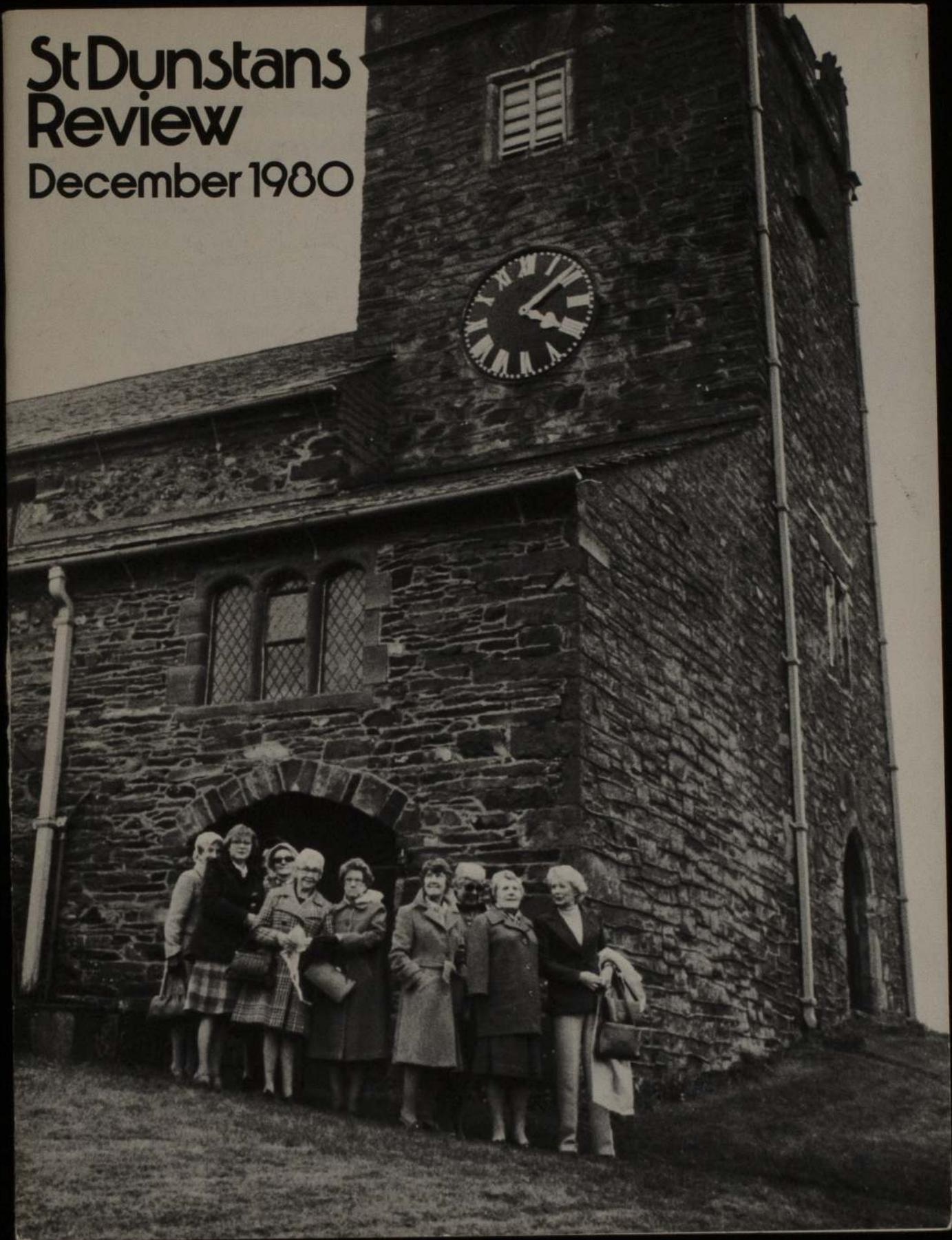


# St Dunstons Review

December 1980





## Message from the Chairman

*MY WIFE JOINS ME IN SENDING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR TO ALL ST. DUNSTANERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHEREVER THEY MAY BE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.*

### NAIDEX and the International Year

At the end of October, St. Dunstan's was again among the exhibitors at the National Aids for the Disabled Exhibition, known as NAIDEX. This is primarily a display for professionals working in the social services, hospitals and government and private agencies dealing with the problems of handicapped people. Members of the public are also welcomed.

I have heard from staff and St. Dunstaners who manned our stand that this year the exhibition produced more interest than ever and they were busy with visitors' enquiries most of the time.

With the approach of 1981, the International Year of Disabled People, this news is encouraging, as it seems there is already a ground swell of growing interest in the needs and capabilities of disabled people. Let us hope this will be the foundation for IYDP's success in increasing knowledge and sympathy among the more fortunate members of the world community; as you know, St. Dunstan's will be playing an active part.

*Jon Barnett-Dave*

### Additions to Cassette Library

R28. II C90's. A guide to Amateur Radio. A good starter for anyone interested in taking up the hobby.

R29. C60. Appendix to above. Q Code, the RST code, and alphabetical index to the book.

G15. C60. One track only Radio 4 programme on Open Channel (Citizen Band Radio).

G16 6 C90's. The Irwin "Modern Keyboard Harmony Approach to Contemporary Organ Playing" part one. An American step by step guide, the first of three parts.

### Christmas and New Year Holidays

#### HEADQUARTERS

Will be closed after lunch on Wednesday, 24th December until Monday, 29th December at 9.15 a.m. for the Christmas Holiday, and will be closed from 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 31st December until Friday, 2nd January 1981 at 9.15 a.m. for the New Year Holiday.

#### 152 BROADHURST GARDENS

Will be closed for both holidays.

#### BRIGHTON HOMES

Will remain open for both holidays.

#### Chapel Collections at Ian Fraser House

Christian Aid (Algerian Relief)	£15
Marie Curie Memorial Fund for Home Nursing of Terminal Cancer Patients	£15
Dr. Barnardo's Society	£15
The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	£15

### Sailing - 1981

The 1981 Seamanship Foundation Cruiser Sailing Course for the Visually Handicapped will take place at Salcombe, based at the Island Cruising Club, from 5th-11th July. The cost will be £45 per student for the week.

A maximum of 24 people can be accepted, and this number will include students who have attended previous courses. In future selection for the Course will be more flexible, and people who have attended two or three Courses in the past can still apply but there can be no guarantee that a place can be found.

Application forms (which should be returned by February 15th 1981) are obtainable from the Sports and Recreation Officer, RNIB., 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

### Plastic Wallet Address Cards

These are blank address cards with the words "Articles for the Blind" in green at the top, on both sides. The card fits under the window of a compact cassette postal wallet. They are available free of charge, from Mens' Supplies at the Headquarters. When requesting them, will you please use the above title, so as not to confuse them with the paper address labels.

### APPOINTMENT

Professor Maurice Aldridge, who was appointed Professor of Phonetics and General Linguistics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1979, has recently been appointed to a full directorship of St. Dunstan's, (South Africa.)

## St Dunstons Review

No. 724

10p MONTHLY  
DECEMBER

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COVER PICTURE: *Some of our lady St. Dunstaners at Hawkshead Church during their Reunion in the Lake District.*



*St. Dunstaners pause during a walk on the lakeside of Windermere.*

## WOMEN ST DUNSTANERS' REUNION

by Dorothy Martin

The 25th October was a lovely sunny day when the lady St. Dunstaners, with their escorts, left Euston Station to meet up with the rest of their party at Lancaster, where it was pouring with rain. We had an excellent lunch there, but with some misgivings, as those people from Brighton were somewhat delayed. However, eventually everything was sorted out, much to the relief of Miss Lord.

Through the mist and rain we proceeded to Bowness, where a very welcome tea was waiting for us. Afterwards we had a rest and changed for dinner and met new and old friends.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and we took advantage of the free time to go on a shopping expedition and to visit a lovely 14th Century church. After lunch we were off again to the National Trust Park to see a tape and slide presentation about the Lake District. However, much to the embarrassment of our hosts and to the amusement of the

audience, the tape refused to work, but eventually all was well and we were given a description of the lovely lakes and afterwards a woodland walk brought to the end a delightful afternoon.

