

HARDING'S COACHES

DUPI
COACHES

St Dunstons
Review
October 1980



H.M. The Queen Mother is introduced to Ted Miller by the late Lord Fraser of Lonsdale in 1948.

Message from the Chairman

The Queen Mother's Birthday

Her Majesty the Queen is our Patron and St. Dunstan's is most fortunate in its royal patronage. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has always taken a great interest in our work through the years and many St. Dunstaners will remember especially her delightful visit to Brighton in 1948. On the occasion of her eightieth birthday in August, I sent the Queen Mother the following telegram:

ON BEHALF OF BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE
COMMONWEALTH OUR COUNCIL AND STAFF I SEND LOYAL GREETINGS AND EVERY
GOOD WISH FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

and I received the following reply from her Private Secretary:

QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER WAS MOST TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND MESSAGE
ON HER BIRTHDAY AND SENDS HER VERY SINCERE THANKS TO YOU AND TO ALL THOSE
WHO JOINED IN THESE GOOD WISHES.

Naval Generosity

On Sunday, 10th August, my wife and I visited the Camp at H.M.S. DAEDALUS and greatly enjoyed meeting the campers and all their splendid hosts and helpers. The weather was perfect and everyone was in very good form and having a wonderful time. We learned how popular archery was proving as a new sport at the Camp and the band of St. Dunstaners was most impressive when they gave us an impromptu concert.

Many thanks to all our friends, civilian and Naval, for continuing this happy tradition of a Camp holiday for such a large number of lucky St. Dunstaners every summer!

Jon Larnett-Dave

BEAT JACK FROST

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

WINTER BREAK?

A holiday home in Berschbach/Mersch (Luxembourg), catering specially for blind people, still has vacancies for October and November. The home is in Mersch, a village about 18 kilometres from the capital, near the 'Valley of the Seven Castles'. The home is set in its own grounds and Mersch itself is surrounded by beautiful woods and is lovely countryside to walk in.

The entire building has been adapted to the needs of the blind and each bedroom has a balcony and is equipped with a radio and refrigerator and has its own wash basin, shower and lavatory. Other facilities include a swimming pool, automatic bowling game and bar.

The price per day is 700 Belgian Francs (about £10) for full board. Apply *directly* to: Home Pour Aveugles, 47 Route de Luxembourg, Berschbach/Mersch, Luxembourg.

ADDITIONS TO TAPE LIBRARY

G12. C90. 'Which' report, May 1980, on music centres up to the value of £250. G13. C90 I track only. Talk at Ian Fraser House on the 'black box' in flight tape recorder, used in the assessment of the causes of air crashes.

Smoking at Brighton Homes

We would request that St. Dunstaners do not smoke in their bedrooms. There is an obvious fire risk here, when lighted cigarettes, hot ash or lighted pipes are left around.

May we also remind St. Dunstaners that there are ample receptacles for ash around the building, and to knock out pipes on walls or drop cigarette ends on the wood block floors or carpeted floors does not improve their decorative state.

VALUABLES

Would all St. Dunstaners coming to either of our Brighton Homes *please* remember the facility we offer of keeping valuables and money in a safe.

Either Matron will be pleased to do this for any resident, no matter how long they plan to stay.

BOWLING

In July three St. Dunstaners represented Norwich in the Blind and Partially Sighted Bowling team; Percy Stubbs was the Captain and Jock Forbes-Stewart and Bob Dorling were his team mates. They were competing in the Gordon Bailey Trophy, at Lowestoft, and their team beat Lowestoft and Cambridge for the third year running. Jock Forbes-Stewart had a personal triumph in beating the Olympic gold medallist, Miss Bonnett, 14-7.

St Dunstans Review

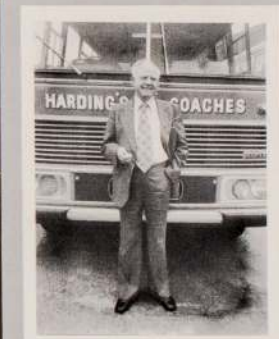
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OCTOBER 1980

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COVER PICTURE: Harry Harding is the subject of the Ways of Life article on centre pages.



Lawrence Fawcett with some of the ladies in his life: Miss Yvonne Guilbert, Mrs. Mary Avison, Mrs. Elizabeth Fawcett, Mrs. Avis Spurway and Miss Olive Hallett.

REUNIONS

A Special Occasion at Southampton

19th July at Southampton was Mr. Lawrence Fawcett's day. So said Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, our Chairman, as he welcomed about 100 people to the Polygon Hotel for the last regional reunion of 1980.

Four of the St. Dunstaners present were from the First World War and Mr. Garnett-Orme assured them that the hard times they went through in the early years of St. Dunstan's are borne in mind today, when any requests for assistance are received from them.

Among the guests was Mrs. Avis Spurway and the Chairman read from a letter she had written to Lord Fraser 35 years ago:

"Dear Ian, I hope you won't mind my writing you this line. It is about Lieutenant Fawcett, whom you met at the Camp. He is

such an exceptional person. I don't think I have ever met anyone so good to work with, or a more brilliant organiser and he combines it all with such a sense of humour and liking and understanding of the men. Nothing ever puts him out and — perhaps I oughtn't to say this — he wangled everything we wanted out of the Navy high-ups."

"Well, now", concluded the Chairman, "I don't think I could say anything that expresses our gratitude any more to Laurie for all the years of work he has done for us."

Mr. Garnett-Orme explained that two St. Dunstaners, Bob Young and Philip Bagwell would make a presentation to Mr. Fawcett later in the proceedings. He informed his audience of the numbers of St. Dunstaners

at home and abroad and introduced two who were attending their first Reunion at Southampton, Robert Bailey, of Southampton, and Alan Budd, of Gosport.

He also announced the presence of Vice-President, Dr. Donald Hopewell and Dr. A. N. McDonald, Member of Council. Other guests included, from Brighton, Mrs Avison, Matron Hallett and Miss Guilbert and he named members of staff present from Headquarters, including Mr. W. C. Weisblatt, Secretary, and Mr. C. D. Wills. Finally the Chairman proposed the toast of St. Dunstan's, coupled with the name of Robert Young.

Bob Young's Tribute

"This afternoon," said Bob Young, "Philip Bagwell and I have been asked to make this presentation on behalf of our fellow St. Dunstaners to Mr. Fawcett, as a token of our respect for him and our gratitude for his 33 years as Commandant at Brighton."

Bob told his audience of Lawrence Fawcett's war-time service as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, flying mostly over the Indian Ocean from bases in East Africa. "In 1946 some 50 of us paid our first annual visit to Lee-on-Solent as guests of the Fleet Air Arm. Mr. Fawcett was then the officer-in-charge of our well-being and a jolly good job he made of it. Everything that was humanly possible was laid on for our comfort and enjoyment.

"So in 1947 the Chairman found that the Commandant of the day was retiring and they asked Mr. Fawcett to take over his duties. A very proper Commandant he soon became because of his gift of wit and humour and also a store of amusing stories."

Rebuilding Homes

Bob Young told how Lawrence Fawcett had supervised the rebuilding and re-organisation of the two houses at Brighton, "For that, and for various other services, he was awarded the M.B.E. Frankly I think that was quite inadequate. It should have been either the Victoria Cross or a Knighthood, or both.

"Phil Bagwell is going to present Mr. Fawcett with a Georgian silver salver and two bon-bon dishes. Incidentally, I should



Bob Young.

mention that Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett chose these articles themselves, showing their excellent tastes! So many of our fellows have been to St. Dunstan's in Brighton, I know that they will join with Phil and myself in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett a very long and happy retirement to enjoy this token of our gratitude for 33 years of noble service."

Replying, Mr. Fawcett said, "Mr. Chairman, thank you for your invitation. My wife and I are delighted to come to this Reunion. You know, we should have gone to Brighton but a number of circumstances prevented this and the delay in this presentation is entirely my fault.

"I particularly, and my wife joins me in this, have an interest in old antique craftsmanship — and I'm not speaking about Bob Young now! The choice of the salver is entirely mine, but fortunately my wife does agree with certain things that I do and we were determined that your presentation should be one of a permanent kind and this will give us permanent pleasure. So thank you very much."

Saying that age invokes memories and emotions, Lawrence Fawcett gave some reminiscences of his encounters with St.

Dunstaners — among the emotions he invoked was mirth, as he recalled such occasions as distributing Christmas presents.

"Now a few words about the women in my life," he continued. "First I'd like to mention, not individually, 12 matrons, believe it or not, 12 matrons. That takes some coping with, too! Two of them are here today and I've had nice messages from quite a number of them who couldn't come. I would like to thank them for the way they made my work much easier and the companionship, in the true sense of colleagues working together. Secondly, my erstwhile secretary, Miss Guilbert, who actually started in St. Dunstan's a year before I did. From being personal, private secretary she became Training Officer and she has remained so." Mr. Fawcett referred to new projects Miss Guilbert has introduced, such as the tape-recording and gardening events at Ovingdean. "I know she has other things up her sleeve which she hopes to see come to fruition in the future."

Lawrence Fawcett said his third lady was Mrs. Avis Spurway and, described how he

came to join St. Dunstan's staff. "But Avis Spurway once said to me, 'If anything happens to you, or things don't go right, there's only one person who can be blamed and that's me!' Could I reassure the dear lady? There's no blame. It was an inspiration. Thank you."

Mr. Fawcett referred to the Second War St. Dunstaners and the newer young men he has seen pass through their training and some of the outstanding individuals, "But I say that all St. Dunstaners have played and are playing their part in keeping the name of St. Dunstan's synonymous with its motto: Victory Over Blindness."

He concluded with a tribute to his fourth lady — his wife, Elizabeth, and "Thank you for having us with you, good fortune, good health and God bless."

Bouquets of flowers were presented to Mrs. Garnett-Orme and Mrs. Fawcett by St. Dunstaners Mrs. Alice Gimbrere and by Mrs. Paul Gibbins, respectively.

Speeches were concluded with Bob Lloyd's vote of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners. His excellent speech included an expression of good wishes to Mr. and

Philip Bagwell makes the presentation to Lawrence Fawcett.



Mrs. Fawcett, reminiscences of days in training in Church Stretton and thanks to St. Dunstan's, the staff and in particular, Mrs. Lyall, who was responsible for the Reunion.

The afternoon continued with a showing of 'To Live Again', the documentary film on St. Dunstan's, and concluded with the prize draw and tea.

LONDON

The tenth regional reunion of 1980 brought us back to London and the Russell Hotel once again, where Air Vice-Marshal W. E. Colahan, accompanied by Mrs. Colahan, represented St. Dunstan's Council.

