



**St Dunstons
Review**
January 1982



Message from the Chairman

Just as the December *Review* was going to press, we heard the exciting news that Mrs. Natalie Opperman, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa), had been awarded the Star of South Africa (Civil) Knight, but it was only possible to mention the fact very briefly.

At the same time, I immediately sent the following message: DELIGHTED TO HEAR OF YOUR MAGNIFICENT AWARD. ALL ST. DUNSTANERS HERE JOIN WITH THE COUNCIL AND ME IN SENDING OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS. In her reply, Mrs. Opperman wrote: "My work for St. Dunstan's (South Africa) has always been a great joy to me and although I did not seek a reward, it is a tremendous pleasure to have had this appreciation of the South African Government, and an acknowledgment of the importance of St. Dunstan's".

We understand that the Star of South Africa was originally awarded to high-ranking service personnel only, but it is now extended to civilians. It is the highest civilian award in South Africa.

Mrs. Opperman has been Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) since 1966 and she is much loved by South African St. Dunstaners, their families and friends. She is also a close friend and colleague of St. Dunstan's in the United Kingdom: she gives a wonderful welcome to any of us who are lucky enough to visit South Africa and, happily, Natalie and her husband, Steve, are regular visitors over here.

Congratulations to all St. Dunstaners in South Africa on the honour shown to their Chairman and to Mrs. Opperman on this recognition of her fine service and personal achievements.

Jon Earnest-Dune

GARDENERS CLUB

Important notice. The 1982 meetings of the Gardeners Club will be held on February 22nd-26th, and on September 13th-17th.

CHAPEL COLLECTION DISTRIBUTION

The following societies have benefitted from the donations of Chapel collections:

Christian Aid
Dr. Barnardo's
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
Marie Curie Memorial Foundation

The collection from the Service held at the Physiotherapy Conference was sent to the Christopher Burns Trust, Christopher being the son of Mr. Michael Burns. Christopher was seriously injured but despite his disabilities he has now earned a place at Bulmershe College of Higher Education to take a B.A. Honours Degree in Film and Drama.

We offer sincere condolences on the passing away of Mrs. Holmes, mother of Mr. 'Win' Holmes of Hove. We apologise to Mr. Holmes for our error in reporting last month, that she was his wife's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryszka of Port Hall, 54 Greenways, Ovingdean, much regret that, due to illness, they will be unable to take guests in 1982. After convalescence and rest, they hope to resume their offer of accommodation.

INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF VISUAL DISABILITY LAUNCHED

A campaign to promote an international symbol to assist the visually disabled has been launched by The Partially Sighted Society.

The symbol, which depicts an eye with one half shaded, was commissioned by the Society for the 1981 International Year of Disabled People.

The symbol is intended to serve three main purposes - to provide recognition of a visual disability, to indicate safe access to buildings, and to draw attention to any special information or assistance.

FAR EAST POW WEEK-END

Will anyone who booked for the Reunion week-end, Feb. 19th-21st, who may wish to cancel through the bad weather, please do so before the end of January. - Please contact Mrs. Burn at H.Q.

BOWLS HANDICAP

Hello, you bowlers! We are starting this New Year with a new (and rather apprehensive) man at the helm. You can assist by coming to my 'first' tryout on February 15-19th, 1982. Please do your bookings as usual through 'Homes Booking Clerk' at H.Q., where I am sure Mrs. Mary Burn will be only too happy to assist you. Because of the amount of work that has to be done before the actual "off", it would be appreciated if you book in no later than Tuesday 9th Feb., 1982. Good Luck and happy bowling to you.

Len Scales

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COVER PICTURE: The first St. Dunstaner to attain his 100th birthday: George Prosser, who celebrated his centenary on November 28th.

DEFEATING THE CLAY

John Harris has new ideas for pottery

by David Castleton



"It's really a question of defeating what the clay will do." So said John Harris of Caversham, talking about pottery.

John has been attending classes at the Caversham Adult Education Centre for three years – going every week during the winter six months.

"It takes a whole season of classes to learn how to manage the clay. If it's too soft it sticks to your fingers – if it's too dry it will crack. It is a fine balance, and in between you can mould it." A lot of people drop out in that early time.

John specialises in techniques which produce plaited and woven effects so that his finished pots give the effect of macrame work or basketwork. Some of the effects he achieves are very beautiful and most unusual. "The weaving dates back to a bit of basketmaking I did years ago. The plaiting is my own idea", John explained. "I build up the pattern as I go along. One was inspired by the telephone cable and often I start off with something in mind and I change it in the middle. I feel any shapes I come across because they give me ideas to

use."

Looking at one of John's intricately plaited macrame patterned pots with its delicate strands of clay, it seems impossible that they are designed and made using only the sense of touch. In many cases he uses flowerpots as supporting structures, working the design upside down so that the soft clay does not collapse through its own weight. "Sometimes it is more interesting working out how to do it – deriving some special means of support – than the actual work."

Finish is obtained by glazing and firing. "You dip the pot in the glaze – sighted people can paint it on." If you want variations in colour the instructor mixes different oxides. At present, all John's work is done in class and over the next two or three years he is looking forward to learning how to cope with the potter's wheel. "I have found pottery very satisfying" said John Harris. "I am working on a new idea now. Making a wall-plate, but instead of painted decorations, making coil patterns which would be tactile."

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.

William Henry Bradshaw of Redditch, joined St. Dunstan's on 4th November. Mr. Bradshaw served as a Lance Corporal in the Dorsets from 1944-1956. He is married with two daughters and one son.

Mr. Walter Brooksbank of Leeds, joined St. Dunstan's on 16th December. Mr. Brooksbank served as a Private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the First World War. He is married.

Frank Arthur James Webb, of Tunbridge Wells, joined St. Dunstan's on 16th November. Mr. Webb served as a Private in the Devon Regiment during the 2nd World War and was injured in 1943 following a bomb explosion whilst on active service. He is married, with two adult sons.

Mrs. Ellen Alexandra Fullerton, of Belfast, joined St. Dunstan's on the 25th November. Mrs. Fullerton served as a Lieutenant in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve in the Second World War. she is retired and she and her husband have one daughter.

Harold O'Neill, of Orpington, joined St. Dunstan's on 16th November. Mr. O'Neill served as a Warrant Officer in the 6th Battalion of the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment during the 2nd World War and was wounded by a grenade explosion in 1943 whilst on active service in Sicily. He is married, with two adult children.

