



**St Dunstons
Review**

August 1981

Message from the Chairman

The Royal Wedding

St. Dunstan's links with the Royal Family are a proud and happy part of our history from our foundation in 1915 to the present day. Her Majesty the Queen is our Patron and other members of her family have also taken a personal interest in our work and visited us many years ago in Regent's Park and more recently at Brighton.

As I am sure it will be the general wish, I am proposing to send a message of good wishes from us all to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer on the occasion of their wedding. The text will be published in our October issue.

Honours for St. Dunstaners

The Birthday Honours List this summer included an M.B.E. for St. Dunstaner Ted John for his work with the Wallasey Police. This is a fitting recognition of his fine public service and, on behalf of all at St. Dunstan's, I send him and his wife, Beryl, our warmest congratulations via the *Review*, just as I am sure he will already have received many greetings and comments on the air from his fellow radio 'hams'. Another M.B.E. was awarded to Colin Johnston, 'for services to ex-servicemen'. We know that this is in recognition of his efforts on behalf of St. Dunstaners as Federal President, St. Dunstan's, Australia and as President of the organisation in the State of Victoria. His wife, Elizabeth, shared in his work and to them both I send hearty congratulations from their friends in the U.K.

Open Days at Ian Fraser House

On July 7th and 8th, as part of our programme for the International Year of Disabled People, we welcomed visitors to Ian Fraser House for Open Days similar in conception to those held at Headquarters in April. Of course at Ian Fraser House the scope for displaying the work of St. Dunstan's is almost unlimited and a full programme of events was planned. The first day was given over to some special visitors and I had the pleasure of welcoming, among others, Lady Ellerman, Mr. Andrew Bowden, Member of Parliament for Brighton Kemp Town, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, the Mayors and Mayoresses of Brighton, Hove and Lewes. The next day was the true Open Day when hundreds of members of the public came to see and, in many cases, to wonder at the resourcefulness and the courage of the St. Dunstaners who had come along to demonstrate their skills. A report of the Open Days

appears on another page in this issue, but in addition to thanking all the St. Dunstaners and their wives who participated, I would like to congratulate Dr. Stilwell and all the members of staff at Brighton and from Headquarters whose enthusiasm and co-operation have made these occasions so successful.

Archery

The sport of archery is one more recreation for blind people which has been developed by St. Dunstan's. The leader at Brighton has been Mr. Laurie Austin, himself an archer, and, until his retirement, transport manager at Ian Fraser House. Over two weeks in July our more accomplished archers competed for a number of trophies, including the Dacre Trophy, a splendid bronze sculpture, and the Frank and Avis Spurway Trophy. The St. Dunstan's Archery Club has now been recognised by the Grand National Archery Society, the first blind club in this country to be so honoured. Its St. Dunstaner members have earned this recognition by their enthusiasm and determination, but they owe a great deal to Mr. Austin, Mr. J.L. van Buren, the Sussex County Coach and other sighted archers who give freely of their time and skill.

Jon Lamell-Dance

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S CORRECTIONS POSTBAG

From: George Briggs-Swifte, Co. Kilkenny

I had a letter some days ago from my sister posted in Norfolk in October, 1968, with a 4d stamp on. It took 13 years to arrive! I fancy it was retrieved from a mail train hold up, as some 10,000 letters were found all opened, so we were told. We live in strange times.

We apologise for the error in the June *Review*. In the article on the Open University the person to contact is Binky Power, who is the Disablement Officer.

In the report of the London reunion in last month's *Review* the number of people who attended, mainly from Kent and Surrey, was incorrectly stated. The total number of guests was 110 not 177.

St Dunstons Review

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CONTENTS

Tryfan climb	4
Welcome	8
Festival of Remembrance	8
Reunions	9
Letters	12
Israel trip	14
Gardening	22
Open Days	24
OBITUARY – Mrs. Peggy Craik	24
Club News	25
Family News	27
In Memoriam	28



Cover Picture – Sculptor, Sean Crampton with the Dacre Trophy for Archery. A full report on the Archery Championships will appear in our next issue.



TRY AGAIN FOR TRYFAN

by David Castleton

The approach to Tryfan.

Tryfan is a 3010 feet high mountain in Snowdonia. Its Welsh name means Three Peaks, it is also known as the Matterhorn of Snowdonia. On Saturday, 6th June a group of experienced St. Dunstan's climbers made an attempt on the triple summit to join Adam and Eve — the two vertical outcrops of rock, which to the observer from below look like human figures.

The group consisted of Tom Lukes, Ray Sheriff, John Simpson and Trevor Tatchell, with an old friend as guest climber, Arthur Rowlands, North Wales Police, blinded in a incident with a criminal. Eric Bradshaw, unfortunately, had to drop out at the last minute due to an injury to his foot.

The party motored from Porthmadog by minibus and soon rain was lashing the windscreen and drumming the roof. There was no view of the top of the mountain for the sighted members of the party as it was covered by cloud. A car park near the mountain was the rendezvous with the climb master, John Ellis Roberts, of the Snowdonia National Park and his

colleagues who were to act as escorts. Bob Thomas, leader, conferred with John Roberts and an hours' delay was agreed in the hope the weather would lift.

At last the clouds broke and John Roberts gave the word — go while the going was good. The approach slopes were scaled with the sun on the climbers' backs. We made Bwlch Tryfan in good order, paused for breath and a description of the area from John Roberts and then approached a tougher section of the climb.

This section involved some rock scrambling and finally the group reached a ridge which led on to the summit but by now the wind had risen and clouds were boiling around the peaks. The final climb looked formidable and more so through the rain.

The party took shelter behind a dry stone wall to eat a picnic lunch and found the wind so strong that the rain was driving through the chinks in the stones. A British summer's day was crowned when hailstones, flying horizontally in the gale



A summer's day in the Welsh hills.

John Simpson negotiates a stile.

between the peaks, pelted anyone rash enough to stand above the level of the wall. It was suggested that the full fury of the elements was inspired by Trevor Tatchell's spirited rendering of 'Climb Every Mountain'.

It was a disappointment, but not really a surprise, when the leaders decided that the final attempt on the summit should be abandoned. Even with ropes, the combination of wet rocks, wind and rain would be too hazardous for the St. Dunstaners. So began a slipping, sliding descent on the leeward side of the mountain to get some protection from the wind. Every path was a running stream and most members of the party, sighted and blind alike, had wet behinds from slipping and falling.

Despite the weather and the difficulties of finding a footing the St. Dunstaners morale was still high and that Welsh songster was heard again. This time Trevor Tatchell's solo was 'The Hill Are Alive with the Sound of Music'. We looked back at Tryfan's spectacular three peaks and promised to be



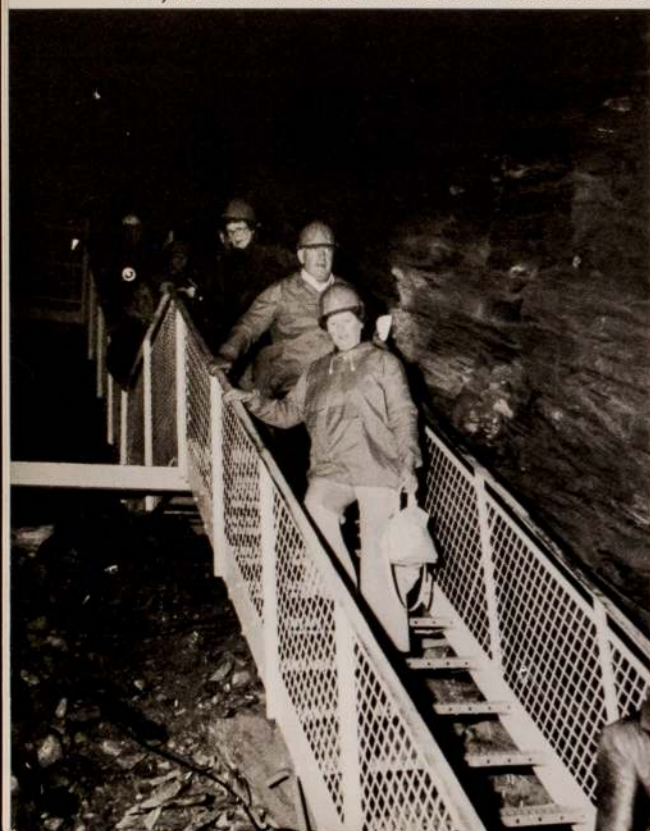


Mud stained but still smiling, Ray Sheriff retreats from Tryfan with his sighted escorts.



A much photographed family of swans seen on the way to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Beryl and Trevor Tatchell in the LLechwedd slate mine.



back. The climb had taken us to within 500 feet and, given good weather, next time should see St. Dunstaners up there with Adam and Eve.

On Sunday, having failed to reach the top of the mountains, Bob Thomas took the party underneath! The LLechwedd Slate Mine, at Blaenau Ffestiniog, has Britain's steepest underground railway. It runs into the mountain at a gradient of 1 in 1.8 to the Deep Mine, formerly known only by the slateminers themselves who, in conditions of total darkness, cut and blasted out the huge caverns to remove the slate.

Now the Deep Mine is lit by electricity and there is a splendid, recorded commentary, with sound effects and music which gave a good impression of the mine to the blinded members of the party. It was a journey into the earth and back in time which will remain vividly in the memory.