That evening we went on a short journey to Miller Howe Hotel. We drove up the drive which was floodlit and reflected the beautiful flowers and trees in the lights. The interior of the hotel was charming, decorated with hanging baskets and on the dining table each plate was adorned with a posy of freesias. In that lovely atmosphere and charming surroundings we had a memorable meal which will not be forgotten for a long time.

Sunday dawned wet and misty. We donned our raincoats, clutched our umbrellas and boarded a glass covered launch and had a trip on Lake Windermere. Unfortunately, the view was hidden behind the clouds so we disembarked and were taken to have lunch with Major and Mrs. Sandys who gave us a very warm welcome,

in spite our dripping clothes. What a joy it is when sighted people give graphic descriptions of the surroundings, which Major Sandys did the whole time we were with him.

Our next stop was at the beautiful old 14th Century church, St. Michael and All Angels, where the Vicar gave a fascinating talk. Apparently Hawkshead Church claims to be the Gem of Lakeland, disputed by Grassmere, and the debate has not really been settled. Some time ago the church was cleaned and texts and quotations from the bible were found written all over the pillars and walls. This was a unique find, so during the cleaning process they had to use limewash which would not damage the inscriptions.

All too soon it was time to move across to a very small school where William Wordsworth had been a pupil. There were old wooden desks and narrow platform seats, carved wooden chests and so on. School children of today should bear in mind that in Wordsworth's day each child had to take his own bag of coal to school to keep the schoolroom warm. It would take too long to mention all the interesting things, but it was with regret that we said

goodbye to Major and Mrs. Sandys and thanked them for their wonderful hospitality.

Our dinner that evening, with Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme and Major and Mrs. Sandys, was also a memorable occasion. We had an excellent meal and afterwards Gwen Obern gave a very apt and amusing vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme and presented them with a gift from us ladies, gave a bouquet to Mrs. Sandys and a few items of appreciation to the various people who had so ably contributed to our welfare and comfort, whom I am sure also enjoyed all our activities.

As a few years may elapse before another Reunion, may I, on behalf of all the lady St. Dunstaners, say what a memorable time we had and how friendly and warm the atmosphere was and thank you for all the smooth working arrangements made on our behalf.

### Editor's Note

We have heard from Major Sandys that many of the ladies have written to him and he said, "how much my wife and I appreciated their taking the trouble to write to us."

*Major Sandys greets Margaret Bingham at Graythwaite Hall.*



## A TECHNIQUE FOR A BLIND ARCHER

by Norman Perry

*Norman Perry practising what he preaches at the Archery Championships.*

As in all sports, archery technique is founded on basic principles from which an individual style may be developed. It is essential to learn the basic technique before developing a style of one's own to avoid starting with bad habits that can take a great deal of effort to eradicate. What I am about to describe, is the style I have evolved as a blind person from a technique used by sighted archers. It may help others who are thinking of taking up the sport but it is not necessarily the only style to take up.

There are a great number of different bows on the market and it is best to take the advice of the Club Coach and try drawing up a number of different bows before purchasing one.

The bow itself needs no modification for the use by a blind person. A 'clicker' is useful to enable a correct draw length of the arrow starts from the correct position of the bow string. A 'kisser' too may be found helpful as a check on the position of the string-hand under the chin. The arrows should be of correct length, so that when at full draw they come through the 'clicker'. If using three-fletched arrows, the nock must have a clearly defined notch or prominence to indicate the 'cock feather'. I use four-fletched arrows so there is no need to place the arrow in any particular way on the string. The aiming point or post is a firm stand with horizontal arm which can be



adjusted for height and lateral movement and can be fixed to the ground to keep it stable.

Foot markers are 'U' shaped pieces of metal that also can be pressed into the ground and fixed firmly.

When at the shooting line, the bow should be strung and checked, the aiming post assembled.

The right-handed bowman will stand astride the line with his left arm towards the target. Where a string is stretched along the ground as a line, it is possible to feel the string and position oneself squarely. If only a painted line is used, then some sighted assistance will be needed. Holding the stand in the left hand, place it at arms length towards the target and then pin it down.

The horizontal bar should be parallel to the face of the target and the height adjusted for range. My own method of adjusting for range is to stand close to the aiming post with my left shoulder touching the aiming point. From experience I am able to estimate the height required in finger widths above or below the point of my shoulder. It is helpful to know if the ground to the target rises or falls when making an estimation of the height of the aiming point.

With feet astride the line, extend the left arm (with elbow straight but not rigid) so that the back of the hand is touching the

aiming point on the spot from which it is intended to aim. It may be necessary to move away from or closer to the aiming post so that you do not stretch to the left or lean to the right in order to make contact with the aiming point. At all tournaments six 'sighters' are given and at this point sighted assistance is allowed.

### Six Sighters

Next the bow is loaded and brought up to full draw, the left hand comes into contact with aiming point and the assistant gives verbal directions to bring the arrow to point at the target, the archer adjusts his line by moving the feet forwards or backwards. When the assistant is satisfied that the line is about right, the bow is brought down to the low draw position without releasing the arrow. A second check at full draw is then made and if this proves right then it is up to the bowman to loose the arrow. From the result of that shot adjustments can be made for range and direction. After the six 'sighters', the foot-markers are placed round the feet and pressed into the ground. The bowman can then move away and come back to the same position as he wishes without further assistance. From here on, no further assistance is given — only a report of where the shots are hitting (or missing) and adjustments to the aiming-point are made by the bowman on his judgment alone.

"I shot an arrow into the air, where it fell I know not where." That is not the object of target archery — which is to know where you are going and to make certain that every arrow shot goes into the same hole on the target. In order to achieve this, a drill must be gone through for each shot and this requires a great deal of self-discipline and concentration.

### The Low Draw Position

Standing astride the line, facing forward, body erect but not rigid, the bow is now loaded. The 'nock' is placed between the nocking points and the shaft, under the 'clicker' and resting on the arrow shelf. The bow is held a few inches off the body, with the right forearm in line with the arrow shaft, wrist straight, index finger resting on the string in light contact with the top of the nock, middle and ring finger tips curled round the string below and not touching the arrow. A slight amount of tension is applied to the string to hold the arrow in the bow.

The left arm is held away from the side, elbow at a right angle with the wrist straight and the hand open with fingers and thumb extended. The bow is kept in position by the tension of the right hand.

Without moving the body, the head is turned to face the target and held with the tip of the nose and point of the chin on an imaginary line running across the front of both shoulders. The bow is then raised into the same line by raising and extending the left arm to point the fingers to the target whilst the right arm comes up to bring the index finger along and under the chin with wrist straight, forearm in line with the arrow shaft, elbow back and up in line with the shoulder. The string should be pulled into the point of the nose and cleft of chin, the 'kisser' between the lips. Both shoulders should be locked back to hold this position. If the bow is raised into the correct line, the left hand will come to the aiming point without having to search for it.

### Hold

In the 'Hold' position, the body held steady, the bowman thinks through his position, making certain that the right arm is in line with the arrow, the index finger close under the chin, the string down the nose to chin, the left elbow straight but not stiff and held up and out, the left wrist straight, fingers pointing to the target and the back of the hand in light contact with the aiming point in the desired place. The arrow is now 'loosed' by the simple action of extending the fingers of the right hand. As soon as the arrow is loosed, the right arm will move away to a position that varies with each individual. Sometimes the finger tips touch part of the head and in others it remains in the air some inches from the head. The left hand should continue towards the target. This position should be held as the 'Follow through' until the arrow is heard hitting the target (or in the case of a miss, for some moments after the loose).

### Reloading

The bow is then brought down for reloading and the body relaxes, ready to repeat the result of the shot, stating the colour hit (using the clock for reference on the target face) thus enabling the bowman to make whatever adjustments may be considered necessary.

This is a rough outline of how I shoot and I am aware that I have omitted some of the

## Archery — continued

more finer points that one learns as one goes on but perhaps this information may interest others and I am sure that, should they decide to take up archery, then I can assure them that a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction can be gained from the effort that is required to shoot well.