His first words after lunch must have echoed those of many of the company when he congratulated Mr. Wills on looking so well, "I am quite sure everybody is absolutely delighted that he has been persuaded to carry on running the reunions for quite a while yet," said Air Vice-Marshal Colahan.

He went on to say that the gathering numbered about 112 including guests, St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts, "They say that behind every successful man there is an ambitious wife and an astonished mother-in-law. That may or may not be so but it certainly is true that behind, or rather, alongside the vast majority of St. Dunstaners, there is a remarkable wife and I extend a very warm welcome to all the wives and escorts. I also extend a warm welcome to all the other ladies and especially to the two who are St. Dunstaners in their own right: Miss Margaret Paterson, who was in the nursing service and Miss Beryl Sleight, who was in the A.T.S., in World War II."

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan also mentioned three St. Dunstaners attending the Reunion for the first time, Thomas Whitley, of Bishops Stortford, Tom Tweedie, of Beckenham, and Ernest Scutt, of Chatham. He also had a word for the three First War St. Dunstaners at the Reunion: Bill Chamberlain, of Reading, Nicholas Henman, of Weybridge, and George Jeffery, of Reading. For those who might wish to have some discussion with them during the afternoon, Air Vice-Marshal Colahan listed the names of staff present and he had a greeting for Mr. Ferguson and Miss Stevens, who are retired members of staff, as well as Mrs. Diane Hoare and Mrs. Sheila McLeod, friends and helpers.



Air Vice-Marshal Colahan

A report on the present numbers of St. Dunstaners at home and abroad followed and he went on, "They are, as everyone knows, as fine a band of men and women as you will find anywhere, all members of St. Dunstan's family, whose spirit in adversity, warmth of fellowship and outlook of self-help is an inspiration to anyone who is fortunate enough to meet them."

Rising to propose the vote of thanks Cyril Astell, of East Horsley, said that he had been the social secretary of an ex-service organisation, "I am very well aware that such functions don't come easily and to run them successfully year after year is doubly hard. Therefore, I'd like to thank Mr. Wills, Miss Blebta, Mrs. Lyall and everybody concerned with the organisation of this function. I would like to thank St. Dunstan's for all the work they have done and, no doubt, will continue to do. I'm impressed with the way in which they do it. The courtesy, the kindness one receives from the staff. I think, as I've mentioned before, having been a member of another ex-service organisation, they could well come to St. Dunstan's and learn. Therefore, I should like to propose a vote of thanks."

Margaret Paterson presented a bouquet to Mrs. Colahan to conclude the formalities and the afternoon continued with a showing of the St. Dunstan's film, dancing, tea and the prize draw.

REUNIONS — Continued BIRMINGHAM

Despite the historic Men's Final at Wimbledon, 40 St. Dunstan's men and one woman turned up at the Albany Hotel, on Saturday, 5th July. Dr. Neil McDonald, grandson of Lord Fraser, who was to have presided at the luncheon was unable at the last minute to attend, so it fell to Mr. Wills to welcome guests on behalf of the Council. "I see from the list, that like me, all but two of you are retired." A special welcome was given to Mrs. Joan Cashmore and Miss Midgley. Warmly welcomed at their first Reunion were Mr. Henry Brown, of Shrewsbury, who used to drive St. Dunstaners about by coach in the Church Stretton days, Mr. Clement Davies, of Church Stretton, and Mr. Charles Summers, from Birmingham. After a brief mention of the film to be shown afterwards, Mr. Wills handed over to Alan Reynolds to propose the vote of thanks.

"This is the first time since I joined St. Dunstan's, in 1943, that I have been asked to propose the vote, so I hope I have the honour and pleasure to do the same again in another 37 years' time."

Mr. Reynolds wished to express his thanks not only to the London and Brighton staff, but to all St. Dunstaners present for their company. In spite of the pranks that went on in Church Stretton, jam in pyjamas, nettles in beds, there was always a great spirit of camaraderie. After thanking the staff of the hotel, Mr. Reynolds finally paid tribute to Miss Newbold. "She comes round to visit us whatever the weather, and has laid on this splendid occasion. Thank you very much."

Fortunately, it was only after an entertaining afternoon of dancing and conversation, that those travelling by train will have discovered absolute chaos on British Rail, due to a derailment at Birmingham, New Street Station. It is hoped that the chaos will have cleared by this time next year.!"

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



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.

James Bernard Donohoe, of Liverpool, who joined St. Dunstan's on 23rd July. Mr. Donohoe served as a Corporal in the Royal Engineers during the Second World War. He is married with one daughter.

Arthur Ketteringham, of Norwich, who joined St. Dunstan's on 2nd July. Mr. Ketteringham served as a Private in the Royal Norfolk Regiment during the Second World War and was a Far East prisoner-of-war. He is married.

Sydney George Miller, of Birmingham, who joined St. Dunstan's on 9th July. Mr. Miller served as a Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion Black Watch and then the Scottish Rifles and was wounded at Mesopotamia in 1917. He is a widower.

William Osborne, of Leigh-on-Sea, who joined St. Dunstan's on 23rd July. Mr. Osborne served as a Private with the City of London Regiment during the First World War and was wounded on the Somme in 1916. He is a widower with two children.

George Arthur Edmund Parkes, of Birmingham, who joined St. Dunstan's on 9th July. Mr. Parkes served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War. He was a victim of mustard gas at Ypres in 1917. He is a widower with two sons.

Thomas Thornley, of Haydock, St. Helen's, who joined St. Dunstan's on 25th July. Mr. Thornley served as a Private in the Cheshire Regiment during the First World War. He is married with an adult family.

Mr. Ivor Turner, of Thorlby, near Skipton, has been presented with the Iain Macleod Award for his services to the Airedale Health District. Mr. Turner worked as a physiotherapist at the Skipton General Hospital from 1950 until 1975 and now works there on a part-time basis, as well as having a few private patients.

SKIING 1981

For the third year running the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment have kindly agreed to provide the instructors for a St. Dunstan's skiing party. As in previous years, the party will fly to Munich and thence by train to Kempton. The hotel will provide bed and breakfast. The trip is provisionally booked to take place from Saturday, 10th January until Saturday, 17th January, 1981. The week is a demanding one, both physically and mentally; a medical certificate will be required for those attending the trip for the first time. Would anybody interested please contact Ray Hazan, at Headquarters, for further details, not later than 30th October. St. Dunstaners will be expected to contribute towards the cost of the trip.

TRIP TO ISRAEL MAY/JUNE '81

There are still several vacancies on the trip as advertised in the July Review. Would anyone interested please contact Ray Hazan, at Headquarters, as soon as possible.

PENSION BOOKS

It often happens that Pension Order Books do not arrive at the Post Offices to which they are despatched by the War Pension's Office in Blackpool, consequently, when the pensioner goes to pick up his or her new Pension Order Book, having cashed the last voucher in the old book, the new one is not available for collection.

So often the pensioner waits until the following week only to find the Book has still not turned up. Lost book action is then taken by the War Pension's Office and it is many weeks before a new Book is issued and the arrears paid.

The War Pension's Office despatch Pension Order Books four weeks before the date of the last voucher in the old book and the new books should be at the Post office two weeks before that date. Pensioners are advised therefore to enquire at the Post Office two weeks before the old book runs out whether the new book has arrived and if it has not, to contact Mr. L. A. Slade, our Pensions Officer, at Headquarters.



H.R.H. Prince Charles talks with St. Dunstaners John Green, of Clacton, at the 'Not Forgotten Association' Garden Party held at Buckingham Palace in July.

FOR SALE

Nakamichi 550 portable, stereo, mains or batteries tape deck. A feature of this quality recorder is the third microphone socket, allowing for recording on both channels in mono or providing third microphone when recording in stereo. Recording and reproduction of music is first class.

Will accept a hundred and eighty pounds or nearest offer.
Telephone Barbara Bell, Ilkley 607629, S.T.D. code 0943.

STAFF OBITUARY

Leslie Edwards

St. Dunstaners who knew Leslie Edwards will be sorry to hear that he died on 29th June. Mr. Edwards was an orderly at Ian Fraser House from 1950, until 1970. After he retired he continued to act as an escort until poor health forced him to give this up. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

'Leopard — The Story of my Horse'

by Col. Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O.

There is an old saying that there is a good book in every man's life. Perhaps, after the publication of that outstanding autobiography, *Soldier On*, it may have been said of its author, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell.

Now with the appearance of 'Leopard The Story of my Horse', Sir Mike proves that in his life there is more than one good book. For, although the title says this is the biography of a horse, it is impossible to separate a team like Leopard and his master and through the pages of this book the reader learns a lot about the author's life.

The story begins when the veterinary surgeon of the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, spots a good looking, if rather thin and undernourished, chestnut colt in the possession of a tinker. Discovering that the colt was sired by a good stallion, the vet purchased him and, on his recommendation, Sir Mike engineered the selection of the horse for his stable.

At the time the colt was just number C29. He had delicate grey and dark spots on his coat and these and his belief that the horse would 'jump like a cat', inspired Sir Mike to christen him Leopard.

Through the pages that follow the reader sees the relationship between man and horse develop during the early days of training and involvement in regimental duties. Leopard hunted, he raced, he jumped — as Sir Mike writes: "Life in a Cavalry Regiment could hardly be called humdrum for any horse."

Life certainly was not humdrum for Leopard. His and his master's talents soon led them into an exciting arena with the

THANK YOU

by L. Fawcett

After being unable to receive St. Dunstaners retirement gift in March, at the Brighton Reunion, my wife and I were delighted to be invited to the Southampton Reunion, on 19th July, for the presentation.

I have always admired antique craftsmanship and was allowed to choose a salver and two small antique silver dishes. These will give great pleasure and remain a permanent reminder of your generosity. I

development of Inniskillings' trick ride. The vivid account of this event in the International Horse Show 1932, is one of the most exciting chapters this reader has ever read.

The introduction on the dust jacket describes Leopard as an extraordinary horse and anyone reading his story will agree. The story also shows how very close to his mount a rider can become as the author lets his reader see events through Leopard's eyes. Clearly much of Leopard's success was due to his master's outstanding skill and sensitivity.

Sir Mike's book is a slim volume — between its covers is a chink through which the reader can catch a glimpse of life in another world. One which his younger readers will not have known. One which the middle-aged may well look back on with regret for values which have been lost — it was not only the cavalry horse, used in action, which disappeared with the approach of the Second World War.

'Leopard' has the accolade of a foreword by H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, K.G.

Often a foreword over a famous name gives the impression that the writer has only skimmed the book. Not so with this foreword "This story", writes His Royal Highness, "will never fail to inspire us, to fill us with nostalgic sentiment and probably make us cry in the end. I am sure everyone who reads this will wish they had a horse like him — I wish I did!"

