

**St Dunstans  
Review**  
July 1981



## Message from the Chairman

### R.D. McConnell, O.B.E.

R.D. 'Bertie' McConnell, of Bangor, Northern Ireland, received the Freedom of the Borough of North Down at a special meeting of the Council on the 14th May. He has been an Alderman for many years and was Mayor in 1976/7 and it is good to know that the leading part he has played as a 'moderate' in local affairs has been so fittingly recognised. Many congratulations to Bertie and Doris from all their St. Dunstan's friends!

### Miss Yvonne Guilbert

As readers have already heard, Miss Yvonne Guilbert is to retire at the end of this month. She will have served St. Dunstan's in Brighton for 36 years, for most of that time as Commandant Fawcett's secretary, but also in recent years as Training Officer. She inspired and organised many popular items in our programme — the post-war re-introduction of Sports Days which were a feature for many years, Gardening Weeks, Tape Recording Weeks and so on — and handled complicated arrangements on behalf of Commonwealth trainees. Her wide knowledge and tremendous enthusiasm for anything which might interest or help St. Dunstaners have been of the greatest value and will be much missed.

On behalf of everyone at St. Dunstan's, I thank Yvonne Guilbert for her long years of service and wish her a very happy retirement.

### In Appreciation

Elsewhere in the Review there are obituaries for Miss Frances Ramshaw and George Killingbeck, B.E.M., and many readers will mourn their passing.

### Miss F.M. Ramshaw

Miss Ramshaw served St. Dunstan's for twenty important years — as Braille Teacher at Church Stretton, then Education Assistant and Training Officer, and finally as Matron of 'Ovingdean', before it was called Ian Fraser House. Her strong personality and natural dignity, combined with her wonderful gifts of understanding, compassion and humour, had a great influence on life at St. Dunstan's. She was always available with wise advice and generous help for St. Dunstaners, their families and her colleagues.

### Mr. G.W. Killingbeck B.E.M.

George Killingbeck was one of several First World War blinded ex-Servicemen who gave so much to St. Dunstan's when the Second World War brought us a new generation of St. Dunstaners to be trained. 'Killie' taught Braille to many and in doing so set them an example of victory over blindness which inspired and helped them through their darkest days.

All of us at St. Dunstan's will long remember with deep affection and gratitude our good friends, Frances Ramshaw and George Killingbeck.

Ion Garnett-Orme

### LOYAL GREETINGS

On the Queen's official birthday, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme sent a telegram of greeting. The text of his telegram and Her Majesty's reply appear below:

BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SEND YOUR MAJESTY THEIR LOYAL GREETINGS AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY.

ION GARNETT-ORME  
CHAIRMAN, ST. DUNSTAN'S

I SEND YOU AND BLINDED EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON THE CELEBRATION OF MY BIRTHDAY.

ELIZABETH R.

### CAR ALLOWANCE MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

The Private Car Maintenance Allowance under the War Pensioners' Vehicle Scheme, is to be increased to £350.00 a year tax free from the 1st October. It is believed that all St. Dunstaners who first received the Allowance under the Scheme before 1st January, 1976, have transferred to the No Age Limit Mobility Allowance, which has a better benefit. Recipients of either allowance will continue to be exempt from Vehicle Excise Duty (Road Fund Tax).

Should any St. Dunstaner in receipt of the Private Car Maintenance Allowance wish to transfer to Mobility Allowance, he might like to contact our Pensions Officer, Mr. L. A. Slade at Headquarters.

No increase can be made in the Car Maintenance Allowance for those St. Dunstaners who have a car on loan from the Department of Health and Social Security, because of the increased cost of motor cars and their conversions, where necessary.

### APPOINTMENT OF MATRON, PEARSON HOUSE

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Penelope Goodwin, SRN., OND., as Matron of Pearson House.

After completing her general nursing training, Miss Goodwin held several senior hospital posts both in London and the provinces. She obtained a Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing and broadened her experience by working in a number of eye hospitals, including Moorfields and the Sussex Eye Hospital. Miss Goodwin has also had experience of hospital administration and was for a few years Matron of a convalescent home.

We welcome her to the staff and wish her every success in her work for St. Dunstan's.

W.C. Weisblatt

### Derby Sweepstake

The Derby Sweepstake was very popular again this year and the pay-out was as follows:

1st Prize £309 *Shergar*

Clifford Chadwick, Fareham

2nd Prize £124 *Glint of Gold*

Maxwell Ash, Paignton

3rd Prize £62 *Scintillating Air*

Patrick Spring, Chessington North.

All those holding a ticket for the remaining 15 horses received the sum of £8.24.

## St Dunstans Review

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COVER PICTURE: This handsome golden retriever on our cover marks the Golden Jubilee of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association — see article on centre pages.

# REUNIONS

## LONDON

It was something of a special occasion at the Russell Hotel in London on 23rd May, when St. Dunstaners from the Home Counties, mainly Kent and Surrey, gathered for their reunion. In the chair for the occasion was St. Dunstan's President, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, CBE., DSO., DL., and he told St. Dunstaners that, although he had attended many such occasions, this was the first time he had taken a reunion in London.

49 St. Dunstaners attended and, with their escorts, guests and staff, 177 people sat down to luncheon. Sir Mike, making his first reunion speech in London, soon had his audience laughing at some of his reminiscences of his journeys overseas.

"I think it is important that one retains one's independence. To do things for yourself and look after yourself."

"When I say independent I remember the night before last when somebody was dining with us at home. I took him right round our garden, showing everything to him. When I came back the person who very kindly looks after me was laughing. "Well," she said, "he's been right round the garden but he can't see anything because it's pitch dark!"

### Retirement

"Thinking of retirement, Sir Mike said that St. Dunstan's was finding more and more things to do for those retiring from work in industry, telephony or physiotherapy, "One does want to be fully occupied," he said, "You have only got to read the monthly St. Dunstan's *Review*, with its photographs that can be described by our families to realise what you can do. If you are young enough you can climb Mount Everest, jump into the sea on a parachute, shoot with a bow and arrow, play bowls. When you get older there's the garden. There's nothing better, I think, than gardening."

When it is raining, Sir Mike said he cuts out jig-saws, using a power fret saw — he also knits. "You get so much fun provided you are prepared to do things," he said.

Sir Mike concluded by welcoming four St. Dunstaners who had come from Northern Ireland to London for the reunion and told his audience of the pride shown by St.

Dunstaners during his visit to Australia and New Zealand. "I've absolutely loved being here", he said, "and I'm proud to be a St. Dunstaner".

Proposing the vote of thanks, on behalf of St. Dunstaners, Frederick Livermore asked the company if they were happy. Receiving a resounding 'yes' in reply, he said that there were many people to thank. "First Colonel Sir Mike Ansell and St. Dunstan's Council. Without their support and planning we would not be here at this reunion."

