests were a number of well known local residents, including Mr. Henry Cohen, Director of Brighton Marina, and Mrs. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Reed (Royal British Legion).

We give our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Cohen who kindly presented the trophies and prizes to the lucky winners of the various competitions and we also owe a great debt of gratitude to all those friends who donated such wonderful gifts for our raffle.

Once again our dance band, The Compact Three, gave their usual high-class performance and everybody enjoyed dancing to their music. Also our thanks to the committee wives for the excellent buffet. The time seemed to go so quickly and at 12 o'clock everybody joined in Auld Lang Syne and then we made our way home, tired, but happy.

HARRY PREEDY

### BRIDGE SECTION

We held our Christmas Bridge Drive on Sunday 2nd December, which was the final event of 1979. We had a most entertaining afternoon with 12 pairs participating. The prize winners were:

1st R. Freer & Mrs. V. McPherson 1,980  
2nd V. Delaney & Mr. M. Douse 1,870  
Joint 3rd

F. Griffie & Mr. R. Green } 1,350  
W. Phillips & Dr. J. Goodland }

I would like to express my thanks to all who have taken part, or have helped the Bridge Section in any way during the past year.

W. LETHBRIDGE

### SUTTON

The Sutton Club continues to operate (though small in numbers) under the leadership of John Taylor. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all St. Dunstaners, past and present Club members and all the staff of St. Dunstan's a "Very Happy New Year" and leave with you a thought for the New Year:

Friendship's light casts welcome rays in life's dark uncertain ways, But Friendship's light shines best of all on the days when shadows fall.

REG NEWTON



T.B. group winner, Tony Dodd, of Lee-On-Solent.



Ted Brown, of Huntingdon, winner of the P.S. group. Photos: John Barrow.

## BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's Championships produced 34 entries: a very good response. It seems that bowling is becoming more popular every year and had we had the other half dozen entries, who for varying reasons could not make it, the final entry would have been over 40. This year, having two weeks to work with, I was able to divide the entries into smaller groups in each category and the players were able to play each other once within their group and the winner and runner-up from each group went forward into a knock-out, which produced an overall winner, as the results show.

The pairs draw worked out extremely well with a T.B./P.S. comprising a pair. Thus in the double amputee group there were three entries and in fact there could have been five or six had everyone who now uses a ring to bowl entered. This also applied to our women's section, as I do know that there are a couple more who would play and they also would have their own section. How about it ladies? The two women who did join us and enter, Margaret Bingham and Violet Delaney, competed uncomplainingly against the might of the male competitors.

Competition was very keen and the enthusiasm started to build up in the Micky Robinson Handicap which always precedes the main Championships. As we can see from the results the favourites were knocked off their perches, which was quite a surprise, by those who have not been in the bowling game very long. The bowling conditions were similar to last year, when we bowled one night, with very limited lighting because of a power failure. The only way the umpire could tell who had bowled was by identifying the words spoken as the bowl arrived at the jack. This year the bowlers were shielded behind a smoke screen and the umpire was able to identify the bowler by the type of cough coming from the bowling end!

The Championships were concluded by a dance and a social evening held in the Annexe and the trophies and medals were presented by Commandant, during the interval—a very good ending to two weeks of excellent bowling. During the fortnight a wonderful atmosphere prevailed—just like old times at Ovingdean.

J. CARNOCHAN  
Sports Organiser

## Bowls Championship Results

This year competitors were divided into groups, each player being matched against the others in his group. Winners and runners-up went on to a knock-out competition.