A.L.I.C.E. Through the Dark Glass

Many years ago, Alf Bradley, of Rosliston in Staffordshire, was reading a Braille book, "Scripture of Truth", by Sidney Collet. He was so struck by the book that he enquired whether it was available in inkprint, only to find that it was out of print.

At that time Alf was living in Northwood Hills and he was sure that some of the material in Sidney Collet's book, although it was written at the turn of the century, had great relevance today. He began the laborious task of selecting material from the book, working in Braille, and then typing it out.

His first aim was to enable his own family to read it, but later the idea of producing his selection as a book took shape. Now the new work is in print under the title 'Alice Through the Dark Glass – Another Look Into Christian Education'.

Blinded in Sicily

Through the years he spent preparing his manuscript, Alf, who was blinded in Sicily in 1943 while serving with the Royal Army Service Corps, worked at Barclays Bank, Piccadilly in London as a telephonist. He was also very actively involved in the work of his Church, as he is now in Rosliston. Its completion is a tribute to Alf's determination,

and his faith. 'Alice Through The Dark Glass' is published by New Horizon, Horizon House, 5 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex, in hardback at £4.25.

STAFF OBITUARY

Mr. Alexander Mackay, M.A., who worked as General Welfare Superintendent at H.Q. for several years, passed away in Kenya in May of this year.

A graduate of Edinburgh University, Alex Mackay gained some teaching experience before the war, when he joined the Royal Armoured Corps. He was transferred to the Royal Indian Army Service Corps, and later to the Army Welfare Service, where he became leading Administrative Officer, and obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in 1946, and when he left in 1952, to take up a blind welfare post in Kenya, Ian Fraser paid him the following tribute: "He brought with him a wide administrative and executive experience, and had a thoughtful mind, and these gifts, with the personal knowledge of our St. Dunstaners which he has acquired over the years, have enabled him to render a very valuable service".

Alex Mackay will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners as a charming and understanding man. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, and to all members of his family.



John Gilbert at work at Barclays Bank International. In the background is Supervisor, Hazel Bingham.

John and the Talking Typewriter

Story and Pictures: David Castleton

At Barclays Bank International in Poole, John Gilbert is the first blinded ex-serviceman to be promoted to the grade of word processor operator using a typewriter that talks. "It has taken me into a grade I thought I would never get", said John.

The machine that has helped John win promotion is the IBM Audio Typing Unit. Attached to a word processor, the unit gives the blind operator spoken output of whatever he types. At a touch of a key he can have the line he has typed read back to him in synthetic speech – and if he requires, the machine will spell out letter by letter including all punctuation.

John Gilbert lost his sight on peace-time service with the Royal Engineers and Royal Corps of Transport. He trained at St. Dunstan's as an audio-typist and it was in this role that he joined Barclays Bank Inter-

national in July, 1979.

When Miss Dorothy Johnston, Head of Typing Services, heard about the IBM unit she suggested John Gilbert might try it. "I was overjoyed", said John, "My biggest frustration was having to ask a sighted colleague to stop working to tell me where I had left off and where my mistake was. With this I don't have to bother anyone. I can hear what I have just typed."

After a day spent at IBM in Cosham, where the Audio Unit was demonstrated to John, to whom its potential became immediately obvious, two training cassettes and additional printed training matter were supplied with the MC82 memory typewriter and Audio Unit, and this was used by John and his supervisor, Hazel Bingham, when training began. "Actually I sat down with him over three days working on simple stuff

and then we moved on to more advanced material as he got used to it", said Hazel. Using the word processor involves typing into a memory and it is from the memory that the computer in the Audio Unit generates the spoken output. John can make alterations into the memory before he sets the machine to actually type on to the paper. He had to learn between 40 and 50 new key functions – there are 12 keys on the audio unit and all these have multiple functions.

One very important point is that, with the use of the Audio Unit, a blind operator can utilise all of the many functions which the MC82 provides, for example, alternate zone work where the memory can be divided into two parts, and decimal tabulations to mention just two. This gives the blind operator independence and enables him to do exactly the same type of work and achieve the same sort of output as any sighted operator.

Another Hazel, Hazel Jerrett, an old colleague also helped John get accustomed to his new machine. "At the beginning when I needed help, she knew how to help me." The voice output from the Audio Unit can be difficult, John explained: "The ways he pronounces some of the words can be difficult. I've got used to him – he seemed very metallic at first, but I can always get him to spell a word out".

Service Background

Miss Johnston speaks highly of John Gilbert and a new colleague, another St. Dunstan's trained audio-typist, Paul James. He is starting on the same ladder John has climbed so well, has completed his probationary period and is now being promoted to the next grade up. "We would not keep them if they were not good enough. John gets on with an enormous amount of work, his promotion was on merit and recommendation. I know the service background, this makes them independent and able to 'stretch' themselves and respond to challenge. Both are endowed with a great sense of humour."

John Gilbert's attitude to his job bears this out: "I'm not here to say, poor me, I can't do as much as anybody else. With this machine on a good day I reckon to do about two lines a minute and I can get in excess of 500 lines of typing in any ordinary day which is average output in the Department".



Inserting the magnetic card which records the words typed.

John uses Braille to code his file of magnetic cards which records the words typed.



CASSETTE LIBRARY

Below is a complete list of cassettes held in the library as at 1st January, 1982. They may be obtained by sending the appropriate length tape to the PR Department, stating clearly your address, the reference number and title of the tape you wish to be copied.