'Leopard — The Story of my Horse' by Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O. is published in hardback (130 pages, with index) by Quartiles International Limited at £4.95.

thank Bob Young (one of the first St. Dunstaners I met in 1946) for his very kind words and Phil Bagwell for making the presentation, following Mr. Garnett-Orme's gracious welcome to my wife and I.

May I thank too the many St. Dunstaners, Brighton and London staff, and ex-staff, for their kind messages. I repeat thank you to the Brighton and London staff for their gifts — the tools are very active, the bottles — alas empty — but the glasses linger on!

SHARP TALKING CLOCK

This amazing little clock, which measures about 4 and three quarters by two and half by three quarters of an inch, the size of a compact cassette library box, is a clock, alarm and stop watch. All functions use an easy to understand speech output. The voice is controlled by an on/off/volume control. The unit is powered by two HP7 batteries, which should last for about one year. The various functions may be described briefly as follows:

1. Clock. The clock can be set to the nearest second by using the pips on the radio. The time is given to the second on a digital display on the front of the clock. But every time the 'speak' button is pressed, the clock will tell you the time to the nearest minute.

2. Alarm. The alarm can be set to go off once during a 24 hour period. It will say, "Attention please, it is 7 am" and then play a tune. This is repeated twice more at 5

SONY RADIO —

Sony Radio ICF M20L, mentioned in the August *Review*, has been tested by the Research Department who have made the following comments:

The advanced tuning and programming of the radio may prove to be confusing to some.

The seven pre-tuned station press buttons are small and close together, accurate selection may be difficult without having nimble fingers, but in most cases this may not prove to be too much of a disadvantage as it would still be quicker than tuning the conventional small portable radio.

The set is small, measuring 7" x 3¼" x 1", and the sound reproduction is good for a small set.

It would be advisable to try one out first before deciding to buy as some may consider the extra cost might not be worthwhile.

Editor's Note:

At present no arrangement has been made to supply these radios through St. Dunstan's. Those interested are advised to telephone Sunbury on Thames (76) 87644 and enquire for the nearest local dealer.

minute intervals. When setting the alarm, the clock will tell you what time you have programmed in.

3. Stop watch. The clock can be simply programmed to announce the time that has elapsed every one, five, or thirty minutes. Useful if you have an egg boiling, or equipment running. It will give you accumulated time, or announce any pre-set time lapse.

It should be pointed out that while the 'speak' button is readily accessible, some of the programming buttons are quite small, and some manual dexterity is required.

The clock costs £30.50, and may be obtained by sending a cheque for that amount, payable to St. Dunstan's, to the Supplies Department. The clock will then be despatched directly from the agents.

A description and instructions on how to operate the clock are available on cassette from Headquarters. Please send a C60 or 90 to the PR dept. and quote ref. no. G14.

USE YOUR LOAF

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Walker live at the Riverside Bakery, Sutton Scotney, where their family have lived for over 200 years. It is hardly surprising that they have accumulated a number of unusual heirlooms, including a family Bible, in its own handbag, dating from 1845, an 1860 passport and, from the same year, a very small sized shoe. However, the most extraordinary item is a small loaf.

Mr. Walker tells us that one of his wife's ancestors was given this loaf of bread and told to keep it safe, because it had been baked on Good Friday and therefore would not go stale. Mrs. Walker's relation obeyed these instructions and the loaf is now 150 years old!

TALKING BARBER'S SHOP

From: Phillip Wood, Crewe

I was in the barber's the other day and there were a couple of bright young lads, about eight and ten, awaiting their turn. "What", said the barber, "are you pair going to do with the long summer holiday?" "Mum's working, so we stay with Grandma during the day," answered one of them. A pause and the other said, reflectively, "Grandma doesn't half take a lot of aspirins!" Out of the mouths...

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

by Jimmy Wright

On Sunday, 25th May, to celebrate their 75th Anniversary, Rotary International arranged a Sports Day at Crystal Palace for the visually handicapped. Approximately 150 competitors from all over the United Kingdom participated in the swimming, field and track events that had been arranged for the totally blind and partially sighted categories. Mike Tetley, Charles Stafford and yours truly, took part in the 5,000 metres walking race, which was won, incidentally by Mike Brace, founder of the London Metro Sports Club, with Mike Tetley in third place, Charles Stafford seventh . . . no prize for guessing my position! I am sure that had I been escorted by my old friend and ex-Fleet Air Arm field Gunner, Scottie Wilson, he would have replied, in answer to my question, "How did I do?", "just a minute, I'll have to consult my calendar!" I guess we were out of practice; however, there is some consolation in the fact that it was not a handicap and the other competitors represented a somewhat younger generation. It was good to meet again with some of the competitors who usually take part in the Metro National Athletics, at the East London Stadium, in July; Graham Salmon, for instance, who holds the British record in the totally blind class for the 60 metres sprint, won this event but got pipped into second place in the 100 metres.

Spelthorne listeners

I was very much encouraged by the performances of two of my listeners to our local Spelthorne Talking News service, who participated — Julie Spraggs who is partially sighted and won one of the swimming events and came second in another and Keith Goldson who hadn't thrown a discus for some fifteen years, but had a little practice before the event and managed to secure second place in the totally blind discus field event with a throw of 21.94 metres. I am pleased to say that he is now keen to keep up with his training and take part in the Metro National Athletics.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Mr. Bill Shea presided over the General Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club on 19th July. 22 members were present.

Amongst the matters raised were several suggestions as to the Radio Club's contribution to 'The Year of the Disabled 1981'. These will be formulated by the Committee and presented at the next meeting.

After lunch, a talk on RAYNET (Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network) was given by Mr. John Houlihan — G4BLJ, assisted by Mr. Nigel Stubbs — G8LYA — and his wife, Helen.

Raynet is used by the emergency services to provide communication in times of national disaster. It is purely a voluntary organisation of the Amateur Radio Operators and it has already been used once or twice in emergencies. Mr. Houlihan pointed out that they have several members who are blind or disabled. We were very pleased to have Mr. Norman French with us and our grateful thanks must go to Ted John, our Secretary, for organising the weekend.

Any St. Dunstaner who is interested in this type of hobby will be welcome at our next meeting which is in October. Accommodation must, however, be arranged in the normal manner with Miss Bridger, at Headquarters.

TOM HART

HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

Ian Fraser House has been extremely well used during the last year and, indeed, we are beginning to find difficulty in accommodating everybody who wishes to come.

The booking system falls down when St. Dunstaners delay their departure date at the last minute, which means that the next person booked cannot occupy that bed.

When the House is very full, bookings can only be extended in cases of acute emergency.

Our booking staff will always do their best to accommodate all eventualities and it is gratifying to see the way in which the St. Dunstaners are using the facilities of the House.

DR. R. STILWELL

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 2642

Bread

By Ed McBain

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 5¾ hours.

It is a stifling August day and Steve Carella and Cotten Hawse are on duty in the 87th Squad room. A Mr. Roger Grimm arrives. His warehouse containing half-a-million wooden animals, had been destroyed by fire a week before, and he wants to know what progress, if any, the police have made towards apprehending the culprit. The detectives cannot help him. The investigating officer, and half the squad, are on vacation.

Carella and Hawse begin their investigations and find themselves stirring up some very muddy water indeed. Is Mr. Roger Grimm quite as blameless as he would have them believe? And where do the smooth-talking partners in the Diamond Back Development Corporation Inc., fit into the puzzle? . . .

A slick fast-moving detective yarn, with a selection of McBain's pungent social comments thrown in for good measure. A good read.

EVENTS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Due to other special weekends, reunions and the extended period granted for the bowls events this Autumn, it is much regretted that we have not been able to arrange for a second week for either the gardening group or tape recording enthusiasts until into the new year. Further details will be in the next issue of the *Review*.

Cat. No. 154

Stalemate

by Evelyn Berckman

Read by Michael De Morgan

Reading Time 9¼ hours

Albert Forshaw is an elderly self-made millionaire businessman. His wife, Vera, is dumpy and unattractive, a doleful complaining woman, much given to tearful recriminations about her husband's neglect.

Forshaw's secretary, on the other hand, is young, slim and elegant, and from a "good" social background. Mr. Forshaw is constantly disturbed by his secret dreams, in which Miss Talbot-King figures very largely.

A business associate, Clive Bradley, also has wife problems, but of a very different kind. Following a road accident, his beautiful and talented wife is now permanently confined to her room, a human cabbage cradled in the lap of luxury, a state of affairs the cold and ruthless Bradley would very much like to see changed.

After a great deal of verbal skirmishing, the two men make a pact. Each will kill the other's wife, arranging watertight alibis accordingly. The perfect murders. Nothing can possibly go wrong . . .

A well-constructed, well-written story of passion and violent death.

October

11th — 12th Ham Radio (3)
18th — 19th Physiotherapy Conference

November

1st — 2nd Chess Instruction.
3rd — 21st Bowls

December

1st — 7th Archery
13th — 14th Bridge Instruction.

EVENTS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

FOR THOSE COMING IN ON HOLIDAY IT MAY BE INTERESTING TO NOTE THE FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT:-

THEATRE ROYAL

13th Oct. Miriam Karlin & Dudley Stevens and full supporting cast in "COMPANY"
The Musical Comedy by Stephen Sondheim.
20th Oct. Dulcie Gray, Marius Goring, in "LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER"

AND IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE HOVE TOWN HALL:-

JANUARY 30TH . . . TOMMY REILLY — World's leading harmonica player.

St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

SUPPLEMENT OCTOBER 1980

IMPROVEMENTS IN WAR DISABLEMENT PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

Basic Pension

The pension for 100% disablement is to be increased by £6.30 a week, and proportionately for lower assessments, so that a private soldier with a 100% disablement pension will receive £44.30 a week instead of £38.00 a week as at present.

Constant Attendance Allowance

A St. Dunstaner with guiding vision at present receiving £7.60 will receive £8.85 a week. The rate for total blindness, which is at present £15.20 will be increased to £17.70. A St. Dunstaner with disabilities additional to blindness who now has £22.80 a week will be entitled to £26.55 a week, and a St. Dunstaner with exceptionally severe disabilities, such as the loss of both hands, additional to blindness, who at present receives £30.40 will receive £35.40 a week.

Comforts Allowance

There is to be an increase in this allowance from £6.60 to £7.70 a week for the totally blind and for the Unemployability Supplement pensioner, and from £3.30 to £3.85 a week for the pensioner with guiding vision.

Unemployability Supplement

This Supplement, which is payable to those war pensioners who by reason of their pensionable disability are unemployable, is to be increased from £24.70 to £28.80 a week, and any family allowances

which might be payable with this Supplement will also be revised for the 100% pensioner so that he will receive for his wife or other adult dependant £16.90 instead of £14.60 a week, and £7.50 a week for each of his children who are eligible for the Dependency Allowance.