### Group A (T.B.)

1. Osborne
2. Dodd
3. Brett
4. Gaygan
5. Bell

### Group C (T.B.)

1. Morrish
2. Padley
3. Stubbs
4. Delaney
5. Quinn

### Group E (P.S.)

1. Brown
2. Davies
3. Forshaw
4. Carter
5. Bingham
6. Acton

### Group B (T.B.)

1. Preedy
2. Cope
3. Burnett
4. Mugan
5. Claydon

### Group D (P.S.)

1. Robinson
2. Hudson
3. Palmer
4. Morris
5. Hodgson
6. Wiggins

### Group F (P.S.)

1. Pellington
2. Scales
3. Surridge
4. Golding
5. Simmons
6. Boorman

### Full knock-out results:

#### T.B. First Round:

Morrish	3,	Padley	8
Cope	6,	Dodd	13

Byes: Osborne, Preedy

#### Semi-Finals:

Osborne	5,	Preedy	6
Padley	6,	Dodd	10

#### Final:

Preedy	6,	Dodd	10
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## BOWLS HANDICAP

The Mickey Robinson Bowls Handicap for November was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed themselves amid an atmosphere of sportsmanship and intense concentration—it was wonderful. The winner of the competition was R. Palmer, the runner-up was D. Hodgson and there were two losing semi-finalists J. E. Brown and J. Padley. The quality of this competition improves with each session, I only hope that it will continue to do so as we go along, as this is something that really should be carried on. The Manager, Mickey, does a very good job of the handicapping and everything seems to work out so evenly. We must have many more of these competitions.

P. W. ACTON

### P.S. First Round:

Robinson	8,	Pellington	7
Hudson	4,	Davies	7

Byes: Scales, Brown

### Semi-Finals:

Scales	2,	Brown	7
Robinson	4,	Davies	12

### Final:

Brown	7,	Davies	2
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### D.H. Final:

Brett	14,	Gaygan	1
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### Pairs Knock-Out:

#### Preliminary Round:

Bell/Palmer	7,	Burnett/Wiggins	4
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#### First Round:

Preedy/Bingham	9,	Gaygan/Scales	1
Cope/Hudson	2,	Quinn/Surridge	5
Wheeler/Davies	2,	Simmon/Morris	5
Waters/Hodgson	2,	Padley/Golding	8
Morrish/Boorman	6,	Dodd/Brown	1
Stubbs/Robinson	4,	Delaney/Pellington	3
Mugan/Acton	1,	Brett/Carter	5
Osborne/Forshaw	4,	Bell/Palmer	1

#### Second Round:

Preedy/Bingham	2,	Quinn/Surridge	9
Simmon/Morris	5,	Padley/Golding	3
Morrish/Boorman	3,	Stubbs/Robinson	5
Brett/Carter	2,	Osborne/Forshaw	5

#### Semi-Finals:

Quinn/Surridge	3,	Simmon/Morris	10
Stubbs/Robinson	7,	Osborne/Forshaw	1

#### Final:

Simmon/Morris	2,	Stubbs/ Robinson	6
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## BOWLING NOTES

We have now played three matches of our Winter Session—Burgess Hill, Worthing and Hove and Kingsway, which were all thoroughly enjoyable. We are now looking forward to our next match with Woodingdean, on 11th January.

Congratulations to Tony Dodd—Winner of the T.B. Class and to Harry Preedy—Runner-Up in the St. Dunstan's Bowls Championships, and not forgetting our Chairman, Mickey Robinson, who won the doubles with Percy Stubbs.

The Winter Aggregate for the Sir Michael Ansell Cup will start in January. Happy New Year to all our bowlers and their wives.

W. DAVIES, Vice-Captain

## Gardening Column

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Here we are again in a new season. I hope you all have excellent crops with plenty of colour, both indoors and out. All the catalogues will have arrived by now, so get your orders in as soon as possible. Try out one or two new varieties, but don't be too extravagant, as many of the old kinds are still the best, as I have found out over the last few years by trying to be a bit too clever. I have had quite good germination from seeds, but I don't really have the ideal conditions to keep the plants going during the winter, unless I turn the heating up, but that would be so expensive. Even the price of a packet of seeds has gone up, but it is still cheaper to grow plants from seed than to buy in plants.

As usual there are more mechanical gadgets coming on to the market, making gardening easier. I still think that the best way to get good results is hard work with a spade, fork, rake and hoe. These tools are not costly to repair and if you have to replace them they may have gone up in price, but will be much cheaper in the long run.