SD1	C90	Tk 1	Speech by HRH Duchess of Kent, at IFH, Commandant's farewell reunion speech.	R10	C90	Radio teletype
		Tk 2	Mr. Wills' farewell reunion speech.	R11	C90	Worked all Britain award
SD2	C90	Tk 1	Lord Fraser's Memorial Service.	R12	2 x C90	R.A.E. revision notes
		Tk 2	Lady Fraser's Memorial Service.	R13	C90	L. Varney, trip to South America
SD3	C90	Tk 1	St. Dunstan's Dance Band, 1927. only	R14	C90	D. Evans on microwaves
SD4	C60		Lord Fraser 1952 - Wireless for Blind Appeal, In Town Tonight.	R15	C90	Ragchew No. 1 November 1978
SD5	C90		KRM press conference, radio and TV extracts.	R16	C90	Ragchew No. 2 May 1979
SD6	C60	Tk 1	Sound Track 'To Live Again'	R17	C90	NE 555 IC timer unit
		Tk 2	Sound Track 'Ability is Where You Look For It'.	R18	C90	P. Jones, wiring by touch
SD7	C60		Stephen Jack reads poetry.	R19	C90	R.A.E. papers May 1979
SD8	C90		BBC 2 History of Medals by General Sir John Hackett.	R20	C90	Tele-communications
SD9	C90	Tk 1	Jimmy Wright's BAFTA awards and Radio 4 'Profile'.	R21	C90	Ragchew No. 3 August 1979
		Tk 2	E. Knight, Radio 4 "Death of the Hood".	R22	C90	Talk on H.M. Coastguards
SD10	C90		Metalcraft Manual.	R23	C90	Ragchew No. 4 November 1979
SD11	C60	Tk 1	D-Day recordings.	R24	C90	H. Hatch, life with the BBC
		Tk 2	Sound track of film by Jimmy Wright to raise money for Disabled Sailing Foundation.	R25	4 x C90	"So you want to pass the R.A.E." from Practical Wireless
SD12	C90		Radio Brighton Programme at Ian Fraser House.	R26	C90	Ragchew No. 5
G1	C60		P. Jones, D.I.Y. hints.	R27	C90	Ragchew No. 6
G2	C90		R. Smith, ultra sounds, bats, whales.	R28	11 x C90	A guide to amateur radio
G3	C90		R. Smith, visit to the Hebrides.	R29	C90	Q code, index to above
G4	C90	Tk 1	Interview with R. Dufton, on research.	R30	C90	Ragchew No. 7 November, 1980
		Tk 2	TS1 Reading Machine demonstrations.	R31	C90	RAE question papers, December 1980.
G5	C60		Braille tape recorder specifications.	R32	C90	Ragchew No. 8 April 1981.
G6	C90		Sound Track, TV series, "Gardeners World"	R33	C90	Talk by President RSGB at AGM, July '81.
G7	C90		R. Smith, visit to Shetland Islands.	R34	6 x C90	R.A.E. Manual.
G8	C60		Invisible Astronomy.	R35	C90	"Becoming a Radio Amateur".
G9	C90		Acol bridge system.	R36	C90	Ragchew No. 9 October 1981.
G10	C90		Instructions for Fidelity Chess Challenger.	R37	C90	G. Day: Auditory Aids.
G11	C90	Tk 1	Radio 4, "Machines that talk".			
		Tk 2	Radio 4, "Machines with Ears".			
G12	C90		"Which" report on music centres under £250.			
G13	C90		Black Box in flight recorder.			
G14	C60		Instructions for Sharp Talking Clock.			
G15	C60	Tk 1	Radio 4 programme on citizen's band radio.			
R1	C90		New R.A.E. exam			
R2	C90		Interference			
R3	C90		Repeaters and 70 cms.			
R4	C90		New licence regulations.			
R5	C90		Morse code, slower time			
R6	C90		Morse code, quicker time			
R7	C90		R. Ham satellites			
R8	C90		5RV Antenna			
R9	C90		Frank Hennig, radio experiences			



Jimmy Wright with Clare Francis, who is associated with the appeal for the Jubilee Barque.



Outside Buckingham Palace, Ted John's wife Beryl and daughter and son, Elizabeth and Martin, admire his M.B.E., awarded for 24 years' service to Merseyside Police.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Jimmy Wright, Chelmick, Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Middx. TW17 9ER

I am involved in the fund raising for two major projects at the present time. The first is to help with the funding of £2,000,000 to build a four masted, square rigged barque, which has been designed especially for the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Over half a million pounds has so far been raised and when the vessel has been completed, the crew will comprise physically handicapped sailing enthusiasts, sailing on equal terms with the able-bodied. The latest sonic aids to sailing for the visually handicapped will be provided. St. Dunstaners who are interested to sail, or wish to learn to sail, with the Jubilee Barque, please get in touch with Jimmy Wright.

The second project is the fund raising for a powered Glider for the Disabled. The glider

would be dual controlled, side by side, so that the pilot would be able to assist the disabled flyer, whether he, or she, were sighted or not.

It would be helpful to know of any St. Dunstaners who are interested in gliding; if so, please also contact Jimmy Wright.

From: Avis Spurway, The Royal Bombay Yacht Club, Bombay

Just a line to wish you all well in 1982 and to say, though far away, you are always in my thoughts. Also, happy New Year to all my friends at Lee. The Bombay Yacht is the most interesting place to live. The Sultan of Oman's training ship for boys is here; she is a full-rigged ship, and we hope to watch her trials. Wonderful bathing in salt water pool - sun every day. I feel awfully sorry for you all shivering in England!

From: Peter Spencer, Weston-Super-Mare
Since the inception of "The Music Makers" at St. Dunstan's Ian Fraser House, last August, and the subsequent report in the October 'Review', we have been pleased to receive a number of musical instruments. Indeed our grateful thanks to these good people and should there, by chance, still be a few more items at large, including an electric organ, we shall be pleased to make room for them in the Music Department at Ian Fraser House.

Our next "Get Together" is at Ian Fraser House during August '82, so all makers of music at any level of talent, come and join us, start practising now and book early! Should you need any further details, do write to me at my home address: P.R. Spencer, M.C.S.P., 47 Farm Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.

From: Gordon Pennington, Barry

Gordon Pennington and his wife, Jean, of Barry, South Glamorgan, spent a month in Canada in September. Mr. Pennington is a past National Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Wales, and an ex-FePow; they took with them a St. Dunstan's plaque as a gift to Mr. David Dorward, the Executive Secretary of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association for the War Blinded in Canada, and a Royal British Legion plaque as a gift to the Canadian Far East PoW Organisation. They returned, with Jet-lag, but also some very happy memories. Mr. Pennington writes:

We travelled some 3,000 miles across from Toronto to Vancouver, then back again, the worst part being the 2,500 miles of Prairies, which seemed to go on and on and on. I must confess I did not fully realise the tremendous distances involved, but now, we are both more than delighted to have been able to have done it . . . Living out of a suitcase for a month or more is a little wearing, and I found it a little strange to have to get up and wash and shave, and get dressed to go out for breakfast each day, no early morning cuppa, but we always had our own toilet and shower each time.

Both Jean and I thought the Rockies and B.C. were the most interesting, with such varied features as lakes, snow covered mountains, the mountains and deep ravines, and the rivers. One of the objects of going at this time was to see the Autumn colours of the trees; when we arrived in Toronto, the temp. was 90 and the humidity

97 – it was like being back in Singapore, too hot for comfort! We only stopped three days.