Mr. Livermore mentioned Mr. Weisblatt and members of H.Q., staff saying that St. Dunstaners owed them a vote of thanks. He also expressed thanks to Mr. Wills, Miss Stewart and Miss Bletba who had organised the reunion, and to the management and staff of the hotel.

"There is just one more thank you", he concluded, "and that is to these upright gentlemen at the doorways who show where the steps are."

Mr. Wills rose to give the names of guests, "We have Mr. and Mrs. Eric Boulter with us. Then we have those wonderful people who run the camp for us at Lee-on-Solent, Miss Grant, Mr. Harris and Mr. Mills and I know you would not like to go away from the luncheon tables without my mentioning old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Ferguson."

There was dancing in the afternoon for those with energy or a quiet place to talk with friends, until tea concluded the reunion.

## SOUTHAMPTON

On Saturday, 6th June an armada of nearly 100 sailing craft set off from England for the 3,000 mile Observer double handed transatlantic race. 37 years ago a very different armada, of less romantic craft, completed its much shorter journey across the Channel to disgorge upon the beaches of Normandy; an invasion force that was to end the War. Although for some, anniversaries bring back memories of lost comrades, it is hard not to think that our retired industrial supervisor, Pat Owens, was on the beaches, clearing them of

obstacles, with the assault engineers; that Joe Whitley was there with the R.A.S.C. that our surveyor, Pat Lennard Payne, was also clearing obstacles with the Royal Navy. Although they talked about events, their memories must remain private and personal.

36 St. Dunstaners were present at the Polygon Hotel, two First War, 32 Second War and two post war. Dr. A.N. McDonald, grandson of Lord Fraser, presided over the reunion.

"Looking around," he said, "I see more of you here this year than last. This does a lot of credit to you all. We particularly welcome a new St. Dunstaner, who served in the First World War, Dr. Ball, of Ringwood." Dr. McDonald paid tribute to Lady Pearson, daughter-in-law of our founder, who died in February. "She was a great friend of St. Dunstan's."

"When I looked through the newspapers for something to talk about, there was nothing but gloom and despondency; assassination attempts on Reagan and the Pope, unemployment, etc. A search through *The Times* revealed the following good news: North Sea gas pipe line on target for 1985 and economic recovery in sight for Jamaica! Then I realised there was a happy event on my own doorstep and I would like to share it with you."

### Mrs. Dacre's birthday

On 3rd May, over 100 members of the Fraser family met in Rottingdean to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Dacre. "She can't be loved any less for all the admiration by those who have been on the receiving end of her good works, than the Queen Mother in her own way." He finished by reading an ode to his great-aunt, composed for the occasion.

John Gilbert, of Wimborne, replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He thanked the Council and staff of St. Dunstan's. He especially thanked Mr. Vic Reeves, who for many years gave his services on the piano, free of charge, at these reunions. No vote of thanks would have been complete without tribute being paid to Mrs. Lyall, who organised the day and, indeed, for all her work throughout the year. Mr. Gilbert ended by announcing another exhibition of handicraft work at next year's reunion, "Get working with your hands," he urged.

After lunch, a programme of tape

recordings, lent by the Imperial War Museum, which were made in June 1944, were played to the gathering. The tapes included commentary by Richard Dimbleby of the First Airborne troops taking off for France, accounts by journalists who had either parachuted or gone in with assault craft, John Snagge's announcement of the invasion on the BBC, Montgomery's message to the troops and King George VI's speech on the wireless. What more fitting end, than the King's own words, and exaltation to prayer, "That the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace."

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We apologise to readers for the absence of reports on the Newcastle and Sheffield Reunions — these will appear next month.

### Star Prizes!

Merseyside Police are having a raffle for the Year of the Disabled. First prize is a Mini Metro, second prize a holiday for two in the U.S.A., third prize is £1,000 and there are many more star prizes to be won. Tickets, 25p., are available from and cheques payable to: Ted John, 52 Broadway Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 6TD.

## OBITUARY

### MISS FRANCES RAMSHAW

Many St. Dunstaners who learned their Braille at Church Stretton and Ovingdean and all those who knew her as Matron in later years will mourn the death of Miss Frances Ramshaw, on 28th May. Another old friend, Dr. John O'Hara, represented St. Dunstan's at her funeral on 4th June.

Frances Ramshaw was twenty years in the service of St. Dunstan's. She joined the staff in 1943 as a Braille teacher, an expert Brailist who had been responsible for book publication at the National Library for the Blind since 1925.

She soon became Education and Training Officer and, in 1951, succeeded Miss Pain as Matron. In both these offices she was guide, helper and encourager of many St. Dunstaners in their training for new lives. All who met her at Ovingdean will remember her warmth and friendly understanding. After her retirement in 1963, she maintained her interest in St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners and was a welcome guest at reunions and other occasions at Brighton.

## Have a Nice Day by Alan Wortley

Who would have thought that my family and I would be spending Easter '81 in America having a holiday of a lifetime? But, when my wife goes to the theatre on her own one can never be sure of the outcome!!

It was four years ago that my wife, Joan, took the last available seat for a performance at Lincoln's theatre. Sitting next to her was an American couple, Bill and Betty Van Newkirk, making a short stop in Lincoln during a trip to Europe. They chatted, and Joan asked them home to lunch the next day and that was how it started. We have corresponded ever since and were delighted when they made a return visit to Lincoln last year and spent a weekend with us. They pressed us to visit them in America but I dismissed it from my mind; a flight four times as long as the flight for skiing did not appeal and anyway there was the expense of five of us. However, after Christmas we received a letter from Betty with such an attractive suggested itinerary that we were persuaded to visit a travel agent and so, on the 10th April all five of us, myself, my wife, Richard 13, Rachel 11, and Sian 9, flew out to Washington for two weeks.

### Stamina!

A travel tour operator could not have bettered the trip Bill and Betty had planned for us. It was a step back in history with all the comforts of the "Space Age" thrown in. Bill and Betty, being members of the elitist club "Senior Citizens" were able to be with us all the time and their stamina had to be seen to be believed!

We hired a car. It made it more comfortable to have two cars and we could change travelling companions daily. Joan soon adjusted to driving on the opposite side of the road but was most grateful when Bill coped with driving in and out of the big cities.

Our first stop was Charlottesville, Virginia. It took forty years for Thomas Jefferson to complete his fabulous home Monticello. The surroundings were breathtakingly beautiful with the blossom trees just coming into bloom. I was able to touch many things in the house. Jefferson



*Punishment outside Williamsburg Prison!*

was a man of many talents and had invented all sorts of things from swivel chairs to dumb waiters. The University that he founded in Charlottesville was well worth a visit. The Rotunda Library that he designed, despite its magnificence, could be hired by students at very low cost for social functions.

