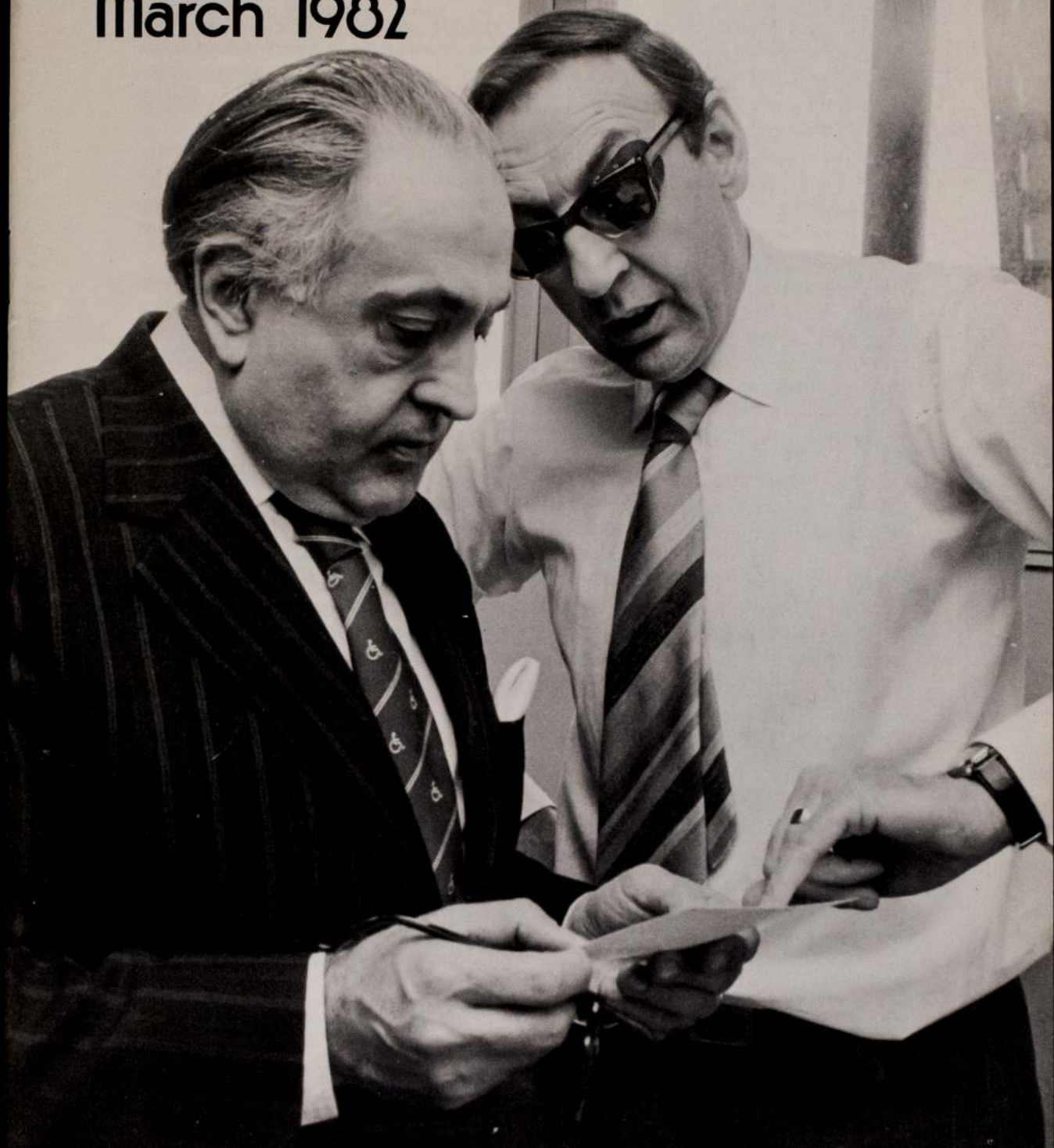


St Dunstons Review

March 1982



Message from the Chairman

A Hard Winter

Not for many years have we had such heavy snow and bitterly cold weather in December and January. I knew our welfare staff and surveyors would do all they possibly could to help you, but we were very concerned about all St. Dunstaners and their families and particularly those who lived in the worst hit areas of the country or who were elderly or not in the best of health.

It was a great relief, therefore, to receive many cheerful reports from our staff and in your letters to learn how courageously you and your wonderful wives were enduring all the discomforts, frustrations and, in some cases, the real hardships caused by the appalling conditions and the breakdown of public services.

It was especially cheering to hear your stories of the kindness and help given by many neighbours and tradesmen and sometimes the local Police Force and various organisations. St. Dunstan's is deeply grateful to all these good friends and perhaps you will pass on our thanks to those who helped you by showing them this *Review*.

Minister's Visit

On Wednesday, 27th January, Mr. Hugh Rossi, M.P., the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, spent a day with us in Brighton. He visited both Ian Fraser House and Pearson House and talked to many St. Dunstaners.

Mr. Rossi is a most understanding person. He told us that he had an old friend who was a St. Dunstaner – the late Bert Crabtree, who was the telephonist at our Headquarters – and he still keeps in touch with Mrs. Crabtree.

As you will realise, the Minister is a very busy man and it was extremely good of him to find the time and in spite of the rail strike come down and see us all. We much appreciated his friendly interest in our affairs.

Pat Longden, of St. Dunstan's, Australia

Pat Longden, whose death is reported elsewhere in this *Review*, was a fine Australian St. Dunstaner. He was the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's (Australia) for some years and was deeply interested in St. Dunstan's both in Australia and over here. Readers may remember last November's delightful cover photograph of him, escorted by his young grandson in the Anzac Day Parade in Melbourne.

We all enjoyed meeting Pat and his wife, Joy, on several occasions when they came to England and now we send her and their family our deepest sympathy.

Ion Garnett-Orme

GARDENER MAGAZINE BY MISS KATHLEEN FLEET

Some ambiguity may have been caused by the announcement in the December *Review* appertaining to the service offered by Miss Fleet. Firstly, the quarterly bulletin she used to produce has now ceased. Two services are offered:

1. A quarterly magazine, either in Braille, or on Cassette. If you have not already done so, will you please let Pat Carlton of the Welfare Department know which type you prefer by 20th March at the latest. Those who have already written to Miss Fleet need not re-apply. The cassette edition of the magazine will be issued direct from H.Q. (no blank cassettes required).
2. A Library Cassette Service. Copies may be obtained by sending a blank cassette to the address given in the magazine. A catalogue of library stock will be in the April edition of the Gardener Magazine.

Both of the above services are free to St. Dunstaners. If you are interested in the above magazine please will you respond immediately.

Amateur Radio Society AGM, 19/20th March

The Speaker on Saturday afternoon will be Ron Ham, V.H.F. columnist for *Practical Wireless* who will give a talk "Amateur Radio in General."

On Sunday morning, an exhibition demonstration of equipment will be given by Bredhurst Communications of Handcross. This display will take place in the Winter Garden.