We telephoned Mr. Dorward and made arrangements to call on him; I thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and he was most kind. I gave him the plaque, explaining that, while I only transported it, it really came from the Staff at St. Dunstan's; he was very touched, and wished me to express his great appreciation for the kind and generous thought. It would seem they have only just really appreciated how very much the wives contribute to the welfare of the War Blinded, and are now seeking out the widows and wives, and bringing them together in and at Social Functions. . . . There is one thing I would have to advise anyone else doing a similar trip, they would need to be very fit, and able to travel long distances without becoming travel sick and have to take some trouble in finding fresh fruit, and not to expect tea as we have it, usually it is made in a cup or mug, or a small teapot, from which it is impossible to pour the tea without spilling it, really dreadful, but it makes it the nicer to come home to.

Autumn Colours

On our return to Vancouver in just that short three weeks, the trees had changed completely; some the most beautiful red, others pale green or yellow, as well of course as the wonderful browns of Autumn, and it had turned quite cool in Toronto on our return, but we only had an odd hour or so of rain on just two or three days in the whole month, which the natives told us was quite exceptional for this time of the year. They had a very wet spring, but the summer extended itself far beyond its norm, in that it lasted right through to the end of September, which was a blessing for us.

. . . . We failed to get up to Alaska as we had perhaps hoped, or indeed to get down to America, for which we were not too disappointed, in that we felt quite safe getting about at night in Canada, which was a tremendous advantage for Jean, under the circumstances, of which we could not feel too certain in the States.

Our grateful thanks to all the staff for their considerable help and support in what we call our Great Adventure, it was a very great advantage having such moral support at the back of our minds, in case we ran into any real problems or trouble.



George Prosser (centre) with his son, Douglas and daughter-in-law, Olive.

BLINDED SOLDIER OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IS A HUNDRED YEARS OLD

George Prosser, of Hunderton, Hereford, celebrated his 100th birthday on November 28th. He is the first war-blinded man to reach his centenary.

George was born in Leominster in 1881 and was a member of the Territorial Army. He recalls that he was just too young to serve in the Boer War, but a few years later he joined the Royal Army Service Corps and was among the expeditionary force to the Dardanelles in 1915. He was severely wounded at Gallipoli.

"I remember returning with the rations when the shell burst. Two sergeants picked me up. One said to the other we must get him to the dressing station. With their help I ran as best I could." Shrapnel had injured his eyes and, as a result, he is now blind and a member of St. Dunstan's.

As he is the first St. Dunstaner to reach his hundredth birthday, he was presented with a silver-plated tea set and tray inscribed "Presented by the Council of St. Dunstan's to George Prosser on the occasion of his 100th Birthday. 28th November, 1981".

Mr. William Weisblatt, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, visited George Prosser to make the presentation. With him was Miss Irene Newbold, our Welfare Visitor in the area. She calls regularly on the household, where George lives with his son, Douglas, and his daughter-in-law, Olive. Another St. Dunstan's gift brought by Miss Newbold was a warm mohair rug for George, who gets up each day to sit and talk.

He has many memories including the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee: "We were only kids, but I remember the tables in the streets of Leominster for the parties".

Although he was then already blind in one eye, Mr. Prosser traded in Leominster as a greengrocer between the First and Second World Wars. He raised his own produce on a smallholding of 2½ acres in what was once Leominster Green Hospital garden. After the death of his wife he lived alone and looked after himself until he was 94 and moved to Hereford to live with his son.



Guy Lawrence with some of his Bonsai trees.

Bonsai as a Hobby for the Blind

by Guy Lawrence

re-printed from *St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Review*

When you see with your fingertips – and here I am thinking of physical things in relation to outline and texture – what object could be more clear to your mental image than a small tree? With your tactile sense you can look at one of nature's most beautiful creations. The form, symmetry and characteristic qualities of a living tree are fully revealed when you run your hands over the shape of a Bonsai tree. Here is my 6 year-old Chinese Elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*) in its shallow dish, proudly standing in miniature form only 40 cms high. Its sturdy trunk indicates all the inherent strength of a tree, well-shaped branches disclose pleasing proportions with clusters of tiny leaves along each bough. The picture as a whole is clearly revealed when you feel the earth in which the tree stands, landscaped with a rock on one side and some moss on the other side, these representing the elements of the environment of all trees. This flexible living thing stands under the blue, arched sky and responds to the weather, the wind and to the treatment which you give it as you daily water it and get to know its seasonal moods.

From many angles I have found the growing of Bonsai trees to be a rewarding hobby and of absorbing interest. The collector's instinct is satisfied as you gather your various specimens, botanical curiosity is stimulated and daily activity in tending your trees calls for the discipline of perseverance. Spasmodic activity is not good enough, just one day's neglect to apply water will bring disaster. You have to contend with the growing of plants in spite of adverse conditions at times and overcome problems which brings a lasting satisfaction derived from achievement. These living things depend on you for their existence as you have to water them twice a day for the most part and sometimes three times in severe conditions, as they live in very shallow dishes with a high evaporation rate.

Judgement and skill

You acquire judgment and some skill in maintaining your trees in a healthy state, yet keeping them miniaturised. There is aesthetic pleasure in trimming and shaping your trees and, as you endeavour to achieve balanced proportions, you are actually bending Nature to your will.

First tree

I was prompted to make a start in the art of growing Bonsai trees by a short article in a *Tab Bulletin* from *Tape Aids for the Blind* in which it was suggested that a start could be made by planting a willow stick which would readily send out shoots. In addition it is a tree which drapes its slender, overhanging branches in a naturally attractive shape. We have a weeping willow (*Salix Babylonica*) in our garden so a small branch was easily to hand and, looking around for a shallow earthenware dish, I planted my first tree. Next I looked for a book on the subject and got hold of a rather technical one from the local library. This book was full of obscure jargon and references to the Northern Hemisphere climatic conditions, all of which I found forbidding rather than encouraging. I almost gave up the idea. Then I had the good fortune to get in touch with a gardening friend I had last contacted some years ago. Doug Hall proved not only to be a grower of Bonsai but an expert and I was delighted to discover that he was co-author, with Don Black, of a book entitled "The South African Bonsai Book" published

by Howard Timmins, Cape Town. Doug enthusiastically offered to teach me the art of successful Bonsai culture and luckily lived not far from my home. Under his expert practical guidance I soon found, contrary to general belief, that you do not have to start with seeds but, with care, you can transplant 2 to 4 year-old trees from their nursery containers direct into formal Bonsai dishes throughout the year. I have now acquired 10 different specimens shaped in one or other of the specific Japanese art styles which have become traditional and each tree I personally planted while supervised by Doug. Not only did I learn about the meanings of the formal Japanese styles but I also learnt about suitable soil mixtures, and the care of the trees, such as how to prune and when to fertilise.