## BOWLS 1980

### by Jock Carnochan

Since the indoor bowling rink was built at Ian Fraser House the number of people taking up bowling has increased from about a dozen to over 40 and as these bowlers became more proficient, at least indoors, the desire to compete also increased, hence their participation this year in four tournaments organised by the Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers. This desire has sprung mainly from our own tournaments held at Ian Fraser House culminating in the St. Dunstan's Annual Indoor Championships.

St. Dunstan's has been well represented in the national major tournaments this year and, may I add, since the very high success rate in winning more than half of these competitions, the bowlers are very highly respected in the world of visually handicapped bowling. The four tournaments were Weston-Super-Mare, and Leicester, where we had two representatives, J. Padley and P. Stubbs, with both being runners up in the T.B. singles groups A and B respectively, Hastings and Stoke Mandeville.

A team of 12 were at Weston-Super-Mare and St. Dunstan's brought back the T.B. singles (P. Stubbs) and runners up in the pairs were M. Golding and R. Forshaw, that is both Pairs Competitions, and runners up in the P.S. singles, R. Forshaw.

At Hastings we had a team of 16 bowlers and there were plenty of remarks made like, "Watch these St. Dunstaners, they are pretty hot" and again we showed in the pot hunting with P. Stubbs as runner up in the T.B. singles, beaten only by one point and the St. Dunstan's Triples Trophy was won by St. Dunstan's for the first time in its 20 year history, the winning team consisting of A. Robinson, E. Brown and I. Pellington—a very formidable trio.

We did not take part in the Lowestoft tournament as it followed too closely after the Hastings event and the competitors need time to get home and cut the lawn and get the laundry done. Our last tournament of the year was at Stoke Mandeville. The competition was the Annual Senior Multi-Disabled Games where a team of nine attended, taking part in two competitions, the T.B. and P.S. singles. After a long day's bowling, the last wood of the day was bowled at 10.45 p.m., St. Dunstan's came away with both trophies. J. Padley won the T.B. and A. Robinson the P.S. and A. Waters and P. Stubbs were the losing semi-finalists.

Not only has the experience of taking part in these major tournaments been valuable from a bowling point of view, but they have enabled all the participants to increase their social contacts and make a lot of new friends.

### New Committee

During the forthcoming Indoor Championships it is intended to hold a discussion about the past year's participation and it is envisaged that a Bowling Committee proper will be elected to replace the present Steering Committee. The new Committee's task will be to improve not only on results, but on the efficiency of organising visits to other clubs.

Finally, congratulations to all those who took part in the tournaments, especially to the winners, and a special thank you to all the wives and escorts whose time is spent trotting our bowlers up and down the green, fetching and carrying woods, tea etc., and consoling the losers (which is not an easy task). Here is looking forward to next year's tournaments.

## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Theatre Royal 15th December for three weeks — Christmas Show Ipi Tombi.

### Brighton Centre

The World's Most Dazzling Ice Show 31st December — 25th January.

Vienna Ice Review 1981. This completely new production will have its world premier in Brighton — presented by the experts in Ice Spectaculars, Madison Square Gardens. 1st — 5th December Archery 13th — 14th December Bridge Instruction

## WRITING COMPETITION

The judging of this competition took place in London on Tuesday, 11 November. The three judges, Lucia Green, Women's Editor, Titbits, Sue Bradbury, Assistant Editor, Folio Society, and Justin Cartwright, author and film director, join the Editor in thanking and congratulating all 25 entries. This was a great response. The judges also wish to pass on the fact that they considered that every single entry had merit.

The winner in each section will receive a cheque for £20 and the runner up a cheque for £10. Their entries will appear in the *Review* over the coming year.

### Fiction Section

**Winner 'Force Ten Plus' by Sandpiper, alias John Ryder.** Runner up 'Disapprobation of Red Haired Lady' by Charles Sayles, alias Paul Francia.

### Non Fiction Section

**Winner 'Alone' by Sandpiper, alias John Ryder.** Runner up 'Mozart and Shakespeare Can Wait' by W. Phillips, alias Phillip Wood.

## TRIP TO ISRAEL 1981

The provisional details of the trip are as follows: projected dates—depart Heathrow, Saturday, 9th May and return Saturday, 23rd May. The trip includes four nights in Jerusalem, on a bed and breakfast basis, taking in a full day tour of the Old and New Cities, a half day tour of Bethlehem and Hebron and a one day tour of the Dead Sea, including Jericho and Massada.

Transfer to Tel Aviv for six nights, on a bed and breakfast basis, visiting Beit Halochem (the Rehabilitation Centre for Israeli War Disabled), a two day tour of the Golan Heights, staying over night in a Kibbutz guest house, visiting Metulla, The Good Fence, Nazareth and Tiberias and returning to Tel Aviv for transfer by plane for three nights in Eilat, on the Red Sea, on a half-board basis, this will be a rest period, staying in a four star hotel, before returning to London via Tel Aviv.

The cost of £350 per head covers all flights, coach tours—air conditioned with English speaking guide, hotels and meals as described. Meals that have to be purchased are apparently reasonable, approximately £4 per head, including wine.

The party is limited to a total of 48 people.

Would anyone wishing to participate, including those who have already written expressing an interest, please send a cheque for £35 per person, by 15th January. The balance will be required in March. Cheques should be payable to St. Dunstan's and addressed to Ray Hazan, at Headquarters. No monies will be refundable once the balance has been paid.

## EL ALAMEIN ANNUAL REUNION

Six St. Dunstaners were with the 8th Army Veterans at the anniversary of El Alamein held in Blackpool at the beginning of November. The President, The Right Honourable The Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, T.D., D.L., welcomed the assembled gathering, amongst whom were St. Dunstaners David Bell, of Edinburgh, Albert Steer, of Cleveland, Jo Nicol, of Humberside, Bill Arnold, of Keighley, Frank Brooke, of the Wirral, and Frank Chitty, of Hove, and included Bill and Alice Griffiths, who were attending as guests. Major General Roberts, C.B., D.S.O., who commanded the 22nd Armoured Brigade at El Alamein, was introduced by The Right Honourable The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, C.B.E.

On the Saturday the Veterans were entertained in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, by stars headed by Tommy Trinder. The weekend terminated with a march and wreath laying ceremony on the Sunday, which was also attended by members of the German-Italian Afrika Korps. This account only briefly summarises what sounded an extremely full and entertaining weekend. Would anyone wishing to become a member of the 8th Army Veterans, or wanting to apply for next year's reunion please contact Alex Lewis, 7 Winfell Road, West Derby, Liverpool L12 2AT.

## APOLOGIES TO

Mrs. Ivy Kelk for an incorrect announcement in the October *Review*. It should have read:

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

At H.M.S. Daedalus the SS Victor Ludorum was won by Trevor Tatchell, for the second year running, and not by Ted links, who competed in the TB events.



## A TRIBUTE TO HELEN KELLER

By Eric Boulter

*During a visit to Ovingdean, in 1946, Helen Keller converses with the late George Fallowfield, who also was deaf as well as blind.*

1980 is the centenary year of the birth of Helen Keller and with his permission we reproduce here a tribute by Eric Boulter C.B.E., which appeared originally in the *Review of the European Blind*. Eric Boulter worked for many years for Helen Keller International Inc., and in 1978 was given the Helen Keller Award for his work for the blind internationally. A St. Dunstaner himself, Eric Boulter is now a member of our Council.

On 27th June 1880 Helen Keller was born in the small town of Tuscumbia in the southern state of Alabama, U.S.A. Stricken in babyhood with a virulent fever that was to deprive her of sight, hearing and speech, she was to become one of the heroic and respected figures of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

They called her "the world's First Lady of Courage"; in her earlier days they called her "the miracle child of Tuscumbia". She was often referred to as being a legend in her own time, or the international ambassador for the blind and the deaf-blind. Of course, she was all these things, but those of us who knew her and all those who have benefited so greatly and so directly from the impetus she gave to the development of greater governmental and public understanding of the aspirations and of the abilities of the blind and deaf-blind people of the world, she was so very much more.

She was our inspiration; she it was who lighted our way; she it was in company with her incomparable teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, and later that magnificent person, Polly Thompson, who opened up a broad

vista of an achievable future containing a new way of life from which blind and deaf-blind people would not be excluded, but in which they would participate happily and constructively as full and equal members.