Williamsburg next, the old Colonial Capital started not long after the Jamestown landing. I've never experienced anything like it, completely restored as living history. Strolling into the old shops and houses, the gaol and the Governor's Residence. The Guv had had to make a fast exit during the War of Independence. Folks were dressed as in the seventeenth century, muskets were handled and fired against redcoats . . . At both these places and later at Harper's Ferry, we started the day with an orientation film with excellent narration — so helpful for me and educational for the children.

From Williamsburg we spent a day at Busch Gardens, a Disneyland-like extravaganza of the "Old Country" with England, France, Germany and Italy so well represented. While the children whooped around the mammoth fairground, the Loch Ness Monster, a horrific rollercoaster, thrilled them, the male adults were free to tour round one of the largest breweries in America.



*Statue of Liberty*

After another night in a motel we were on our way across Chesapeake Bay's seventeen mile Bridge Tunnel — what a feat of engineering, picnicking in a wild horse nature reserve, then on through Ocean City, comparable to Brighton, and on to Philadelphia. It is worth mentioning the motels, available everywhere, constantly of a high quality and in two double beds and a single one on request and often with a swimming pool. Cost about twenty pounds per night. They suited our needs admirably. We breakfasted in our rooms from Betty's treasure trove of a picnic hamper. Fast food diners were available always with good food at cheap prices. We consumed mountains of chilled fresh salad and orange juice and the children devoured hundreds of hot dogs and hamburgers. I shall remember always the spare rib I ate, the size of half a buffalo, while my daughter sang Mexican Rose accompanied by a Chinese business man who was playing the piano.

In Philadelphia there was horse riding in a splendid 1200 acre park and a tram ride, with tape recorded commentary, to old colonial homes which we were free to explore. We touched the Liberty Bell and were conducted around Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

A ninety minute train ride whisked the more stalwart of us to New York for a day, where a boat took us around Manhattan Island with every place of interest pointed out; from the Statue of Liberty to the Yankee Stadium. The top of The Empire State Building was a must, where the wind could blow your hat off and the view was incredible. Richard was amused by the beautiful gardens on the roofs of twenty-storey office blocks.

We journeyed on via the Gettysburg battlefields, where we had the battle reenacted on a three dimensional model of the area by means of a narration and flashing lights. And so to Betty and Bill's home in West Maryland, to spend Easter in homely surroundings and gather strength for the rest of the tour!! Betty cooked us many typical American dishes; blueberry pancakes, strawberry shortcake, meatloaf, but the highlight was the Thanksgiving Dinner served on Easter Sunday — roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by pumpkin pie. Bill introduced me to "Southern Comfort" and Californian "Chab"

He also took the children and me ten pin bowling. He hadn't reckoned on being up against a St. Dunstan's champion and was amazed when I scored three strikes. It was a wonderful few days with glorious sunshine, meeting many people, and generally relaxing. What a welcome we were given at the Lutheran Church on Easter morning where we sang along with the trumpet, harp and organ and I even attended the men's class at the Sunday School.

### Appalachian Trail

We moved on, and by means of a sixteen mile walk along the Appalachian Trail reached Harper's Ferry. Here was a real highlight for me where the Shenandoah joins the Potomac. Old houses to walk through and the old armoury where John Brown and his two sons came to a sticky end at the hands of Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart.

Our fabulous fortnight drew to a close with two days in Washington. Space everywhere, cherry blossom from acres of trees and dogwood blossom from America's protected species. The mighty Washington Monument with nearly a thousand steps looking towards the broad Mall with all its wealth of fine clean buildings. The females



New York skyline

in our group queued for hours to visit the White House. I'm afraid the males did not have the patience.

Everywhere we went there was friendship and hospitality. Americans really mean it when from shop assistant to taxi drivers they wish the visitor to "Have a Nice Day". It truly was a holiday in a lifetime.

#### EXPRESS READING SERVICE

A unique free reading service — which undertakes to return a tape version of the first hour's reading to the user on the day the inkprint material is received — has become a part of RNIB's services for blind people.

On 1st June, RNIB took over the running of the Tarporley Recording Centre — a centre with a high reputation for speed, reliability, quality of recording and confidentiality. It can produce two or four track recording with tone indexing, and has helped many blind people to hold down their jobs or to keep abreast of fellow students in higher education.

The service was pioneered in 1977, by Mrs. Wendy Davies for the Foundation for Audio Research and Services for Blind People. Later this year a second centre in Cheshire will be opened, and Mrs. Davies will remain in charge of the expanded service.

Visually handicapped people who need a tape version of printed material urgently should contact: Mrs. Wendy Davies, Express Reading Service, 79 High Street, Tarporley, Cheshire (Tel: Tarporley 2115).



Our St. Dunstaner, Alderman Bertie McConnell, O.B.E., who has served the Borough for 23 years as Councillor and Alderman, receiving his scroll as Freeman of North Down from the Mayor, Alderman George Green. Only six other Council members have been made Freemen in the County of North Down. — photo County Down Spectator.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1012

#### The Sophomore

By Barry Spacks

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 7¾ hours

This is the story of Harry Zissel, aged twenty-three, whose life, to say the least, is a mess.

He is a student at a Connecticut university, does little or no work and is forever on the point of dropping out. He indulges in the wildest fantasies, which can range from winning the Pulitzer Prize to rescuing damsels in distress. His philosophy is a lunatic blend of pot-smoking *laissez aller* and half-baked Nihilism.

Should he finish his paper on Aristotle? Should he and Miriam get married? Miriam is what the gossip-writers would coyly refer to as his "live-in girlfriend". Or perhaps he should commit suicide? He could give a

grand "suicide party" with printed invitations and all. It might start a cult. He could see the headlines, "Students' Suicide Parties Sweep The Country!"...

A sad, funny book, which wryly points up the great human dilemma and the American Dream that went horribly wrong.

Cat. No. 1552

#### Come out, come out, whoever you are

By Thomas McCann

Read by David Strong

Reading Time 6¾ hours.

Jack Couvar is frightened. Someone in an old Morris Minor had just tried to run him down. It could not have been an accident, there had been the telephone call five days earlier, "I'm going to kill you, Couvar!"

Who was it? He had no enemies. Could it be his wife behind the threats? Their marriage was in ruins, but they rubbed along. And she didn't know about Myra... did she?

More telephone calls, at home in the evenings, at the office, "I'm following your every move, Couvar! There's no escape!"

His nerve breaks and he goes underground, books in at a cheap little hotel. But the menace follows him. A shot in the darkness narrowly misses him.

Then Myra has a mysterious caller. The driver of the killer-car, the marksman in the night has found out about their affair, and suddenly Myra, too is in great danger...

The book has its moments. There is quite a bit of well-constructed suspense, but the plot does develop a bit of a limp from time to time, and the reason behind the would-be assassin's obsessive lust for vengeance is something of a non-starter in the credibility stakes. Quite a number of readers will be familiar with the setting — Brighton.

Cat. No. 3257

#### Quartet in Autumn

By Barbara Pym

Read by Phylliss Boothroyd

Reading Time 7 hours

Letty, Marcia, Edwin and Norman are all in their sixties and work together in the same London office. Each lives alone. Outside office hours, they have little or no contact with one another.