### Digging

I know it gets more difficult to do the digging as one gets older. Either cut down the area under cultivation, or get in a local person with a cultivator to do the worst part and then carry on yourself. There is not a lot to be done in the garden at the moment, since there is frost around. If you work the soil in these conditions you often do more harm than good. However, you can spread on some compost, which can be worked in before you do any planting.

I was glad to hear that those of you who went on the gardening weeks, at Ian Fraser House, had a good time and learnt a lot of useful tips, which will help you in the years to come to get first class results. It is so much better to have practical advice and help than that which comes from books and articles. At least one can ask questions which are pertinent to the conditions in your area, as we

people can only give general advice.

Hoe between the rows of greens that are coming along, but don't do this if it is wet as you will tread down the soil and have to hoe all over again. Pick off all yellowing leaves, putting them and any weeds you pick up into the compost heap.

Try to get all the digging done by the end of the month, so that the frost can get at the underparts of the soil and break it up, as this often helps to eradicate some insects and diseases.

Plan out which areas you want to plant. Do not put greens in the same place as last year, or you may get troubled with club root. If you want to start a new vegetable patch, plant a crop of potatoes as they will help to open up the ground for future use.

In the warmer parts of the country, in the South and West, you may be able to plant some pea and broad bean seeds, but do protect them in bad weather. You can also plant lettuce, but I would cover them with cloches or plastic sheeting raised off the ground on short supports. Quite a few seeds can be planted now. Sow them in pots or trays under glass, or put them in a frost-free shed and they should be ready for early planting in the garden. However, don't be too ambitious and leave the main seed sowing till March or April.

### Fruit

When the weather permits, you can do the main pruning. When a bush or tree has become rather thick and crowded in the middle, it is best to open it up by cutting out some of the older branches or shoots. Cut back the outer new growths by at least half, in order to give the fruit spurs more of the food, which would otherwise go to these rather unwanted growths. Don't despair if some of the trees have borne no fruit. It may be because they yield a good crop every other year. Spray the fruit trees with insecticide, but do wear gloves and protect your face. Remember to wash yourself thoroughly after doing the job.

Keep the borders well hoed and forked over. Push the soil at the edges into the middle of the bed, but be careful not to disturb those dwarf bulbs, which will be ready to flower very soon. Prepare the areas where the summer annuals are to be planted by spreading compost or farm-yard manure on the soil. If you have heavy soil, add some sand and peat to break it up, so that the roots can spread and take a firm hold.

As I said before, sort out which plants you want and order them now. If you have a small garden choose smaller growing types. However, if you have a large area to plant, tall plants put at the back of the bed with shorter items in front look very effective. Remember that tall plants often need staking. You can protect your bulbs from the frost by spreading some peat or compost on top of them. Even if they do not really need it, the soil will be enriched. Cut away all broken shoots from the shrubs, trees and roses, but do not do the full pruning yet.

### Greenhouse

There will be a bit more life in here now. You will have to water the plants a little more, but don't overdo it. Ventilate the greenhouse when it is at all possible and on really sunny days leave the door open for a while. Keep on using smoke pellets to combat the mould and insects.

Cuttings and seedlings can be moved into bigger pots, but make sure they have a good root system before you move them. Fuchsia plants can be pushed along to get them going for cuttings later on and the really good Dahlias should be started off and they will give you plenty of cuttings. You can take cuttings of Chrysanthemums and Carnations now and you can sow some seeds. However, it may be advisable to wait a while before planting too many seeds, as you will need to keep the greenhouse fairly warm to get good results. I find that the end of February and beginning of March is early enough for planting seeds; germination seems to be better, or perhaps it is just my imagination.

Tidy up the greenhouse and wash out all the boxes and pots. Make sure that you have plenty of seed compost, either of your own mixture or buy some. Soil-less composts (peat/sand or pure peat) are

much the best, as they are sterile and won't bring in any of the things that ordinary garden soil will do, unless it is properly sterilised.