Helen Keller is no longer with us — no more will the legislators of the world hear that rather plaintive voice which she so painstakingly acquired pleading for the enactment of laws for the education and rehabilitation of blind people and deaf-blind people, and for the prevention of blindness, but the statute books of countries around the globe give ample testimony to the effectiveness of her pleading. Throughout her working life, she devoted herself unceasingly to the task of promoting the opportunity of more purposeful living for her blind and deaf-blind colleagues in every part of the world. She was the living embodiment of all that we sought and are now seeking to achieve. She was the catalyst of so much of our thinking and planning. She was our guide and our mentor.

Helen Keller's credo on behalf of the blind and deaf-blind, and other deprived people for whom she laboured so diligently, may be summed up in something which she once wrote: "Every human being has undeniable rights which, respected, render happiness possible. The right to live his own life as far as may be, to choose his own creed, to develop his own capabilities". Surely this is the objective that we must keep before us as we proceed with our work, and if we bring to our tasks all the wisdom and effort of which we are capable,

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 2698*  
**Rubbish**

By Susan Barrett  
Read by Arthur Bush  
Reading Time 8 ½ hours

Robert Mitchel is "Something in the City" — but not very much. As the story opens, Robert and Ann have just moved into their new executive-type house on the fringe of the whisky-&-soda belt of Melbury, a move they can ill afford.

It is nearing Christmas and Robert is lying low as has no money to tip the dustmen. But, (surprise! surprise!) who should empty their bin but Tom Stubbs, an old university mate. He has opted out of the rat-race, lives with his wife and brood in a council flat, and declares himself perfectly happy and content. He thinks that Robert and Ann are a pair of pretentious twits.

Close by, in a splendidly vulgar Manor House lives Richard Dudley, heart-throb film star, reputedly swooned over by half the world's females. But, millionaire play-boy though he might be, he has a problem — the tax-man, and he is more than a little short of the "readies".

The three men get together, (a bit contrived, this part I thought) and dream up a scheme to commit larceny on the grand scale. But they aren't very good at it, and things don't go as planned — not by a long chalk...

The plot gets a teeny bit confusing in places, but the book's readable enough. There is the classic chase, and there are moments of pure farce, though perhaps not quite enough of them.

### HELEN KELLER —continued

we may experience something of what Helen had in mind when she wrote: "The joy of surmounting obstacles which once seemed unremovable, and pushing the frontiers of accomplishment further, what joy is there like unto it. For when we do the best that we can we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Ted Brown, Hartford, Huntingdon

In my report of the Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion, in last month's *Review*, I omitted to say that although Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme were unable to attend our dance they were with us for the special service in the Chapel on Sunday morning. They met and chatted with many ex-P.O.W's.

Another point is that our two main guests on Friday were Ted Coffey and Harold Payne, who were omitted from the report.

From: Robert Pringle, Ealing

Can I through your columns recommend the following useful items which I have recently discovered.

For any St. Dunstaner who enjoys crossword puzzles the RNIB crossword set. About six books of Braille transcriptions of 'Daily Telegraph', 'Guardian' and other puzzles are available. I have had hours of pleasure from mine.

My local hardware shop manager drew my attention to a most useful article for anyone who is totally blind, partially sighted or colour blind. This is an aid for distinguishing between Yale type keys. It comes in eight colours and there are four distinct tactile versions in each colour. They are called Kennrings and cost 6p each. They are capable of stretching to fit most shapes of keys. Even sighted people might find them useful for sorting out similar keys on a dark night!

**Editor's Note** If other St Dunstaners have useful suggestions or news of useful gadgets we would be happy to hear from them. Perhaps it might be possible to include such ideas in a regular column in the *Review*.

### DUNKIRK DOCUMENTARY

George Brooks, of Saltdean, recently took part in a prize winning radio programme, 'Dunkirk 1940'. The programme was awarded the prize for being the best radio feature programme of the year, by the Society of Authors in conjunction with Pye. If anyone missed the broadcast the probable date of a repeat is Saturday, 3rd January, at 10.15 pm., and part two on Sunday, 4th January at the same time.

# THE CNICT

by Jock Carnochan



*John Simpson on the rock face.*

This is not the introduction to a new language, but the name of one of the mountains in the Snowdonia National Park range, North Wales, just on the outskirts of Portmadoc.

During the past six years many St. Dunstaners have travelled annually to the tiny village of Dinas Mawddwy, near Dolgellau, to participate in mountain rambling, attacking the second highest mountain in the Snowdonia range, Cader Idris. As the years progressed three approaches to the top, with varying degrees of difficulty and physical demand were settled on, and we finally introduced a feeler at mountaineering proper for those fit enough to attempt it. The organiser of this venture is Bob Thomas, an ex-Royal Navy man, who on leaving the service made his vocation with the Forestry Commission.

Throughout the years Bob has always maintained that St. Dunstaners were capable of meeting the challenge of real mountaineering, nothing quite as demanding as the Eiger, but demanding the same skills, i.e., the more experienced climbers scaling the mountain, finding anchor points and rigging ropes to be sent down to the rest of the party, who have to ascend finding their own feet and hand holds, but are afforded a certain degree of safety, by being secured to the pre-rigged ropes. However, you are still liable to find yourself swinging like a clock pendulum if you lose your grip, because the surface happens to be wet and slippery, or you can lose what height you have painstakingly gained, by failing to tell your handler to keep your rope tight. There are plenty of other technicalities to think about as well.

I think the only advantage the St.

Dunstaners have is that they cannot see the long drop to the bottom, or the almost impossible way ahead and I am sure if they did, they would think twice about volunteering for the climb. However, this gives you an idea of the challenge involved for this year's climb.

As the party were climbing Cnicht for the first time Bob Thomas decided it would be better to select the men he thought were physically capable and could afford the time to come, so it was for these reasons that the climb was not announced in the *Review* as it is usually. The St. Dunstaners invited were Trevor Tatchell, Bill Shea, Ray Sheriff, John Simpson, Tom Lukes and Eric Bradshaw.

The party assembled at the Royal Huntsman Hotel, Portmadoc, on the evening of Friday, 5th September. During dinner that night we were welcomed by two serving members of the Portmadoc local authority, who gave us a brief history of the town and its man-made harbour and told us what a challenge we had ahead of us in negotiating the local mountain called the Cnicht, which is 2,260 feet above sea level. The two Councillors expressed great admiration for the courage of the St. Dunstaners in even thinking about coming all that way to attempt such a physical challenge, as both of them had in their younger days tried to climb the Cnicht, but as yet had not completed the climb. I do not

know if this had a frightening effect on the group of climbers, but they all refused to have a second helping of sweet and declined an after dinner drink?

Next morning we left the hotel by minibus at 9.15 and made our way to the tiny village of Croesor, which was on the last made up road on the approach to the mountain, about four miles away. At Croesor we met our escorts, some of whom have been meeting our St. Dunstaners since the beginning of the North Wales trips, and the R.A.F. Cadet mountain rescue team, who were going to be the technical team on the actual rock climbing section. Barry Ellis was in command and is the leader of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Unit, which covers the Snowdonia National Park area and I. Pritchard-Jones, ex-Royal Marine Commando Officer, was the deputy leader of the party. Once we had met our helpers and realised their expertise we began to feel a little less apprehensive.

At 9.45 we set off on the long trek to the base of the mountain. We had to cross very rough terrain with an ever increasing ascent to the mountain base. As we started off the weather was quite good, but as we reached the base and obviously with the increasing altitude, the wind was about Force 7 and the visibility was reduced to about 15 yards. At this point we rested and had our packed lunches, whilst the mountain rescue team scaled the

*In the mist, but triumphantly at the top, the team poses for cameraman, Bob Thomas.*



mountain, rigging the anchor points and ropes for the St Dunstaners to climb to the top, which was about 10° beyond the vertical and about 100 feet high and had a very wet rock surface and there was, as a bonus, a howling wind blowing.

One by one the St Dunstaners climbed to the summit of the Cnicht, where we all had a short rest before descending. We took an easier route down and then spread out on the four mile trek back to base, again on a different route to the approach. We arrived at base at 5.15 pm and having said farewell and many thanks to our very efficient team of helpers, we got back to the hotel an hour later.