Ted John
Secretary

TROOPING THE COLOUR

It is anticipated that we may be allocated tickets again this year for the Trooping the Colour on Saturday, 12th June in the morning and the Private View of the Royal Tournament on Wednesday, 14th July in the afternoon.

Any St. Dunstaner who would like to apply for tickets should contact me at H.Q. by Monday, 26th April.

E.M. Bridger

WANTED!

Mr. Robert Bridger is anxious to acquire a Stainsby Braille Writer in good condition, preferably with an Interpoint Board, although he says, an Interline Board would do. If anyone is able to help, please contact Mr. Bridger, stating the price required, at: 8 Newquay Gardens, S. Oxhey, Herts. Tel: 01-428 8070.

NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB

The London, Brighton and Provinces three way competition has been arranged for the weekend of 7th-9th May, 1982, at Ian Fraser House. Will all those attending please inform the Booking Office at H.Q.

Bill Allen
Secretary

Addition to Cassette Library

SD15. 2C90's. Vari Speech 2 – Instruction Manual. This is a 4 track, variable speed cassette player, issued by the American Printing House, and available through the Foundation for Audio Research.

R39. 2 C90's. Smith Kettlewell Technical File for Autumn '81.

St Dunstons Review

No. 738

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MARCH 1982.

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COVER PICTURE: During Mr. Hugh Rossi's visit to our Homes at Brighton, Phil Duffee helps the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled with the intricacies of Braille. More pictures and report on centre pages.

WINTER AMONG THE FJORDS

The following is an account by Marjorie Hordyniec of the two weeks she and Eddie spent in Norway last November.

We had been told that a party of British Legion members from the Birmingham area, who had served in Airborne forces or in the Norwegian area during the war, were invited for a two weeks' holiday to stay in the Norwegian Veterans' Home at Baereia. We finally heard that we were among the lucky ones at the end of September.

On the 9th November, we left Birmingham by coach, with 7 other Legionnaires and their wives, for Heathrow. We arrived in Oslo at about 5 p.m. local time, and were given the V.I.P. treatment from the time we stepped off the plane to the day of our departure. We were welcomed at the airport by Colonel Ernest Eng, The President (who made the trip possible), and the Committee members of the Norwegian Veterans' Ass., and the General of the Norwegian Armed Forces. The ladies were each presented with a bunch of flowers. We were then taken by army coach to Baereia, near Kongsvinger, which was a 2½ hr. journey out of Oslo. As it was dark by this time, we could not see much of the scenery, but by the headlights, we could see the snow.

The Home at Baereia is up in the mountains among the fir trees. On arrival, we found another welcoming party, the Mayor and Mayoress of Kongsvinger, the Committee in charge of running the Home, and also a reporter from the local newspaper, who took photos of us all, which were published in the newspaper next day. We were then treated to a wonderfully cooked meal of reindeer meat; most of the English party thought it was lovely, tender beef! After the speeches of welcome, replies on our behalf were made by Mr. Joe Kirton, Birmingham County Chairman, who also presented a Legion Flag Pennant to the Home, and Legion Ties to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Home Committee, and to Colonel Eng. After dinner, Eddie and I retired to bed, as we were flat out!

The Home is for Veterans of the Army and Resistance Movement to spend a holiday with all expenses paid for 3 weeks; should

they require convalescence, or have been ordered to rest by a Doctor, this is also all expenses paid. There are both single and double rooms, each with its own toilet, washbasin and shower. The Home has 3 beautifully furnished and decorated lounges; one is used as a music room in which there is a piano, an organ and a stereo wireless and gramophone set. The second lounge has a colour T.V. The Reception lounge has a little shop, which sells the small essentials of a holiday, from postage stamps to bottled lager, also, swimming costumes or trunks are on loan from it. There is a library which is used as a quiet room, a heated swimming pool, a well equipped gym, solarium and sauna, a hobbies room with snooker and table tennis, and (the greatest joy as far as our party was concerned) a tea and coffee room. We could go down there at any hour of the day or night and make a cup of tea or coffee and have some biscuits. There is a trained nurse or first-aider on duty day and night, and a doctor calls once a week and is also on call for emergencies.

Old Wartime Songs

To see all this took up most of our first morning and we then went into the dining room for lunch. There was a long table just loaded with food, both hot and cold, with all diets and tastes catered for; there was tea, coffee or milk to drink, and the milk, in gallon jugs, was fresh, either hot or cold, or soured, or skimmed, and there was also a jug of cream. In the afternoon, we all met in the tea room and sat making friends and exchanging war experiences. The time till dinner was spent in the swimming pool, hobbies room or just making friends. Tea and coffee were served in the lounge after dinner, and while there, someone played the old wartime tunes which all 16 of us joined in and sang to, and the Norwegians sang their own versions.

Next day, Wednesday, a trip was arranged for us to Sweden, and a Glass Blowing factory, where we all bought some beautiful crystal pieces. Sitting at our table in the dining room, we met a Pole who had escaped from a German prison camp into Norway and joined the Norwegian Resistance. He is now a Norwegian National. Also, we met an ex-Norwegian Paratrooper who had trained alongside the Polish Paratroopers in Scotland, and Ringway near Manchester.

Thursday was a bright, sunny day, but very cold. In the morning, most of us went to Kongsvinger by bus. The rest of the day was spent making new friends, swimming and two of the men of our party were shown how to make copper pictures, which is like brass rubbing, only sheet copper is used over the picture mould. The evening was spent playing Bingo and singing in the lounge to the piano.

Resistance Museum

On Friday, a trip had been arranged for us to The Norwegian Resistance Museum in Oslo. Before going into the Museum, we had a small ceremony, and laid Poppy wreaths on the War Memorial, and the Salutation was given. The Museum was housed in an old castle which had been used as a prison during the war. It was arranged symbolically: on the first floor was the outbreak of hostilities, with models showing the different acts of the invasion, such as the German troops landing by air, the holding-up on a bridge into Oslo by a small group of Norwegian soldiers, so that the King and Parliament could escape. These were let into a wall as we walked down a slope, at the bottom of which was a memorial to the first three leaders of the Resistance to be shot by the Germans. This was in the form of three pillars with bullet holes in, and the man's photo on top. We turned a corner here and went on down and saw the ingenious ways of getting news around the country, how it was printed in attics, cellars and underground dug-outs, then carried around in hollowed out logs, loaves of bread, and empty fish and meat tins that had been resealed. We saw how wireless sets were hidden in thermos flasks, hollowed-out telephone directories and books; there was even a set in some false teeth! Still going on down and round, we saw how things got worse, with shortages of food and clothing,

etc., how fish skins were used to make shoes, handbags and outer clothing. Right at the bottom, we saw the old cells, with models of the prisoners, their tortures, and the instruments of torture used. After this, the ground started to rise, and we saw the first news of the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and Russia, the first landing of Allied Paratroopers; next, how punishment was handed out to the Quislings, and right at the top floor, how the first relief came and finally the return home of the King.