Keep a check on your oil stove. Trim the wick as it can easily smoke if the top isn't kept clean. If you have a paraffin heater tank it is a good idea to top it up each day, even if it has a good capacity. I do this with mine and it does save a good deal of work and you know that the heater will burn properly. Many potted bulbs will be showing buds, so put them as near the light as possible; remember they will need a bit more water now and even a dilute feed every so often.

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### ADDITIONS TO CASSETTE LIBRARY:

- G10 Fidelity Chess Challenger (*See November Review*) (C90).  
Track 1—general description and demonstration of the voice.  
Tracks 1 and 2—the manual of instruction that is supplied with the game.
- SD5 Track 1—Kurzweil Reading Machine Press Conference held at Headquarters on 17th August, 1979.  
Track 2—Extracts of BBC Radio and TV coverage (C90).
- SD6 Sound track of St. Dunstan's Film, "To Live Again" (C60).
- R21 Ragchew No. 3 (C90).
- R22 Talk on H.M. Coastguard (C90).
- R23 Ragchew No. 4 (C90).

Those requiring tapes are reminded that they must send a tape of their own with their request.

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We hear from Norton Christal that he and Howard Simocks continue their work for the British Legion in the Isle of Man. At a recent Annual General Meeting Howard was re-elected President and Norton is to be Chairman, a position he has held for 28 years.

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Our new St. Dunstaner Father Tierney, of Blackburn, offered a Mass for St. Dunstan's on Remembrance Sunday.

## A FISHY STORY

by Fred Barratt

A member of my family is a specialist in engineering. He has to travel a fair amount, even going abroad at times. One day he felt in a particularly good mood as he did not have to travel anywhere and he and his wife were talking about what he would like to have for lunch. "I would like to take some salmon sandwiches with me." His wife replied that there had been a recent scare over salmon and people had been very ill. However, she set-to and made him some. While she was making them, the family cat was meowing expectantly. The sandwiches were made and the leftovers given to pussy.

At 10.30 that morning Molly, his wife, went out into the back garden where she saw a sight which made her turn white with fear. The cat seemed to be in a very distressed condition and was having trouble standing up. Molly tried to soothe the cat and helped it to stand up—all to no avail. Suddenly she remembered her husband and the salmon sandwiches.

She rushed to the phone to ring her husband's office and told the person who answered it not to let her husband eat his sandwiches. "He already has," came the reply. She told her tale of woe to the manager, who promised to do what he could.

### White coated gentlemen

Meanwhile, her husband was working happily away when he was approached by two white-coated gentlemen. He was taken off to hospital to have his stomach pumped. Back home Molly tried to keep her mind occupied and went into the garden, where the whole escapade had started.

Her thoughts were interrupted. "Oh, Molly," said the lady next door. "I am awfully sorry about your cat." "Blow the cat," retorted Molly. "It's my husband I'm worried about." She stopped herself from telling the whole story but added, "What do you mean about the cat? Is it dead?" "Oh no," said the neighbour. "This morning I was washing out the milk bottles and a wet bottle flew right out of my hand and hit your cat on the head."

All was revealed. Molly must have seen

the cat just after the bottle-flying incident had occurred and the cat was suffering from shock and concussion. Before long the cat was well again; not so my relative. He was brought home some time later looking as though he had been dragged round town by wild horses. "You silly so and so," he told his wife when he heard the story. But how would you have reacted under the circumstances?

## Ovingdean Notes

Now that Christmas is almost with us and the Bridge Instruction Weekend is only a day or so away, it is good to see the house such a hive of activity. Fortunately our Padre, the Reverend Meek, and his wife show a keen interest in bridge and have kindly agreed to come and mark for us, so we look forward to seeing them during the year, when bridge players are so much in demand.