Edwin's hobby is going on "church crawls", while Letty is a regular visitor to the library. Marcia, the eccentric, collects

milk-bottles and fills her dusty little house with canned food and assiduously hoarded brown paper and string.

The two women retire, they are not replaced, and the men have the office to themselves, occasionally speculating on "how the girls are getting along".

Letty had planned to go to live with a spinster friend in the country, but this falls through when the friend announces that she is to marry the local vicar. A change of landlord forces Letty to take fresh lodgings in London.

Marcia shuts herself away in her unkept little house, forgets to eat and ferociously defends her privacy against the relentless attentions of a determined "do-gooder"...

A sad little story of decaying gentility, corroding loneliness, and the small tragedies of advancing years.

Cat. No. 2398

#### Victorian Studies in Scarlet

By Richard D. Altick

Read by Eric Gillet

Reading Time 14¾ hours

A long, (possibly overlong) tome about the Victorians' preoccupation with murders and murderers. It deals at some length with the social conditions of the day and the brutalising effect of slum housing and grinding poverty. There is an illuminating section about the lurid "broadsides", or broadsheets, peddled around the streets during some particularly sensational murder trial.

A favourite outdoor pastime with the Victorians of all classes was undoubtedly attendance at public executions. A "good" hanging could attract a crowd of 100,000 or more, and even an "ordinary" murderer would draw half that number on a fine day. It is interesting to note that hanging as public entertainment was finally abolished largely because of the fighting, drunkenness, large-scale muggings and general fun and games among the fans.

Naturally, there is a section dealing with the star-studied cast of this real-life Grand Guignol, Burke and Hare, Mrs. Maybrick, Palmer, Madeleine Smith, and other unsavory celebrities.

An interesting book which tells the reader almost as much about the Victorian character as it does about the art and practice of murder.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION

by Ray Hazan

*We are grateful to the G.D.B.A., for the photographs and extracts from 'Fifty Years Forward' for this article.*

In this article, we pay tribute to the Association and the animals they have trained. For many thousands of blind people, guide dogs have brought independence, jobs and freedom. In many cases, blindness meant lonely hours at home, inability to get employment and total dependence on family and friends. The advantages and disadvantages of the long cane versus guide dog will rage for many years to come. The aim of this article is to illustrate the history and current work and organisation of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

The guide dog movement began in Germany in 1916, with the training of alsatians to help men blinded in the war. Inspired by the German experiments, a wealthy American, Mrs. Dorothy Harrison Eustis, established a guide dog training centre in Switzerland, in the late 1920's and with her help and encouragement the movement was launched in the U.S.A. in 1929, and in Britain, in 1931.

### Small Scale

Training started on a very small scale with makeshift facilities in Wallasey, Cheshire, but the enthusiasm of the pioneers and the support of countless others since, has gradually enabled The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to grow into an organisation with five training centres, a breeding centre and 300 voluntary fund-raising branches throughout the country.

Lord Fraser visited several of the German, Swiss and American establishments. He wrote, "I was quite keen on the idea. Back in England I proposed the experimental scheme on similar lines. This suggestion met with mainly adverse reception and I was not surprised by that. My own prejudice died hard. Even so, the list of objections raised by St. Dunstaners looks over comprehensive now: the dog would be ineffective in heavy traffic, or over-crowded streets, the lead harness

would be heavily conspicuous, what would be done with the dog during working hours, what if the dog attacked children, etc. With all these objections we decided there was nothing we could do."

About this time, in 1930, articles about the training centres in Switzerland and the States began to appear in the British press. Among those who became interested in the possibility of setting up a guide dog organisation in Britain were Miss Muriel Crooke, an alsatian enthusiast who lived in Wallasey, and Mrs. Rosamund Bond, a breeder and exhibitor of alsatians. They decided to write to Mrs. Eustis and after an exchange of correspondence the three women met in London on 23rd September, 1930.

### Illegal

Mrs. Eustis said that she would lend a trainer to run a trial scheme in Britain. The latter part of 1930 and the first half of 1931 were now devoted to setting up the nucleus of an organisation and finding a suitable training spot. In February 1931, Miss Crooke and Mrs. Bond, together with two new supporters, Captain Alan Sington and Lady Kitty Ritson, went to London for a meeting with the National Institute for the Blind. Here they discovered to their dismay that, strictly speaking, they had been acting illegally in raising £284 for their training scheme.

Nevertheless, the Guide Dog Committee, as it became known, were determined to go ahead and solution was found by affiliating the Committee to the Institute.

It was decided to conduct the trial scheme near Miss Crooke's home in Wallasey and a piece of land and garage in Cardigan Road, New Brighton, were rented as a dogroom and store. The trainer lent by Mrs. Eustis, William Debetaz, arrived in England on 1st July, 1931, accompanied by Elliott Humphrey, who selected seven of 28 alsatian bitches that had been acquired from various sources. Humphrey returned to Switzerland and Debetaz began work.

The first class assembled in October, 1931. Two of the students on that first class were St. Dunstaners, Tommy Ap Rhys and



*The first four guide dog owners trained in Britain, included two St. Dunstaners, left Allen Caldwell and far right Tommy Ap Rhys, with their dogs Flash and Folly.*

Allen Caldwell and they described their new found liberty six months later: "Not only has my dog given me glorious freedom and independence, never known since pre-war days," wrote Allen Caldwell, "But delightful companionship". "With Folly," wrote Tommy Ap Rhys, "I do not mind walking at the fastest pace or even running with her." He was to use guide dogs for the next 48 years and died in 1979, at the age of 82, while retraining with his sixth dog.

Another landmark at the end of 1934, was the loan by one of Wallasey's town councillors of a big empty house for use as lodgings for those being trained. Later, the Wallasey Corporation offered, for a peppercorn rent, what will always be thought of as the first real 'home' of the Association — The Cliff. This was an almost derelict house on the seashore and with a fierce wind blowing off the Irish Sea piling sand feet high round it — the building hardly seemed ideal. But when things had been put into some sort of order, staff and students were able, for the first time, to be under one roof. The principle that was thus established of providing a 'home' in which the blind students are guests for four weeks is still the basis on which the training centres are run today.

Work at The Cliff went on steadily until the outbreak of war, when conditions for training became difficult and they decided to move from the Wallasey area and in 1941 Edmondscote Manor, a large house in extensive grounds at Leamington Spa, was bought as a training centre. Over the next 30 years four more training centres were opened: Cleve House, Exeter, in 1950; Nuffield House, Bolton, in 1961; Princess Alexandra House, Forfar, in 1965; and Folly Court, Wokingham, in 1977.

In 1954, Princess Alexandra graciously accepted the position of President, and later, Patron.