Invalidity Allowance

This allowance, payable to those war pensioners who are awarded the Unemployability Supplement prior to attaining the age of 60 (55 for women), is also due for uprating. Where the incapacity for work begins before the age of 40, the allowance is to be increased from £4.90 to £5.70 where the onset of the incapacity falls between the ages of 40 and 50, the allowance is to go up to £3.60 from £3.10 and where the onset occurs between 50 and 60 (55 for women), the new rate is to be £1.80 instead of £1.55.

Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance and Severely Disabled Occupational Allowance

Both these allowances are to be increased to £17.70 and £8.85 a week respectively.

Clothing Allowance

There is to be a small increase in this allowance (payable where there is exceptional wear and tear on clothing because of an amputation or for some other special reason) to a maximum of £59.00 a year. (Lower rate £37.00)

Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

This allowance, which is paid in exceptional cases only to a very small number of St. Dunstaners who receive less than 100% pensions, is to be increased from up to £15.20 a week to up to £17.70 a week maximum.

Examples which may help St. Dunstaners to appreciate how the increases affect them personally may be found on page 2, but if there are any difficulties, will they please get in touch with Mr. L.A. Slade, our Pensions Officer at Headquarters.

The standard rate of pension for a war widow aged 40 or over, or under that age with children, is to be increased from £30.20 a week to £35.30 a week. The Rent Allowance for war widows with children increases from up to £11.50 a week to £13.40 a week. The age allowances for elderly widows are to be increased from £2.95 to £3.45 for those ladies between 65 and 70 years of age, and from £5.90 to £6.90 for those ladies over 70 years of age, so that a widow in her 70's will receive £42.20 a week made up as to £35.30 pension and £6.90 age allowance: the widow aged between 65 and 70 years will receive £38.75

a week being £35.30 pension and £3.45 age allowance.

The increased rates of pension and allowances will operate as from the first pay day in the week commencing 23rd November which means that the effective date of payment in the majority of cases should be Wednesday, 26th November.

Retirement pensions are to be increased for the single person to £27.15 and for the married couple to £43.45 a week.

The widow's pension will also be increased from £23.30 to £27.15 a week.

Other National Insurance benefits improvements include Mobility Allowance, Industrial Injuries Benefit and Pensions, Unemployment Benefit, Sickness benefit, Invalidity Benefit, Invalidity Benefit, Dependency Allowances for Children, Widowed Mother's Allowance, Guardian's Allowance, Attendance Allowance and maternity Allowance.

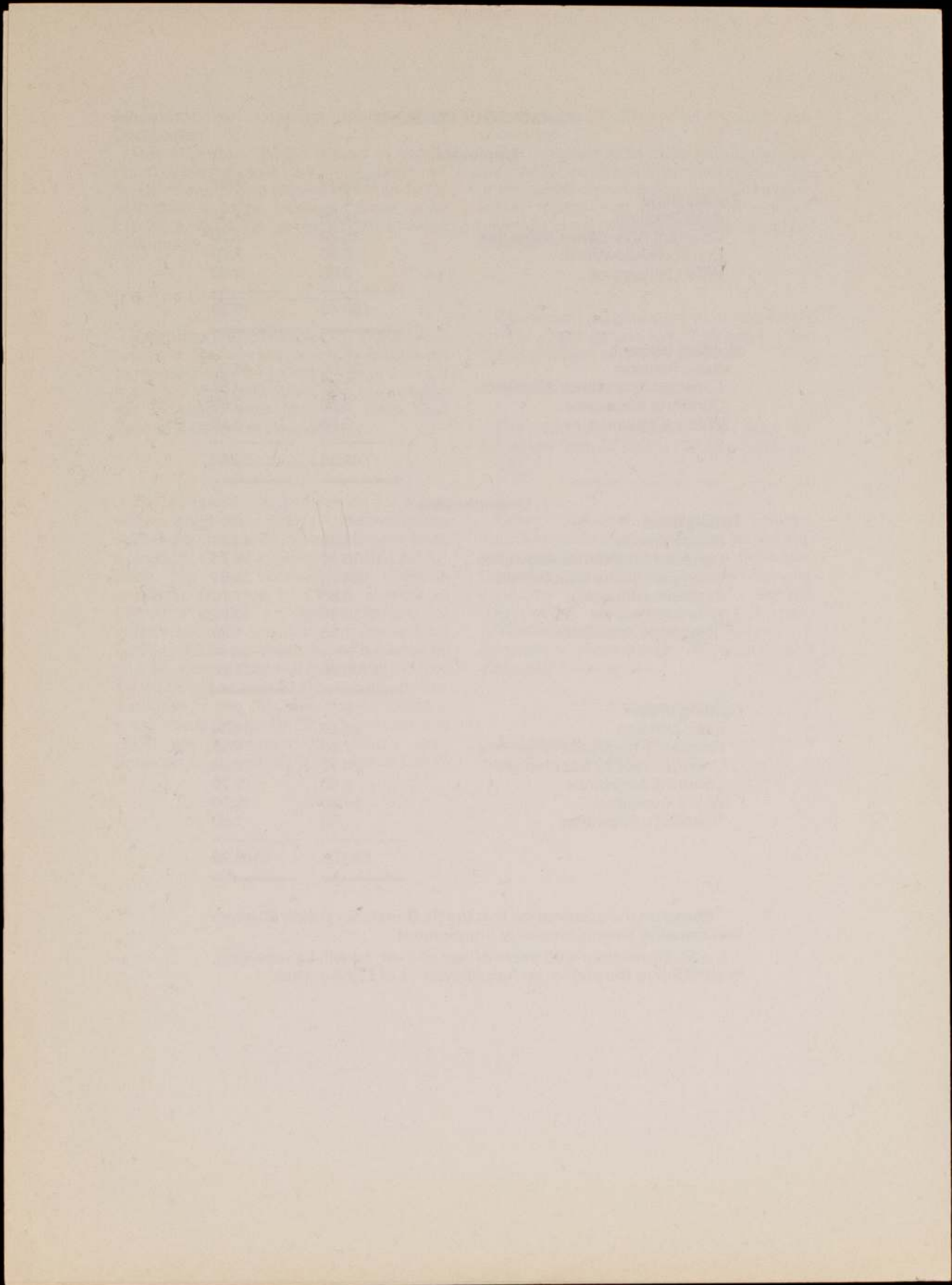
All pensioners receive an extra 25p a week from their 80th birthday.

EXAMPLES OF PENSIONS

Employable		
	Present £	New £
Totally Blind		
Basic Pension	38.00	44.30
Constant Attendance Allowance	15.20	17.70
Comforts Allowance	6.60	7.70
Wife's Allowance	0.60	0.60
	<u>£60.40</u>	<u>70.30</u>
Guiding Vision		
Basic Pension	38.00	44.30
Constant Attendance Allowance	7.60	8.85
Comforts Allowance	3.30	3.85
Wife's Allowance	0.60	0.60
	<u>£49.50</u>	<u>57.60</u>
Unemployable		
	£	£
Totally Blind		
Basic Pension	38.00	44.30
Constant Attendance Allowance	15.20	17.70
Unemployability Supplement	24.70	28.80
Comforts Allowance	6.60	7.70
Wife's Allowance	14.60	16.90
*Invalidity Allowance	1.55	1.80
	<u>£100.65</u>	<u>£117.20</u>
Guiding Vision		
Basic pension	38.00	44.30
Constant Attendance Allowance	7.60	8.85
Unemployability Supplement	24.70	28.80
Comforts Allowance	6.60	7.70
Wife's Allowance	14.60	16.90
*Invalidity Allowance	1.55	1.80
	<u>£93.05</u>	<u>£108.35</u>

*Based on the assumption that the St. Dunstaner is over 50 when first drawing Unemployability Supplement.

If a St. Dunstaner is 65 years of age or over, he will be receiving, in addition to the above, an Age Allowance of £9.60 a week.





The Harding's coaches team. Rodney and Gordon Harding are third from right and extreme right.

WAYS OF LIFE 42

ON THE BUSES — Harry Harding

Talking to David Castleton

One morning Harry Harding was on the bus going to Taunton to pay the takings of his Pub into the bank. He noticed it was becoming foggy and remarked on it to the man sitting next to him.

"Foggy?", said his neighbour, "There's no fog about. There's something wrong with your eyes, Mate." — and there was.

"I could just see the glint of the rail in front of me", said Harry, "and I grabbed that. When we got into Taunton the fellow had more or less to prise my hands open. He put me in a telephone box and said 'you'd better ring the hospital and they'll send somebody out to fetch you'."

But Harry did not know the hospital number and could not look it up: "I stood outside the telephone box and said, 'Excuse me, excuse me, as people passed by. Several went by and took no notice, but eventually a young woman said 'Can I help you?'"

Harry explained his predicament and learned that his rescuer was a nurse, "She

telephoned the hospital and eventually an ambulance arrived."

That was how Harry Harding lost his sight the first time. The surgeons saved the sight of one eye for about six weeks before it failed again. Altogether Harry had seven operations at Moorfields Hospital, in London, but, at last, "Mr. Chapman said to me, 'Your retina is like a bit of old lace. The least jerk or bending breaks it off again and I don't think we can do much to it.' I was registered blind and went back to Taunton."

Harry had been a regular soldier, having enlisted in 1929, in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He served with the K.S.L.I. for eight years and then with the Somerset Light Infantry to complete 22 years' service.

When the Second War was declared he was on the North-West Frontier in India. Despite serving all through the war, his loss of sight is due to two accidents while in the Army: "I lost the sight of one eye during the war. First of all I was in a seven-a-side hockey match in India — it wasn't a hockey

stick, it was an Indian's head; we collided. That resulted in seven stitches over the left eye and the sight was practically gone."

Harry continued to serve another twelve years, relying on the sight in his right eye. Then in his last year of service he was thrown out of a lorry in an accident and lost the remaining sight in that left eye. Although the dramatic failure of his right eye is attributed to the strain of his work as a publican the fact that he is blind in the other, as a result of service, qualifies him for St. Dunstan's.

Not everybody knows about this rule and nor did Harry, "I had a welfare visitor from Taunton and after she had visited me on two or three occasions she suggested that I should apply to St. Dunstan's."

Training at St. Dunstan's

At that time the Hardings, Harry and Jean, were still running the Commercial Hotel at East Combe, not far from Taunton. He was in training at Ovingdean for about nine months: "I was taught typing, Braille, handicraft work — basketry and all that — and woodwork."

Harry was advised to give up the pub. Jean was already driving a small minibus taking children to school in the mornings and collecting them each afternoon, "I thought that would be a means of a part-living and I thought I would do a bit of carpentry — making ironing boards and trays and selling them."