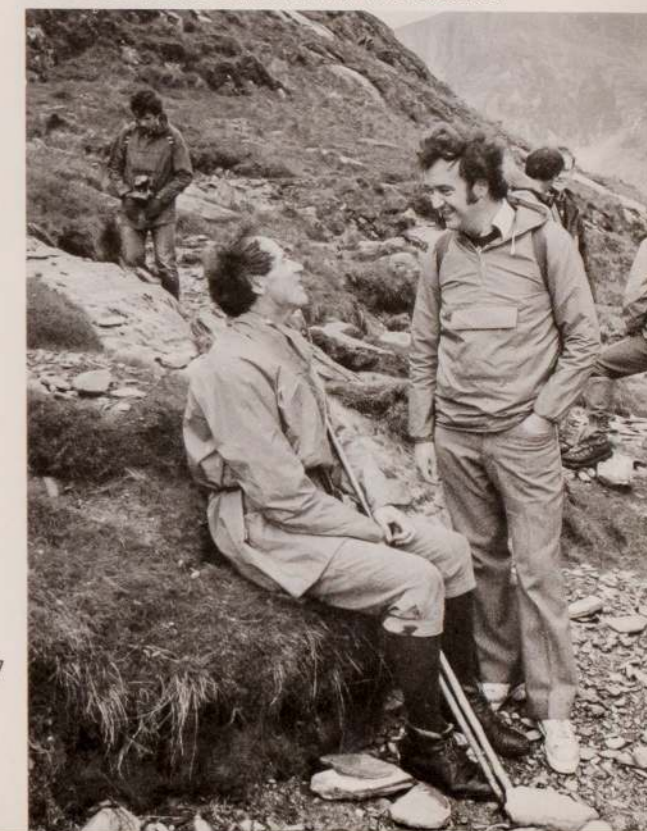
Back on the surface there were exhibitions of photographs and tableaux of the days when the Deep Mine was still worked and a demonstration of splitting the slate

into the thin oblongs still seen on Welsh roofs and the slate roofs in many parts of the U.K. and Europe. Part of the LLechwedd mine is still working and exporting slate, but the boom time, which produced whole hillsides of broken, rejected slate which give Blaenau Ffestiniog an almost lunar landscape, has gone.

Although Tryfan was not conquered, this was another highly successful sporting venture in the comradeship of blind and sighted climbers, many of whom are old friends now from previous climbs. Thanks must go especially once more to Bob Thomas who first brought St. Dunstaners into the Welsh mountains and to John Ellis Roberts and his team.

So, having seen part of Wales from top to bottom as it were, the St. Dunstan's climbers left the Royal Sportsman Hotel, Porthmadog, where they had been royally entertained — even to a special concert by Welsh choirs — to return to their homes. Ironically, the sun shone brightly again that Monday.

Tom Lukes and his son, Jonathan, take a breather.



WELCOME TO ST. DUNSTAN'S



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

Arthur Stuart Reeves, of Bloxwich, who joined St. Dunstan's on 10th June. Mr. Reeves served in the Grenadier Guards from 1939 until 1945. He was wounded in Normandy in 1944. Mr. Reeves is a widower.

Daniel Rivers, of Birmingham, who joined St. Dunstan's on 1st July. Mr. Rivers served in the South Staffordshire Regiment during the second world war. He is married and has 14 children.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

It is anticipated that we will again be allocated small number of tickets for both the afternoon and the evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 7th November.

Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending is invited to apply to Miss Bridger at Headquarters before 14th September next for two tickets per St. Dunstaner and should it be necessary a ballot for these tickets will be held. Please indicate preference for the afternoon or evening performance.

A St. Dunstaner who is allocated tickets will if necessary be assisted with cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London and invited to join the St. Dunstan's contingent attending the Cenotaph Parade on the Sunday morning.

FOR SALE

Marantz Superscope EC 9P Cardioid Condenser Professional Microphone for sale. Powered by one HP 7 battery, supplied. Detachable metal windscreen. Ten and a half feet of screened detachable cable, with standard jack plug. Mike switch for 'off', 'voice' and 'music'.

Length of mike seven and a half inches. Frequency range 30 Kz to 17,000 Hz. Sensitivity 2 mv. Output impedance 250 ohms balanced. Suitable for most

Japanese tape recorders. Has been used half a dozen time.

When new £52, asking price £25. Please ring Roy David, 041 638 1937, after six p.m.

VILLA HOLIDAYS FOR EX RAF PERSONNEL

A trust is being planned which may be of interest to disabled ex RAF personnel. The object is to buy a villa, probably in Cyprus, hopefully with a car, for use on holiday. Interested parties would have to pay their own way out and buy food, but accommodation is free. For details of the scheme which, it must be repeated, is for ex RAF only, write immediately to:

Mrs Rosalind Hall,
Scallywag,
Wallingford Rd.,
North Stoke,
Oxford OX9 6BD.

Bogus Bowstring Bomb

Curly Wagstaff's keen interest in archery brought him a visit from the police recently. He had ordered two new bowstrings from Southern Archery Specialists and decided to send an old string back as a sample. He wrapped the string in corrugated cardboard and as the loops protruded he put the whole thing in an envelope.

The envelope was addressed to the archery firm by their abbreviated title S.A.S., Guildford, and that is where the trouble began. At Whimble, Devon, post office an alert postmaster saw that the letter was addressed to S.A.S. Guildford, where the regiment has a depot, and held the envelope to the light. The sight of two suspicious loops of wire caused him to send for the police and the bomb disposal squad.

So the call from the police to ask Curly, next time, please, write Southern Archery Specialists on the envelope.

Addition to Cassette Library

SD10 C90 Metal craft manual. Instructions issued on wrought-iron hobby course. Track 1. Instructions, contents of kits. Track 3. How to make various items.

R34 Six C90's Radio Amateur Examination Manual.

Reunions

Newcastle

The Newcastle reunion, which took place on 14th May, is the northernmost of our regional gatherings. Nevertheless by British Rail's proud Inter-City 125 the journey from London takes only a little over three hours. Just three hours to whisk the jaded Londoner to the bracing North-East!

The Royal Station Hotel has a grandness of manner that dates back to Victorian times but the St. Dunstan's reunion there is a select and warmly friendly occasion. Mr. Richard Dufton, the Member of St. Dunstan's presiding, and his wife, are exactly the right people for such a reunion.

Fifteen St. Dunstaners, with their wives or escorts were present, including Mr. William Pinder and Mr. Dixie Dean who served in the first world war and for whom Mr. Dufton had a special word of welcome in his speech, as well as for Mrs. Brown from Sunderland and Mrs. Wilson from Cleadon, widows of St. Dunstaners.

Employment in Industry

He also mentioned the presence of members of the staff and in naming Mr. Barlow, of the Employment, Homecraft and Research Department, recalled the pioneering role played by the Department in placing St. Dunstaners in industry.

"No one else had done it in significant numbers and many St. Dunstaners went into industry in 1942, as many as six at a time to one aircraft factory. I remember it well, I was one of them."

Mr. Dufton recalled Mr. Owens, who was in charge of the then Industrial Department for many years until his retirement, and Mrs. Lillian Brown, who looked after the St. Dunstaners in telephony, "The contribution of the Department over the decades was enormous," he said.

Mr. Dufton went on to mention the presence of other members of staff and thanked Mrs. Inman, the Welfare Visitor responsible for the reunion, and Miss Skinner, who was assisting.

He told his audience that recently he and Mrs. Dufton had been reading a book about Sir Arthur Pearson. Among other things, the book referred to an article he wrote long

before he lost his sight, *Curiosities of Blindness*, "This young man of 24 had done this remarkably penetrating review and analysis of blind people who had made a success and I am not sure that that is not the starting point, really, of St. Dunstan's."

Referring to Lord Fraser's books "Whereas I was Blind" and "My Story of St. Dunstan's", Mr. Dufton noted that the last was published in 1962. "From 1962 onwards nothing has been written in the form of autobiographical and chronological works other than, of course, the vital 'Review', this rather moving kaleidoscope of events. It is terribly important that it continues. Not only does it tell of the leadership of St. Dunstan's, in the interesting series of 'Ways of Life', for example, one never knows who is coming up next and one is learning things every month, so it is a great story of the individual as well."

It fell to Mr. Tom Simmon to express St. Dunstan's thanks to the Council and he said, "We can go to them for help and advice and we are grateful for this." He thanked Mrs. Inman and Mrs. Skinner for making the reunion such a pleasant occasion, "We St. Dunstaners in the North are miles apart. We only meet yearly at these reunions where we can have a chat and talk things over and I would like to thank the wives and escorts who have brought us today so that we can enjoy this very happy reunion."

The final short speech, stressed the friendliness of this reunion. Ron Howe rose to make a farewell tribute: "Mr and Mrs. Les Thompson who are friends, I think, of nearly every St. Dunstaner in this room are resigning from business and going off to live in Teneriffe. I am quite sure that every-one in this room would wish to convey to Les and Doreen, at the end of their careers as business people, every good wish for their future in retirement."

Sheffield

The Sheffield reunion is a much bigger occasion, numerically, than the Newcastle but it, too, has the warmth we associate with the North of England, only with a Yorkshire accent.