After our visit to the Museum, we were taken to the Headquarters of the Norwegian Veterans' Ass. for a lunch of continental food and cakes. We arrived back at Baereia in time for the evening meal, after which we had a shooting competition in the gym. It snowed most of the day and night.

Bear and Deer

On Saturday, we woke to a beautiful white world, with fir trees covered in snow, and the sun sparkling on crisp, fresh snow. After the snow ploughs had been up the mountain and cleared the road, some of our party took taxis into Kongsvinger as there are no buses on Saturdays; others went for a walk through the forest, and on their return they told us they had seen bear and deer prints in the snow. The rest of us went swimming and exploring the delights of the Home with the friends we had made. The evening was spent having a sing-song.

Sunday was a lovely, sunny day, most of us went for a walk in the forest, but we left Eddie talking to his Polish friend. The evening was taken up with bingo and singing with piano again.

Kongsvinger

On Monday we all went by bus to Kongsvinger, shopping and exploring the town. On Tuesday, a trip had been arranged for us to the Shipping Museum in Oslo. This was very interesting, more so to the sailors in our party. The museum is built on the edge of the harbour, with some of the small boats that were used by the Norwegians to escape to England; we all wondered how they did it in such small boats. There were life-size models of the single boats used by the early Norsemen, also of the early liners of the 1900's with state rooms that one could hardly turn round in, with all the early

Victorian-type fittings. There were small working models of the modern day cargo ships, showing how they are loaded and why certain cargoes have to go in special holds in the centre of the ship. We were also shown relics found at the bottom of the Fjords, of very early 15th century shipping. After the visit to the museum we were entertained to lunch by the Senior members of the Norwegian Resistance Veterans in their own club rooms. There was a small memorial to the Officers of the Resistance who had been killed, and a member from the Austin Branch of the R.B.L. laid a spray of silk poppies on it and Mr. Joe Kirton gave the Salutation. We returned to Baereia in time for the evening meal, after which we had our usual sing-song and bingo.

On Wednesday, a trip to another town in Sweden had been arranged for us. Eddie was still feeling the effects of all the walking of the previous day, so we left him to the tender mercies of his Polish friend and the First Aider. I had a wonderful time! The shops were already decorated for Christmas and everything we bought was gift wrapped with coloured paper and ribbon. I went into a cafe with two of the ladies from our party and we got so tied up going round the wrong way of the counter for our coffee that we were late for the return journey of the coach which, as you can guess, we never lived down!

Old Fortress

On Thursday we were taken to see the old Fortress of Kongsvinger. It is on a pass through which, up to the early 18th century, ran the only road from Sweden to Oslo. We were given coffee and cakes (the sort that put inches on the waist) and a history of the Fortress with maps and slides by the Officer in charge. In the evening the men went down to the hobbies room to finish off their copper pictures, the ladies learnt how to make Reindeer out of pipe cleaners and cotton wool while singing all the old Vera Lynn songs.

On Friday, the Deputy Mayor of Kongsvinger came up to the Home and took us all on a guided tour of Kongsvinger. This proved very interesting. We were told that up to the early 1960's the only industries in Kongsvinger were Agriculture and Forestry, with the logs floated down the river to the

saw mill. Now they have a thriving and growing factory population, and industries such as plastics, wood pulp, building materials, communication, etc. All factories were on the outskirts of the town and housed in beautiful modern buildings. We were shown some beautiful old farm houses, one in particular was used by the old Kings of Sweden and their entourage in the 15th and 16th centuries, as a stopping-off and rest place on the way to and from Oslo. We were shown the Hospital which is the second largest in Norway; their schools which are grouped in ages of the children, 7-12 years, 13-16 years, 17-19 years; the small railway used by the Germans to bring up supplies to their camps in the mountains; of course, this was of keen interest to the Resistance Movement. We saw Bronze Age burial grounds, and last, but not least, their famous Ski Jump.

Farewell Party

Saturday was a day for last-minute shopping and walks, and Sunday was spent mostly in packing, collecting addresses and taking a final walk amongst the trees. In the evening, we were given a farewell party and entertainment was put on for us by the family of the Warden and staff of the Home. We played Bingo, and had some dancing. In the interval, all 16 of us were lined up and presented with a Diploma for our Shooting Match. The ladies were each presented with a Crystal Goblet inscribed with the insignia of the Norwegian Veterans' Ass., and a copy of the photo taken by the reporter of the Kongsvinger Newspaper. It snowed all day and all night.

Monday, and it was an early departure and luckily the snow ploughs had been out! We were given a wonderful send-off by all the occupants of the Home, and then in Oslo we were taken to one of the large hotels for a wonderful lunch. After the speeches of thanks and goodbye, the men of the party were each presented with a Flag Pennant of the Norwegian Veterans' Ass., with the name of his own R.B.L. branch inscribed on the base. Then, it was back to the coach and on to the Airport, and we were accompanied right up to the moment we entered the plane. At Heathrow, a coach was waiting to bring us back to Birmingham. And so ended a wonderful holiday.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS POSTBAG

From A.H. Mason, New Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand

It is very gratifying to know that we chaps have such a generous association looking after our needs and welfare. I am sure every member of St. Dunstan's does very much appreciate it.

I speak for myself really. I am now a widower, having lost my dear wife 18 months ago, and now on my own at 84. It is somewhat lonely, but thank goodness I am in excellent health, I have no shakes or shortage of breath, and am still able to walk a mile in 20 minutes. So I must thank God for that amount of health, and also for a little sight left to me.

I trust that this will find you and your board, and also all members of the association under your care well, and trust all the facilities and programs that you organise will be ever a success and joy to all. Thank you also for the magazine I receive by post. It is very interesting, especially as I am an Englishman, being born in Hackney, London, on the 16th of July, 1898, and having left England in 1922. I have never been back there, never able to afford the fares to and back, but never mind, if I did return I would not find anyone I knew, and the place has been so badly destroyed during the war that no doubt it would be hard to find any landmarks for me to recognise. So I am now at home in this country.

Once again sir, thank you, and hope all concerned will have a real happy and prosperous New Year and above all, I trust all will be here to answer roll call this time next year.

MR. KEN PHILLIPS

St. Dunstaners who enjoyed the hospitality of the Sussex Grocers' Association at their Christmas Dinner, or the annual summer outing, will be sorry to hear that the *Review* has learned, belatedly, of the death of Mr. Ken Phillips in a motor accident last October.

Mr. Phillips was associated with the Grocers' benevolence towards St. Dunstan's for many years, and was a welcome guest, in turn, at our reunions in Brighton.

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.

Mr. Thomas Henry Wilding of Bath, joined St. Dunstan's on 3rd February. He served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1934 until 1954, and worked in Industry until 1977. Mr. Wilding is 62 years of age, and a widower with an adult son and daughter.

Mr. Horace Sidney Mantle of Thornton Heath, joined St. Dunstan's on the 20th January. He is married with one adult daughter.