After a total of nine hours very satisfying physical achievement, a good shower and a very welcome dinner, washed down with a few pints of beer, brought to the close a very rewarding day.

Sunday was devoted to touring the local environment visiting some of the tourist attractions. We went to the Portmadoc Maritime Museum, where we were given a fascinating talk on the making of the man-made harbour and its connection with the Ffestiniog Slate Mines and small gauge railway, which are both conjunctive to the harbour and the slate industry of that era. Afterwards the party boarded the train at

Portmadoc and travelled through very beautiful countryside to the intermediate station, Tan-y-Blwch. From there we drove by minibus to a small lake for a picnic.

After lunch we proceeded to the hydro-electric power station at Tan-y-Grisiau where we had a conducted tour and a talk on the construction and operation of a power station.

Back at the hotel there was a pleasant surprise waiting for us. After dinner the manager had arranged for the Portmadoc Male Voice Choir to come and entertain us, which they did until closing time. Thus ended a very good weekend of recreation, entertainment and education, which was different, in many ways, from the usual North Wales visits of previous years and, to my mind, had the edge on the Cader Idris trips. I hope that our good friend and organiser, Bob Thomas, will decide to keep it going for a few years to come.

Finally I would like to express our very sincere thanks to all our escorts and hosts for giving us such a wonderful weekend and not forgetting Bob's wife, Rowena, who like most wives, plays a big part behind the scenes in these ventures. On behalf of all those St. Dunstaners who know Rowena may I wish her a speedy recovery from her operation and a swift return to good health.

## THE CENOTAPH PARADE

by Joyce Pringle

St. Dunstaners came to Headquarters from every corner of Great Britain. Men travelled from Leith, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Folkestone, Bristol and Taunton to take part in the Cenotaph Parade. Two wheel-chair borne St. Dunstaners, Tony Dodd and Robert Nobbs, joined the parade past the Cenotaph. From Daedalus came stalwarts Kevin Rixon, Clive Webb, Alan Price, Ian Sherriff, Jim Andrews and George Delaney. It would take a greater gift with words than mine to describe the gentleness with which Ian Sherriff carried Robert Nobbs up into the coach. We wives went to the Russell Hotel to watch the Cenotaph Parade on the television. St. Dunstan's was mentioned in the commentary but we were a bit disappointed as only the rear of the column was shown. I felt a bit sorry for the only male escort in with all us women, he was David Parfitt who escorted Randall Williams.

### Loyal Toast

When the coaches returned to the Russell Hotel, where we were joined by Mrs. Garnett-Orme, there was an opportunity for St. Dunstaners who hadn't met since last year to catch up with each other's news. A few of the St. Dunstaners deep in conversation who caught my eye were Herbert Haberfield, Colin Beaumont Edmonds, Patrick Armstrong, Michael Lawton, Bill Arnold, Ted Jinks, Norman Hopkins and Henry Haskey. Soon lunch was called and afterwards Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme gave the Loyal Toast and we sang "God Save the Queen."

### 60 St. Dunstaners

Mr. Garnett-Orme then addressed us. He greeted all St. Dunstaners, wives and escorts. He and his wife were proud to be with us. He said our column numbered approximately 90, sixty of whom were St. Dunstaners. Also marching that morning had been Mr. Denis Cadman, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, who had kindly acted as one of our escorts. Mr. Cadman had worked for many years for the Royal British Legion and had held important offices in that organisation. In fact, last year it had

been Mr. Cadman who had taken the salute as we marched past. Mr. Garnett-Orme was pleased as this gave him the opportunity of thanking the Legion for the privilege of marching in their columns. He also wanted to thank the Legion for the box that was always allocated to St. Dunstan's in the Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance both in the afternoon and the evening. This was much appreciated by St. Dunstaners.

### Changes

"Historians, journalists and ordinary people often say that each of the two world wars was a turning point, a time when everything changed and could never again be the same as it was before 1914 and 1939. No doubt this is true: but change is a continuing process and seems to be going on ever more rapidly. Countries which used to be colonies become independent and change their names, men walk on the Moon and circle the Earth, many miles above us, for weeks on end, and the moral values we were brought up to respect are questioned," said Mr. Garnett-Orme.

"However today is perhaps *the* day in the year when we think of the things which have not changed, at any rate in this country: Freedom to enter any Church we may wish, freedom to get up on a soap box and make a speech on almost any subject, freedom from the fear that a knock on the door in the middle of the night may mean arrest for even the most law abiding citizen.

### Freedom

"These wonderful freedoms, and many more, which we are so apt to take for granted, are still with us simply because men died in the trenches in Flanders, or somewhere at sea, or in the battles in the air, or while fighting with Commonwealth Forces and their Allies all over the World as they made a stand against the domination of evil.

"Today we remember the friends we knew and the millions who died for us although we never met them and we stood in silence at the Cenotaph to honour them.

"We think of those who fought and survived, some like all of you St.

Bill Shea on the ascent.





Dunstaners with grave disabilities and we remember with deep gratitude all our splendid wives, husbands and helpers who mean so much to us in our daily lives. Ladies and gentlemen I give you the Toast of St. Dunstan's."

Robert Pringle then rose to respond to the Chairman's remarks. He said we had already that day honoured St. Dunstaners who had died but he would like all of us present to think of men, some of whom had attended the Cenotaph Parade for more than a score of years. These men would dearly love to be with us but were prevented either by ill health or because they were too frail by reason of advancing years and our thoughts should go out to them.

#### Thanks

He then thanked Mr. Stevens who worked hard to make the day go so smoothly. Lastly he thanked St. Dunstan's who in so many aspects of St. Dunstaners lives made every day run more smoothly. A great deal of hard work was done, day in, day out, down through all the years, in all the departments in Headquarters, Ian Fraser House and Pearson House.

Bill Harris rose to thank St. Dunstan's for their hospitality to the escorts. He said that the marching was better than ever this year thanks to the words of command 'Left,

Right' Left' Right' from Mr. 'Steve' Smith a valued long-time escort. He concluded by saying that it had been a privilege to march along with such a fine body of men.

Randall Williams, and ex-Fleet Air Arm man, who became a St. Dunstaner in 1967, then rose to comment on the very excellent radio programme which had gone out this week concerning War Graves. One gardener was asked if less or more people came to see them. He replied that more people than ever were coming; most of them youngsters. Randall thought that this was possibly a hopeful sign that the young might learn from the experience to help prevent such tragedy ever happening again.

#### THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

As I write this we have the grey skies and falling leaves of November and the quiet thoughts that come at this time of the year. The Festival of Remembrance and Armistice Day Parade are part of the nation's life and in St. Dunstan's we suggest that our annual "St. Dunstan's Day" be held on Sunday, 14th December. Let us then remember, each of us in his or her own way, the great achievements of Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser and all those blinded ex-servicemen and women who followed their example and the sighted wives and friends who helped so much, and have now passed on.

also very much involved with the welfare of Far East prisoners of war and is Chairman of the Royal British Legion Housing Association, Wales.

#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Warmest Christmas greetings and best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year. **Peggy and Alex Craik.**

Christmas greetings and every good wish for the coming year, from **Pat Collins.**

#### MR. HAROLD BRADBURY

St Dunstaners who knew Harold Bradbury will be sorry to learn that he died on 26th September, aged 83. Mr. Bradbury was an Orderly at Church Stretton and Ovingdean over a period of 15 years.



## UNDERSTANDING WORLD OIL

by Stewart Harris

Hardly a day passes without a new item about the oil industry. A new record of production is achieved, a new depth of offshore well is reached, or a new crisis of international proportions is overcome once more. To add to the point, there is now a new war being fought between two major oil producing countries to which the industry is adjusting, in its usual flexible fashion. In the wake of this constant flow of international events and enormous statistics the ordinary man in the street must find it difficult to understand the nature of the oil giant and to grasp its capability of dealing successfully with its own existence and its enormous problems.