Modest tools

In regard to the practical side of the Bonsai art you can set about it with modest tools and equipment. An old screwdriver bent at a right angle is useful for scraping away soil, while toe-nail clippers work well for root pruning and small scissors serve for odd pruning jobs, with a bigger clipper for trimming branches. By the way, much of the leaf pruning is done by pinching out with the pads of the fingers or finger nails. Properly shaped dishes, usually about 20 to 35 cms and about 3 cms deep do not cost much and baby trees can be had from nurseries specialising in trees. My biggest expense was the construction of a narrow metal table (even scrap iron is expensive these days) which holds the dishes and is situated under a light wooden construction.

Watering

This, in turn, is surmounted by chicken wire over which is stretched agricultural shade cloth to reduce sunlight by 40 per cent and thus minimise evaporation. My watering can is a 2 litre cold drink plastic bottle with a few holes pierced in the screw cap. When applying water I let it run down the back of my hand and off my fingers, this enables me to spread it evenly and to judge the amount. One of the things to keep in mind about Bonsai trees is that they are outdoor plants which thrive in the wind and the rain and best of all the morning sun to keep them happy. You can bring a specimen in to grace an occasional table in the lounge or

add glamour to a dining table as an unusual centre piece, but remember to return the little tree to its natural outdoor situation in a couple of days.

Amazing variety

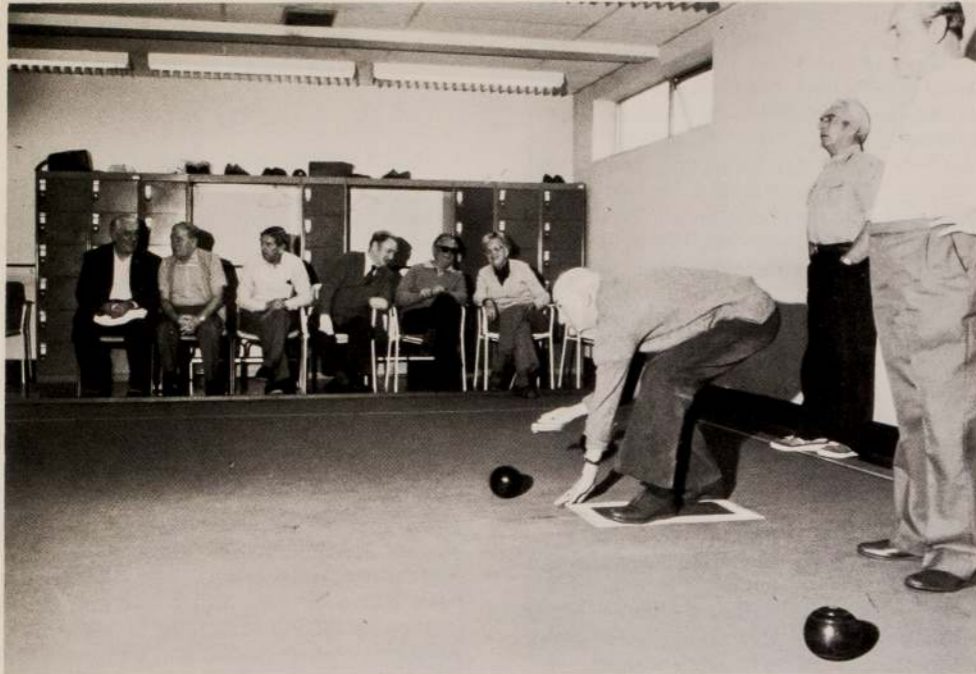
An amazing variety of trees can be given the Bonsai treatment. Most of the small or feathery-leaf types are suitable, but Acacias of the thorny kind are obviously useless to blind people. Some trees such as Eucalyptus, Loquat and Magnolia obstinately refuse to reduce their leaf size and cannot be used at all. I have not had the experience of "seeing" a Boabab tree used as a specimen but I believe this has been successfully done by some growers in Northern Transvaal. Different varieties of trees reflect the characteristics of their kind – Conifers are sturdy and dignified in appearance, while Elms and Maples are graceful and fluid in the wind. Specimens like Myrtles and Cotoneasters have dainty flowers and bright berries as well as producing lovely leaf shades in the Autumn. Even Wisterias and Bamboos can be given Bonsai treatment, as also Azaleas.

Don't go it alone

If the question arises in your mind how to get started on this absorbing hobby, I suggest that from my own experience a blind person should not try to go it alone. Rather get in touch with a Bonsai Club in your area and try to meet a sympathetic member who can guide you in the intricacies of this fascinating hobby. Buying ready-made Bonsai trees is expensive and not half as satisfying as developing your own specimens, which is definitely more exciting and rewarding. Whatever way you get your start you will enjoy gardening at a comfortable waist-high level, and soon learn much more about the arboreal life surrounding your day-to-day existence, thereby widening your otherwise limited horizons.

Editor's Note:

With Guy Lawrence's own words, 'don't go it alone', we advise readers to bear in mind that this article is written for readers in the Southern Hemisphere. It would be wise to seek advice from those experienced in raising Bonsai trees in Britain.



Billy Burnett bowling against Jim Morrish in the closing stages of the Singles competition. They were both in the top four placings.