Mr. Mantle, who is 64 years of age, served as a Leading Stoker in the Royal Navy during the 2nd World War. He was wounded when H.M.S. *Electra* was sunk in the Java Sea, and subsequently became a Far East Prisoner of War.

Mr. Jesse Mills of Sevenoaks joined St. Dunstan's on 20th January.

He is 63 years of age, and is married with two adult sons. Mr. Mills served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers during the 2nd World War, and in December 1941 became a Prisoner of War of the Japanese in Hong Kong.

MOUNTAINEERING IN NORTH WALES

It is hoped that there will again be a mountaineering expedition this year, and should it transpire, it will take place on the weekend of Friday 11th to Monday 14th June. It is stressed that, should you be considering taking part, your general state of physical fitness should be above average. Usually, the accepted number for surveillance is six, therefore if there are more than that, a ballot will have to be made.

Anyone wishing to take part, should the event be arranged, please reply in the first instance to Sports Office, Ian Fraser House, not later than March 28th.

*J. Carnochan
Sports Organiser*

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1982

Once again we invite St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees **only** to apply for tickets in the *Review* Derby Sweepstake. Please remember that every application for tickets made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The tickets are 20p each and applications for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on Friday, 14th May. Each application must state the name and full address of the sender and the number of tickets required, and with a stamped addressed envelope must be sent to: The Editor, D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered.

Tickets will be issued consecutively and are limited to twenty-five.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and expenses, will be distributed as follows:

50 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

10 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

20 per cent to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on the 25th May, the Race being on 2nd June.

Norman Perry, of Grimsby, receiving the "Endeavour '81" Trophy from Peter Ward, Sports Editor of Radio Humber. The trophy is South Humber's new award for disabled people among its annual Sports Personality of the Year presentations. Norman was nominated by the Humber Mouth Yacht Club, where he competes in sailing dinghy racing with his son, and by his Archery Club.
Photo: Grimsby Evening Telegraph.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Stephen Jack, Finchley

May I crave the hospitality of your columns (and what a dear old-fashioned phrase that is!) to say how much I appreciate the references to me that have appeared therein? To add, moreover, that the recordings of Talking Books over nearly forty years, and our *Review* for the past five, have been among the most welcome tasks I have ever been invited to perform. Not only have I enjoyed the work, but my life has been enriched during these latter years by the warm friendship of many dozens of folk I might never otherwise have known; some of them I have met – more of them I have spoken to on the telephone – still more I may never meet – but I feel kinship with them that is well-nigh impossible to put into words. *We belong*. All I can add is that I hope I may be able (and permitted) to go on recording the *Review* for as long as my voice and sight hold out.

Thanks again for the compliments you have paid me – and God bless St. Dunstan's!

LLEWELLYN DAVIES RETIRES FROM MAYDAY HOSPITAL

St. Dunstaner Llew Davies of Purley retired on the 2nd January after nearly 35 years as a qualified Physiotherapist. Blinded in Italy during the 2nd World War, Llew came to St. Dunstan's in 1944 and, with some initial reluctance, began his training in Physiotherapy. His reluctance soon disappeared, and, having successfully passed his exams, he became full-time Physiotherapy instructor at St. Dunstan's in 1947. In 1948, he took up the post of Physiotherapist at Mayday Hospital Croydon, where he went on to become Assistant Superintendent. His retirement comes after 32 years at the hospital, and the occasion was marked with a party held there on January 6th, which was attended by many colleagues and friends, including several from the Streatham/Croydon Rugby Club, of which he has been Physiotherapist for many years. We join with them in wishing Llew all the best for a long and happy retirement.

ROYAL PATRON

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has honoured the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, by agreeing to become Royal Patron. The St. Dunstan's interest in this story is that it was Jimmy Wright who made the overtures to the Royal Family soon after Lady Diana's engagement to H.R.H. Prince Charles. Jimmy is particularly pleased for the Royal School, as he understands that the Princess accepted only five patronages out of 150 applications!

Jimmy, who is now a member of the General Committee of the Governing Body, made an appeal film for the Royal School to help finance improvements to the buildings. Phase 1 will be ready in April and will include married quarters, and two young blind people featured in his film, Sue and Graham, who are getting married soon, will be the first occupants.

NEW YEAR HONOUR

We offer warm congratulations to *Douglas Howard* of Cwmbran, on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list. The medal was awarded for his work as an Appeals Organiser for the Royal National Institute for the Blind in Wales.

TRIP TO ISRAEL, 1983

Although the trip to Israel in May, 1981 was a strenuous one, it was enjoyed by all those who took part. I am thinking of organising a similar, but less demanding trip again to Israel in May/June 1983. The rough plan in mind is to spend one week in Jerusalem, and one in Natania, which is on the coast just North of Tel Aviv. There would probably be two organised visits each week, the remainder of the time being free for sun bathing, swimming, and individual sightseeing. The cost would probably be between £250 and £350 per person.

Many people do not like planning so far ahead, but it does take time to collect names. Without any commitment, would those interested please contact me at HQ by the end of March. Friends may be invited. I shall need at least 20 people to make the trip viable.

R. Hazan



Above: Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme greet Mr. Rossi at Ian Fraser House. Also in the the welcoming group are Dr. Stilwell, Mr. Weisblatt, and Mr. Conway.

Below: In the training kitchen, the Minister meets Blodwyn Simon and Mrs. P. Durie, cookery instructor.



MINISTER OF STATE VISITS ST. DUNSTAN'S

Report and pictures:
David Castleton

Despite the railway strike, and after postponement due to pressure of Parliamentary business, the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, Mr. Hugh Rossi, visited St. Dunstan's Homes in Brighton on January 27th.

Mr. Rossi revealed that he was, in fact, a long-term friend of St. Dunstan's. He recalled the time he spent as a boy with the late Bert Crabtree, a St. Dunstaner who died in 1962, and who worked as a Telephonist in St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park H.Q. from 1935 until his retirement in 1960.

The visit began at Ian Fraser House, where Mr. Rossi and his Private Secretary, Melanie Smith, were greeted by the Chairman and Mrs. Garnett-Orme, Mr. William Weisblatt, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, Dr. Ray Stilwell, Medical Officer and Administrator and Mr. Simon Conway, Deputy Administrator.

After coffee, the party toured the Training Wings, where Mr. Rossi met St. Dunstaner Blodwyn Simon, who was on a cookery course in the Training Kitchen. In the Handicrafts Room, the Minister found a group of St. Dunstaners involved in various courses, and he was particularly interested in a conversation with Wally Thomas, through instructor, Mrs. Hinton, who translated into the Deaf-Blind Manual alphabet.



Above: Eric Bradshaw demonstrating wrought-iron work.

Below: A translation for Wally Thomas by Mrs. L. Hinton.





Charles Campkin explains to the Minister and to our Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, the treatment he is giving to Tom Flaherty.