I want to suggest that our understanding of oil affairs may be helped if we keep in mind just three thoughts. First, that it is the scale of our own way of life which has spawned such an industry; secondly, the oil business has become a very flexible, highly resourceful world organisation, overlapping an infinite number of territorial boundaries; thirdly, much of the fact about the industry which appears in the press, or on radio or television, is overlaid with opinion — often contradictory — and a certain amount of calm is necessary in dealing with it all. Perhaps it would help a little if I go back into history to emphasise that in the scale of things we have always had big issues and big problems to understand and that, accordingly, nothing changes very much really. The French have a saying; "The more things change, the more they are the same." So let us keep in tune with the large numbers which are so

much a feature of the oil world by going back 500 years to the 1400's — just to illustrate my point.

England had lost its overseas possessions in France and was hard up. Edward IV of England, for example, was in hock to Louis XI of France, who was sending him a pension of 25,000 crowns every three months as a means of keeping Edward off his back anyway. So we were taking cash from Europe even then. The English king was having plenty of trouble with his left wing Lancastrians and with, guess who? — Scotland, Wales and Ireland: the nationalist in each case. Then there was the attempted cover-up job involving Richard III and the Duke of Buckingham in the affair of the princes in the Tower of London. France had its troubles too, with its balance of payments, low silk fabric exports, English foreign policy and the people of Brittany — just as they have now.

But now, in the late 20th century, with a large world population to keep warm and whose industries must be kept going, man has devised the petroleum industry. It is this vast protective umbrella that we have to try to understand and to set down in simple, easily digestible, terms.

The western world's oil industry can be divided into four basic parts — exploration and production of crude oil form the first part and refining, distribution and transportation make up the foursome. Superimposed upon or woven into these parts are the countries throughout the world which are the main producers of oil, and the international and national

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's



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

**Gordon Frederick Pennington**, of Barry, South Glamorgan, who joined St. Dunstan's on 8th October. Mr. Pennington served as a Craftsman in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War and was a Far East prisoner of war. Mr. Pennington is just about to retire as Chairman of Council in his area and serves as Vice-Chairman of the War Pensions Committee for Wales. He is

companies which refine, transport and distribute both the crude oil and the refined products (petrol, fuel oils, bitumen for roads and feedstocks for the petrochemical industries, lubricants etc., etc.). All the activities criss-cross international boundaries and all of them, as a result, are constantly subjected to the politics of international events. So one can imagine the complications which arise, in keeping the western world supplied with its oil needs, when the normal pattern is disturbed by a crisis of the proportion of a Middle East uprising, or a war, such as we have now, between Iran and Iraq. One must also not overlook the profound influence of the club known as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which has been so much a presence within the fabric of the oil industry since 1973.

If this complicated scene sounds beyond the understanding of the ordinary man, be reassured that it is ordinary human beings, albeit highly-trained individuals, who cope with the situation. From the heads of the oil producing countries through to the

management of international companies and thence to the men and women who people the oil business, one finds the same flexibility of mind and behaviour. There is immense co-operation between countries and companies. If one or other is in difficulty in any part of the world then there are exchanges of petrol or fuel oil or other products which can be arranged which will relieve that situation. If a crisis throws a spanner in the works then the people in the industry respond to smooth out the irregularity by a diversion of ships, a change of the pattern of supply or some skilful adjustment which makes sure that trouble is overcome.

In the second of these two short articles I will try to define and to identify the countries and the companies which play the dominant roles and to touch on the structure of the oil business in the United Kingdom. It will be like painting a picture with very broad strokes but let us hope that the result will be to make understanding of oil events a little easier.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY CONFERENCE

When the Chairman, Mr. Des Coupe, opened the annual conference of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists at Ian Fraser House, on 17th October, he was able to report that this year's conference had attracted an increased attendance.

There was an especially-warm welcome for the first of the two professional speakers. Many members know Mr. John Jenkins, M.B.E., M.C.S.P., Dip.T.P., of the Organisation of Chartered Physiotherapists in Private Practice from their time at the School of Physiotherapy, where Mr. Jenkins was Principal from 1951 to 1957.

Dr. Jeffrey Allan Reardon, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., Senior Registrar of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, was the second speaker. He also works at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton and his talk was concerned with some of the areas where the rheumatologist and the physiotherapist could be involved in combined research.

Later that afternoon members were introduced to Mrs. Alison Dodd, who has been involved in the evaluation of the

Kurzweil Reading Machine. Mrs. Dodd demonstrated the machine, which read from the current issue of the journal *Physiotherapy*.

A representative from Telesensory Systems Inc., was also present with the Versabraille, which stores information on tape cassettes and reproduces it in Braille on a tactile display which creates the Braille dots with metal pins. The Versabraille gives the blind a compact way of storing information in Braille and quick access to any item through an index and fast retrieval. It could be of great value to physiotherapists for making and keeping records of treatments and patients.

The conference weekend had begun with an informal social get-together in the Annexe, at Ian Fraser House, on Friday evening. It concluded with an equally successful and more formal dinner at which Mr. Richard Dufton, C.Eng., M.I. Mech.E., a Member of Council and St. Dunstan's Advisor on Research, presided. Mr. Dufton was accompanied by his wife.

D. F. Robinson's

## Gardening Column

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that the new season will be as productive and even better than last season. On the whole I think we have had a fairly good season, although we could have done with a little more sun and a lot less rain. The half-hardy border plants got off to a pretty poor start, with the low temperatures and other plants tended to get a bit leggy due to the lack of sun. The vegetables seemed to vary; some had very good crops and others very poor ones. My cabbages suffered because I forgot to put in some ground pest insecticide at planting out time and so the roots got eaten, but I did manage to overcome this a little by drenching the soil, round root level, with a strong solution of insecticide. One learns by one's mistakes and I hope not to do the same thing again next season.

All the fruit seemed to do well and I hope to have enough stored to keep us going well into the New Year. I hope that you have some stored in boxes, or in jars in the freezer.

### Lay-out

Do make up your mind as to how you want to lay the garden out and get your orders in for perennials, shrubs, roses and so on, as you will need them to replace the bedding annuals. Bedding annuals can become a bit of a problem when you get a bit older, but roses do not require so much work and are very decorative and supply flowers for the house. However, you can get a packet or two of annuals in the late spring and sow them in pinches in various spots and these will give a little more colour.

Make sure that all your cloches are in good order as you will be needing them soon for the early vegetable seeds and for keeping birds off other items. As I write this column, the weather is simply terrible — it has rained for days in the North West the worst rain we have had for 50 years. I have just had some roses delivered, and although the flower beds are ready, I cannot possibly plant them in these conditions. I hope we have a dry day or two soon.

Carry on digging over the vegetable patch, especially if you have heavy clay soil,

like I do. Try and dig in all that compost and peat, as well as the lime (but not on the potato patch).

Leave the soil rough since the frost will break it down for you before you have to sow seeds and plant the seedlings in spring. Hoe between the rows of cabbages and sprouts and try to get the soil up to the stem of the plant to keep the roots really safe from the harsh weather and wind. If you are growing potatoes make sure you have the sprouting trays ready for the earliest. Remember to check all the stored vegetables in case they are going bad.

### Fruit

You can still prune the fruit trees and bushes, providing there is no frost about. Try to get it all done by the end of the month, as there is always a good deal of hard weather at the beginning of the year which is very unsuitable for pruning in and also in the south the sap will be awakening, so you must get the pruning done soon.

Spraying can also be done, especially the trunks of the fruit trees; get the spray into the cracks and crevices of the bark. Prepare areas for planting new trees, but do not actually plant until the spring. Currants and gooseberries should be pruned at once, as should outdoor grapes.

Dig over the ground round the trees and bushes to make room for some compost, or well rotted manure. Also put some compost on the rhubarb beds to protect the plants against severe weather, as well as giving them a boost for the new season.

Repair any wire or plastic netting on the fruit cages, as birds have the knack of finding the smallest loopholes and making them much bigger. Also see to all the stakes, string and wires for the climbing fruit.

Carry on clearing up the borders ready for 1981. Dig over the flower beds so that the frost can break down the soil. Put down some peat, or compost, which can work its way in and make a good base for the spring and early summer planting.