1981 ST. DUNSTANS INDOOR BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

by J. Carnochan

Once again a very successful three weeks of bowling, perhaps not as many entries as last year, but the standard of bowling as ever on the increase, with new names on the trophies, and although we were short of about ten of the usual entry for various reasons, the enthusiasm was as great as ever. As always, the Singles proved to be the most interesting, and here one is on one's own, with the "round robin" system, i.e. playing each other once in separate groups with the winner of each group going forward to a final group of 4, you do get a true champion, and on merit the Singles winners proved themselves as worthy 1981 champions, T.B., Percy Stubbs, P.S., Arthur Carter and D.H., Dicky Brett. The Triples and Pairs knock-outs had some surprising results and I think it is the first time that we have had a D.H. bowler in the winning trio, Bill Griffiths, who bowled extremely well

throughout these two competitions, with Bob Forshaw, Bill Griffiths and Tom Mugan winning the triples, and Bob Osborne and Walford Davies winning the pairs. This year we missed Margaret Bingham on the rink, but the ladies section was upheld by Brenda Rea and Vi Delaney who always give of their best. This year we were presented with a new trophy, The Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl. The late Mrs. Kathleen Smith was a very close friend of St. Dunstaner Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, who is a past Mayor of Sutton Coldfield. Mrs. K. Smith was an Hon. Alderman during his term of office as Mayor and always showed a very keen interest in St. Dunstans sporting activities, particularly bowling, and she very generously left in her Will instructions for a bowls trophy and any other equipment that could be used for sport, so in addition to the trophy there is also installed in the gym at Ian Fraser House



Dr. Stilwell presents the Percy Acton Trophy to Bob Forshaw and Tommy Mugan.

a new, modern, up-to-date rowing machine, and, to quote Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, "she would be very proud to know the pleasure these two items will give to St. Dunstaners".

As always, sport and recreation produces good social integration, and this year we were lucky to have two such events. To conclude the bowling championships, a social evening with bar, buffet and dancing, incorporating the presentation of trophies and prizes, which were presented jointly by Dr. Stilwell and Mr. Conway, was held in the annexe. This was an excellent evening, with a giant raffle and home-produced entertainment by the more vocally talented members of the bowling community, with renderings from Arthur Carter, Monty Golding and, after many days of deliberation, a bowling ballad by Peggy Brett. Friday evening saw us all attending the Annual Dinner Dance of the Brighton Social & Sports Club at the Dudley Hotel where we all enjoyed a very nice meal in good company. During the evening Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds donated The Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl to St. Dunstans and presented it for the first time to Percy Stubbs as the most accomplished bowler of the year, and so ended a very satisfying three weeks of bowling for us all, and it just leaves me to say thank you to all those people who give us their every assistance throughout this very busy time.

A PEGGY BRETT BOWLING BALLAD

To the tune: *Strolling*

When we're bowling, just bowling,
Be it light, be it thin, or dead,
We don't envy the chaps in that old swimming pool,
For so long as we keep bowling,
We'll keep these woods a-rolling,
So we're bowling, just bowling,
Till the carpet is all in shreds -
We begin as dawn is breaking,
And the shots are there for taking,
Till we stagger off to find our beds.

PRIZE CARD 1981 TRIPLES - PERCY ACTON SHIELD

Winners

T. Mugan W. Griffiths R. Forshaw

Runners-up

J.G. Robinson W. Burnett D. Hodgson

Losing Semi-Finalists

W. Davies R. Brett G. Bunting

M. Tybinski J. Simpson P. Stubbs

PAIRS - WILF KNIGHT TROPHY

Winners

R. Osborne W. Davies

Runners-up

A. Carter R. Forshaw

Losing Semi-Finalists

W. Griffiths L. Scales

J. Cope P. Stubbs

DOUBLE ARM AMPUTEES - STATUETTE

Winner

R. Brett

Runner-up

D. Bell

SINGLES CATEGORY 'B' - GARNETT-ORME TROPHY

Winner

A. Carter

Runner-up

A. Robinson

Third Place

T. Simmon

Fourth Place

J. Boorman

SINGLES CATEGORY 'A' - LLOYD TROPHY

Winner

P. Stubbs

Runner-up

J. Morrish

Third Place

J. Cope

Fourth Place

W. Burnett

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1709

Penknife in my Heart

By Nicholas Blake

Read by Jack de Manio

Reading Time 6¾ hours.

Charles Hammer meets Ned Stowe in a riverside hotel where Stowe is spending an illicit weekend with his mistress. It transpires that Stowe would dearly love to get rid of his wife (legally, that is) and marry the girl but for some reason this is impossible. Hammer would dearly love to get rid of his aged uncle and get his hands on the business of which the old man is head, but he is not at all particular as to the means by which his relative is removed.

At this point the plot gets micro-film thin. Hammer persuades the timid and law-abiding Stowe to agree to kill his uncle, whilst he, Hammer, will arrange Mrs. Stowe's timely demise. Thus each man will have a perfect alibi.

Hammer makes all the necessary arrangements and both missions are duly accomplished. But there are unforeseen developments and it soon becomes apparent that the alibis are not all that perfect after all . . .

A fairly unmemorable book, I fear.

Cat. No. 3070

Black Teacher

By Beryl Gilroy

Read by Carol Marsh

Reading Time 9¼ hours.

The book opens with the author making preparations for a new term at the North London infant's school where she is head-mistress. The new intake will probably include six or seven nationalities and almost certainly some of the children will have no English. There are forty-four different races represented in the school. They are from all backgrounds, from the Embassies to the poverty-stricken new immigrants. Her job is to transform these tearful, frightened, suspicious, belligerent children into a secure, happy, harmonious learning unit.

A daunting task but one which this respected educationalist, broadcaster and journalist is very well qualified to undertake.

But at one time her life had been very different. A black teacher newly arrived from her native Guyana in the 1950's, she found bitter racial prejudice, hostility and intolerance.

She was openly insulted by education office clerks, white teachers with inferior qualifications than her own were given preference. She was forced to take menial jobs to support herself. She never gave up the struggle to become a teacher in multi-racial Britain.

At last her persistence was rewarded and she got a teaching post. For a time it was an uphill struggle, she had to overcome the deep prejudices and hostility of both the children and their parents. Eventually her teaching methods, based on love, patience, understanding and imagination won her universal admiration and love.

Later she married, a white man, and she says, "I finally came to terms with the dichotomy in my heart." . . .

A splendid book full of warmth and caring humanity.

YVONNE LYALL RETIRES

Mrs. Yvonne Lyall, Welfare Visitor for Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, part of Surrey and the Channel Islands, retired on 31st December 1981. She joined St. Dunstan's in 1963 when she was Miss de Burlet, and has given 18 years of devoted service to those St. Dunstaners in her area who will long remember her sincerity, warmth, and above all, grand sense of humour which has endeared her to us all. We shall look forward to seeing Mrs. Lyall again at future Reunions and wish her many years of health and happiness in retirement.

We welcome Mrs. Vivien Jackson, who has taken over from Mrs. Lyall as Welfare Visitor.