The two basic means of communication, Typing and Braille, were the next items on the training tour and Mr. Rossi met and talked with Mrs. Locke and her trainee, Trevor Phillips, in the Typing Room and with Phil Duffee, Braille Instructor and himself a St. Dunstaner.

In the workshops, St. Dunstaners on hobby training in wrought-iron and picture framing demonstrated their skills and Mr. Rossi was particularly interested in the sports facilities in the Annexe: the indoor Bowling Green and Swimming Pool.

After lunch and a brief word with St. Dunstaners in the lounge, Mr. Rossi went on to Pearson House to be met by Matron Goodwin. The first call here was on Charles Campkin in his physiotherapy department, where he was treating St. Dunstaners, Tom Flaherty and Bob Page.

The Minister met Sisters and Staff in the first floor Sick Bay, and chatted to St. Dunstaners including Roy Hyett, Howard Cramphorn, Harry Smith, Tim Gaiger and Tom Floyd. In the residential wing, Mr. Rossi

visited St. Dunstaners Freddie Matthewson and Harry Boorman in their rooms. The visit ended in the Winter Garden, where Mr. Rossi and the other members of the party took tea with St. Dunstaners, to a short, impromptu recital on Pearson House's recently acquired pianola, which is already a popular feature.

The Minister made brief, informal speeches at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House. On both occasions, he expressed his pleasure at the opportunity of visiting St. Dunstan's, and told his audiences that he had known about St. Dunstan's since, as a boy of eight, he had been neighbour to a St. Dunstaner, the late Bert Crabtree. "I visited St. Dunstan's with him", said Mr. Rossi, "and he also taught me to play cards." Mr. Rossi said he still kept in touch with Mrs. Crabtree.

He concluded by referring to the debt owed by the community to St. Dunstaners for the sacrifices they had made in the defence of this country in the two world wars, and in service at other times.

Wireless for the Blind Fund

This year, Mr. John Colligan, C.B.E., Director-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind from 1950 to 1972, relinquished another post he has held during a distinguished career in blind welfare — that of Secretary of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

At a very pleasant luncheon at the White House in London, attended by Mr. Duncan Watson, Chairman, R.N.I.B., Mr. E. Venn, Director-General, and many other friends, Mr. and Mrs. Colligan received retirement gifts from the hands of Mr. Richard Baker, whose appeals for the Fund on Radio have been so successful.

Mr. Baker said of Mr. Colligan that he had brought to his work for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund over more than thirty years, not only the desire to be of help to others, but a business-like approach which had seen the Fund prosper under his direction.

In expressing his thanks, Mr. Colligan told his audience of the beginnings of the Fund, when the late Sir Beachcroft Towse, Chairman of the then National Institute for the Blind, and himself blinded in the South African war, had been visited in hospital by Ian Fraser and Sir Washington Ranger. Hearing that he found hospital days tedious, the

visitors returned to set up a wireless for him, earthing it to the radiator!

On his discharge, Sir Beachcroft Towse said he had found the wireless so valuable that he felt a fund should be set up to provide wireless sets for all blind people who needed them. The trio approached the B.B.C., who agreed to broadcast an appeal on Christmas Day. The first was made by Sir Winston Churchill, and Mr. Colligan concluded his speech with Sir Winston's words on that occasion, when he urged listeners to make it possible to boast that: "The blind all have wireless sets. It is the custom of the country".

Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme wrote to Mr. Colligan:

May I, on behalf of our Council and personally, send you St. Dunstan's appreciation and good wishes upon your retirement from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

We all know of your long working relationship with Lord Fraser and many others in this very special field. The established success of the Fund and the tremendous pleasure and help it has given to blind people in this country owe so much to your guidance through the years and must be a great source of satisfaction to you.

SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL DATES

In addition to the St. Dunstan's Annual calendar of events for 1982, please add the following information from the SRO, RNIB. Interested participants should make their own enquiries to the respective organisers as listed.

Date	Event	Venue	Enquiries to
Apr.30-3 May	Camping Weekend	Lyndhurst, Hants	Sec HACB 4, Southgate St. Winchester, Hants.
May 29-6 June	Camping/Hiking Week	Totnes, Devon	Sec. HACB, as above
June 25-27	Camping Weekend	Lyndhurst, Hants	Sec. HACB, as above
July 10	Metro Athletics Championships	Woodford, Essex	A. Wetherly, 38 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey.
July 23-25	Gardeners' Weekend	Moreton Morrell	R. Cove, SWRAB, 55 Eton Ave., London NW3 3ET.
July 24-31	Foreign Holiday	Rhineland, Germany	Sec. HACB, as above
Aug. 28-4 Sept.	Family Camp	Farnham, Surrey	Sec., HACB, as above
Oct. 8-10	Social Weekend	Wickham, Hants	Sec. HACB, as above

J. Carnochan
Sports Organiser

ELECTRIC ORGANS

In our *December Review*, we gave suggestions as to how to fill a Christmas stocking and empty a bank balance. Although we hope that the icy climes of the recent past are well behind us, we now propose a means of whiling away those wintry afternoons and evenings by making music. Modern electronics have created sophisticated organ keyboards, some of which almost exclude the human player! Many will claim that it removes the challenge, and certainly the skill. But if it means that there is music where there was silence before, is that not justification?

There are several makes, Yamaha, Hammond, Viscount, Casio and Lowry. Prices vary from £35 to £8000. In order not to cloud the issue, it is proposed to give details of the Yamaha range only, up to £450. This boils down to two ranges of 3 models, the PS-1, -2 and -3, from £89 to £169, and the PS-10, -20 and -30, from £249 to £449.

All models have a 3-way power system: 6 x 1.5v batteries, mains adaptor, or 12v car battery adaptor.

PS-1: £89

Dimensions: 17" x 5½" x 2¼" Weight: 2.6 lbs. 32 keys, 4 voices (organ, string, clarinet, piano), sustain (this prolongs the note) and Auto Rhythm (a percussion sound effect will automatically play waltz, swing, rock or latin rhythm).

PS-2: £139

Dimensions: 19" x 5½" x 2¼" Weight: 3.1 lbs. 37 keys, 5 voices, sustain, 4 auto rhythms, and easy-play Bass chord system, which enables you to play chords, bass line, and rhythm accompaniment, using just one finger.

PS-3: £169

Dimensions: 22" x 5½" x 2¼" Weight: 3.3 lbs. 44 keys, 9 voices (usual plus flute, brass, guitar and vibraphone), sustain, 4 auto rhythms, and easy-play Auto Bass chord system.

N.B. The keys on the above models are much smaller than piano keys.

PS-10: £249

Dimensions: 30¾" x 11½" x 3¾" Weight: 12.4 lbs.

44 keys, 6 voices, sustain, 4 auto rhythms, single finger chord, with built-in memory (chord will continue to play at selected rhythm tempo after finger is removed). Optional expression pedal. 5 watt speaker.

PS-20: £299

Dimensions: 33¾" x 11½" x 3¾"

Weight: 13.5 lbs.