Presiding here at the Grosvenor Hotel was Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan, Member of St. Dunstan's Council,

accompanied by Mrs. Colahan, and he opened his speech of welcome by saying, "This is not the largest St. Dunstan's reunion that my wife and I have attended, but I have no doubt that it is a high quality get-together — and an important part of St. Dunstan's family. We have both of us felt in good measure the warmth and good fellowship which is so characteristic of St. Dunstan's reunions and also, of course, this famous county."

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan said that, if everyone had turned up, there were 78 at table. He welcomed eight guests and members of staff, mentioning particularly, Miss K.M. Broughton, welfare visitor responsible for arranging the reunion, Mrs. D. Inman, who assisted, and Mr. C.D. Wills.

He also had a special word for Mrs. L. Acton and Mrs. M. Petherick, widows of St. Dunstaners and Miss M. Ball and Mrs. E. Williams, who both served in the A.T.S. in world war two and are St. Dunstaners in their own right. I give the warmest welcome of all to two newly admitted St. Dunstaners attending a reunion for the first time: Mr. G.E. Fearn, from Derby, who was in the Royal Navy in world war two and Mr. C.R. Saunderson, of Withernsea, who was in the Coldstream Guards also in world war two."

82 Years Young

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan told his audience that sitting on his right was Mr. Jackson, who is 86 and served in the first world war, with Mrs. Jackson, "Who is 82 years young today. Anyone who can see them would say that they are splendid advertisements, either for Mrs. Jackson's cooking, or the Yorkshire air!"

The Air Vice-Marshal concluded his speech with expressions of thanks on behalf of St. Dunstaners to members of staff for their efforts over the past year and to, "The organisers of this splendid lunch we have enjoyed."

Replying on behalf of the St. Dunstaners at the reunion, Mr. J. Nicol thanked the Council, Mr. Wills, Miss Mosley, "and the typists at Headquarters for the work they do for us."

Recalling an earlier occasion when he proposed the vote of thanks Mr. Nicol said he remembered likening St. Dunstan's to a bicycle wheel, the hub being Headquarters, the spokes being the Council and the visitors and the rim being St. Dunstaners. "I

think that wheel, I'm not going to call it the wheel of good fortune — it's the wheel of sturdiness, is still going today. I am not a spiritualist, but I can just imagine the late Sir Arthur Pearson sitting at the end of the table and saying, 'Look what has happened since I founded St. Dunstan's'."

Whether or not Sir Arthur's shade was present at the reunion, the spirit he bequeathed to St. Dunstan's was much in evidence as the afternoon continued with talk, laughter and dancing.

Liverpool

Sir Richard and Lady Pease said they were delighted to attend the Liverpool reunion, on the 11th June, which was a smaller affair than usual this year. There were 27 St. Dunstaners present, all from World War II.

Sir Richard first sent the good wishes of all those present to Peggy Craik who was unable to be present. The theme of Sir Richard's address was the International Year of Disabled People. Its aim of integration within the community was being amply fulfilled by St. Dunstaners. Their participation in society, be it in industry, shopkeeping, business, etc., was a clear example to others. He listed some of the hobbies and interests of those people present. Sir Richard concluded by thanking all members of Headquarters staff for their hard work.

Mr. John Ince, of Southport, rose to reply on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He started by also thanking the members of staff and felt that by now Mr. Wills should be in the Guinness Book of Records for his unerring attendance at reunions. Mr. Ince thanked Mrs. Henderson for this, the first reunion she had organised, and last, but not least, he thanked the backbone of St. Dunstan's, the wives.

A bouquet was presented to Lady Pease and an afternoon of dancing and chatting ended a pleasant reunion.

Manchester

The 13th June will, unfortunately, be marked by the mad event when a youth fired blank rounds at the Queen. Will we never know whether it was the disease of unemployment, the desire for publicity, or the dare-devil of youth? But it was also the

day that St. Dunstaners met at the Midland Hotel for the annual reunion.

Major Sandys was delighted to introduce his daughter, Mary, who had come up from London to assist him with the proceedings. He also introduced Mr. Joseph Roberts, of Stockport, attending his first reunion. Major Sandys went on to thank the members of staff for their work and especially asked Mr. Wills to pass on a message of best wishes, and regret, that Peggy Craik was unable to be at the reunion.

"One might be forgiven, when listening to the media, for believing that the world is full of gloom, despondency, sadness and misery. But there is another side to life, which you all know. 'Dog bites dog' may not be news, but 'man bites dog' is. I feel sure that the pending Royal Wedding will push some of the baser news out."

Smart Girls

Major Sandys talked about two occasions when he had had first hand encounters with St. Dunstaners playing their part in the community. In October, he had both been entertained by and had entertained the women's reunion. "They were the most courageous, witty and well turned out group of people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting." The Open Days at Headquarters had demonstrated the many skills attainable. Major Sandys concluded by wishing everyone an enjoyable afternoon, and the best of good fortune.

Frank Hamilton, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, replied on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present. "We have a unique Mayor here in Manchester. He has asked people to regard Manchester as a family, because what is missing in life today is the good old fashioned family life. I would regard St. Dunstan's as a very special kind of family. Each has his own privileges and responsibilities towards other St. Dunstaners. We have been helped to be whole people. It is our wives, families, relatives, friends and those who care for us who have made us whole people. It is this family spirit which makes us abhor events like the attack on the Queen." Frank ended with an appeal to all St. Dunstaners to learn to talk to the deaf-blind.

Mr. Wills concluded the speeches by thanking the staff of the hotel and made special mention of the St. Dunstan's badges

which had been so beautifully created by the chef.

There were plenty of couples on the dance floor and it was a well satisfied band of St. Dunstaners who made their way home that afternoon, after a splendid reunion organised by Miss Broughton.

London

It was a large gathering which met at the Russell Hotel, on 17th June, for the second of the London reunions. Nine first war St. Dunstaners, 61 second war and four post war St. Dunstaners were present with wives, escorts, present and past members of staff. Sir Edwin and Lady Arrowsmith greeted guests and conveyed best wishes from the Chairman and Members of Council.

"In this International Year of the Disabled, we should realise that there are no fewer than 450 million disabled in the world; this includes some 40 million blind. Much of this blindness is preventable." Sir Edwin went on to explain how simple operations, or a simple course of vitamins could prevent a great deal of suffering. "There are those who are permanently blind and this is where St. Dunstan's will never be forgotten, because the organisation is not just inward looking, but has regard for all the blind throughout the world." Sir Edwin quoted the research role, of benefit to all the blind, that St. Dunstan's had occupied. He welcomed St. Dunstaner Dick Beaumont and his wife, from South Africa, whose daughter, Mrs. Alison Dodd, had led the KRM research programme. There were two people attending their first reunion, Mr. W. Osborne, of Leigh-on-Sea, and Mr. S. Savory, of Richmond.

Sir Edwin felt that the needs of the blind were being more adequately met nowadays, though this led to strange items and events at times. In a national bear park in Canada, a brailled notice warned you 'to climb a tree if threatened; brown bears cannot climb trees, but black ones can. Above all, do not let your carelessness cause the unnecessary death of a bear!'

Sir Edwin paid tribute to the retired members of staff present and made special mention of the welfare staff, Miss Mosley, Miss Lord and Miss Davis, who had organised the reunion. "Before I sit down, I am sure you would like me to say how much St.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Miss Olive Hallet, S.R.N.

A very big 'thank you' to all St. Dunstaners, wives and widows who contributed so generously towards my retirement presentation. I have had so many letters, cards and presents it would take until Christmas to answer you all. It has been a great privilege to have been part of St. Dunstan's family and I have so many memories to treasure.

With my sincere thanks and may God bless you all.

From: Phillip Wood, Crewe

I was saddened to learn of the deaths of Miss Ramshaw and "Killie", George Killingbeck. When I arrived at Ovingdean from the Far East, slightly the worse for wear, both physically and psychologically, she was my guide, philosopher and friend and with other members of staff helped me to re-adjust very quickly.

Killie was my Braille teacher and I never met anybody more enthusiastic about his work. I can still hear the slap-slap as he thumped his stump into the palm of his good hand to emphasise a point of Braille. I once said to him, "Killie, when you die and get to the Kingdom of Heaven (as you assuredly will) I'll lay odds that before you've hardly got through the Golden Gate, you'll be giving St. Peter his first Braille lesson." . . . I wonder?

Reunions - continued

Dunstaners owe to their wives." He ended with the words of the song "You are the cream in my coffee, you are the salt in my stew, you'd always be my necessity, I'd be lost without you."

Mr. A. Watkins-Grafton, in his vote of thanks, said how much he had enjoyed Sir Edwin's speech and how he had trained at Church Stretton, but had not become a St. Dunstaner until 1973. He thanked Headquarters staff, especially for the help they gave at the end of the telephone, and he also thanked Miss Davis. "It is a date in our calendar to which we always look forward."

The guests dispersed under a late afternoon sunshine and so ended another enjoyable reunion.

From: Ken Revis, Oxford

I know the *Review* is interested in IYDP matters and some weeks ago I was invited to join a committee of disabled people to run a campaign which we have called "The Disabled Are Able, to give you a lift J.R." and on our note paper the words "The Disabled Are Able" are in bold type. "J.R." is not the bold bad man of the T.V. serial, although this has caused some amusement, but the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. The hospital was designed to have five lifts — the money ran out — the story of our lives, and only four were built leaving an empty lift shaft.