The G.D.B.A., is today, an expanding and progressive organisation, depending, like St. Dunstan's, on the generosity of the general public for its support. The governing and policy making body is the General Council. On this body are representatives from blind welfare, animal welfare, the fields of architecture, law, accountancy and business. The management team, under the Director General, Mr. Tony Clark, are located at their Headquarters in Park Street, Windsor. From there the lines of communication branch out to the Controllers at the five training centres and the breeding centre at Tollgate.

It is at Tollgate that most guide dogs are bred. The labrador/retriever cross is the most popular breed, followed by the golden retriever and the alsatian, though these, of course, are not the only kinds of dogs used. When the puppies are about 12 weeks old, they go out to puppy walkers. These families provide a vital basic training, getting the young animals used to domestic life, basic obedience, walking on a lead and on the left hand side of the owner and the environment of shops, traffic and people. The walkers are financially assisted with feeding costs and there is rarely a lack of volunteers.

After 12 months, the young dog will return to a centre to be assessed for suitability for training as guide dog. This lasts three to four weeks and, if accepted, the dog will undergo up to five months training, the last month being trained with the potential owner. Taking into account administrative costs, it has been an expensive business preparing the dog up to the time it departs with its owner.

### The Training

When called forward for training, the owner has a fairly gruelling month's training at the centre. He, or she, becomes entirely responsible for the care of the guide dog, grooming, feeding, working and recreation. Every eventuality has to be prepared for, from walking in country lanes, without a pavement, to buses, trains and busy shopping centres. For this reason much of the training takes place in built up areas. The owner has got to learn to be 101% confident in his four footed guide. As the training programme only allows a half day off per week, training centres are well equipped with all facilities, from a bar to laundry room. A class of about 12 students is likely to contain a mixed bunch of previous as well as new owners, young and old, from all walks of life. It must provide an excellent forum for exchanging ideas and experiences. Training does not cease at the end of one month. Many owners have recalled that it has taken up to a year for dog and owner to become a competent team.

It would appear to many that the public are far more interested in the guide dog than the owner. St. Dunstan's former Public Relations Officer, the late Lieutenant Commander Robin Buckley, gave the classic example. On leaving his dentist one

day, he went up to the receptionist to arrange his next appointment. The young lady looked inquiringly at his guide dog and asked, "Can he come back next Thursday?"

There are currently just under 3,000 guide dog owners in the U.K. All had to provide a medical certificate of fitness. All have had a very thorough interview with a guide dog instructor. Note is taken of height, build, gait, home, location, need, etc. Only then will the applicant be told if his application has been accepted. There then follows what could be a long wait — up to 15 months. This is due not to the shortage of dogs, but to the number of trainees each instructor can take. It takes three years to train a guide dog mobility instructor, so it is not a matter of increasing their number overnight. Since the working life of the guide dog is six to eight years, many dogs go through as replacements rather than to first time owners. Each GDO receives an annual follow up visit, which employs a lot of the instructor's time. Centre VI is currently being established in the North East and in a few years' time it is hoped that this will considerably ease the waiting list.

### Achievement

But whatever the past or the future, this year is one of pride of achievement and thanks for 50 years of existence. These Jubilee celebrations are marked by a guide dog appearing on one of the IYDP commemorative stamps. Many local authorities are planting flower beds to a guide dog design. Centres will be holding open days. Jubilee items, from books to biros and from mugs to mats will be on sale. St. Dunstan, and guide dog owner, Mike Tetley was guest speaker at the Association's A.G.M. The culmination of the celebrations will be a thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey, later this month. Princess Alexandra will head a congregation of 1,700 people and 600 dogs. The Abbey has surely never witnessed such an occasion? Immediately after the service, behind the Band of the Irish Guards, led in turn by its Irish wolf hound mascot, a procession of dogs and owners will march down Birdcage Walk to the Royal Mews, for a tea party. Water bowsers have been laid on to clean the assembly point afterwards!

As is so often the case with voluntary bodies, it is the few who have left a legacy of dedication. This has been amply taken up

by their successors. This is proved by the fact that, as already described, though the United Kingdom G.D.B.A., was not the first to be founded, England has now one of the most professional and highly regarded organisations in the world. Our love of dogs is obviously a great asset, but this is equally matched by the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff and supporters throughout the country. One St. Dunstaner guide dog owner, who gives talks and sells items, has raised some £7,000 this year. Although finance is not the be all and end all, nevertheless, it helps!

We wish the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association a very happy 50th birthday. May they long continue to bring freedom and independence to blind people. Technology may be making rapid advances, but I feel sure we shall hear the patter of four tiny feet for many decades to come.

### Mr. Garnett-Orme

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association on 9th June, a letter from our Chairman was read to the meeting:

"Many congratulations from St. Dunstan's to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association on celebrating its Golden Jubilee! You have achieved so much in your wonderful work for the blind and I am sure your Annual General Meeting will be a very happy occasion.

I was delighted to hear that a St. Dunstaner will be your guest speaker."

Mike Tetley gave a most interesting and amusing talk, which was very well received.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's



*On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.*

**Joseph Patrick Bane**, of Morden, who joined St. Dunstan's on 1st June. Mr. Bane is 67 years old and served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the Second World War. He was wounded in

Italy during a mine explosion and lost both his legs.

He is married with three grown up children.

**Trevor Phillips**, of Paignton, who joined St. Dunstan's on 18th May. Mr. Phillips is 60 years old and served during the Second World War in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He is married with three grown up children.

**Donald Planner**, of Sittingbourne, who joined St. Dunstan's on 19th May. Mr. Planner is 33 years old and works in industry. He served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, but was discharged from the Army in 1975 after an accidental explosion, while he was serving in Germany.

He is married with three young sons.

**Josef Mojsesz Silbiger**, who lives mostly in Antwerp, Belgium, but frequently visits his family in Gateshead, who recently joined St. Dunstan's. Mr. Silbiger served in the Polish Armed Forces and spent part of the Second World War serving under British Command.

**William Tyson**, of Bude, who joined St. Dunstan's on 28th April. Mr. Tyson is 72 years old and used to be a pharmacist and optician. He served with the Royal Navy during the Second World War and is married with two adult sons.

**William John David Vickery**, of Plymouth, who joined St. Dunstan's on 18th May. Mr. Vickery is 63 years old and served from 1939 until 1947 in the Royal Engineers, and was wounded twice during the Second World War. He is married with four grown up children.

### RAIL CARD FOR THE DISABLED

Earlier this year, British Rail announced that they would be producing a rail card entitling the disabled to a 50 per cent reduction in rail fares. British Rail are still discussing the issuing of the card. Announcements will be made in the *Review* as soon as any more information is received.

## Greater London Fund for the Blind Diamond Jubilee

The Greater London Fund for the Blind was founded in 1921. It is the main organisation to raise funds for 16 institutions, societies and associations for civilian blind people in the Greater London area. Among these are the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Royal London Society for the Blind, the London Association for the Blind and the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead.