D.F. Robinson's

Gardening Column

May I wish you all a Happy New Year and really good results in the garden with flowers, fruit and vegetables both outdoors and under glass.

Most of the seed merchants will be advertising their seed catalogues for the new season, so send along for a couple or so to get some flower seeds, a few will be new

and well worth trying. You will probably have got the catalogues if you got seeds from them last season.

The vegetable seed packets will be due to come along very soon and if there are some of you finding the vegetable garden too much and don't want the parcel write in to Mrs. O'Reilly, Garden Dept., H.Q., and let her know, and your name will be crossed off the list.

Thank you for the favourable comments passed on to us with regard to seeds sent out and hope they will be as good in future. I only hope that we have a more amenable year for the garden and make it easier to get the work on the outside beds and lawns done.

Now let's get on with the work for the month to come and don't think that there will be much, especially if there is frost and snow about.

Vegetables

Get all the digging and trenching done this month, unless there is too much snow and frost about or very muddy conditions around. Dig in the manure which has laid on the soil, so that all is ready for sowing seeds of Broad Beans and early Peas, but only in warm, sheltered positions. Keep the ground clear of leaves and weeds, but don't put any of these which are infested with insects on the compost heap. Consign to the bonfire and spread the resultant ashes over the dug patches.

Some lettuce can be sown in warm spots but those of you in the North should use cloches as protection and give extra warmth. Long sheets of polythene sheeting spread over pliable stakes and anchored in the soil all the way along will be just as good. Radish and Cauliflower can be tried, but don't expect too much if the weather is really severe. Rhubarb can be planted and very early Potato seed started to sprout in a light, frost-free shed.

Lawns

Little or nothing will be needed to be done here, apart from using the fork all over the lawn, especially in areas which tend to hold the water. Get the mower in for service at once if not already done, as everyone will be thinking about this job, so try and get in first. It won't be very cheap, but well worth having a machine which is working well and cutting with a sharp blade when you make a start on the grass.

Fruit

Carry on with the pruning of all the Pears, Apples and other hard fruit when the weather is suitable. Don't be too soft on the cutting out of over-growing branches and all the strong growing shoots at the top of the trees and all round. Give a good shape and make the picking of the fruit easier and spraying in due course. Where you have some very old trees, remove the dry bark, which is a source of all kinds of infection. Lime-wash the stems afterwards. Don't plant any new trees or bushes now. During severe gales, one nearly has broken branches and these should be cut back beyond the break as cleanly as possible and dab on some insecticide and fungicide to stop infection entering at this point. Add some compost or manure to the ground round the base of the trees and bushes to give a boost to the roots as soon as they start new growth.

Flowers

Get all the beds ready for the new season by digging over and adding some manure or compost. It will give those annuals a really good start to their show of colour. Make one small bed, on a south facing wall, in really good condition and fine tilth, with a bit of sand added for the sowing of outdoor seeds. Keep this bed continuously forked over till you have the seeds ready for sowing in April. This is more for those of you who have no frame or greenhouse. Give some protection to those autumn sown hardy annuals when frost and other hardy weather is about. Some plastic sheeting over the top of them will be very useful but do peg down well, especially when wind is imminent.

Do remember to order your bedding annual seeds at once from one of those large suppliers, or get them down at the garden or general store. Most shops these days, especially the big multies, have all kinds in stock from very reputable suppliers. Try something different for a change, to mix with your normal plants. Some peat added to those really heavy soils will do all the good in the world, and make it so much easier to work over and plant. Check over those climbing plants and any other tall items which are used to give extra colour. Re-tie the trellis work and posts and replace any which have been damaged by gales. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs can still be planted. Prune all those hedges, plus

deciduous shrubs. Naturally go by the weather conditions, not on frosty or snowy days.

Greenhouse

Keep the whole place clean and tidy, ensuring that all the dead leaves and stems of growing plants are disposed of, and make certain that there are no draughts about and plug any holes in the woodwork and put some putty in crevices in metal work and where there happen to be some loose panes of glass.

Try and keep the atmosphere fairly dry and don't overwater any plants, give plenty of ventilation when the weather is suitable especially on sunny days. Get all the seed boxes and pots ready for the sowing of seeds and also have the soil handy and try and keep it in a warmish atmosphere.

Keep the heater going all night to maintain an even heat, and during the day as well when you have started to sow seeds and

seedlings are appearing and will be transplanted soon. Get the seed boxes over the source of heat when sown, and put some plastic sheeting or glass over the top to maintain the moisture and in some cases newspaper over the top may help to make the seeds germinate quickly but do remove this paper as soon as the seedlings germinate.

Many spring bulbs will be showing good growth and even buds, so keep them moist and close to the source of light, and not too near the heat. Get in the Sweet Pea seeds as soon as possible, and cuttings of Carnations and Chrysanthemums. Some strongly growing cuttings can be moved to large containers but if not sure, keep them as they are for the present. Fuchsias and Dahlias can be started off to give one cuttings later on. Various tuberous items, such as Begonia and Gloxinia can be started into growth by placing them in shallow boxes of peat, watered well and put over a source of heat. Keep moist all the time but don't overwater.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON

Bridge

On Saturday 14th November, in the Club Rooms here at H.Q., the London Bridge Club managed to complete the Individuals Competition (Gover Cup) for 1981. The results were as follows:

R. Armstrong & B. Miller	83 points
J. Majchrowicz & B. Allen	67 points
F. Dickerson & B. Evans	59 points
H. Meleson & Partner	43 points

The winner of the Gover Cup for 1981 (London Section) was Fred Dickerson and the full results are the Best Five Scores Total for all who did play at least 5 matches.

1st	363	Fred Dickerson
2nd	359	Bill Allen
3rd	339	Billy Miller
4th	331	Bob Evans
5th	301	Joe Majchrowicz
6th	285	Harry Meleson

BRIGHTON

Sports & Social Club

The Annual Dinner and Dance was once again held at the Dudley Hotel in Hove on Friday, 20th November '81, and we were delighted to have among our guests Mr. & Mrs. Michael Delmar-Morgan. The dinner was held at the end of a very busy three weeks bowling competitions at Ian Fraser House, and so it was pleasant to meet old friends from far and wide. The President of the Club, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, welcomed guests, and without a doubt all those who attended enjoyed their meal, and the dancing afterwards. We were very fortunate in having very good friends of the Club providing the raffle with some of the wonderful prizes – some lucky couples are going to have Butlin Hotel holidays, and a champagne dinner for two in the not too distant future!