On our committee which is more than two thirds disabled people, we have three blind people, two wheelchair cases and three polio walking stick users, is aiming to appeal for £70,000 to provide a lift for in-patients so that they do not have to wait, as they do at present, and can have a separate lift to go to the operating theatre and theatre patients do not have to share a lift with visitors, staff and other quite well people. The idea is to have a permanent reminder of something that was done, or started, in 1981, International Year of Disabled People, and done in the main by disabled folk themselves.

I went over to Northampton to the Express Lift Company, with one of the three able bodied members of the committee, and started talks with them and they are being most co-operative. They gave me the job of making the speech to launch the appeal, on the 13th June, at a wine and cheese party when the Lord Mayor and the City M.P. were present. I also made a Radio Oxford broadcast towards the end of June.

From: Bert Green, Shoreham

Last year my wife, May, and I went to the Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton, for lunch and this year we fulfilled a great ambition to spend a few days there.

We went in early June, accompanied by Tom Hart and his wife, Mabs, and we experienced nostalgic memories of the old days at the Longmynd and Church Stretton. There were many changes, but those who

LETTERS continued

knew the hotel would remember the open verandah which is now a glass enclosed bar lounge overlooking a swimming pool. The accommodation huts in the grounds have been removed and replaced with a pleasant shrubbery.

In Church Stretton many well known landmarks have disappeared and though there are traffic problems, as indeed there are everywhere, havens of peace can be found in the beautiful surroundings, with walks in the Carding Mill Valley and Ashes Valley, to name two of the most well known.

From: Jimmy Wright, Shepperton

I attended the Metro National Athletics Championships for the Visually Handicapped at Woodford Stadium, Ashton Playing Fields, Woodford, on Saturday, 4th July; unhappily not on this occasion as a participant as I had damaged my right knee back in March and the knee had not recovered soon enough for me to get into training again in readiness for these competitions. However, it was very nice to be there and to meet many old friends against whom I had competed since the first Metro National Athletics Championships had taken place back in the year of the Jubilee, and indeed, particularly pleased to meet Peter Walker, one of our younger St. Dunstaners, who received his injuries in Northern Ireland and who was successful in three events —

Triple Jump — Men — Partially Sighted and Totally Blind — First with a leap of 10.99 feet

Javelin — Men — Partially Sighted — Second

200m Men — Partially Sighted — Third with a time of 26.2 seconds

The winner of the Bill Harris Trophy for walking was Mike Brace.

As you know, I have always been keen for as many as possible of we St. Dunstaners to take part in these annual sports for the visually handicapped, since it was through Avis Spurway's and Bill Harris' tremendous encouragement, that St. Dunstaners have pioneered sport for the visually handicapped over the years, and all credit to Peter, who is a member of the Nottingham

Sports Club for the Blind, for putting up such a good performance.

From: George Taylor, Maidstone

I would like to mention the value of Probus Clubs for blind people. Probus is an off shoot of Rotary. Its object is to meet a couple of times a month to have an exchange of views among its members, lectures are given by members and outside lecturers on various topics of interest, hobbies and professional subjects. My Club has had talks by a lawyer, a doctor and a prison welfare officer, to name but a few.

Probus has no central body; each club is a unit in its own right. The subscriptions range from £1 to £2 a year and a charge of 25p is made at each meeting for a cup of coffee. From time to time the club arranges an evening out to which the ladies are invited and we also have afternoon visits to places of interest. It is a non profit making Club, so that the members get all the value possible.

There are 900 Probus Clubs in the U.K. The secretary of any Rotary Club can tell you if there is a Probus Club in your district. I feel sure that if any St. Dunstaner found their way along to a local Probus Club they would find it interesting and they would have the opportunity of serving on the committee, then finally becoming chairman. I was chairman of the Maidstone Club two years' ago, and I had the privilege of starting two Probus Clubs in Maidstone.

Should anyone want any further details I will be only too happy to assist them.

From: Alida Stitt, Salisbury, Zimbabwe

May I take this opportunity of conveying our sincere thanks to you all the wonderful people who have answered our appeal, through your magazine, for stamps. The appeal has had response throughout the world and it has been overwhelming.

We would ask you to please thank all the wonderful people who have sent us stamps and messages of good will and encouragement. It is all greatly appreciated at this time. We look forward to continued help with stamps.

Business is Business, War is War

A composite story of the trip to Israel

Compiled by Ray Hazan

Following the 1967, six day Middle East War, many Jewish people in the United Kingdom wanted to make some contribution to the state of Israel. One of those people was Mrs. Ann Randall, a London based housewife. She started organising families to host Israeli war disabled on holiday visits to England. To date, some 1,200 war veterans have come over. In 1980, Ann organised a reciprocal visit, taking a party of 56 ex Royal Marine Commandos to Israel. This year, she kindly invited St. Dunstan's to make up a party.

The El Al jumbo jet lifted smoothly off the Heathrow tarmac on 9th May. Amongst its load of 350 passengers were 37 of the St. Dunstan's group. The U.K. was truly represented – with participants from Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Brighton, Cambridge and Cross-in-Hand. The group consisted of St. Dunstaners and their wives, liberated wives without their husbands, a widow, a daughter and friends, there was an age difference of 56 years between the youngest and oldest person; a true cross section of St. Dunstan's.

As the enormous plane rose, seemingly effortlessly, to 36,000 feet, a smooth, rich voice announced over the intercom that "We wish you to enjoy the flight, so sit back, make yourselves comfortable and we shall do everything possible to look after you." What a difference from the short European hops. Indeed, Dirk Bogarde was still entertaining the passengers on the film screen as the aircraft drew up to the terminal at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv.

That we were to receive VIP treatment was soon apparent: all passengers were held back, while our party sailed smoothly through customs and immigration. We walked out into the early Mediterranean night, to our first surprise. Far from the balm and heavily scented air of parched earth, there was a cool fresh scent of newly watered soil. It had, in fact, rained that morning and, after all, it was only early May.

On the short drive from the airport to our hotel in Jerusalem we were introduced to the hinge-pins of our trip. The first was Abraham, our cheerful, hardworking and efficient coach driver. Later it turned out that he had the most marvellous baritone voice and we covered several miles to the accompaniment of his lusty and uplifting songs. The second, our guide, Paul Miller, had left Russia after the war and had spent 64 days at sea to reach Israel from China. His experience in America and with American tourists had made him into a cheery, compulsive talker. This was totally understandable when, as time went by, his knowledge of geography, geology, agriculture, archeology, economics and social history became apparent. He had previously met our St. Dunstan physios on their trip to Israel and so he was well prepared for our group and, it was unanimously agreed, he did a magnificent job. It is quite a challenge to keep 14 blind and 22 sighted people interested, without boring one or the other.

Our destination, the Holy Land West Hotel, is situated on a hill-top on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Dawn revealed vistas of the city and surrounding valleys, just a short walk from the hotel.

Just as magnificent was the breakfast table that lay before us. Standard throughout Israel, the buffet table lay groaning with a mound of hard boiled eggs, salads, fish, fruit, cereals, fruit juices and coffee. It was fortunate that we did stock up, as our first visit proved energetic – the recently discovered caves of Absalom. Similar to many other limestone caves, rainwater has seeped in over many millions of years through cracks in the limestone rock. Chemicals in the earth have been absorbed by the water to eat away at the rock and to cause solid deposits. Stalactites, stalagmites, curtains and cauliflowers, limestone formations, adorned this massive cave. We passed two immense columns separated by one millimetre; they were not going to



The St. Dunstan's party in the amphitheatre at Caesaria.

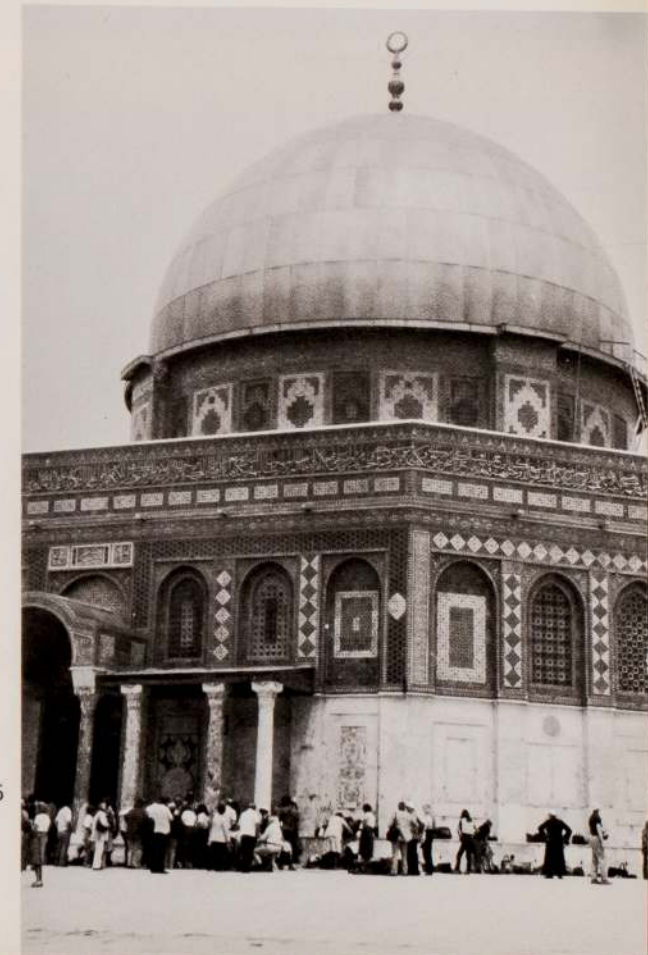
The Grand Mosque.