49 keys, 10 voices, sustain, 8 Auto Rhythms (as PS-1, plus Disco, Tango, Rhumba and Samba) plus 8-bar variations. Auto arpeggio. Auto Bass section—normal, single finger chord, fingered chord, memory, multi-bass (will play selected chords in automatic sequence). 5 watt speaker.

PS-30: £349

Dimensions: 33¾" x 11½" x 3¾"

Weight: 13.9 lbs.

49 keys. All features of PS-20, plus solo instrument selectors and orchestral selectors.

We have not described every single feature, but all models have volume control, controls to balance rhythm and solo sections, rhythm tempo control, plus sockets for headphones and connection to hi-fi unit.

N.B. Controls are not large and are close together. In the case of PS-10, -20 and -30 the press-down selector switches have dual positions.

Optional extras: stand, bench, carrying case, power adaptor.

HOW TO FIND OUT A LADY'S AGE:

Ask her to:

Pick any number from 1 to 9.

Multiply by 2,

Add 5,

Multiply by 50,

Add 1732 to the total,

And lastly, subtract the year she was born.

The answer will be a 3-figure number: the first being the number she chose to start, and the last two being her age this year.

ANOTHER BRAIN TEASER FROM ALAN NOAKES

If it takes 2 secs. for a clock to strike 2, how long will it take to strike 3? (Answer on page 17)

SPONSORS FOR SIR DOUGLAS BADER REQUIRED

Many people will have great regard for Sir Douglas Bader, who has been a great champion on behalf of disabled ex-servicemen. His story, "Reach for the Sky", has inspired many who have found themselves in a similar position, having lost one or more limbs.

At the age of 72, Sir Douglas has kindly agreed to take part in the Mancunian Golf Tournament. All monies received in sponsorship will go to fund research into Osteoarthritis in Manchester. It is estimated that Sir Douglas would score between 20 and 30 points, thus a sponsorship of 5p per point will cost between £1 and £1.50. St. Dunstaners Frank Hamilton and John Kerfoot will also be playing. Anyone willing to sponsor any of the above-mentioned should send their offer to Frank Hamilton, c/o Town Hall, Manchester.

D.F. Robinson's

Gardening Column

Spring is with us now, I hope, after more winter conditions not long before I wrote these notes out, and I have most heartfelt sympathy for you in Wales, who have had an awful time in the last batch of arctic weather. I hope that you haven't been cut off, had burst pipes and no electricity.

This is the real start of operations in the garden with the sowing of seed in all parts of the garden, but do go by the conditions, if you have no greenhouse, to keep the weather at bay. Frames can be a blessing, but do keep the covers on at night, especially if frost is forecast. Concrete slab paths and crazy paving can be laid or repairs made to the paths affected by the winter conditions. Here again, wait till the soil dries off a bit before starting, and do it when there is a spell with no rain and plenty of sun about.

Vegetables

Carry on the digging over of empty beds and give the top soil of those already done a raking over to make a fine tilth ready for planting and sowing of seeds, when the conditions are suitable. Keep the hoe going regularly where there are growing crops

such as Spring greens, early Peas and Broad Beans. Seeds of all kinds can be sown outdoors where the crops are to be grown to maturity or on a seed bed for transplanting well-grown seedlings later on, more especially if there are some failures in the first sowings. Where Broad Beans and Peas are growing well, put some stakes in and tie string to the stakes along the rows at various heights. Peas will need more string or plastic netting so that they can ramble and keep off the ground. Broad Bean stakes need to be more sturdy and taller as the plants are heavier and the pods pretty large. When sowing all seeds in the soil, dust the soil with a soil insecticide such as Bromophos, which I have found very good. Dip the roots of the Cabbage family in Calomel paste if there is a tendency to have Club Root trouble. The best way is to have a rotation of crops in the vegetable patch so that you don't grow the same vegetable three years in the same patch.

Lawns

The grass will be starting to make good growth now, so get the mower out and give it a trial with the blades set fairly high. Put a bit of fertiliser plus weedkiller over the lawn in moist weather and bare patches can be raked over and some extra soil added before you sow new seed. One can start a new lawn now with the aid of seed, especially where you have found that the vegetable patch has become a bit more than you can manage, and convert it into grass. Do roll down and then rake over before putting in the seed. Remember to put some netting a few inches over the patch or criss-cross string on small stakes to keep off the birds. Some seed is supposed to be dressed with a bird repellent but I am not so sure that it is very effective.

Fruit

This is the last period till next autumn to put in new fruit trees and complete all the pruning which was not done due to the severe weather. When you have to cut or saw away branches, brush on a compound such as Abrex to prevent mould and other disease entering the main trunk of the tree. Spray all fruit trees and bushes with a mite and mildew deterrent and there are many of these on the market, but I still think that Lime Sulphur is one of the best, especially against Big Bud on Black Currants. Do have on some

protective clothing, with a hat or cap, no matter what spray you are using, plus a pair of gloves, and when completed give yourself a good wash off in case some has penetrated your protection. Wash over the utensils with a good solution of soap and water. It would also be advisable to keep your pets out of the way whilst you are doing the job and away from the area for a few days afterwards.

Flowers

The main item on the programme here will be the pruning of all types of Roses and don't be afraid to cut back heavily to an out-facing bud and keep the centres of the bushes open so that light and air can penetrate. Remember that the very vigorous growing Roses, such as the Floribundas, like Peace and Queen Elizabeth, will not need quite such heavy pruning as the Hybrid T's. Wear a pair of good, thick gardening gloves as, despite all their glory from scent and colour, Roses can be spiteful when their thorns stick into one's fingers and hands. It is better to put the prunings aside for burning rather than on the compost heap as they will take an awful long time to break down. A spray with a good insecticide will help to control mites, and also put on a fungicide such as Captan or Benlate as a measure against Black Spot. Where you can get some well rotted farm manure, give the bushes a mulch round the roots and this will not only give the Roses a build up, but may even control any Black Spot spores which overwintered on dead leaves, etc. Get on with the cutting back of all your shrubs, some of the very old ones given a very good cutting back as this will induce better growth of new wood for good colour later on. Many of the hardy annuals can be sown where they are to flower, but those of you in the North had better wait a bit longer. The same can be said of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Gladioli, Anemone etc. Rock plants can be propagated by division towards the end of the month. Tidy up the borders, and where you have rather large clumps of some perennials such as Lupins, Delphiniums and the like, split them up as soon as new growth appears at ground level. Put a spade through the clumps and then fork up each piece with a good amount of soil round each piece to be transplanted. These transplants will probably give you better colour later in the season. Do remember to water them in

thoroughly. Keep the hoe going regularly so that the weeds are cut down as soon as they appear, and fork over the whole area and use a rake on the places where you are to sow or put in seedlings of hardy annuals later on.