Christmas has come rather early this year, for we held the Christmas Dance on Saturday 5th December in order that those members attending the Bridge Conference could attend. The Sir Arthur Pearson cups and trophies were presented at this function.

We have now resumed our Wednesday afternoon club, and during the course of the next few months members are participating again in the Darts, Fives and Threes, cribbage, etc. competitions; we would welcome all those members who are able to come along to join us, but we do appreciate travelling during the winter months is quite a problem – in any case we should welcome news of you – so do keep in touch.

BRIGHTON CLUB LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

CRIBBAGE

Ladies

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mrs. J. Osborne	Mrs. N. Phillips
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mrs. E. Simpson, Mrs. H. Webster	

Gentlemen

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mr. W. Phillips	Mr. H. Preedy
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mr. J. Cope, Mr. T. Giles	

DARTS

Ladies

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mrs. M. Blacker	Mrs. T. Mugan
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mrs. E. Gosney, Mrs. J. Osborne	

Gentlemen

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mr. R. Osborne	Mr. B. Blacker
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mr. J. Cope, Mr. T. Giles	

WHIST AGGREGATE

Ladies

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mrs. J. Osborne: 673½	Mrs. M. Crabtree: 669
<i>3rd & 4th</i>	
Mrs. P. Padley: 648, Mrs. H. Webster: 639	

Gentlemen

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mr. J. Padley: 681	Mr. H. Preedy: 645
<i>3rd & 4th</i>	
Mr. T. Giles: 634, Mr. J. Simpson: 628	

5's & 3's

Ladies

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mrs. H. Webster	Mrs. J. Osborne
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mrs. N. Phillips, Mrs. E. Gosney	

Gentlemen

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mr. B. Blacker	Mr. R. Osborne
<i>Beaten Semi-Finalists</i>	
Mr. H. Gosney, Mr. J. Simpson	

DOMINO AGGREGATE

Ladies

<i>Winner (Jointly shared)</i>	
Mrs. P. Padley: 36	Mrs. H. Webster: 36
<i>3rd & 4th</i>	
Mrs M. Langley: 34, Mrs. M. Blacker: 33	

Gentlemen

<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Mr. H. Preedy: 44	Mr. B. Blacker: 33
<i>3rd & 4th</i>	
Mr. T. Giles: 32, Mr. J. Padley: 31	

Bowling Section

Our indoor bowling season is now in full swing, and our competitions are getting well under way.

On October 23rd we were hosts to our very good friends from the Hove and Kingsway Bowling Club, and a very exciting match ended all square, (11 shots apiece) and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. On 27th November, we were pleased to be visited by a team from Woodingdean Bowling Club, and although we lost this one by 19 shots—11, some very good and encouraging bowling was produced by our bowlers. Once again our thanks go out to our ladies who work so hard providing the teas for these matches.

Our local bowlers did very well in the St. Dunstan's National Championships and our congratulations go to the following:—

Dickie Brett, winner of the handless section, Bob Osborne and Walford Davies who won the pairs, Tommy Mugan who was a member of the winning team in the Triples, Jimmy Morrish runner-up in the totally blind section, Mickey Robinson, runner-up in the partially sighted section, and we must not forget Billy Burnett and Johnny Cope who succeeded in reaching the last four in the T.B. section, (well done lads).

H. Preedy

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Sandra, grand-daughter of *Allen Emerson* of Clacton, on her marriage to Richard Edward Hildrow on 12th September.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Brown of Stratford Fields, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 4th October.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. & Mrs. David W. Smith, of Worcester, who are pleased to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, born to their daughter Heather and her husband, on 21st November.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. W.H. Carpenter, Clifton-upon-Teme, whose brother, Roy, died of Leukaemia on the 3rd November.

Mrs. F.E.M. Clark, widow of *Mr. W.W. Clark* of Lee, London, on the death of her third son, Len, on the 1st May. He suffered from a brain tumour and bore his illness with great courage.

Mrs. Pat Padley, wife of *Jim Padley* of Saltdean, whose mother passed away at the end of August.

Mr. F.W. Riley, of Ripon, whose wife, Doris, passed away on the 13th November, after a long illness.

In Memory

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

Group Captain Jack Hawley Barnes, Royal Air Force

Group Captain Jack Barnes, of Guernsey, died on the 12th November. He was 74 years old.

After spending some years in mining engineering, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and served at home and abroad for some 25 years before he was discharged in 1955. He then worked in commerce, but finally retired because of his loss of sight. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1966, whilst living in Essex.

Jack Barnes and his wife lost their only son at about the same time and they subsequently moved to Guernsey, where they made a new life for themselves with many friends and a great interest in their beautiful garden and greenhouse.

In recent years he had had very poor health, which he bore with tremendous courage and cheerfulness. Earlier this year, he stayed for some weeks at Pearson House, whilst receiving highly specialised treatment at a local hospital, and his fortitude and spirit were greatly admired. He had been better for a time before his sudden death at home.

He leaves a widow, May, other relatives and many good friends.

C.J. Nichols, Royal Artillery

Mr. Cyril James Nichols of Mytchett, near Camberley, passed away unexpectedly in hospital on the 21st November. He was 62 years of age and

had been a St. Dunstaner since 1952. He enlisted a few days prior to the outbreak of World War II and served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery. In 1945 Mr. Nichols was involved in a tank mine explosion and was discharged from the Army the following year, his sight having been affected.

After a period of training for Industry, as well as Braille and typewriting, all of which Mr. Nichols mastered with great efficiency, he was employed at Vickers Armstrong (subsequently the British Aircraft Corporation) from 1954 until 1977, when he was made redundant and retired on health grounds. Our St. Dunstaner was an Inspector with the Corporation and was thought of so highly that, in 1957, he was asked to give a demonstration of the Braille instruments he used in the factory to a group of overseas visitors, who were greatly impressed.

In retirement, Mr. Nichols continued to give talks on the work of St. Dunstan's to many local organisations, being also involved with the local Blind Club. He retained a great interest in his garden and greenhouse and thoroughly enjoyed holidays abroad with his wife. For the past two years, our St. Dunstaner's main hobby was wrought iron work which was of such a high standard that he received many orders locally.

Sadly, Mr. Nichols and his wife celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary only three weeks prior to his passing, and we extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Marie, their daughter, Mrs. Rita McCulley, and all members of the family.