Leaving the Commercial Hotel meant finding somewhere else to live: "St Dunstan's said we'll get you something if you can find somewhere in the vicinity where you want to be. It just happened that the Western National were selling their Bagborough Garage and two houses that went with it. It was just the place — we had a garage to put the minibus and room for the car. St. Dunstan's was kind enough to buy the garage and rent it to me and we started running the thing from there."

The Hardings were well-known among the licensed victuallers in the area and much of the work for the minibus came through them. Almost by accident they found themselves in the transport business. "It snowballed, you see, We started carrying workers night and morning and the schools. The work people wanted a bigger coach, so we bought a 29 seater.



With secretary, Barbara Bourne.

Other runs became available and in about six months we had to get another coach. That's how it's been — we've got to keep growing and growing just to keep up with the work that's coming in.

"From the beginning with the minibuses we kept ploughing money back into the business and within 15 years we had six coaches and a minibus. Then in January, 1978, I purchased Wivvy Coaches at Wiveliscombe and that gives me a total of 14 coaches."

The coaches at Wiveliscombe still carry their own, long-established name, while at Bagborough Harding's Coaches bear the family name. Rightly so, for it is very much a family business.

"I am very fortunate, I have two sons, Gordon and Rodney, both trained mechanics. The youngest, Rodney, was sent down to Bedfords at Luton to learn about commercial motors and their repair work. After he'd finished his apprenticeship he stayed with his firm in Taunton for about 12 months and then came to us to work permanently. Gordon organises all the transport and the drivers — who is doing what and at what times, from the diary book we keep here. He also drives, both of them drive, really and Jean drove until about two

years ago." Now the two sons are partners in the business.

Part of the Hardings' success could be due to being in the right place at the right time. The garage at Bagborough was on the market because Western National could not run the service from Bagborough to Taunton at a profit: "They wanted a subsidy from the Council to help pay the fare so we said, right, rather than leave the village stuck for coaches we would do it. I was doing the journey to Taunton anyway for a pick up so it was costing nothing. We do three journeys — morning workers, shopping trips between 9.30 and 12.30 and, of course, we go round the smaller villages where the National don't pick up."

Competition

"We had plenty to learn and, of course, the existing operators were all against us. We were stepping on their toes pretty hard. They couldn't afford to run a big bus on the routes to pick up 10 or 12 people but, with the minibus, we could."

In those early days Mrs. Harding drove the vehicles herself, having qualified for the Passenger Service Vehicle Licence: "I drove through the lanes right down to the farms and through farmyards. I did that for 15 years", and during that time she had only one accident, which was not her fault.

Nowadays Jean looks after the welfare of ten drivers — five at Wiveliscombe and five at Bagborough. They start work at 6.30 a.m. and the Bagborough group travel up to ten miles to get to work so she cooks breakfast for everyone. "We can hardly all get in our little room in the morning for breakfast", said Harry, "If they're not out on jobs they have a meal here at lunch-time. We don't charge them. The whole firm is run as a family business. My own drivers come in and call us Harry and Jean."

In a country community, drivers are not easy to come by, "When you've got them, once you've tried them out, you've really got to look after them. Make them feel at home and give them all the comforts they would get at home."

It is his drivers, says Harry, who give him the competitive edge to take on services that the Western National Company cannot run without a loss: "They have got so much dead-wood — inspectors running around in cars and driven by some young lady. That's

taking fuel and two people's wages just to see if the tickets are being run right or wrong. Whereas we haven't got that problem. We have got good, trusted drivers. The driver takes the money as he goes along and records it on a waybill. At every stop he puts down the number of passengers he picks up. We know the price of each one. It's all there printed out, and we can tell him exactly how much we want."

Road transport is hedged about by regulations — in many cases rightly so — to ensure the safety of the public: "The admin part of it is a headache," explained Harry, "There is so much red tape, so many forms. I'll give you one instance. We have a statistical return to be sent in annually. You have to say how many miles you have done with each particular coach, how many miles you have done on school journeys, how many on private hire, and how many on services. They also want to know how much you took on each particular one. It is a headache to keep a check on how many passengers you carry daily."

Traffic Commissioners

Drivers must have a work ticket for every journey and the traffic commissioners may call in at any time to ask to see the work tickets in a particular day. They will be checking on reports that a coach has been seen in a town not recognised as part of the company's area of operations. A 'tour' is a journey made to a destination outside the local area: "We've got 156 different tour licences, therefore, we can pick-up in Wiveliscombe, Milverton, Tonedale, Halse, Fitzhead, Bishop's Lydeard, Bampton and Kingston. I can only pick-up passengers there. I couldn't say we could pick-up some in Taunton because Taunton is on the licence of another operator. You can only pick-up at the places on your licences."

The Hardings' tours go to places such as Bournemouth, London, Salisbury, Southampton, Weymouth and many others. "We advertise these tours, as we are permitted to do. Daily, people ring in, 'Could I go to Blackpool on such and such a day', and we put their names down. We have agents, shops where the customer can call in and our agent telephones us to make the booking. Normally you need at least a 20 or 41 seater — well, half a load, anyway, before you can run it at a profit. If not you have to cancel, but we gain by having the 29



Harry and Jean check on the day's jobs.

seater which we can put on when this happens."

One of the less successful ventures for the Hardings was over a number of tour licences they bought from another operator, together with a coach that the regulations say must change hands with the tour licences. Until the traffic commissioners had cleared the transfer of the licences with all the local authorities covered by the tours, they had to be run in the name of the previous owner. "We went and approached all his agents and thought we were going to do marvellously. But people didn't want to know if it was anything to do with the previous operator and we had to run in his name.

"He had been letting people down. He wasn't telling them that he wasn't going to run and then he would run late, which makes it late for people going away for the day."

So, with plenty of work coming in from other directions, Harry decided to write-off the money he had paid — even the coach that had been part of the deal was 'a load of rubbish' to quote Rodney. "If we could have

started out in our own name it might have been different", commented Harry, "But even now we are having to turn work away that we just cannot cope with. We don't want to take on anything new and let people down who have stayed with us all the time."

Talking to Harry and Jean Harding, this same theme comes up, reliability. Through Rodney they are able to carry out their own maintenance on the spot — "We never put any of our vehicles in for repair unless it is a big body panel repair, then it goes back to the makers. It isn't only the repair price, it is the time it takes. In here my son will stay up overnight and put it right."

Reliable vehicles and a code that says you don't let your regular customers down have been ingredients in the Hardings success. Harry can't see himself retiring. The original Harding minibus has grown into a coach fleet with regular commitments that require ten vehicles on the road every day and Harry enjoys his busy life — "To have a family business is rewarding in both senses of the word. My sons wouldn't be without the work."

ST. DUNSTANERS RETIRE

TOM O'CONNOR

Mr. Tom O'Connor, of Birmingham, on his retirement at the age of 71. Tom spent the last 19 years with Wolseley Engineering Company and the company presented Tom with a whisky decanter and glasses.

THOMAS ROSEWARNE

On 25th July, Thomas Rosewarne, of Manchester, retired from his firm, the Leisure Domestic Division of Glynweld (Flavel) Limited, where he had worked for 31 years.

The firm organised a farewell party, stopping production early so that all Mr. Rosewarne's friends and colleagues could attend. Mr. King, the general manager, made a speech thanking Mr. Rosewarne for the example he had set to other employees and for his excellent attendance record. Mr. King then presented him with a cheque and a bottle of whisky.

Mr. Rosewarne made a speech in reply, thanking the management "for the chance to prove that a blind person could do a good job of work when given the opportunity."

Mr. Rosewarne's colleagues paid tribute to him by presenting him with a matching set of pewter beer and whisky mugs and four dress shirts.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Mr. Francis Alfred Bridger retired as Head of the Despatch Department on the 25th August, 1980. He joined the Department in February 1949 and took over full responsibility in May 1975 when his predecessor, Mr. M. Mustchin, retired.

Mr. Bridger was presented with a portable T.V. set and an electric toaster, gifts of his choice, from the Council, together with a commemorative plaque. There were also gifts of a coffee percolator and an electric razor from his colleagues.

Mr. Weisblatt made the presentation on behalf of the Council as Mr. Garnett-Orme was then on holiday.

Mr. Bridger thanked everyone for the gifts and for being present on the occasion.

We much appreciate the conscientious work that Mr. Bridger has done for St. Dunstan's over the years and wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

NINE DAYS OFF THE LEASH IN ITALY

Each year you read in these pages of the antics and cavortings of the fifty active and ageing St. Dunstaners who go to Camp with the Field Gun Crew at Lee-on-Solent. Has anyone ever spared a thought for the fifty wives, sweethearts and lovers left behind? This year two of them went to Rome. It had been our idea to shove the husbands onto the bus, join a Package Tour and be transported about like the ladies we are with every whim catered for, to see mainly everything in the capital city and visit Florence and Venice, but since package tours had not been composed with our requirements it was obviously going to be a D.I.Y. job and as neither of us spoke Italian this involved much preparation.

We booked Apex flights with British Airways thinking that if we missed the plane home, due to our inability to comprehend the instructions, we should have a better claim to some sort of consideration dealing with people in our own language. Then we had been told so many stories

about theft and robbery we had to re-organise our important possessions so that everything would be at least strung round our necks and the more important things irremovably attached to our underwear whilst still accessible when required. Just in case some thief or a scooter did win, we took only old handbags, purses, pens, etc. and furthermore insured ourselves well.

The other grim reality we had been warned was "Every tourist in Rome gets marble foot-rot." We arrived with every variety of footwear from reinforced bedroom slippers to fell-walking boots, rolls of plaster and dressings and various bottles and boxes of anti-diarrhoea preparations. After all the cameras and lots of film there wasn't much room for clothes — but we found it to be so hot we didn't really need many and certainly nothing warm or waterproof.

We found the Italian Tourist Office, in London unhelpful as far as accommodation was concerned. They wanted to let us go

there and then look for accommodation, which didn't suit us at all, so months before we wrote to a hotel in which one of our daughters had stayed, where we were assured that in spite of being only third class it was readily accessible by bus and they spoke English. After sending many letters enclosing addressed envelopes and International reply coupons it was agreed we have two beds in one room with private shower etc., and continental breakfast for 11,000 lire a day each.

Day of Departure

We were terribly apprehensive as the day of departure approached — there had been a bomb in Bologna, but the pound was strong and the call of the wonders of Michaelangelo Buonarroti irresistible. Having used the first day to locate ourselves on a map, crack the system of the bus and metro tickets, and get the immersion heater working, not to mention the drinking water, our first evening was spent at the famous water-garden of the Villa d'Este, at Tivoli twenty miles away, where 600 natural fountains have shimmered and sparkled for over five centuries, since they were built by the students of Michaelangelo for the son of Lucretia Borggia. There is an avenue of 100 fountains, fountains you can walk under — a fountain which until a 100 years ago played an organ. Some of them must have been over a 100 feet high — it was breathtaking.