In really frosty weather, work the soil up to the new growth on any bulbs and press in the roots of pinks, carnations, pansies,

## Gardening *continued*

polyanthus and so on, which have worked their way up. Severe frosts have a tendency to do this, so do check up after a heavy frost.

Some hardy perennials can be planted now, as can roses, except, as I mentioned earlier, when it is very wet, or frosty. Heel them in a protected bed. However, if you have not already got your roses, I suggest you wait until spring when the weather will be better and the soil easier to handle. However, do get the beds ready for the roses, as most suppliers will be despatching orders in a month or two.

Check over any trellis work and canes so that it is all in good repair for the new growing season. Stake up tall plants especially those in open areas. It is even better to cut down tall plants than to have them broken off in the wind, and cutting them down will make the plant much bushier.

### Greenhouse

Try to keep the temperature in the greenhouse down to a minimum, but place the heater near the plants that are still growing. An oil lamp is the cheapest way to heat the greenhouse, but there is a certain amount of moisture conjured up with paraffin. Try and get the lamp at floor level and then place the plant pots over it on the staging. Open the windows as often as possible and even the door, on a really sunny day. The heater can be put off during the day and need only be used at night in frosty weather.

Do not water the plants too much; keep them just moist. Be careful of moving growing plants in to larger pots, and on the whole it is better to leave them for now and pot on when they really start to grow in the spring. This means the roots may be rather crowded, but may mean you get some earlier colour.

Bulbs will be showing a fair proportion of their leaves by now and some, narcissus, hyacinth, freesias, may be in bud. A little extra heat and light will bring the bulbs on quicker, other bulbs should be kept growing at the normal rate to ensure a succession of indoor colour.

Towards the end of December, you can start off some annuals from seeds, providing you have a source of heat. Salad items, lettuce, mustard and cress, raddish, peas and French beans can be grown inside

in large pots, or in compost bags. Even tomatoes can be started now, although this is not very wise unless you can keep up a constant source of heat.

Protect the greenhouse plants from insects and fungus and wash down the floor and staging with diluted disinfectant. Do order your seeds and tubers now, as it is always a case of first come first served, especially with the new varieties.

## AMATEUR RADIO WEEKEND

by Colin Mills

The meeting was well attended, even though the weather left a lot to be desired. After the routine business of minutes, accounts and so on, we got down to the possibility of starting up a week, or a fortnight, to help 'would be' members to get to know what amateur radio is all about and to explain how easy it is for people to extend their horizons, without even going outside their own front doors. We feel it would not be fair to ask anyone to give the time and service for less than six people, so come along and get your names in and give amateur radio a try. I promise you, you will not be disappointed.

On Saturday afternoon the weather favoured us as we arrived at the Chalk Pit Museum, where, after a talk and a look round the ancient lime kilns, pits, quarries and engines we arrived at an old Nissen hut where we were instantly carried back to the First World War, via the first ever wireless communication equipment. It was fantastic. There were morse keys clicking all round the hut and voices saying, "Yes I remember that". Ron Ham and his wife, who got all this together, tried their very best to answer all the questions and explain all the items on show, as did the local lads from the Brighton Amateur Radio Society, who are always more than willing to give us every assistance possible and who we could never thank enough.

### AMATEUR RADIO A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society will be held at Ian Fraser House on Saturday, 21st February, 1981. The guest speaker will be the President of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Bookings through Miss Bridger, at Headquarters.

## CLUB NEWS

### MIDLAND

Sunday, 5th October was dry, but rather cold for our annual outing to Stratford. We left Broad Street at 2 pm and arrived at the Royal British Legion, Stratford an hour later. As some of our members were on holiday and others had prior commitments our number was small, but some of our friends from the Austin Branch were only too willing to help make up our numbers.

After a brisk walk round Stratford, we were glad to get back to the warmth of the Legion. At 5 o'clock we were all welcomed by the officers of the Committee, who introduced us to the Mayor and Mayoress of Stratford.

The Women's Section excelled themselves with a beautiful tea and the tables were soon cleared, proving that everyone had enjoyed their meal. A vote of thanks was given by our Chairman.

It was very nice to have Mrs. May Dennick, St. Dunstaner Jack Dennick's widow, with us again. I know she enjoyed being in our company. After tea we went into the lounge and the men waited eagerly for the bar to open. A pianist entertained us, some people enjoyed having a chat, while others made good use of the fruit machines.

It was 9 o'clock all too soon. Time to say goodbye to all our good friends, but we left with an invitation to visit them again next year. Everyone agreed that they had a wonderful afternoon and evening.

On Sunday, 12th October we held our A.G.M. Some members were still on holiday and two were poorly, so it was rather a small meeting, but the same Committee were elected to stand again and all were willing to carry on the same as in previous years.

It was very nice to see Eddie and Marjorie back with us after their holiday in America and Canada. Two games of dominoes were played off and the ladies put on a lovely tea — the cakes were beautiful Janet — despite your father's remarks! The Chairman gave the vote of thanks and reminded the members that the Christmas dinner will be held at the Austin Branch, Royal British Legion, on Saturday, 6th December.

Sunday, 2nd November was a bitterly cold day, but we had quite a good attendance. It was nice to see David again after his holiday in Canada. We were sorry not to see Eileen and Syd, but they hadn't realised that the meeting had been brought forward, due to Armistice Sunday.

All arrangements were made for the Christmas dinner, also the Christmas party. Having the children with us, really makes the afternoon and evening go off in the real Christmas spirit. The members bring along their grandchildren for the Christmas party and each child receives a present from Father Christmas. The St. Dunstaners themselves provide the presents for whoever they bring along. The Club funds are *never* used for this purpose.

Now back to the afternoon's events. As usual an excellent tea was put on by all the ladies and they were thanked in the usual manner by the Chairman.

The domino doubles competition was finally played off and the winners are:

- 1st Mr. & Mrs. Bob Ashmore
- 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Doug Faulkner

The Sir Arthur Pearson competition was won by:

- 1st Bruno Tomporowski
- 2nd Bob Ashmore —

Doug and Joe have one more game to play to decide for 3rd and 4th place and this will be played off at the next meeting.

Everyone was sorry to hear that Bill Green is still not well enough to come along to the meeting but we all send best wishes to both you and Hilda, Bill.

JOAN CASHMORE

### BRIGHTON

#### Entertainment Section

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mr. Fred Kick and his wife, Jeanne, to the St. Dunstan's Brighton Social and Sports Club as sighted helpers and I am sure all our members will join me in wishing them a long and happy stay with us.

The draw for the 1980-81 competitions have been made and a full list is now on the

notice board. Will all competitors assist us by finding out who they are due to play - thank you.

A special Christmas dance will be held in the Annexe, at Ian Fraser House, on Saturday, 13th December price £1, including buffet, admission by ticket only, from Bob Osborne, telephone Brighton 32115. We hope that many members, wives and friends will make an extra effort to attend as a wonderful evening is assured.

It is with regret that no dance will be held in January. But we hope to carry on with dances in February.

Congratulations to all the prize winners of the 1979-80 competitions and the results are as follows:

**GENTLEMEN LADIES**  
**CRIBBAGE**

Winner	W. Phillips	Mrs. J. Osborne
Runners-up	J. Padley	Mrs. N. Phillips
Beaten semi-finalists	T. Giles	Mrs. E. Simpson
	T. Mogan	Mrs. H. Webster

**DARTS**

Winner	J. Langley	Mrs. J. Osborne
Runner-up	J. Simpson	Mrs. M. Blacker
Beaten semi-finalists	J. Padley	Mrs. N. Phillips
	E. Quinn	Mrs. H. Webster

**DOMINO AGGREGATE**

Joint 1st	H. Preedy	Mrs. M. Langley
	J. Simpson	Mrs. J. Osborne
Joint 3rd	J. Cope	Mrs. P. Padley
	W. Phillips	Mrs. E. Walch

**5's & 3's**

Winner	T. Giles	Mrs. E. Walch
Runner-up	R. Osborne	Mrs. H. Webster
Beaten semi-finalists	T. Mogan	Mrs. J. Osborne
		Mrs. E. Simpson

**WHIST AGGREGATE**

1st	T. Giles	Mrs. N. Phillips
2nd	W. Phillips	Mrs. J. Osborne
3rd	J. Walton	Mrs. E. Walch
4th	H. Preedy	Mrs. H. Webster

Our usual monthly dance was held in the Annexe on 8th November and once again a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

*H. PREEDY*

**Bridge**

The administration of the club has had several changes this year. Wally saw us through in his usual efficient way, until he was forced to hand over to Peter

McCormack, for health reasons. Peter, with the help of friends, did a term very well indeed, until his health forced him to hand over to myself. Then in stepped our good friends, who had helped Peter, Mr. Robert Goodlad and Mr. Maurice Douse. They have been doing some hard work and giving up a lot of their time to help with the section, in fact without them the section could well have failed. We are extremely grateful to them both.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Madam President, Mrs. Dacre, for coping with the teas at most of our matches. She is always there when we need her. We have an abundance of friends who come to partner and mark for us and we give them our sincere thanks. Of course we would not forget our members, who I am sure, have enjoyed their matches and have given us their full support.