'kiss' for another five years — the rate of growth of these limestone deposits is one millimetre every five years.

The next four days were to be a whirlwind of images, sounds and smells. The word Jerusalem means city of peace. Liberated in 1967, the city is the haven, or cradle, of the three principal world religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is hard to comprehend how the three, so closely located physically, the Wailing Wall is not 500 yards from the grand mosque, and yet they are so far apart in many other ways. For example, the grand mosque, the Dome of the Rock, is of vital importance to both Jew and Arab. It lies on the mountain top where Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, but found a ram instead, from whence the prophets Elijah and Mohammed journeyed to Heaven.

The visit to the mosque demonstrated the diverging points of interest noted by the blind and sighted; for the latter it was the mother of pearl inlaid walls and the impressive arches, while for the former, it was the odoriferous testimony of many thousands of pairs of bare feet!

The Wailing Wall is what remains of the second temple; a place of enormous sanctity to the Jewish faith. As we had taken





At the Wailing Wall.

our shoes off not far away, so here men and women had to separate and to cover their heads. On this particular day it was Barmitzvah Day, when Jewish boys are 'confirmed'. Now that the Wall is accessible, they come from all over the world to read from the holy scrolls for the first time. There was the impression, far from illusory, of milling crowds, singing, chanting and praying and high above it all, the Red-Indian like war whoops of the North African Jewish women as they celebrated their sons' coming of age.

The sites of the birth, trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ are to be found in, or near, Jerusalem. Bethlehem is a crowded village. Several churches have been built on the site of the stable. To visit the manger, in a Greek Orthodox church where you have to queue, there are great oil lamps hanging from the ceiling and priests sell candles, which lends a bazaar like atmosphere to the place. You descend steps into the grotto and within seconds we were climbing up again. This personifies the holy sites. They are so crowded that one has not time for

meditation or contemplation. Added to this, is the very dowdy appearance of the churches, little seems to be spent on upkeep and one might feel disillusioned, but for the fact that one is in a city of historic and religious importance.

The Via Dolorosa, far from being a road or a street, is a stepped alley way, about ten feet wide, with shops on either side. The Middle Eastern environment is particularly stimulating for a blind person. Oriental music ebbs and wains from the inner recesses of the shops, merchants shout their wares, the muezzin call from the minarets, everywhere the rattle of tambourines and chanters which the merchants are trying to sell and the nostrils are filled with the smell of coffee and spices.

This contrasted greatly with the peace of the site of the crucifixion, which was broken only by the fervour of Italian pilgrims breaking into hymns. Another quiet spot was the alternative site of the sepulchre, as described by Norman Hopkins:

"Just about in the centre of Jerusalem, outside the Old City wall, is the Garden

Tomb and this was the highlight of the holiday for me. It was a beautifully peaceful spot with trees, shrubs and colourful flowers. We sat together as a group, in the garden, and the local chaplain, in his quiet tones, gave us a short talk about the history and background.

"The tomb was discovered in 1867 and later excavated and it was found to be a cave hewn out of the rock of the foothills, just outside the city wall. It was believed, by many, to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, the wealthy man who gave his tomb for Christ's burial.

"The green hill nearby is shaped like and known as Skull Hill; 'Golgotha' in Aramaic and 'Kranion' in Greek, both mean skull in their respective New Testament translations. Therefore this hill could well have been Calvary.

"This was investigated by General Gordon, a great student of the Bible, and he was instrumental in acquiring the property and forming the Garden Tomb Association, in 1894.

"The garden in its setting seemed right to me and fitted very closely to my own mental picture from the scriptures. One

could easily imagine the events of that first Easter morning taking place here. We were privileged, as a blind group, to go right into the tomb.

"On the threshold was a deep groove, or channel, which was the housing for the huge stone that would have sealed off the entrance.

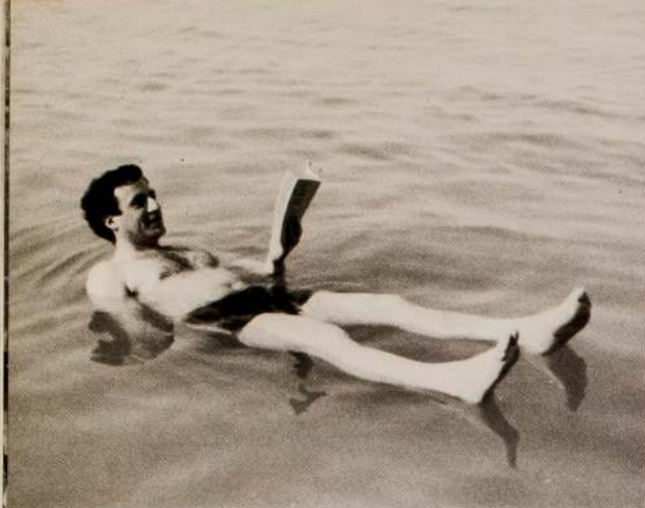
"The sepulchre was about the size of a small room and in one corner, on the floor, a resting place with curved stones for the head and feet. A stone would have fitted over the top and alongside this when the body was there.

"We were able to get down on our knees and examine all these features. It was amazing to think that this was probably the place where the body of Jesus had lain and from where he rose from the dead. This was a most moving and emotional experience.

"The chaplain summed things up very profoundly when he said that he could not dogmatically say that Christ's resurrection took place from this actual spot, but that the important fact was that it did take place and if not from this tomb, it was certainly very nearby in Jerusalem. I consider that I have been very privileged to have been to Israel

Harry Walden examining a model of the ancient city.





Ray Hazan relaxes in the Dead Sea.

and to have visited this place and it is something I shall never forget."

Another contrast between life and death was the Dead Sea and Massada, with the State of Israel in general. The Dead Sea lies 1,300 feet below sea level and is fed by the River Jordan. The North Sea has a three per cent salt content: the Dead Sea thirty three per cent. Temperatures of 100 degrees plus mean rapid evaporation of water and a thriving potash plant at the north shore. Not a bird or any sign of wild life can be seen. Floating in the warm water is one of the most extraordinary sensations experienced. It is really quite an effort to force your feet onto the bottom of the lake. Swimming and splashing water in your face are strictly out. After a fresh water shower, several of the party tried the sulphur baths, or coated themselves with handfuls of green mud — a cure for who knows what!

Massada

Massada is a lone hill, initially occupied by a Roman garrison and where Herod built two palaces. In the first century A.D. it was taken over by strict Jewish sect. For three years the Romans laid siege until, rather than give themselves up for slavery and death, the 997 men, women and children took each others' lives. Today vestiges of the palaces, synagogue, baths, water cisterns and guardhouse can still be seen. Although Massada can be reached by a cable car, Israeli Commandos run up in 20 minutes to swear their oath of allegiance, "there will never be another Massada."



Trevor Tatchell shows the revitalizing effect of mud!

But Israel is the very antithesis of death. It is a very vital and energetic country. "give us 24 inches of topsoil and water and we can grow anything." For instance outside Jericho lay a moonscape of mountains, rock, scrub and dust. But out of that grew green fields; a very remarkable sight, which sums up Israel.

One of our last visits in Jerusalem was to the residence of the President of Israel, Mr. Isaac Navon. A former private secretary to Ben Gurion, Mr. Navon received us with friendliness and informality. In a brief talk to us he said that the word 'blind' was often mis-used by politicians. They accused each other of blind ignorance, when they really meant they did not understand. Trevor Tatchell gave a vote of thanks, inviting the President to forward a bill for the coffee cup he had dropped; Bill Shea and David Bell spoke of their activities and a shield with St. Dunstan's badge was presented as a memento of our visit.

From Jerusalem the party moved on to a kibbutz just two miles from the Lebanese border; so much for the missile crisis. Indeed, after a day visiting the chilly waters of the Sea of Galilee, the site of the feeding of the five thousand and Nazareth, we went onto the Goodwill Fence itself. Lebanese come into Israel for work and medical treatment. The Fence is a wired, mined barrier with a fine sand pathway, so that any intruders can be quickly spotted.

We also visited trenches on the Golan Heights. Considering the Syrian forces were only two miles away and that a crisis was imminent, signs of preparation on the Israeli side were noticeably absent.

Kibbutzim play a large part in Israeli life, although only four per cent of the population are kibbutznics. The kibbutz where we stayed specialises in running a hotel, a stone quarry, growing produce, for its own use, and a spectacle frame factory for the over 60's. Although our visit started ominously, with one of our party getting stuck in the loo and having to be chiselled out, it turned in to a fascinating stay. A Canadian mother, with four children, told us about life on a kibbutz. This was a modern approach, with 400 people all drawing the same pay and being able, in the main, to choose which job they wanted. Children slept at home with their parents and though most eat their meals communally, on Friday evening, the start of the Sabbath, the family eat together. Financial security and a guaranteed roof over one's head is an obvious attractive feature of the kibbutz. Although the system works in a small community, one wonders if it would ever work on a large scale.

Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv was the next stop on the itinerary. This is a hot and humid town full of traffic and bustle. Luckily there was time to lounge on the beach, or by the swimming pool. A most pleasant evening was spent at the house of the British Military Attaché, Colonel Bill Boucher. Unfortunately, he was only able to receive us from his bed, being laid low with back trouble. But happily, with three physios in the party, we left him well on the road to recovery. His Excellency, the British Ambassador, Mr. John Robinson, gave us a speech of welcome. The fervour of the singing in the bus on the way home was tacit proof of the success of the hospitality shown to us.

Now the IDF, the Israeli Defence Forces, took over. Military installations are generally out of bounds, but we were privileged to visit an air base, a parachute school and naval base. St. Dunstaners were to be seen crawling all over Phantom and Skyhawk jets, Bell and Sikorsky helicopters; it was only with difficulty that they were restrained from taking part in practice parachute jumps from towers and ramps with the young recruits who were giving demonstrations. They were very good at chatting up the girls employed in the parachute packing warehouse. An amazing number of checks go into the preparation

and repacking of a chute and a chute lasts for 100 jumps, or 15 years. We were all given a scarf made from parachute nylon. The Navy, as were indeed all the IDF, were very cagey about information, but an amusing time was had by the ladies of the party checking the whereabouts of the pistol worn by our naval guide. It involved showing a fair amount of leg!

Israelis are fiercely proud of their soldiers both present and past. Whenever we saw a soldier hitch-hiking, the bus would stop to pick them up. They, thankfully, removed the loaded magazines from their automatic rifles before boarding. Equally, veterans are held in deep respect as we discovered on our visit to Beit Halochem. Harry Meleson takes up the story:

"Of the many places we visited and saw, I think what interested me most was the rehabilitation centre for the Israeli war disabled. The centre was run as a proper country club and the facilities there for the disabled were really tremendous. This centre was open not only to the disabled but to their wives and families, who can go there and see and do things that one usually does at a country club. There was a bar and dining room where all our party were given a very nice meal, and we were all presented with a small memento of our visit.

Three Swimming Pools

"This centre has three swimming pools and while we were there a party of amputees were having a game of water polo in one of the pools and they seemed to be enjoying it very much indeed.

"We also saw another party of disabled doing exercises. We were told that these people were suffering from brain damage and the exercises help to rehabilitate them.

"What I thought was wonderful was that Israel, a small and poor country with so many difficulties, still finds the time, money and opportunity to look after their disabled veterans in such a way."

While visiting the naval base, two of our party, Bill Shea and Joe Humphrey, finished off some business they had initiated on a previous trip to Israel. Joe writes:

"On the morning of 19th May, it was the privilege of Bill Shea and me, whilst on holiday in Israel, to attend a very moving ceremony in the Volunteers Forest, in the Ayalon Valley, near Jerusalem. Together



The President of Israel, Mr. Isaac Navon, greets Harry Gosney.

with the Secretary of the British Commando Association, Henry Brown, ex-Staff Quarter-Master Sergeant, No. 1 Commando, from Ruislip, we planted the last of 1,706 trees presented by the Israel Veteran's Association, each one in memory of a British Commando who died in world war two.

"About 30 people were present beneath the simple stone memorial which bore the Star of David and a brass plaque for each of the services involved in the Middle East War, bearing its badge. There beneath the fluttering blue and white flags of Israel and the Union Jack, a short memorial service was conducted by Rabbi Fischer, on the bare hillside in the brilliant sunshine.

"Afterwards General Haim Laskov gave a short address and Henry Brown spoke most movingly, on behalf of the 4,500 members of his Association, about the comradeship enjoyed by the Commandos from Britain and Israel, who had fought side by side and the joy it brought him, particularly in

meeting Zvi Swet, one of Yishuv's first volunteers to the British Army, who lost both legs while serving with the Commandos in Italy. Henry went on to say that he hoped as these trees matured, so would the bonds of friendship between the Associations.

"A Colonel from the IDF also spoke with great emotion, expressing the hope that as the trees grew to become a forest where young Israelis would play in freedom, they would be aware of the price paid by their forebears, in the great struggle against oppression in the Western world and that their freedom had not just happened, but had been bought by the very hard fight and the supreme sacrifice of many young men in the prime of life."

The trip was nearing its end. There had been little time for sunbathing. What would our friends say if we returned home pale? From Tel Aviv we took an internal flight to Eilat, on the Red Sea. Rest, recuperation, sun and a four-star hotel were the order of

the last two days. The temperature was well above 100° F., during the day. Bare feet could only last for 30 seconds on the concrete surrounds of the pool. At night, it fell to a mere 80 degrees, which was ideal for a barbecue and live music, by the pool. Some found the energy to go on to the disco afterwards.

The Red Sea is renowned, for its tropical fish and these we were able to observe at first hand. 20 minutes from the hotel was an underwater observatory. One first entered an aquarium stocked with multi-coloured fish — pipe fish, balloon fish, shark and pilot fish. In a darkened room, green pinpoint of light appeared to float in space. The drawing back of the blackout curtain revealed black fish with green eyes. You then walked along a pier and down some spiral steps to an underwater tank. Now the situation was reversed, with the fish looking in on the human beings. Out of the port

holes you could observe the fish in their natural habitat. "A fabric designer would have a ball: what colours!", was the observation.

What will stand out in the memory is the hard, unremitting labours of the six and half million inhabitants to transform the desert into green fields and, also, how vital water is in Israel. It is the very lifeblood of the country. Two months' of rain must last for the whole year. There are some 140 different nationalities, living in Israel, with all the historical and ethnic backgrounds. All must learn Hebrew so as to have some common link. They are fiercely proud of their nation and rightly so. They need peace to prosper. As Paul, our guide said, "Business is business, war is war."

Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Ann Randall for organising the trip and its itinerary, to Paul Miller for his excellent descriptions and to Abraham for his safe driving.

Leather Craftsman Retires

An era of craftsmanship has just ended in a small upstairs workshop off Bond Street. Charles Jackson has made riding boots, Sam Browne belts and many other articles of leather there since the days of the First World War.

For the last thirty years, Charles has had a connection with St Dunstan's, making individual articles of leather for our handless St. Dunstaners. He explained how Mr. French would visit him with an idea, "He used to come down with a drawing and we'd get together and sort it out. We used to work from that. Mr. French used to get cross with me because I would only make a nominal charge but that was my contribution."

During the First World War he was a soldier himself. "I served with the Field Artillery. I saw the handicap these fellows were up against and in the Second World War I was in the privileged position to help them."

Among the special devices Charles Jackson has made for handless St. Dunstaners have been those for domestic use like the cigarette holder or for sports like the device for putting the shot. Norman French says of him: "Over the last 30 years, Mr. Jackson has always been ready to step into the breach and produce a special

device almost overnight when the need has been there".

Another reason why St. Dunstan's work appealed to Charles Jackson was that it was out of the usual run, "It was saddlery work, really. My grandfather was a saddler and I was a saddler in the army." His trade has always been with the services, "We still make Sam Browne belts, this one I'm working on I made for an officer in 1916. Now I'm shortening it for his grandson who is going to Sandhurst. It's a personal business. We tailor make riding boots and keep a cast for each customer, adjusting it as his foot changes over the years."

Charles Jackson's book of customers over the years reads like Debrett's. Now that he and his assistants, Mr. and Mrs. Alec and Elsie Byre, are retiring many customers will miss their craftsmanship. So, too, will a number of St. Dunstaners who have never met Charles but have cause to be grateful to his skillful fingers.

Mr. J. Bassman

Mr. J. Bassman, 27 King David Building, Tel Aviv, Israel, was in 76 British General Hospital, Trani, Italy, during March and April, 1945. Mr. Bassman would like anyone who was in the hospital at that time to contact him.

Gardening Column

I am not very impressed by the so called summer weather this year. Everything is very behind, even things under glass. We can only hope conditions will improve. My garden is solid clay and has been hard to work because of all this wet weather. I have improved it a bit by digging in compost, peat and gypsum, you should do the same if you have a clay soil. The gale force winds have meant that everything has had to be staked — do remember to do this if you have these conditions.

Vegetables

As soon as the broad beans have been gathered remove the stakes. Do the same with the French and runner beans, but if you want to keep some of the beans for seed, leave a few to ripen — personally I do not think it is worth all the trouble.

Give tomatoes, cucumbers and marrows plenty of water and add fertiliser when the crop is ripening and setting. Harvest the onions when they ripen and when the runner beans reach the top of the frame they should be stopped. This will make them branch out, thus giving you a heavier crop. Fertiliser in the water will help to get good sized beans.

Sow lettuce seed every few weeks to get a continuous supply until autumn. Do remember the pests are really rampant now, so use sprays regularly. Weeds always grow well so try and keep them in hand by using the hoe.

Fruit

If you have a heavy crop of fruit, especially apples, pears and plums, thin them out to encourage size and quality. Apricots, peaches and nectarines should get as much sun as possible and cherry trees should be washed down after the crop has been gathered.