Greenhouse

A real start can be made here, especially if you have some heating so it can be used for sowing all types of seed, both for pot plants and the summer garden. All the summer annuals can be started off from seed by sowing in troughs of a good seed compost. Many of these are on the market now with Peat and Sand, or you can make up your own with Peat and Sand plus fertilisers. As I have said before, I can send you a pamphlet giving all the right amounts to make up seed sowing, growing on and potting composts, so let me know at H.Q. through Mrs. O'Reilly if you want the details. Don't sow the seeds too deep, giving a covering amounting to about the thickness of the seed. Fine, dust-like seeds need no covering at all, but just to be pressed into the top of the compost. I find it easier when sowing this type of seed to put a little silver sand in the packet and shake it about and then sow, since you will get a better distribution. Ensure that the compost is moist but not too wet when sowing and then spray with water from a fine watering can or hand sprayer. Put a cover of glass or plastic, plus some paper, and place over the source of heat. Nearly all seeds give better germination when light is cut off from them, but take the paper away when they start to shoot up. Remember to turn the glass over each day and wipe the surface to stop droplets going onto the seeds. Most seeds take from 14 to 21 days for germination. Prick out the seedlings, when they have got a couple of true leaves, into a growing on compost, spacing each seedling about 2 inches apart, give them a watering in and keep in a warm spot till they have made good growth, when they can be hardened off in a frame or even a shed with good lighting but well away from frosts. Start off all the tubers, if not already done, putting them just below the surface in compost or peat and watering in. The main crop of Tomatoes and Cucumbers can be started from seed but don't overdo the numbers sown, which I tend to do, unless you want to place some outdoors in the vegetable garden, when it would be better to have the dwarf types.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Results of Individual Competition played on Jan. 16th, 1982.

1st	W. Lethbridge	78
2nd	W. Phillips	71
3rd	R. Goding	70
4th	P. McCormack	69
5th	R. Fullard	66
6th	C. Walters	63
7th	J. Whitcombe	62
	M. Clements	62
9th	M. Tybinski	61
10th	R. Evans	59
11th	H. Preedy	57

National Christmas Bridge Drive

The National Bridge Drive and party was held at Headquarters on Dec. 19th. It was well attended, and many players travelled long distances despite the atrocious weather.

Roy Armstrong ably directed the bridge session, gift distribution and the party.

When the bridge was completed, we partook of an excellent tea, prepared by Mr. & Mrs. Dickson and Hilda. We thank them for all the hard work and effort on our behalf.

The results of the Bridge Drive were as follows:

1st	R. Armstrong & P. Lynch
2nd	M. Tybinski & Molly
3rd	V. Delaney & Frances
4th	R. Freer & Madelaine.

Prizes were presented by Mrs. Roy Armstrong, wife of our retiring Captain.

After the distribution of the gifts, we made our way down to the lounge and had an evening's entertainment of singing and dancing and liquid refreshment. The latter was supplied by Mr. Roy Armstrong, and we thank him for his kind gesture. And so ended 1981 year's Bridge, on a happy note.

Bill Allen
Secretary

Answer to Alan Noakes' teaser: 4 secs. (because 2 secs. elapse between each strike).

MIDLAND

For the news from the Midland Club, we have to go back to December '81. On December 5th we held our Annual Christmas dinner once again at the Royal British Legion, Northfield. As always when we visit the Legion, we were made very welcome by the President and members. We sat down to enjoy a splendid Christmas dinner, which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all, after which Joe Kibbler made a vote of thanks to all members of the Legion. We then sorted ourselves out, those wishing to have a chat and drink retired to the lounge, leaving the others in the ballroom to join in with the elder members of the Legion for what was a great night, going home at midnight.

December 13th was the date fixed for the Club's Christmas Party but, due to adverse weather conditions, it had to be cancelled until our January meeting. Once again, due to weather this had to be cancelled; we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to carry out our plans for the party in February, with the distribution of the prizes won for Dominoes in '81.

Elizabeth Tomporowski

At this point, I must say how sad we all are at the Club to hear of the death of Elizabeth, wife of our St. Dunstaner, Bruno Tomporowski. Our deepest sympathy goes to him and his daughter Anna. I know that Elizabeth will be missed very much at the Club, especially amongst the wives, as she was such a great help and a very willing person to help all she could with the catering arrangements at every monthly meeting.

Going into 1982, the Midland Club sends (belated!) best wishes for the New Year to all St. Dunstaners and wives, and if there are any ex-members, or new St. Dunstaners who would like to come along to Club Meetings, they would be made very welcome. We meet every second Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. at Birmingham United Services Club, Broad St., opposite the Hall of Memory.

W. Faulkner

BRIDGE COMPETITION AT IAN FRASER HOUSE, MAY 7TH-9TH

Will all players who wish to attend and stay at Ian Fraser House for this event please book with Headquarters in London for their accommodation as soon as possible. Any local competitors who are staying at home but are competing daily please inform Bill Phillips, Tel: Brighton 33003. I hope you will support this event and Good Luck!

Pairs for January, which were cancelled due to the bad weather, will be played on November 14th, 1982.

Bill Phillips

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Collingwood of Newcastle-under-Lyme, on the marriage of their youngest daughter, Dorothy, to Mr. Ernest Poggia on the 22nd December, 1981.

John and Beryl Whitcombe of Eastbourne, who are happy to announce the marriage of their son, Stephen, to Lesley Jordan of Welling, on September 26th, 1981.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Boughton of Northampton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on the 13th December, 1981. They marked this occasion with a family luncheon party at a local hotel.

Mr. Tom Daborn and his wife, Emma, of Barnstaple, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 11th February.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Cummings, of Verwood, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 26th March.

Mr. George Eustace and his wife, Ada, of Chessington, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 6th February.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey, of Southampton, who are pleased to announce the birth of their 11th grandchild, Stephen James, born on the 12th November to their son and daughter-in-law, John and Jenny.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Watson of Aldridge, Staffs. who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, Shaun, born to the Watson's daughter, Lesley and her husband Mark, on the 14th January.

John and Beryl Whitcombe of Eastbourne, who are happy to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Sarah Louise, born to their son, Tony, and his wife, Angela on the 27th December, 1981.

GREAT GRANDCHILD

Congratulations to:

Mr. John Jiggle of Great Barford, on the arrival of a second great-grandson, Krystopher Alex, born on the 23rd December, to his grandson, Michael, and his wife.

BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to:

Mr. W.G. Medhurst, of Horsham, who celebrated his 90th birthday on 26th December, 1981.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Ken Revis of Oxford, on becoming a Companion of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Ken has reason to be proud of his achievement, as there are never more than 50 Companions on the list.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Charles Bargery of Aylesbury, on the death of his wife, Audrey, on the 29th January. Happily, Charles and Audrey had been able to enjoy their Golden Wedding Anniversary together on the 14th January, when they celebrated with a family party.

Janet, wife of *Edgar Bull* of Southampton, whose father passed away suddenly in January.

DEATHS—continued

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. Mary Giles, wife of our St. Dunstaner, *Theo Giles*, of Saltdean, whose father passed away suddenly on New Year's Eve.