Wally Lethbridge made a clean sweep this year, winning both the pairs and the individuals - well done Walter. If you did not win this year it may be your turn next year, so keep up the good work.

The final results for 1980 are listed below:

**Pairs Competition 1980**

1st	W. Lethbridge	61.9
2nd	R. Fullard	59.6
3rd	W. Phillips	55.8
	B. Simon	55.5
	P. McCormack	51.5
	A. Dodgson	51.5
	C. Clements	50.0
	B. Ingrey	49.8
	J. Griffee	47.5

**Individuals Competition 1980**

1st	W. Lethbridge	355
2nd	R. Fullard	333
Joint	C. Walters	333
4th	W. Phillips	329
5th	J. Padley	306
Joint	B. Simon	306
7th	P. McCormack	304

All the above played the necessary five matches to qualify.

Without you members there is no bridge. May I take this opportunity to thank you all: friends, helpers members and all sections. A very Merry Christmas.

*Bill Phillips*

**FAMILY NEWS**

**BIRTHS**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mr. Peter Watson and June*, of Peacehaven, on the birth of a son, Craig, on 27th October.

**GRANDCHILDREN**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis*, of Stratford, on the birth of a grandson, James Martin, to their son, Nicholas, and his wife, Pam.

*Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Palmer*, of Downham Market, on the birth of a grandson, Matthew, on 14th October, to their son, Malcolm, and his wife.

*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Surrige*, of Herne Bay, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Maria, to their daughter, Karen, and her husband, Colin.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, widow of the late *Mr. Richard Wilson*, of Sunderland, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Naomi Christan, on 21st May, to her daughter, Ruth and her husband, Nicholas.

**GREAT GRANDCHILDREN**

**Many Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morgan*, of Bristol, on the birth of their second great grandchild, Ann Elizabeth.

**WEDDINGS**

**Congratulations to:**

Mrs. Flora Cameron, widow of the late *Mr. Robert Cameron*, of Northolt, is pleased to announce that her son, Ian, was married to Susan White, on 21st June.

**RUBY WEDDINGS**

**Many Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis*, of Stratford, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 24th August.

*Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor*, of Maidstone, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 9th November.

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS**

**Many congratulations to:**

Mr. and Mrs. Alick Anderson, of Aberdeen, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1st November.

**PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**We warmly congratulate:**

Mr. Norman Best, son of the late *Harold Best* and Mrs. Emily Best, of Southampton, who was awarded the C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

*Mr. Sammy Leggett*, of Bangor, who was a member of the victorious North Down bowling team who won the Northern Ireland Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers competition for the A.V. Smyth Trophy.

*Percy Stubbs*, of Norwich, who has won a first and second prize for his wrought-iron work, and a third prize for other handicrafts, at the Exhibition of handicrafts in Norwich.

**DEATHS**

**We offer sympathy to:**

*Mr. Vic Davies*, of Braunton, whose mother died at her home in South Wales, on 8th August. She was 90 years old.

*Mr. Daniel Parker*, of Lancing, whose wife died in hospital, following a stroke, on 30th October.

Mrs. Francis Trelvelion, widow of the late *Mr. Leonard Trelvelion*, of Eastbourne, whose son died suddenly in Australia, on 26th October. He was in the Royal Navy.

**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.

**John Baker, General List**

John Baker, of Hove, died on the 17th October. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Baker was commissioned and served in the Army in the First World War. His sight ultimately failed and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1962, by which time he had retired from his

## **In Memory Continued**

work as a Bank Manager. He was married, but in later years his wife's health deteriorated and she died in 1978.

Mr. Baker remained wonderfully independent and managed to live on his own, with the kind help of many local friends and regular contact with relatives elsewhere.

His great interest in life was cricket; he was a most enthusiastic member of the Sussex County Cricket Club, where he was a daily visitor and will be much missed. He had become very frail and died after a short illness.

He leaves a niece and other relatives and many friends.

### **Marion Elias**

Marion Elias, of Aberdare, died in hospital on 25th October. She was 65 years old. Marion's loss of sight was caused by the explosion of a detonator while she was working on munitions at the Royal Ordnance factory in Bridgend in December, 1940 and she joined St. Dunstan's in September 1943. Although over the years she enjoyed holidays at Brighton and attending Reunions, Marion was a very quiet person who mostly preferred being at home in the midst of her close and devoted family.

She leaves a brother and sister, William and Nell Elias.

### **Sidney Peacey, Second Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry**

Sidney Peacey, of Saffron Walden, died in hospital on 11th October. He was 81 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for over 50 years.

Mr. Peacey joined up in 1917 as a Private in the First Hampshire Regiment and subsequently served in the Second Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He lost much of his sight as a result of being gassed in 1918, whilst serving in France and he was discharged in 1920.

Mr. Peacey played the sousaphone and trombone and played with various bands during the 1930's and '40s. In 1963 he and his wife took over the tenancy of an Inn near Colchester. They retired in 1965 and moved to Saffron Walden to be near their two children. Mr. Peacey took great pride in his garden, which gave him much pleasure.

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

### **Alva Edward Tucker, 6th South Wales Borderers**

Alva Tucker, formerly of Bristol, died at Pearson House on 12th November. He was 84 years old.

'Tommy' Tucker joined the 6th South Wales Borderers in 1915 and was wounded on the Somme a year later. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat maker and established a successful shop in Bristol where his sister helped him for many years. Mr. Tucker was always a good and contented worker and his visitor in the 1930's remarked that, "he and his shop were a real advertisement of the best result of St. Dunstan's training." When he was younger, Mr. Tucker was an enthusiastic member of the local St. Dunstan's Sports Club and he served on its first committee.

In 1950 he married Edith Parsons, a civilian blind teacher, who sadly died in 1973, when Mr. Tucker became a permanent resident at Pearson House. 'Tommy' will be greatly missed by his many friends and members of staff.

He leaves a brother and a nephew.

### **Walter Ernest Varnam, Royal Army Pay Corps**

Walter Varnam, of Littleborough, died in hospital on 24th October. He was 68 years old.

Mr. Varnam joined the Royal Army Pay Corps in 1940 and served as Staff Sergeant until he was wounded in Palestine in 1946 and was discharged from the Army in 1947. He took up farming which was his occupation for about 20 years until he was forced to retire due to further deterioration in his sight and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1971.

Mr. Varnam enjoyed rug making as a hobby, but unfortunately about two years ago his health began to decline quite seriously and he had to spend many periods in hospital. He was a courageous man who bore his illness with great fortitude.

He leaves a widow, Margaret, and a daughter.

### **James Joseph Savage, Durham Light Infantry**

James Savage, formerly of Clapton, died at Pearson House on 13th November. He was 67 years old, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1978.

Mr. Savage served as a private in the Durham Light Infantry, having joined the Army in 1940. He was a regular soldier during the Second World War and fought in Korea, where, in 1953, he suffered injuries to his leg and lost one eye following a mine blast on Hill 201. As a result of his war injuries Mr. Savage's leg was amputated in 1977 and from then on his health deteriorated and he became a permanent resident at Pearson House in May 1978. Before he joined the Army, Mr. Savage had been a welder.

Mr. Savage's great fortitude in coping with his disabilities will be long remembered by Matron Hallett and her staff at Pearson House.