We have enjoyed some very good entertainment this month, everything comes at once. Twice the Dome has played to a full house, the highlight of the year being a super Variety Show given for charity—this year it was for the Year of the Child. Dickie Henderson headed a star studded cast. All gave unstintingly of their time and talent and to be a part of this audience, who participated with such enthusiasm, gave us an evening to remember. We also had the ever popular Gang Show, which this year was the best ever.

The Theatre Royal have been presenting some excellent plays, "Beyond a Joke" being one of them, in which Arthur Lowe gave his usual polished performance.

Our own St. Dunstaner Ron Smith treated us to one of his fascinating nature talks, with tape recordings of some beautiful bird songs, including the Nightingale and the dawn chorus. Other songs can be heard in the house, not quite as melodious as the Nightingale, but singing just the same with tidings of joy, when our V.A.D.s and Staff welcome us in on Christmas Eve with Christmas carols.

A very happy New Year to you all.



George Nolan, of Great Sutton, South Wirral, visited Laurie Greenham in Como, Western Australia, during a holiday there. Laurie is President of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Western Australia, also in the photograph is Jack McGregor, Vice-President.

### "HELPING HAND"

On 24th November, Tyne Tees Television began an eight week series called "Helping Hand". These programmes are designed to introduce viewers to people who are disabled and to raise questions about their everyday lives, highlighting various problems which have to be overcome. The programmes cover a wide range of topics, from a "Working Day" to "Mobility and Research". The programmes are on either Saturday or Sunday mornings, depending on which television area you come under. If you are interested check the daily press for transmission times.

## FAMILY NEWS

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Beattie, of Mobberley, are pleased to announce that their son, John, was married to Nina Taylor, on 28th September.

Mr. Harry Dakin, of Blackpool, is pleased to announce that three of his grandchildren have recently been married. Brian Jackson was married to Shirley Hampson, on 14th July; Margaret Jackson was married to Philip Evans, on 18th August and Christine Jackson was married to Trevor Roper, on 8th September.

Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, of Hounslow, are pleased to announce that their son, Ian, was married to Barbara Hesketh, on 22nd September.

### DIAMOND WEDDING

#### Many congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gibbs, of Stubbington, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on 17th January.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Brereton, of East Molesey, on the birth of their first grandson, Timothy, to their daughter Lorraine and her husband, on 2nd December.

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur David*, of St Athan, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Sarah Anne, to their son Ralph and his wife who live in Australia, on 16th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hiscox*, of Mountain Ash, on the birth of their first grandson, Mark Philip, to their daughter Wendy and her husband Philip, on 20th November.

*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palfrey*, of Bourne-mouth, on the birth of their third grand-child, Christopher Robert, to their daughter Joy and her husband, on 19th October.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Windley*, of Scarborough, on the birth of their tenth grandchild, Stacey Jane, to their daughter Pauline and her husband John, on 14th November.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cummings*, of Verwood, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Mary Anne Louise, on 22nd October.

*Mrs. Lucy Wood*, of Northampton, on the birth of her first great grandchild, Jade Elizabeth, who was born in Johannesburg, on 29th July.

## PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

### We warmly congratulate:

*Mr. Tom Taylor*, of Preston, who is very proud of his eight year old grandson, Mark Sharples, who has just won his Silver Medal for Personal Survival.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davies*, of Llanelli, whose son, Timothy, has recently obtained a Bronze Medal for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

## DEATHS

### We offer sincere sympathy to:

*Mr. Joseph Heselden*, of Eltham, whose wife, Alice, died on 18th November. She was 86 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Heselden had been married for 62 years.

*Mr. Edward Quinn*, of Peacehaven, whose sister died on 2nd December.

*Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wareham*, of Poole, on the deaths of Mr. Wareham's brother-in-law, nephew and sister-in-law.

*Mr. Randall Williams*, of Leytonstone, whose father died on 2nd September.

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## In Memory

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

### **Hugh Sidney Ellis** *2nd Leicesters, attached Indian Army*

Hugh Ellis, of West Mersea, Essex, died on 3rd December, 1979. He was 90 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1916.