Sightseeing

And so being careful to rest if we could in the hottest part of the day, we systematically found our way to every single thing we had listed including the Forum, The Pantheon, the Colosseum the Capitoline Hill with Castor and Pollux looking down the steps and Marcus Aurelius on his bronze horse since Roman times, having been thrown into the Tiber mud by the Barbarians, where he lay until comparatively recently.

The dazzling white enormous monument to Victor Emmanuel which dominates the whole city and of course all the fountains — the famous Trevi (we didn't throw in the coins due to having been ripped off a couple of times by a taxi-driver and a restaurateur — we thought this would be a

small economy) then the Piazza with the Four Rivers Fountain and the fountains of the Moor and the Fisherman.

What we had really come to see were the works of Art. So great was thrill of the Vatican City, St. Peter's (we climbed to the very top of the magnificent Cupola) with the Bernini fountains and its individual and well-known facade. Then the indescribable beauty of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel — covered by incredible scenes from the Old Testament, during the execution of which Michaelangelo went almost blind as he lay on his back with paint dripping in his eyes for four-and-a-half years.

Here we were very glad indeed that we were not with a group, since we could take our time and sit and pick out all the things we wanted to see and really appreciate their wonder.

St. Peter's Basilica

Inside St. Peter's Basilica the splendour was dazzling; the riches unbelievable but the simplicity of Michaelangelo's Pietà with the very youthful little Mary, whom he depicted as he had remembered his own mother, who died when she was twenty-nine, holding the body of Jesus when it had been taken down from the Cross. Screened by bullet-proof glass it is one of the most popular works of art in Rome.

We had slightly more trouble in locating the sculptor's Moses which is in an interesting but out of the way church not far from the Colosseum called St. Peter's in Chains.

David

His David in Florence is a different matter. Everyone who goes there has it at the top of the list and in the Academy this seventeen foot high beautiful white marble of the handsome young curly-haired David of extraordinarily fine physique, with the sling lying over his left shoulder and the large round stone closed loosely inside the fingers of his right hand, stands erect preparing to take the fatal shot at Goliath. Florence is really so full of supreme works of art it would take several weeks to see them all — the Piazza del Signori virtually being an open-air-museum, there being situated, amongst many others, the well-

known bronze Perseus holding the head of Medusa by Cellini and the Rape of the Sabine.

Uffizzi Museum

In the Uffizzi Museum the works of art are too numerous to mention, so we took especial note of the two we had really come to see. Michaelangelo's circular painting of the Holy Family — one of his early works and really his only other painting of note since he hated painting and did it only under protest — and we were amazed to hear that he actually made the frame himself. Botticelli's Birth of Venus was the other and it stood out from the many other paintings there.

Florence Cathedral

The Cathedral in Florence is most unusual. The outside walls are covered in patterns made from different coloured pieces of marble, similarly decorated is Baptistery behind it, the eastern doors of which are gilded and portray eight wonderful scenes by Ghilberti. When as a young man Michaelangelo saw them he said "Surely these must be the gates to Paradise." They were then and still are open for the world to see and touch in all their loveliness, after many hundreds of years.

In the Church of the Holy Cross in the main square we saw many impressively sculptured tombs including those of Michaelangelo, Dante, Goethe, Galileo the Astronomer, Rossini and many more. Having completed our list of the major works of Art, and one must be selective in Italy since there are so many from different periods of history it would be too confusing to try to see them all, our last day was spent on a wonderful trip down to Naples, then across to Capri, by steamer, where we were very impressed by the natural beauty of the steep, rugged coastline, sandy beaches and blue sea it was almost unreal, and then to the Blue Grotto. Neither of us realised quite what we were going to see, but after being taken out to the point of the island by water-bus, we transferred into small rowing boats, four or five in each and as we went through the entrance, which is only about three feet high, we had to lie in the bottom of the boat, but once inside the spectacle was unbelievable. An enormous dark cavern with water 60 feet deep appearing to

be sparkling and translucent, the most amazing clear azure blue. Anything put into the water like an arm or a foot takes on the same almost phosphorescent appearance. We returned to the mainland at Sorrento by steamer and thence by the coast road through Vico Equense, where one of our husbands had been on a Commando raid before being blinded, past Pompeii and to the foot of Monte Cassino where we had a meal to break the long drive home.

Pope John Paul

One of us went to the Square of St. Peter's, in the Vatican, to see Pope John Paul II. There was about one-and-a-half hours wait until he arrived by helicopter from Castel Gondolfo, but on the whole the people (and there were so many the number could not be estimated but it might have been as many as 200,000) were kept very strictly under control by the Swiss Guards, so that when he came round on the back of a white car he was very well seen by all and touched the outstretched hands of thousands there. He was then welcomed in Italian, French, English, German and Spanish and gave a five minute address in reply in each of these languages — the text of which dealt with monogamy and adultery — and welcomed each of the organised groups from the respective countries, also groups from Polonnia, Slovakia, Warsaw and Posnam. One group brought a brass band, in national costume, and others sang. When the Pope knew a tune he would join in and either sing or hum with them. After nearly two hours he gave us the Benediction, and it was hoped he wouldn't mind if he knew he had blessed a Belfast Protestant.

Window Shopping

We of course did all the shopping in the tripper's trash shops, window shopping in Gucci's, found some bargains, survived all the hazards of which we had been warned (once but narrowly), made a lot of friends and returned in a state of euphoria hitherto unequalled, impatient to share our experiences with our loved ones we had managed not to miss, but they are so busy talking about Camp, we thought they might eventually find out about our holiday if they read it in the *Review*. Plans for next year are mundane in the extreme — the Yorkshire Dales.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Frederick Ripley, Wimbledon

I was very amused by this little piece in the Braille Physiotherapy Journal, and thought it was worth passing on:

Notice to members of the M.A.C.P. Miss Talbot has now given up reading the M.A.C.P. Newsletter. I am sure this has been much appreciated by all the members.

From: Norman Perry, Grimsby

I now have in my hand a copy of the August *Review* and I notice that there is a short item mentioning the Archery Week on the 1st December. This week is an attempt to establish an indoor shoot during the winter months, in order to make archery, at Ian Fraser House, more interesting to those already taking part and to attract others to come along and take part. It is also intended that during this week a meeting will be held to re-form the Archery Club of St. Dunstan's, with the aim of organising tournaments and improving the practice facilities at Ian Fraser House.

As Chairman of the Steering Committee, I would like as many of the St. Dunstan's archers as possible and anyone who is interested in the formation of an archery club within St. Dunstan's, to come along to that week. Those that cannot attend and wish to show their interest, should write and express their intentions to Mr. P. Duffee, at Ian Fraser House. Those of you who are able to attend should write to Mr. J. Carnochan, Sports Officer, Ian Fraser House and book accommodation in the usual way.

AMATEUR RADIO

The next Amateur Radio Weekend is from the 11th-12th October. During the afternoon of the 11th we will be visiting the radio collection at the Chalk Pits Museum at Amberley, near Arundel. Anyone wishing to attend the week-end should make the usual arrangements through Miss Bridger at Headquarters.

E. John.

D. F. Robinson's Gardening Column

I only hope that by the time you read these notes the weather has improved. It has been raining solidly for 24 hours up here in the north and the weather forecast is no better. The garden did need some rain, but there is a limit. Despite the poor weather the crops seem to be quite good, if a little late, but do try to put some in the freezer for later on in the season. Those of you planning a new garden should get on with the work at once and order new shrubs, perennials and bulbs now. When you order new plants the nurseries will let you know when to expect delivery.

You cannot do all the gardening at one go, never try to do too much and if you can get someone in to help you. If the vegetable garden is getting too much for you, grass the area over, or plant roses or shrubs, which require the minimum of upkeep but give great satisfaction.

More and more garden appliances and tools are being brought on to the market and I wonder what hand work the gardener in the future will have to do. I think that most of these power-run machines will take much of the pleasure out of gardening and it won't be long before we can programme a computer, touch a switch and the garden will be dug over, planted, lawns mowed, crops harvested and fertilisers and fungicides administered automatically.

Vegetables

Keep the hoe going between the rows of growing plants, as weeds seem to grow at any time of the year. Clear the ground where you have harvested crops such as beans, peas and potatoes and put all the debris on to this season's compost heap. Utilise the well manured compost by spreading it on the cleared ground ready for digging in later in the winter.

Remember to check over those potatoes and carrots that you have stored, as only sound ones should be kept. Any doubtful ones can be used at once or simply thrown away. Late cabbages, savoy and spring greens can still be planted out in their growing places. A few early sprout buttons will be forming and you can eat some of them, but do not pick too many. It is a good

idea to stake up plants if they are in an open, windy area, or you can even dig them up and transfer them to a more sheltered position. I have lost quite a number of plants due to the wind, even some which had been planted deeply in the first place. Spread some chalk/lime on all the empty beds, so that it can work down into the soil, but do not do this on beds where you want to grow next season's potatoes.

Lawns

It is nearly time to put the lawn mower away until next year. Mowing the grass should be kept to a minimum now, and if you do cut the grass do not put the box on the mower. Clean the mower thoroughly and grease and oil it before putting it away under a cover, such as cloth or newspaper. Lawns can be laid now and you can repair worn or bare patches.

Fruit

Gather apples and pears as they ripen, but do try to leave this job for a fine day or the fruit will need to be dried off. Do be careful when handling fruit as it bruises easily and then the fruit will rot. I find that newspaper is a good wrapping agent when you store the fruit in boxes, but do remember to put the boxes in a place where the air can circulate well and is not too damp. Currants and gooseberries can be pruned now and cut away the canes from the loganberries and raspberries, leaving a few good young shoots for next year's crop. Cut away all runners from the strawberries and clear up all the straw bedding that was used for this season's fruit.

Flowers

Cut down all the perennials which are over and many of these, such as, delphiniums, lupins, phlox, pyrethrums, can be divided to increase the stock or to make more space in the flower beds. Where you want to keep only one plant, retain the centre part where there are plenty of side shoots near the soil level. It is probably a good idea to cover these side shoots with some soil in case we have a very hard winter. Many of the shrubs can be cut down to size and shape, as can hedges. Use any cuttings from the hedge to fill in thin or bare patches.

It is quite a challenge to start some perennials again from seed, so save some seed heads. When they dry out prise them open and put the seed in small envelopes

and keep them away from frost. These seeds probably won't produce such good colour as packet seed, but it is good to try something a little different.