Cut down the canes from the fruited raspberries and loganberries and take off all the unwanted runners from the strawberries and clear the beds of straw. New strawberry beds can be planted now.

Carry on with the summer pruning, cutting out shoots and branches which are growing inwards; this will give the trees

more light. Examine the fruit tree pest bands for any infection and destroy them. Cut away any shoots on the apples and pears which show signs of powdery mildew and spray the trees to avert the disease, but not until the crop has been harvested.

Lawns

Keep the grass neat and tidy by regular mowing. Give the lawns a dose of fertiliser which has weed killer in it, but only do this in damp weather, so the fertiliser can get down to the roots.

Do not let the edges of the lawn get untidy and produce long grass. Cut it away after each mowing. If you use long handled shears you will save yourself a lot of backache!

In really dry spells do not mow too often and water the grass well, by leaving the sprinkler on.

Flowers

Keep hoeing the flowers beds and water them well when necessary. If you have small areas you can use bucket fulls of water with a liquid fertiliser in it. In a large flower barden, where you use the hose to water, put down pellet fertiliser before watering.

Cut away dead blooms to prolong the flowering period and to make the plants bushier. Stake large flowering dahlias, as the blooms are very heavy and the whole plant is a target for the wind. Nip out the side buds of large flowering chrysanthemums to get large size blooms.

Pick sweet peas regularly and tie them into the frame as they grow. You can keep your own seed for next year, but do not expect to get wonderful colours as they will all be cross pollinated.

Cut off dead heads from the roses, cutting them well down the stem to an outward facing bud, these are at the base of the leaves. Give them some special rose fertiliser and watch out for black spot — take the necessary action when you see it, cutting away the affected leaves. Some roses throw out shoots from the roots. These are very thin, with about six small leaves to a stem. Cut these away to below soil level.

Cuttings from perennials can be taken now, such as geraniums, pansies, pinks and violas. Layer the border carnations by cutting half way through a stem, split it open and peg it into the soil, covering it with extra soil.

Start thinking about perennials and border shrubs for autumn. Prepare the ground by digging it over and putting compost, or strawy manure, on especially if you are plagued with a clay soil.

Greenhouse

In the greenhouse some of the more unusual blooms, achimenes, gloxinias and smithianthas will be going out of flower, so gradually let the leaves die off and reduce their water intake. When they have died down, keep the tubers in the pots, in a warmish position until next spring, when they can be put into fresh soil and started off again.

Re-pot later flowering azaleas, for a show at Christmas, adding fertiliser to the water. If you have some old cyclamen, or some seedlings, put them into new flowering pots so you have some flowers by the New Year.

Disbud all late flowering chrysanthemums and ensure that they are well watered, but do not over do the watering. Cut down the geraniums, hydrangeas, and fuchsias and use some of the cuttings to propagate new plants. Sow some annuals, such as schizanthus and stocks which are amongst the best for winter flowering. Also, sow geranium seeds now to get good sized plants for indoors and for outside.

Here is a list of items for a well stocked garden.

Flowers

Annuals from seed

Ageratum, antirrhinum, calendula, candytuft, begonia, semperflorens, lobelia, nemesia, phlox, drummondii, petunia, salvia, mimulus, stock, wall flower and sweet pea.

Perennials — either from seed or grown plants — delphinium, dicentra, aquilegia, geum, gaillardia, helenium, hellebore, erigeron, incarvillea, Michaelmas daisy, foxglove, lupin, pyrethrum, primula (there are various types including polyanthus), rudbeckia, paeonia, phlox, scabious, tradescantia, violet, pink, carnation and dahlia. There are many more, but these are



Paul Francia with his wife, Thelma, outside the Royal Albert Hall where Paul received his Master's Degree from the Chancellor of London University, Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne — Photo Mac Smith.

Gardening — continued

the best known and give plenty of colour through the summer to late autumn.

Shrubs

Berberis, buddlia, camelia, cotoneaster, daphne, cinquefoil, escallonia, forsythia, fuchsia, hibiscus, hydrangea, hypericum, holly, laburnum, kerria, kalmia, lilac, mahonia, magnolia, pyracantha, philadelphus, viburnum, rhododendron, azalea and roses.

Vegetables

Cauliflower, cabbage (both these can be winter or summer types), beetroot, carrots (long type or the stump rooted), broad bean, French and runner beans, peas, lettuce (cabbage and cos variety) onions, salad onions, broccoli (and the purple sprouting kind), potatoes (early or main crop), tomatoes and marrow.

They Came and Saw For Themselves

See for Yourself said the signs and posters and some hundreds of people from Brighton and from further afield came to lan Fraser House to do just that on 8th July, the second of two Open Days held there to mark the International Year of Disabled People.

The first day had been reserved for special guests: Lady Ellerman, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, Andrew Bowden, M.P. for Brighton, Kemp Town, Councillor and Mrs. Wakefield, Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Councillor and Miss Gladwin, Mayor and Mayoress of Hove, Councillor Mayhew and Mrs. Tapp, Mayor and Mayoress of Lewes, Mr. Michael Fabricant, Managing Director of Channel Contemporary Radio, Mr. Fred Forrester, Governor of St. Dunstan's and Mrs. Forrester.

They were greeted by our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and Mrs. Garnett-Orme and by Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris, a Member of St. Dunstan's Council and toured the building to see the various displays and demonstrations by St. Dunstaners.

They saw the Amateur Radio Society operating their station, a display of mobility aids, cookery instruction, handicraft displays and demonstrations including Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller's incredible doll's house built to scale as a thatched and timbered house — fully furnished. One of the stars of the H.Q. event in April was also there, Mr. Ted King with his working model steam engine.

There were film showings and a talk by Ron Smith on recording the sounds of natural history illustrated in sound by tape recordings and in vision using slides. The Kurzweil Reading Machine was there and there were demonstrations of Braille and typewriting and work was in full swing in the industrial and joinery workshops.

On the public day members of the Brighton Sports and Social Club attended so that visitors could see a Club meeting in full swing. There was swimming in the pool, bowling and archery in progress. Many members of the public made no secret of their admiration of St. Dunstan's and wonder at their achievements.

OBITUARY

MRS. PEGGY CRAIK

St. Dunstaners in the North West will be deeply sorry to learn of the death on 29th June, after a painful illness born with great courage, of Mrs. Peggy Craik, of Sale, who had retired from her post as Welfare Visitor for Lancashire on 30th June 1979.

Mrs. Craik, who will be affectionately remembered by so many as Peggy Everett, joined the Welfare Visiting Staff on 1st May, 1956 from the Kent County Constabulary in which she had held the rank of Sergeant. Prior to her 10 years of service with the police she had served during the war years in the Civil Nursing Reserve as a State Enrolled Assistant Nurse and was well qualified to take over the care of St. Dunstaners in the North West from Miss Graham Doel who was retiring.

During the years which followed Mrs. Craik proved herself to be a most capable visitor and her friendly, understanding personality and the practical help she gave so readily endeared her to all the St.

Dunstaners upon whom she called. In spite of the personal sadness she had to suffer with the death of her first husband, Mrs. Craik never faltered in her duty and we were gladdened by the happiness she found upon her second marriage in February, 1979.

Among the last functions in which Mrs. Craik was involved for us was her appearance in the film 'To Live Again' which showed her visiting a St. Dunstaner and then, in her retirement, she helped us to organise a very happy weekend reunion for lady St. Dunstaners last October.

On behalf of all St. Dunstaners in the North West and all staff who knew her we send our deepest sympathy to her husband, Alex, and all members of her family.

Mr. Alex Craik writes: There are numerous people to thank for their kindness and sympathy so may I thank St. Dunstaners through the *Review*?

International Writing Competition

The Jewish Braille Institute of America is holding a literary competition for blind writers. Fiction, non-fiction and poetry can be entered according to the following rules:

1. All entries must be received by 28th February, 1982.
2. All entries must be typed in English, double-spaced and sent to The Jewish Braille Institute of America, 110 East 30th Street, New York, New York 10016, U.S.A.
3. Prose entries in fiction may be short stories or other forms of fictionalized writing of no more than 6,5000 words.
4. Prose entries in non-fiction must be related to some aspect of economics, social, health, environmental or welfare interest concerning the world, or a nation, a society or a local community.
5. Poetry entries may not exceed three double-spaced typed 8½" x 11" pages in length.
6. Nine thousand dollars will be awarded in prizes as follows:

1st prize in each category \$1,500
2nd prize in each category \$750
3rd prize in each category \$500
Honorable mention in each category will be \$250

CLUB NEWS

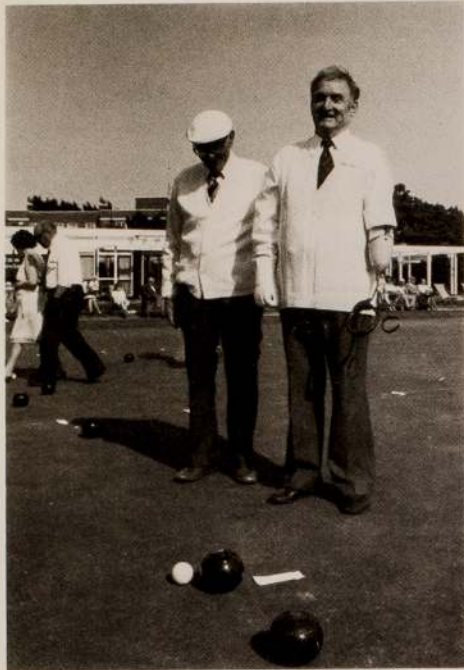
BRIGHTON

Bowling

On Monday, 22nd June, we visited Marine Gardens Bowling Club, Worthing; it was a glorious day in more ways than one. I had the pleasure of taking along 12 bowlers and we played four games of triples. Halfway through the match we stopped for tea and biscuits and after the interval, when we resumed play, I was interviewed by Radio Brighton. During the interview Dickie Brett played an excellent shot right on the jack

St. Dunstan's and Marine Gardens bowling teams pose before the start of their match at Worthing.