The Patron is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the President the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of London. For many years the late R.H. Hyde-Thomson, a St. Dunstaner of the First World War, was Chairman of the Fund.

On 28th May, a service of thanksgiving and rededication to mark the Diamond Jubilee was held in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent.

The lesson was read by Sir Godfrey Ralli, B.T., T.D., Chairman of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and the sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. G. Hewlett Thompson, M.A., Bishop of Willesden.

Among the congregation were Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme and St. Dunstaners Ernie Jensen, Billy Miller, Jimmy Wright, with their wives.

There was also a St. Dunstan's representative in the pulpit as Esmond Knight spoke some verses from Wordsworth's Ode, Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood, which concludes with the words:

"What though the radiance which was once  
so bright

Be now for ever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour  
of splendour in the grass, of glory in the  
flower;

We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind;  
In the primal sympathy  
Which having been must ever be;  
In the soothing thoughts that spring  
Out of human suffering;  
In the faith that looks through death,  
In the years that bring the philosophic  
mind."

### Mr. Garnett-Orme writes:

My wife and I, together with some St. Dunstaners and their wives, were honoured to be included in this moving service. The Abbey was absolutely full and Esmond Knight, speaking from the pulpit from which Bishop Cranmer used to preach before he was burnt at the stake, read an extract from an Ode by Wordsworth which exactly fitted the occasion. Esmond's diction was so clear that we could hear every word and one felt proud to be connected with St. Dunstan's. Our thanks to the Greater London Fund for the Blind for allowing us to be present on this special occasion.

## Sixty Years of Caring

Under this slogan the Royal British Legion is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this year.

The anniversary annual conference was held in Brighton from the 23rd to the 25th May. Our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, sent a congratulatory message on the sixtieth anniversary and commented to the new President, General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson G.C.B.:

"We all recognise the importance of St. Dunstan's long association with the Legion and we look forward to its happy continuation in the years to come."

St. Dunstan's has always had close links with the Legion and one of our number, the late Captain William Appleby, was among those who helped Earl Haig to unite the various ex-service organisations into one.

The late Lord Fraser held office as National Vice-Chairman and, later, as President.

Most recently St. Dunstan's co-operated with the Rottingdean British Legion in mounting an exhibition and display by ex-service people at Rottingdean, in connection with the International Year of Disabled People.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From: Peter Spencer, Weston-Super-Mare

As readers of the *Review* will know, a new venture at Ian Fraser House, in the form of a musical activity week, will be held from Monday, 17th August until Friday, 21st August.

I am sure that any St. Dunstaner who can entertain in any way, including singers of all types of songs, comedians and so forth will all be very welcome, as well as all those who can play an instrument of any description. This should be a good week — come along and join us.

### From: Mrs. May Dorling, Norwich

May I through the *Review* say thank you to all concerned for the wreath and letters of sympathy on the death of my husband, Robert James Dorling.

I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Newbold, who has been very kind to us. Although Robert was only a St. Dunstaner for a short time, everyone showed us such kindness and went out of their way to help us.

Once again, my thanks.

### From: James Legge, Bristol

Recently, the Superintendent of a village Sunday school about six miles from here telephoned me, saying that the children in her class were interested in making a contribution to the International Year of the Disabled. They had already knitted a blanket for a wheelchair person and were now wishing to do something to help blind people: I mentioned that Guide Dogs and Talking Book Services were always grateful for assistance. I willingly agreed to a request to bring some of the children along as they were very interested to see what blind people do. On Saturday morning, 16th, May, Miss Frost arrived at my house with six girls aged 8 or 9. After introducing Selena, Jackie, Sarah, Catherine, Beverly and Nicola, they presented me with a bunch of scented flowers. I demonstrated typing, reading Braille, talking books and playing cards etc. Writing each of their names in Braille individually pleased them very much. Before leaving two of the girls sang a duet to the accompaniment of two others

on their recorders. It was a most delightful and refreshing experience to meet these children. If you consider this event merits mention in the *Review*; it would be interesting to know if there are any other St. Dunstaners who have had a similar experience.

### From: Gladys Hancock, West Drayton

May I, through the columns of the *Review*, express my thanks for the care given to Charlie and myself throughout all our years of association with St. Dunstan's. I would like to thank all the members of staff at Headquarters, Fraser House and Pearson House for all they did for us.

I should also like to thank all our many St. Dunstaner friends and their wives for the telephone calls and notes we received during Charlie's illness. Charlie was deeply appreciative of these tokens of concern.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you for the many notes, floral tributes and phone calls.

We have had some wonderful times at the London Club and at Brighton and I have only happy memories.

## From the Chairman's Postbag

### From: Mrs. Joy Forster, Leeds

Lately I have been involved in a guide dog project. When Bob died last year I had to get busy doing something, the penalty for such a very happy marriage as ours is that when it comes to an end, even if blessed as I am with our lovely family, one feels quite bereft. So I decided to raise £1,000 for a guide dog in memory of my Bob. Thanks to friends, relatives, neighbours and various associations to which we both belonged, especially Bob's old Regiment, the Royal Artillery, of Burma days, the local R.A. Association and my Townswomen's Guild. I have raised to date £1,238 which not only pays for a dog and its training, but also takes me on the way towards a second dog. It has been quite incredible, I thought it would take years, but I only launched the fund last October!



## Gardening Column

With all this rain and gale force winds about it makes you wonder whether it is worth having a garden at all, when you only paddle around in the mud. It certainly has not been a good time for the garden and all the plants are coming along very slowly. Still, let's hope we have some better weather later on and that the crops will ripen well.

Pests will be on the rampage, so use sprays regularly both as protection and a cure. Add a soluble fungicide which helps to do two jobs in one. If you have a small garden use liquid fertiliser, but the pellet types do dissolve in rain. Do not forget to water the garden during dry spells and to keep the hoe going to combat weeds.

### Vegetables

When the vegetable crops are over and gathered take out all the cabbage family stalks, broad bean and pea haulms. Fork over this soil to let air into it and will give you a spare bed should you need it, but do be careful with the cabbage family and give the roots of seedlings a good powdering with calomel.

Carrots need plenty of water in dry weather and a mulch of rotten manure will be very beneficial. Make sure the runner bean canes are in place and again water and fertilise them.

Give the potatoes a final earthing up to keep the small tubers below soil level and not getting green in colour. Do earth them up a small distance away from the stems, or you may damage young tubers — I have done this myself so I am speaking from experience!

### Feed & Water

If you have normal, tall growing tomatoes outdoors, do pinch out side shoots and the top, after four trusses have formed and tie them to really solid stakes, water well and feed with every other watering. Marrows too need plenty of water and it is always better to use slightly tepid water and, again, put some feed in from time to time and this will give you size and quality.

Some seeds can still be sown for late crops, for example, radish, cabbage and

lettuce. Plant out any well grown seedlings from an earlier sowing and give a good soaking after they have been planted to settle the roots.