He was a tea planter before the First World War, in which he was commissioned and served until he was blinded in Mesopotamia. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 and became a joiner and picture framer, making goods for private sale and for our Stores until less than five years ago. He was a keen St. Dunstaner and always much enjoyed attending Reunions, both locally and in London, and was a well-known figure in his area, especially in yachting circles. His health had gradually declined in recent years, but he was devotedly cared for at home, until he had to enter a nursing home.

He leaves a widow, Lulu, and many local friends.

### **Robert McDonald** *3rd Rifle Brigade*

Robert McDonald, of Liverpool, died in hospital on 15th November. He was 84 years old. He had been a St. Dunstaner for over 50 years.

At the beginning of the First World War he enlisted as a Rifleman in the 3rd Rifle Brigade and was wounded in France in 1917. Before joining up Mr. McDonald had been a cotton spinner.

Although he undertook a period of training in joinery, typewriting and rug-making, Mr. McDonald was unable to take up full-time employment because of poor health. Nevertheless his garden kept him fully occupied and he specialised in growing fine crops of tomatoes, and in recent years, with the help of his wife, had been cultivating a vine.

He leaves a widow, Kathleen, a daughter and two sons.

# WHAT'S ON IN 1980

## A Calendar of St. Dunstan's events

### REUNIONS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reunion</i>	<i>Hotel</i>
<b>March</b>		
<i>Friday 28th</i>	<b>Brighton</b>	Bedford
<b>May</b>		
<i>Thursday 15th</i>	<b>Manchester</b>	Midland
<i>Saturday 17th</i>	<b>Liverpool</b>	St. George's
<i>Saturday 31st</i>	<b>London (Central)</b>	Russell
<b>June</b>		
<i>Saturday 7th</i>	<b>Bristol</b>	Euro Crest
<i>Thursday 12th</i>	<b>Newcastle</b>	Royal Station
<i>Saturday 14th</i>	<b>Sheffield</b>	Grosvenor House
<b>July</b>		
<i>Thursday 3rd</i>	<b>Ipswich</b>	Copdock
<i>Saturday 5th</i>	<b>Birmingham</b>	Albany
<i>Saturday 12th</i>	<b>London (Kent &amp; Surrey)</b>	Russell
<i>Saturday 19th</i>	<b>Southampton</b>	Polygon

*The above are dates of events. Usually arrivals will be one day previous and departures one day afterwards.*

### EVENTS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>February</b>	
<i>9th/10th</i>	Chess
<i>23rd/24th</i>	Ham Radio A.G.M.
<b>March</b>	
<i>18th/28th</i>	Bowls Week (1)
<i>31st March/ 4th April</i>	Fishing (1)
<b>April</b>	
<i>4th/7th</i>	<b>Easter Weekend</b>
<i>12th/13th</i>	Masons' Weekend
<i>21st/25th</i>	Gardeners' Week
<b>May</b>	
<i>9th/13th</i>	Bridge Congress
<i>19th/23rd</i>	Tape Recording Week
<i>24th/26th</i>	<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>
<b>June</b>	
<i>2nd/6th</i>	Fishing (2)
<i>7th/8th</i>	Sports
<i>9th/15th</i>	Archery Instruction and Competition
<b>July</b>	
<i>19th/20th</i>	Ham Radio (2)
<b>August</b>	
<i>23rd/25th</i>	<b>Summer Bank Holiday</b>
<b>September</b>	
<i>8th/12th</i>	Fishing (3)
<i>13th/14th</i>	Far East P.O.W.
<i>18th/22nd</i>	Handless Reunion
<i>26th/30th</i>	Deaf Reunion
<b>October</b>	
<i>11th/12th</i>	Ham Radio (3)
<i>18th/19th</i>	Physiotherapy Conference
<b>November</b>	
<i>10th/21st</i>	Bowls Championships (2)
<b>December</b>	
<i>6th/7th</i>	Bridge Instruction

*Dont miss out on an event that interests you. Keep this handy pull-out page as a reminder through the year.*