Dick Brett smiles broadly after his wood hits the jack just in time for the radio interview.

and the interviewer was so impressed that he was also called into the interview. At the end of the match, we all retired to the restaurant and had an excellent tea. Afterwards the President, Mr. Charles King, welcomed us all and then wished me 'happy birthday' — how they knew it was my birthday I will never know. After a chorus of 'happy birthday', I was presented with a beautiful iced cake which was specially made for me by one of the ladies; it was then taken away, cut up and shared amongst all present.

I would also like to thank David Castleton and his staff for the mobile exhibition and George Cole for demonstrating amateur radio. During the afternoon a collection was made amongst the large crowd present and Mrs. Dacre received a cheque, on behalf of St. Dunstan's, for £100.

On Sunday, 28th June, we visited Woolston & District Bowling Club, Southampton. Once again, I was able to take along four teams of bowlers and David Castleton was there when we arrived displaying the mobile exhibition. A really excellent day was had by all and I received a cheque of £50 for St. Dunstan's. I would like

to thank Joan and Bob Osborne and Monty Golding for their fine entertainment. I would also like to thank all the visiting bowlers to Ian Fraser House for helping to make both these trips most enjoyable.'

*W. Davies,
Captain.*

MIDLAND

My apologies to all Club members for not sending in notes after the May meeting. This was due to the Club meeting being held on the 10th of the month and the latest date that the Editor can receive correspondence is the 12th of each month and with the awful postal service today there is no way that I can send them in time for that date, but I hope now to be able to bring you up to date.

The meeting that day was very poorly attended. This was due to some members being sick and others were away on holiday, but despite this some games of dominoes were played.

A lovely tea, with beautiful home made cakes, was put on as usual by the ladies and was thoroughly enjoyed by all and they were thanked by Joe.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

Sunday 7th was dry but cool for our outing to Stratford. We started from Broad Street at 10.40 a.m. and arrived in Stratford at 11.50 a.m.

Everyone was very pleased to have the company of Guy and Sallie Bilcliff on this day. Thank you both for making the effort to come from Wales to join us. Before leaving the coach the party were told what time to be at the Royal British Legion for tea.

I think everyone went to different restaurants for lunch and afterwards made their way down to the riverside, to see a very fine regatta put on by the Lions in aid of charity. The weather was kind to us until ten past four when it started to rain, but fortunately no one got very wet, because we were to meet at the Legion at 4.30 p.m.

As usual we were greeted by the Patron, President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

We all thoroughly enjoyed a beautiful tea, put on by the Women's Section and the vote of thanks was given by our Chairman, Joe, in response to the welcome given to us by the Patron of the Branch.

Club News — continued

It was so nice to have Mrs. Dennick, her son and daughter—in-law with us once again. After tea, everyone was happy to relax and chat until the bar opened at 7.00 p.m.

The Midland Club always get a tremendous welcome from the Legion members and it still amazes me that these visits have carried on since 1926 when Mrs. Spurway and the late Bill Shakespeare started them.

We made our farewells at 8.30 p.m. and all agreed that it was lovely to have spent a longer time in Stratford.

We had a good meeting on Sunday 14th June and more games of dominoes were played off. It certainly looks as if Bruno is going to be our champion again this year.

I left the meeting at 6.00 p.m. but I do know that more games of dominoes were being played so I presume the meeting finished at 6.30 p.m.

Joan Cashmore

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. George Nolan, of Great Sutton are pleased to announce that their grand-daughter, Elaine, was married on 4th July.

Mr. Tom O'Connor, of Erdington, is pleased to announce that his grand-daughter, Janet, was married to John Stewart Duncan, on 2nd May.

Mr. Sydney Scroggie, of Strathmartine, by Dundee, who married Miss Margaret Loudon on 3rd July.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rosewarne, of Manchester, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 16th July.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Many congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Perrett, of Devizes, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 16th July. They have received a telegram of congratulations from Her Majesty the Queen and were lucky enough to attend the garden party at Buckingham Palace, on 23rd July.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Fleisig, of Sevenoaks, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Rebecca, on 27th February, to their son, Colin, and his wife, Maureen.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, of Keighley, on the birth of a grandson, Matthew James, on 12th May, to their daughter, Janette, and her husband, Francis.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Suzan Bradley, daughter of *Mrs. Beatrice Birchall*, who has recently qualified as a doctor and will be working at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, for the next year.

Mr. Ted Frearson, of Lewes, who has been appointed as a speaker for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, for the East Sussex area.

DEATHS

We offer our sympathy to:

Mrs. Elaine Biart, of Harpenden, whose mother, *Mrs. Doris Martin*, widow of the late *Peter Martin*, died on 3rd June after a fall. She was 91 years old. During the First World War *Mrs. Martin* was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal for services as Commandant of her V.A.D. detachment and after the war she helped to run a convalescent home for St. Dunstaners.

Mr. D.C. ("Tuffy") Tufnell, of Bristol, whose wife, *Margaret*, died on 1st July, after a long illness.

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.

Cyril Ramshaw Bulman, 21st Northumberland Fusiliers.

Cyril Bulman, of Beckenham, died at Pearson House on the 28th June. He was 88 years of age.

Mr. Bulman was commissioned in the First World War and was wounded on the Somme. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, married in 1919 and for some tens years was a poultry farmer. He then trained as a physiotherapist and moved to Beckenham, where he settled for the rest of his life. He established a very good practice and he and his wife were keen and successful bridge players. Mrs. Bulman died in 1958 but, with the help of devoted relatives and friends, he was able to continue with both his work and hobby.

His health deteriorated in recent years and he had spells in hospital, but he was able to treat a few patients as recently as December, 1980, when he was 87 years old. He had been in Pearson House for some months and died just after his birthday.

He leaves nieces and many friends.

Thomas Cox, Worcestershire Regiment.

Thomas Cox, of Egham, died on 19th June. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Cox served with the Worcestershire Regiment from 1914 until 1917, when he was wounded in the face and discharged. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1955.

Although Mr. Cox suffered severe back trouble, he was a keen gardener and he and his wife grew all their own vegetables. Mr. Cox was a great family man and he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last year.

He leaves a widow, Irene.

Leonard Mildon, Leinster Regiment.

Leonard Mildon, of Birkenhead, died in hospital on 20th May. He was 85 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for four years.

Mr. Mildon served in the Leinster Regiment from 1910 until 1915 and his sight was severely damaged by gunshot wounds received in 1914.

Mr. Mildon lived happily with his sister, Mrs. Carron, and her son and his family, who cared for him with great affection for many years.

He enjoyed the company of children and until he became rather frail a few years ago, he enjoyed long country walks.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. Carron.

David Owen, Royal Welch Fusiliers.

David Owen, of Liverpool, died on 31st May. He was 87 years old and was one of the very first men to join St. Dunstan's, in October, 1915.

Mr. Owen served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1914 until he was totally blinded by a gunshot wound, at Dardanelles, in September 1915. Mr. Owen married in 1923 and had three children, living in Wales until 1947 when the family moved to Colwyn Bay. Mr. Owen worked in mat making for many years.

Sadly, his wife died in 1963 and Mr. Owens went to live with his daughter, Betty, and her family, who gave him a very happy home in his retirement.

He leaves two children, Betty and David.

Evan Price, Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Evan David Price, of Porthcawl, died on 12th June after a long illness. He was 63 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1978.

Mr. Price served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from October, 1938 until 1946, having received severe gunshot wounds in Burma in 1944.

Mr. Price had been employed as a tin plate worker and was a very keen gardener. His garden was always a beautiful show and he enjoyed developing his new garden since he moved house in 1979.

He leaves a widow, Florence, and two sons.

Percy Soames, Machine Gun Corps.

Percy Soames, of Coningsby, died at the Fernlea Nursing Home, in Woodhall Spa, on 26th June. He was 84 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1960.

Mr. Soames served in the Machine Gun Corps from 1917 until 1919 and he was blinded by mustard gas.

Mr. Soames was a very keen gardener and his hard work invariably produced excellent results. Unfortunately over the past five or six years he was no longer able to continue gardening, which he missed greatly.

Sadly, in 1979 his wife, Holly, died and Mr. Soames went to live with his son, David and his wife who cared for him devotedly. In August, last year, he moved to live with his daughter, Joy, in Coningsby where he settled happily, but after a gradual deterioration in his health Mr. Soames went to the Nursing Home in Woodhall Spa.

He leaves a daughter, Joy, and a son, David.