### Fruit

Fruit trees and bushes will need plenty of water to keep the fruit size and to prevent dropping. Where you have a large set of apples it is a good idea to thin the fruit out a little. A mulch of lawn mowings, or compost, round the base of trees/bushes does help to keep the moisture in. Do beware of the pests and keep your sprays handy.

Mow the grass regularly and have the blades at the lowest setting. However, during very dry spells do not mow too often and use the hose a lot. Trim the edges of the lawn as this sets off the lawn so well. Some fertiliser cum weed killer, during moist weather, will do the lawn all the good in the world and give the grass a fine green colour.

### Flowers

Keep the flower beds tidy by cutting off dead heads and any broken shoots which have been damaged by the wind. Tall annuals are better off with some short stakes and if you put them in the centre of the plant they will not be so conspicuous.

Do cut blooms for the house and disbud plants like carnations, pinks, dahlias and chrysanthemums to give you a better class of flower. A dose of fertiliser as they come into bloom will boost them.

The flowers will need protecting from the insects, so use sprays or even a mixture in the watering can. Take great care to stick to the instructions on the label and remember that some plants may not like certain chemicals, though I think Derris can be used all over the place.

Sow perennials and biennials for planting out in the autumn and plant out all those reserve seedlings that you had in outdoor beds to fill in any spaces you may have in the border. Cuttings can be taken from many hardwood plants and from some softwood plants.

You will need to do plenty of watering in

the greenhouse and feed at every other watering when the plants are in bud, or flowering. Pick cucumbers and tomatoes as soon as they ripen and this will help to make for further cropping. A spray of plain water over the flower trusses will help them set better and more quickly. Do not forget to pick out all the side shoots, especially on the tomatoes. Give a regular tomato feed and use one which has a high potash content to give plenty of fruit, size and quality.

Repot all those well growing plants to their final pots. Stake up the carnations and chrysanthemums and tie in any climbing items which are growing really well. Cut down the perennials which have finished flowering and where you have had bulbs, let them gradually mature and dry off.

Use insecticides and fungicides regularly and one can get combined mixtures, which do both jobs at once. During really warm weather the windows can be left open day and night. If you have spaces in the greenhouse which are cleared of plants do give these spots a good cleaning and replace with other plants so that the whole place can be cleaned over and if you have no plants at floor level use a bit of disinfectant on the floor.

## Gardening Week by Fred Barratt

"The best gardening week we have ever had". That was the unanimous opinion voiced by everyone who attended the gardening week, at Ian Fraser House, in May. Truly, it was a very good week with plenty of variety in the programme; we had trips to numerous gardens, including Sissinghurst Castle, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Rock House, Ashington, Freshacres Mushroom Farm, the herb farm, at Binstead and the Roundstone Garden Centre. You can imagine, there was plenty of discussion after these expeditions.

However, the indoor activities did not stop at discussion. Various experts came to talk to us. Radio Brighton sent two people to talk to us, one of whom was an expert fruit grower. Their visit was so successful that we asked if we could record a live programme with them during our next gardening session.

Mr. John Warwick, Superintendent, of the Rock Gardens, Wisley, illustrated his talk on rock plants, with a very fine selection of plants, showing us where and why some plants grow on rocks. A real asset to the rockery minded.

Our friends at the Ovingdean Gardeners Club invited us to join them for a fascinating talk about plant and fruit experiments. Among the topics covered was the creation of apple tree that had no branches, with the apples growing from the trunk.

Including herbs in our programme was a great success and the trip to the herb farm must be repeated. The number of herb plants on board the coach after we had been round the farm underlines just how much we enjoyed this particular excursion. Our thanks to John Walborough for arranging it for us.

### Gardening Club

One important matter did arise from our discussions. We learnt that Miss Guilbert, who was responsible for starting up the Gardeners' Week, is soon to retire. We decided, therefore, to set up a St. Dunstan's Gardening Club. I was nominated to act as secretary/spokesman for the first year. With a team of very enthusiastic gardeners, we hope to organise a full and varied programme for next year.

The Club would like to encourage novice gardeners to join us, as well as more experienced people who want to improve their skills, in what is probably the oldest hobby in the world.

This Gardening Week did not stop in the garden, but moved into the kitchen. Under the watchful eye of Pam Durie we were shown how to transform our products into culinary creations, such as lemon curd. Pam's real wizardry showed itself when we were treated to a meal made predominately from products from the garden. We were delighted with the feast and we must do the same thing again, if only to acquire the know how to prepare such a meal ourselves.

During the meal we took the opportunity to express our thanks to Miss Guilbert for the great work she has done in bringing gardening sessions to St. Dunstan's. We gave her a token of our appreciation, which we hope will help her with her gardening during her retirement.

#### Addition to Cassette Library

SD9. C90. Track 1 — Jimmy Wright receiving BAFTA award from Lord Snowdon.

Radio 4 Profile programme on J. Wright.  
Track 2 — Radio 4. Death of the Hood as recounted by Esmond Knight.

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## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

#### Entertainment Section

Thanks to the fine support given by members at our Wednesday meetings, we are pleased to report that we are now down to the finals of our knock-out competitions and we thank all members for their co-operation.

On Friday, 29th May, 52 members, wives and friends, made the trip to the Torino Winery at Sheffield Park, Sussex, and a very interesting and happy evening was enjoyed by all. May I remind all who are interested, that a visit to Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent, has been arranged for Friday, 17th July, and we still have six vacant seats, so if anyone wishes to join us please contact Bob Osborne, Brighton, 32115, as soon as possible, the price to members £4.50, non-members £6.50. This includes coach trip, lunch and tea.

It is hoped to have a trip to a Benedictine Monastery, France, on Tuesday 25 August, again anyone interested please contact Bob at the above telephone number. The full price is £13, but we are hoping to have a reduction for members.

H. Preedy

### BRIDGE

The first meeting this year of the National Bridge Club took place at Ian Fraser House on 30th — 31st May. The meeting took the form of a three way competition between London, Brighton and the Provinces, which Brighton won. For this they will receive a silver cup, which will be suitably engraved. London came second with minus 8 match points and the Provinces came third with minus 23 match points.

While the matches were being played the

remaining players took part in several bridge drives, the results were as follows:-

#### Saturday morning

1st ... Joe Carney and Miss Sturdy.

2nd ... Ike Pellington and Mrs. N. Phillips.

#### Saturday afternoon

1st ... Bob Fullard and Collis Walters.

2nd ... Wally Lethbridge and Mrs. Buller King.

#### Sunday morning

1st ... Ron Freer and Mary Stenning.

2nd ... Bill Miller and Reg Palmer.

The final bridge drive Sunday afternoon for all players and markers was won by the following:-

1st ... Ron Freer and Collis Walters.

2nd ... George Hudson and Fay Andrews.

3rd ... Michael Tybinski and Jean MacIntosh.