Most spring flowering bulbs can still be planted especially tulips and anemones. Bring in the dahlias, gladioli and tuberous begonias and dry them off in a dry, warm, sunny position. When the leaves have gone plant them in dry peat or sand. Get all the flower beds ready for the roses you have ordered, as they will probably arrive at the end of October or early November. Dig the beds over, incorporating some peat and well rotted manure, but reserve some for when you actually plant the bushes. Have some stout stakes to hand when you plant the bushes, especially for exposed and windy areas.

Greenhouse

Clear the tomato plants out of the greenhouse but keep the soil, for further use, in shallow vegetable seed trenches, or put it on the flower beds, or use it for your Christmas and spring bulbs. Give the greenhouse a really good clean with disinfectant, but do take out the other plants for a few days first. Light a few smoke pellets to kill off any insects or fungi so that the whole place will be in really good shape for the rest of the winter.

Before the winter sets in, make sure that the heater is in good working order. You will only need a small amount of heat to keep the temperature at about 45°F. Cut down on the watering and do not have the windows wide open at night. Close all the windows if there is a hint of frost or heavy winds.

Watering

Most pot plants will need less water and less feed. Plants such as geraniums and fuchsias, which are to be kept for next season, will need to be almost dried off and cut down to size. Tuberous plants, begonias, gloxinias, achimenes and so on, should be dried off completely as they go out of flower. When they have dried off either keep them in their pots tilted on to one side, or knock them out of the pots and store them in dry peat or sand.

Plants growing for Christmas and spring will need plenty of light, so keep them near the glass on the sunny side of the greenhouse. Do be careful when you water these items as moisture on the leaves will quickly form mould and the whole plant may eventually rot.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION.

On the 22nd July, the first beautiful day for several weeks, we set forth on a visit to Chartwell, the home of the late Sir Winston Churchill. I think we all enjoyed the excellent conducted tour of the House, most vividly described by our Guide, a host of memories came flooding back especially when we spent a few moments in his study. Then out into the sunshine to stroll through the grounds and lovely rose gardens. After the welcome cup of tea we made our way back to The Plough Inn, Rottingdean, where once again we sat down to a delicious Dinner and wine.

Arrangements have now been made for our Annual Dinner and Dance at The Dudley Hotel, on the 15th November. I would be most grateful if those who wish to attend will let me know as soon as possible to finalise details. The cost to Members will be £4.50 and Friends £6.50. The Menu is as follows:

Fresh Salmon Cocktail.
Breast of Chicken Montpensier
(asparagus tips and Madeira sauce)
Cauliflower Polonaise,
Glazed Carrots.
Rissolees Potatoes.
Sherry Trifle.
Coffee
Chocolate Mints.
The price also includes wine.

We hope you will all help to make this a great occasion.

R. Osborne.

MIDLAND

Our meeting which was held on Sunday, 13th July was very good indeed.

Our Chairman welcomed Fred and Mary Jones, also a new St. Dunstaner, Charles Summers. We do hope they enjoyed themselves and that we shall see them again at future meetings.

Our Chairman was very surprised when we all sang Happy Birthday to him.

Only one game of dominoes was played, owing to some members being on holiday so we thought we would try bingo. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we hope to have more games next month.

A beautiful tea was again put on by the ladies and the cakes were made by Cath Androlia and everyone was thanked in the usual manner.

We held a very good meeting on Sunday, 10th August.

It was so nice to see Doug and Connie again, also, Betty Beltley, but where were you, Fred? Still supping!

A lovely tea was put on once again by all the ladies and they were thanked in the usual manner by Joe.

We were pleased to hear that Bill Green is back home from hospital and we sincerely hope that he and Hilda will continue to improve, so that we shall soon see them at the Club again.

Everyone wished David, Eddie and Marjorie "Bon Voyage" as they were off to America and Canada for a month's holiday.

Dominoes and bingo were played after tea and everyone agreed how much they had enjoyed themselves and the meeting finished at 6.45 p.m.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th October — Stratford outing

Sunday 12th October — AGM

Friday 3rd October — Poppy Dance

Friday 10th October — Concert with John Cashmore & Company

Friday 17th October — Disco incorporating the TV game Mr. & Mrs.

Friday 24th October — Old Time Music Hall

Friday 31 October — Barn Dance or Free and Easy

All the above Friday evenings will be held at the Austin Branch of the Royal British Legion and are in aid of the Poppy Appeal Fund.

The November meeting will be one week earlier, the 2nd of the month. This is to enable members to attend their own local Festival of Remembrance.

*JOAN CASHMORE,
Secretary*

BOWLING

As published in the August *Review* the Bowling Handicap has been postponed from November in order to leave more time for the Championships. These Championships will start a week earlier than published in the yearly calendar of events and will run from 3rd to 21st November.

Bookings should be made in the ordinary way.

FAMILY NEWS

GRANDCHILDREN Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brett, of Saltdean, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Sally Michelle, to their son, David, and his wife, Susan, on 25th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Earwaker, of Southampton, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Denise, to their son, Michael, and his wife, Barbara, on 10th July.

Mr. Thomas Evans, of Flint, on the birth of his eleventh grandchild, Rebecca Jane, to his daughter, Vicky, and her husband, Raymond, on 25th August.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Fensome, of Coventry, on the birth of their first grandchild, Laura Melissa, on 26th July, to their son David and his wife, Barbara.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forshaw, of Bognor Regis, on the birth of a grandson, Shealan Robert, to their son, Robert, and his wife, Nicky, in May.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hollamby, of Oldham, on the birth of a grandson, Peter James, to their son, Stephen, and his wife, Susan on 5th August.

Mr. Joseph Laverty, of Downpatrick, N. Ireland, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Catherine Anne, on 8th August, to his daughter, Maureen and her husband, Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lowe, of Stubbington, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Laura Jane, to their daughter, Christine, and her husband, Stuart, on 22nd July.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newton, of Oldham, on the birth of their second grand-daughter, Heather Louise, to their daughter, Diane, and her husband, Paul, on 14th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Parish, of Norwich, on the birth of their second grand-daughter, to their daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Brendan, on 19th July.

Mr. and Mrs. William Shea, of Huntingdon, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Lucy-Ann, to their daughter, Jane, and her husband, on 29th July.

Mr. and Mrs. John Read, of New Haw, Surrey, on the birth of a grandson, Darren, to their daughter, Sheila, and her husband, Eric, on 14th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tibbitt, of Folkestone, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Christine Susan, to their son, David, and his wife, Janet, on 30th July.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wood, of Petersfield, on the birth of a grandson, Timothy Andrew, to their daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, on 6th May.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Burton, of Birmingham, on the birth of another great grandchild, Ruth Mary, on the 30th May, a second daughter for their grand-daughter, Susan, and her husband, Brian.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Clarke, of Blackpool, on the birth of their second great grandchild, Tiffany Adele, on 28th January.

Mr. David Owen, of Liverpool, on the birth of a great grandson, Kirk, on 9th July.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN Many Congratulations to:

Mrs. E. Hornsby, widow of the late *Alfred Hornsby*, of Sheffield, on the birth of her first great great grandchild, on 22nd June. Mrs. Hornsby has 23 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.

MARRIAGES: Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, of Morton, near Keighley, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Beverley, was married to Gary Bancroft, on 21st June.

Mr. Ray Benson, of Billingshurst, who was married to Yvonne Saul, on 7th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Blacker, of Peacehaven, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Lorraine Anne, was married to Robert Charles Pope, on 23rd August.

Mr. and Mrs. William Charity, of Willesden, are pleased to announce that their son, Phillip, was married to Pauline O'Brien, on 2nd August.

MARRIAGES Continued

Mr. and Mrs. John Cruse, of Newcastle, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Rosalyn, was married to Dr. Kenneth Matthewson, on 23rd August.

Mrs. Joy Kelk, of Rottingdean, widow of *Charles Kelk*, is pleased to announce that her daughter, Susan, was married to Mr. D. G. Dare, on 28th June.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davies, of Llanelli, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Angela, to Philip Adrain Davies, on 6th September.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Parish, of Norwich, are pleased to announce that their son, Graham, was married to Mary MacDonald, on 16th August.

Mr. Bert Phillips, of Bristol, is pleased to announce that his grandson, Mark, was married to Mandy Flook, on 19th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tybinski, of Ipswich, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Ursula, was married to Graham Mott, on 9th August.

SILVER WEDDINGS Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Armstrong, of Walthamstow, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 9th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dilks, of Bexhill-on-Sea, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 5th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harley who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 27th August. The Harley's have come from Zimbabwe to settle in England and are living temporarily in Bath.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Turner, of Shepperton, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 3rd September.

Mr. and Mrs. John Whitcombe, of Eastbourne, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 24th September.

RUBY WEDDINGS Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Carr, of High Wycombe, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 19th August.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dudley, of Croydon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 20th July.

Mr. and Mrs. William Glover, of Sutton Coldfield, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 3rd August.

DIAMOND WEDDING Many Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Henman, of Weybridge, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 21st August.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS We warmly congratulate:

Mr. Robert Dorling, of Norwich, who has won the Norfolk Disabled Gardeners' Trophy for the second year running.

Alex Cross, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cross*, of Birmingham, who has obtained a Second Class Honours Degree in English from Oxford University.

Rosalyn Matthewson, daughter of *Mr. John Cruse*, of Newcastle, who has recently passed her examinations to become a Health Visitor.

Julie Brooks, grand-daughter of *Mr. George Brooks*, of Saltdean, who has qualified as a speech therapist and gained a Credit for clinical practice and has obtained a post at the Bedford Hospital.

Rosalind Jones, daughter of *Mr. Peter Jones*, of Sheffield, who has passed three 'A' levels, all with grade A passes. Rosalind will now be going to Magdalen College, Oxford, to study modern languages.

Ursula and Monica, daughters of *Mr. Michael Tybinski*, of Ipswich, who have both graduated recently. Ursula obtained a degree in combined Science, from Leicester University and Monica obtained a degree Psychology, from Reading University.

Stephen, son of *Mr. Herbert Ward*, of Leeds, who has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer at the Bath College of Higher Education.

Howard Wilson, son of Mrs. Mary Wilson and the late *Mr. Richard Wilson*, of Cleadon, Sunderland, who has recently graduated from Reading University after gaining a degree in Physics and Meteorology. He will soon take up a position as Scientific Officer with the Met. Office in Bracknell.

Gareth Catterson, son-in-law of Mr. Raymond Sandiford, of Bolton, who has qualified at York University as a class one engineer, and to Mr. Sandiford's daughter, Anne, who is a teacher, and has recently organised an exhibition in Bolton aimed at increasing public understanding of local ethnic minority groups.

DEATHS

We offer our sincere sympathy to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Beatty, of Ballinamallard, on the death of their daughter-in-law, Irene, who died tragically in a car accident, on 25th August.

Mr. Edgar Bull, of Southampton, on the death of his step-son, Raymond, on 3rd July.

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.

Percy William Acton, Royal Artillery

Percy Acton, of Halifax, died on 8th July after a short illness. He was 69 years old.

Mr. Acton joined the Territorial Army, in 1934, and was mobilised on the outbreak of World War II, serving as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery. He was a prisoner-of-war in Singapore, and lost his sight as a result of privation and was discharged from the Army in 1946.

Mr. Acton joined St. Dunstan's in 1948. For many years he was employed as the manager of a scrap-yard in Halifax, also supervising demolition work and later he took employment with a textile firm, until he retired in 1974.

Mr. Acton enjoyed many interests. He gave long service as Chairman of the Far East Prisoner-of-War Association, in his area, and his hobbies included music, playing both the organ and saxophone, his greenhouse and bowling.

He leaves a widow, Lily and four daughters.

Leonard Arnold, 14th Essex Regiment

Leonard Arnold, of Poole, died on 2nd August. He was 87 years old. Mr. Arnold joined St. Dunstan's in May, 1916 and was one of our oldest surviving members. He served as a private in the 14th Essex Regiment during the First World War.

Mr. Arnold undertook a period of training in telephony, typing and Braille and was a highly efficient and valued member of staff, being employed by one company for all his working life, until he retired in 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Rober Dow, of Chessington, on the death of Mrs. Dow's mother, on 2nd July.

Mrs. Emily McClarnan, of Blackpool, on the death of her brother, in July, and on the death of her sister-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Palmer, of Downham Market, on the death of Mrs. Palmer's mother, in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Proffitt, of Epsom, on the death of Mrs. Proffitt's sister.

Mr. William Stickland, of Horspath, Oxford, on the death of his father, on 30th June.

Mr. Arnold was responsible for and pioneered a local Association for the blind in Wanstead/Woodford during 1940-41, which he modelled on St. Dunstan's. This successful Association is still in existence today and Mr. Arnold was its Chairman for seven years.

In earlier years Mr. Arnold enjoyed holidaying abroad with his wife, Ethel, and was a keen gardener. He also spent many happy holidays at our Brighton Homes and enjoyed attending Reunions. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1976.

Mr. Arnold leaves a widow, Ethel.

John Bailey, 8th Battalion Parachute Regiment

John Bailey, of Guildford, died on 15th August. He was 55 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 35 years.

Mr. Bailey joined the 8th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, in 1942, and was wounded in Germany, in 1945. He trained at Church Stretton and worked on inspection and packing with the same firm in Guildford for 25 years. The Lord Mayor presented Mr. Bailey with a commemorative gold watch to mark the occasion, but he was subsequently forced to change firms, due to work shortages.

Mr. Bailey was a keen gardener and for many years kept birds and bred budgerigars. His other hobbies included music and, in later years, he greatly enjoyed travelling abroad.

He leaves a widow, Kathleen, a son and a daughter.

In Memory *continued*

James Bates, King's Shropshire Light Infantry

James Henry Bates, of Telford, died on 4th July. He was 81 years old.

Mr. Bates served as a Private with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry from 1918, until he was discharged from the Army in 1919, after he was wounded at Cambrai and suffered some loss of sight. He retired from employment as a despatch worker in 1964, and as his sight continued to deteriorate, he joined St. Dunstan's in 1976.

He leaves a widow, Eva, and six sons.

James Brown, Royal Engineers

James Percy Brown, of Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, died on 17th June, after a short illness. He was 82 years old.

Mr. Brown served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1914 until 1918. He suffered a fractured skull and the loss of his left eye as a result of a gunshot wound in 1917, but despite this he was able to follow his career as a costs and works accountant until he retired. However, in later years Mr. Brown lost his remaining sight and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1969.

He leaves a widow, Florence, and a daughter, Mary.

John Cope, Royal Air Force

John Thomas Cope, of Coseley, died on 27th August. He was 85 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1976.

Mr. Cope served throughout the First World War in the Royal Air Force, and was a retired foundry worker.

Mr. Cope and his wife, May, had seven sons and four daughters. Three of his sons and their families live in Australia and he kept in touch with them all. Sadly, Mrs. Cope died in March this year and Mr. Cope went to live with his daughter, Joan, and her family, who cared for him devotedly.

Robert Croyman, Durham Light Infantry

Robert Henry Croyman, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, died suddenly on 18th June. He was 61 years old.

Mr. Croyman served as a Sergeant in the Durham Light Infantry from 1939 until 1944, and lost his sight as a result of a gunshot wound. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1952, at which time he was working as a settlement officer for the RNIB. He subsequently took up shop-keeping and five years later went into industry. In 1962 he became a technical officer with the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind and he later became the blind persons re-settlement officer for the

Ministry of Labour. Mr. Croyman did excellent work in this field and in 1978 was promoted to senior disablement re-settlement officer for Coventry and Warwickshire, while remaining in charge of the blind persons re-settlement service in the West Midlands.

In addition to the responsibilities of his work, Mr. Croyman was very active in a voluntary capacity as he was involved with many local committees for the disabled.

He leaves a widow, Deirdre, and six children.

Sidney Hebditch, Royal Army Medical Corps

Sidney Mozart Hebditch, formerly of Hornsey, latterly resident in Pearson House, died on 12th August. He was 82 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for five years.

Mr. Hebditch served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War. His vision was affected by mustard gas in 1918, and after repatriation he was hospitalised for six months before being discharged from the Army.

Unfortunately, his wife, Rosa, died in 1978 after more than 50 years of happy marriage and his daughter, Mary, also died in 1978. Although Mr. Hebditch was devotedly cared for by his family, as his health was deteriorating he became a permanent resident in Pearson House in 1979. He will be greatly missed by Matron Hallett and her staff and many fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves a daughter, Tessa, and a son, John.

William James, 77th Welsh Regiment

William John James, of Cardiff, died in hospital on 27th July. He was 59 years old.

Mr. James served as a Gunner with the 77th Welsh Regiment, Heavy Artillery, from 1941 until 1964. He was a Japanese prisoner-of-war for three and a half years and joined St. Dunstan's in April, 1980, having already spent two years in Rookwood hospital after suffering a severe stroke.

Mr. James was very brave in facing up to his disabilities and was held in high regard by the hospital staff and patients. As well as visits from his family, he had regular contact with old friends from his days as a player with the Cardiff City Football Club. Mr. James' funeral service was attended by St. Dunstaner Ray Yabsley who had been a prisoner-of-war with Mr. James.

He leaves a son and daughter.

John Jones, Royal Garrison Artillery

John Ewart Jones, of Tipton, Staffordshire, died on 30th July. He was 83 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1971.

Mr. Jones served with the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War and suffered injuries to both eyes. In civilian life he had been a metallurgist.

Tragically, in 1940, Mr. Jones' wife, son and brother were killed during an air raid while

attending a wedding reception with his family, many of whom were injured. This, together with his war injuries, affected Mr. Jones' health, but he was well cared for by his daughters and grand-daughter.

Mr. Jones enjoyed taking part in his local blind club's activities and always looked forward to holidays at Ian Fraser House. Unfortunately, his health deteriorated and he was admitted to hospital in June and ultimately to a residential nursing home, where he died.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Doris Howes and Mrs. Irene Rudge.

Horatio Langton, Suffolk Regiment

Horatio Herbert Langton, of Bottesford, died on 30th August. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Langton served as a Private in the Suffolk Regiment throughout the Second World War and during captivity as a Far East prisoner-of-war suffered considerable deprivation.

After a period of industrial training, Mr. Langton joined St. Dunstan's in 1949 and was a highly efficient and valued employee until he retired in 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Langton would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary next year. He enjoyed attending Reunions and visiting Ovingdean and he was a keen gardener.

Unfortunately Mr. Langton's health deteriorated during the year and his daughter, Janet, gave Mrs. Langton invaluable help in caring for him.

He leaves a widow, Pearl, and eight children.

Maurice Linacre, Royal Navy

Maurice Linacre, of Wallasey, Merseyside, died on 28th August. He was 60 years old.

Mr. Linacre served in the Royal Navy from 1937 until 1947 and joined St. Dunstan's in 1954. He trained in industry and worked for Austin's in Birmingham and then joined Vauxhall Motors, at Ellesmere Port, where he remained for 10 years working on different kinds of assembly. He was a cheerful and conscientious worker and took pride in his achievements and he was highly regarded by his colleagues and employers.

At home he was a good carpenter and a D.I.Y. enthusiast, making furniture and undertaking repairs and improvements to the house whenever possible. He suffered from recurrent ill-health throughout his career and, sadly, was only able to enjoy one year of retirement.

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

Patrick Murphy, Royal Engineers

Patrick Murphy died at Pearson House, on 12th August. He was 85 years old.

Mr. Murphy served as a sapper in the Royal Engineers during the First World War. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1949, but happily his sight improved and it was not until 1966 that he became a St. Dunstanian.

Mr. Murphy lived in Dublin, but in 1968 became a permanent resident at Pearson House, where he will be greatly missed.

Daniel Petherick, Royal Navy

Daniel Richard Alumbly Petherick, of Keighley, died on 28th August. He was 79 years old.

Mr. Petherick served in the Royal Navy from 1936 until he was discharged in 1945 and was wounded in the Baltic in 1943. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1971.

Mr. and Mrs. Petherick celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in 1976 and as he was a countryman at heart, Mr. Petherick derived much pleasure when he moved, four years ago, to a bungalow overlooking the Yorkshire Dales where he was able to continue with his hobby of gardening.

He leaves a widow, Mary and four children.

Albert Spencer, Royal Navy and Gordon Highlanders

Albert James Spencer, of Gillingham, died in hospital on 15th August. He was 74 years old.

Mr. Spencer had been a St. Dunstanian since 1952, following two years on active service during the Second World War, as a Private in the Gordon Highlanders.

Prior to the War, Mr. Spencer had been a regular in the Royal Navy, for 12 years, and reached the rank of Petty Officer Cook. He subsequently became a shop-keeper, but disposed of his business when he enlisted.

Since his wife, Gertrude, died in 1978, Mr. Spencer was devotedly cared for by his daughter, Joyce, until the time of his death.

He leaves a son and two daughters.

Joseph Wolsey, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Joseph Wolsey, of Belfast, died on 13th August. He was 82 years old.

Mr. Wolsey served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from 1915 until he was discharged in 1918, with the rank of Sergeant. He was severely wounded at Ypres, losing his right eye and forearm. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1978 but due to ill-health was never able to visit St. Dunstan's. He was a keen gardener and took a lively interest in everything in his locality.

He leaves a widow, Miriam, and six children.