This concluded a very enjoyable weekend, and after thanking Mr. Robert Goodladd for acting as tournament director, which he did in a very successful and able manner, also all the markers, I would like to place on record the very able way in which Mrs. Pugh helped me in arranging this weekend.

H. Meleson  
Secretary

### Harrogate Bridge Week 19th — 26th September

For those travelling with the main party, via London, the cost will be £80.80. If you are making your own way there the charge is £68.80. Cheques payable to St. Dunstan's and should be sent to Ian Dickson, at Headquarters no later than 1st September.

Hon. Sec. National Bridge Club.

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## FAMILY NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Goodhead, of Sheffield, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Amber Louise Nicole on 11th March, to their daughter, Denise, and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller, of Leamington Spa, are pleased to announce the birth of a grandson, Charles, on 29th April, to their daughter, Angela, and her husband.

## FAMILY NEWS continued

Mr. and Mrs. James Padley, of Saltdean, on the births of three grandchildren. Their first grandchild, Fiona Louise, was born on 25th April, to their son, Derek, and his wife, Diane. Identical twin grand-daughters, Rachael Alexandra and Nicola Jeanne, were born on 29th May, to their son, Tony, and his wife, Janice.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vowles, of Northend, Portsmouth on the birth of a grand-daughter, Katie Louise, on 29th May, to their son, Barrie, and his wife, Pat.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Warren, of Meppershall, on the birth of a grandson, Matthew Warren Walker, on 12th April, to their daughter, Angela, and her husband, Clive.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wilson, of Brough, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Kelly Anne, on 9th April, to their daughter, Susan, and her husband, Gareth.

#### Correction

We apologise to Mr. and Mrs. Warren and to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for the incorrect announcement in last month's *Review*.

### GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. Charles Kirk, formerly of Lancing, now living in Calgary, Canada, on the birth of his 13th great grandchild, Candide Razan, to his grandson, David Timothy Kirk, and his wife, Samia.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cole, of Shoreham, on the birth of a great grandson, Paul, to Georgina and Kevin Craig, on 14th May.

*Editor's Note:* We wonder, if at the age of 58, whether George Cole is the youngest great grandfather in St. Dunstan's?

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Temperton, of Hull, on the birth of two great grandchildren, David James and Sarah, both born on 22nd April.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Charlick, of Orpington, are pleased to announce that their daughter, Julie Theresa, was married to Anthony Buss, on 25th April.

Mr. Charles Kirk, formerly of Lancing, now living in Calgary, is pleased to announce the marriage of his grand-daughter, Kathryn Frances Kirk, to Alec Wilson, on 2nd May. Mr. Kirk was on holiday in the U.K. and was able to attend the wedding in Scotland.

### RUBY WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jensen, of North Hillingdon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, on 21st June.

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### We warmly congratulate:

Mr. Peter Watson, of Peacehaven, who recently got his orange belt in Judo.

### DEATHS

#### We offer sympathy to:

Mr. Norman Pawson, of Northallerton, whose wife, Rosemary, died on 21st May, after a long illness.

Mr. Paul Walker, of Lewes, whose brother, Peter, died very suddenly, on 23rd May.

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## In Memory

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

#### Robert Dorling, Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Robert Dorling, of Norwich, died on 8th May. He was 84 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since April, 1980.

Mr. Dorling was a Private in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and was blinded on his 21st birthday as a result of mustard gas poisoning. He had over the years worked as a cleaner and lorry driver retiring when he was 69 years old.

He enjoyed listening to the radio and talking books, but his particular hobbies were bowling and gardening. He belonged to his local blind Bowls Club and had been winner of the Norfolk Disabled Gardeners Trophy.

He leaves a widow, Mary, and five children.

**Charles Archibald Hancock, 7th Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.**

Charlie Hancock, of West Drayton, died in hospital on 15th May.

He had been ill for some time. He was 83 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 63 years.

When he was 18 he joined the Army as a Private in the 7th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was wounded in Macedonia, losing one eye and suffering such damage to the other that he was ultimately to become completely blind. He was taken prisoner and repatriated towards the end of the First World War, as one of a small number of P.O.W's exchanged under a special agreement with the enemy, through the Red Cross.

Mr. Hancock joined St. Dunstan's in 1918 and undertook a period of training in basket making, Braille and typing. He worked for many years on private orders and was an expert craftsman, whose work was much in demand. However, during the Second World War, Mr. Hancock was anxious to make a contribution to the war effort and after a short period of re-training, was employed by a Reading aircraft company on assembly and subsequently in light engineering, until 1962, when he reached retirement age. In retirement he kept very busy making string bags for our Stores until this work was phased out in 1979.

Mr. Hancock had many interests and was an active member of many local blind clubs as well as Toc H. He was a great music lover and enjoyed tape recording, listening to the radio and records as well as playing draughts, chess and dominoes. He was a staunch supporter of the London Club and will be long remembered by many of the members who knew him well.

Sadly, Mr. Hancock's health began to deteriorate three years ago and he was devotedly cared for by his wife and other members of his close knit family. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock would have celebrated their Golden

Wedding Anniversary next year.

He leaves a widow Gladys, a son and daughter and grandchildren.

**George William Killingbeck, 5th Sussex Regiment.**

George Killingbeck, B.E.M., of Saltdean, died in Ian Fraser House on 14th May, after a long period of ill health. He was 82 years old. Due to the seriousness of his condition he was admitted to Ian Fraser House only three days before he died, but until then he had been devotedly cared for by his wife.

Mr. Killingbeck served as a Private in the 5th Sussex Regiment during the First World War. He enlisted at the age of 15, in 1915, and was discharged in 1919 following injuries to his eyes and the loss of a hand, during the hostilities in Italy.

Mr. Killingbeck joined St. Dunstan's in 1919, and after a period of training, became extremely adept at telephony and Braille, and subsequently worked for the National Institute for the Blind as an Appeals Organiser.

In 1943, Mr. Killingbeck was employed as a Braille Instructor at Church Stretton and he also did some part time lecturing on the work of St. Dunstan's. In 1965 he became a Braille Instructor at Ovingdean and will be long remembered by many St. Dunstaners for his patience and kindness and the diligent manner of his instruction. In 1945, he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Until 1976, when his health began to deteriorate seriously, Mr. Killingbeck's greatest interests were his garden and greenhouse, where he always had a splendid show of chrysanthemums and tomatoes.

He leaves a widow, Joan.

**Thomas McKenna, 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment.**

Thomas McKenna, of Hove, died on 5th June at the Home of St. Joseph's Little Sisters of the Poor in Hove. He was a bachelor aged 87 and joined St. Dunstan's in 1968.

Mr. McKenna served as a Private in the 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment during the First World War and was the victim of a mustard gas attack, while serving overseas, which caused severe burns and kept him in hospital for several weeks. As a result, his eyesight and general health deteriorated over the years.

He leaves a brother, William.