Mrs. K.M. Holman of Thetford, on the death of one of her sons in January, following a long illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Homewood, of Bury St. Edmunds, on the sudden death of their son-in-law, Albert, which occurred on the 12th January, as a result of an accident at his place of work. He leaves a widow, Wendy and a small child.

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.

R.J. Aldridge, Middlesex Regiment

Ralph John Aldridge, of Westcliffe-on-Sea, died suddenly at his home on the 10th January. He was 64, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1979.

Mr. Aldridge served with the Middlesex Regiment as a regular soldier and was taken prisoner in Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941. He remained a prisoner of war until the end of the war and his sight was affected by malnutrition and privation. He was able to continue working, however, until 1979, when he finally retired soon after his admission to St. Dunstan's. He greatly enjoyed his visits to Ian Fraser House and the F.E.P.O.W. Reunions, and will be missed by many old comrades.

He leaves a widow, Dorothy, and stepdaughter, to whom we extend our condolences.

L.A. Bruton, 6th Worcesters

Leslie Alfred Bruton, of Preston, Lancs., passed away in hospital on the 10th January. He was 85 years old.

He enlisted early in the First World War, was commissioned and served until 1919. He had retired from his work as an engineer by the time his sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1976. He and his wife had been comfortably settled in Birmingham for many years and they continued to live there. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 1979, but Mrs. Bruton's health failed in the next year and she died that December. He then went to live with his son and daughter-in-law in Preston and enjoyed visits to Ian Fraser House. He had a fall at home just before Christmas and was admitted to hospital, but was doing well and looking forward to convalescing at Pearson House, when he died very peacefully.

He leaves a son, Jack, daughter-in-law and their family.

Mr. F. Madgwick of Crawley, on the death of his sister after a period of illness.

John Mulligan of Derrygonnelly, N. Ireland, whose wife, Sheila, passed away on the 3rd February.

Miss Margaret Paterson of Chessington, on the death of her brother on January 4th.

Bruno Tomporowski of Wolverhampton, on the death of his wife, Elizabeth, who passed away on the 17th January. They have a daughter, Anna, who is sixteen years old and still attending college.

C. Gladding, 9th London Regiment

Mr. Cyril Gladding, of Wickford, Essex, passed away on the 26th January at home. He was 84 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1969.

Mr. Gladding served in the 9th London Regiment as a Rifleman and was wounded in 1916 when he lost his right eye. Mr. Gladding was a shopkeeper for many years but latterly his health deteriorated and he was cared for devotedly by his sister after his wife died. He managed to make an almost annual visit to our Homes, where he will be remembered by the Staff and his fellow St. Dunstaners.

We extend our condolences to his sister, Mrs. Tilly.

E.S. Hirst, Yorks. and Lancs. and Labour Corps.

Edward Seddon Hirst of Rotherham passed away on the 7th January at Ian Fraser House, where he had been staying for the Christmas and New Year Holiday. He was 88, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1974.

Mr. Hirst enlisted in the Yorks. and Lancs at the beginning of the First World War, and was wounded whilst on active service at Cambrai. He was then transferred to the Labour Corps and after his discharge from the Army, in March 1919, our St. Dunstaner worked first as a steelworker in a local foundry and then as a groundsman with the Local Education Authority and he retired at the age of 66.

Sadly, Mr. Hirst lost his wife in 1972, but he had a wide circle of friends and enjoyed local social clubs. He spent a number of holidays at Ian Fraser House and also enjoyed caravanning holidays with friends.

Our sympathy goes to Mr. Hirst's son, Frederick, who lives in British Columbia, and his sister, Mrs. Whybrow.

In Memory *continued*

P.R. Longden, 2/12th Australian Field Regiment

Captain Pat Longden, of Beaumaris, Victoria, Australia, passed away on the 20th December, 1981. He was 66 years old.

Pat Longden served from 1940 to 1945 and was injured by blast, with consequent damage to his eyes. He was a St. Dunstaner for 15 years and Hon. Secretary/Treasurer of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's (Australia) from 1975 to 1979. In recent years, he and his wife had travelled extensively abroad, visiting this country in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1981. He became very seriously ill towards the end of last year and died at home.

He leaves a widow, Joy, their family and many friends.

E.W. Myles, R.A.F.

Mr. Edward William Myles, formerly of Teddington, but resident at Pearson House since 1972, passed away in our Home on 27th January. He was in his 80th year and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1947.

In 1941, Mr. Myles enlisted in the Royal Air Force and was discharged with the rank of Corporal in 1945, following a severe injury to his left eye whilst on active service. Two years later the sight in his other eye was affected and in subsequent years our St. Dunstaner spent long periods in hospital in unsuccessful attempts to regain some useful vision.

Mr. Myles undertook a period of training in basket-work and then commenced trading on his own account from a workshop in his garden. As private orders declined, he continued to provide a quota for our Stores until a few years ago, which was of a consistently high standard. He was also a very keen gardener.

Our St. Dunstaner and his wife, Nellie, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in July 1970, but unfortunately Mrs. Myles passed away in 1973. They had no children.

We extend our condolences to his nephews, great-nephews, and all members of the family.

J. Pearson, King's Own Scottish Borderers

James Pearson of Manchester passed away at his home on the 6th January. He was 93, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1916.

Mr. Pearson enlisted at the outbreak of the 1st World War in the King's Own Scottish Borderers and attained the rank of Sergeant. Whilst on active service overseas, he was wounded in December 1916 at Le Sers and immediately admitted to St. Dunstan's for training.

Initially, Mr. Pearson went into business as a boot repairer, but he preferred an open-air life and, after a course in poultry farming, moved to Rochdale, where he successfully ran a small-holding for six years. For a while, our St.

Dunstaner returned to joinery, as he had been in the building trade prior to enlisting in the Army, but on retiring, he took up rugmaking and worked for our Stores.

Unfortunately, his wife passed away in 1965, and in 1971 he had the additional misfortune of the death of his older son. Whilst living independently in his own home, our St. Dunstaner was devotedly cared for by his daughter, Edith, with assistance from other members of his family.

We extend our condolences to Mrs. Edith Higgitt, her sister and brother, and all members of the family.

E. Philpot, Norfolk Regiment

Edward Philpot, formerly of Romford and resident at Pearson House since April 1981, passed away in our Home on 11th January, just a week before his 90th birthday. He was unmarried.

Mr. Philpot enlisted as a Private in the Norfolk Regiment in January 1914 and, whilst on active service abroad during the 1st World War, was seriously wounded in the head at Hill 60 in 1915. This resulted in the loss of one eye and over the years the sight in his remaining eye so deteriorated that he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1973.

From 1974, Mr. Philpot went to live with his good friends and neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Barton, who cared for him devotedly until our St. Dunstaner went to Pearson House as a permanent resident. Whilst residing with them in Romford, Mr. Philpot spent many happy hours at Ian Fraser House and he will be greatly missed by many fellow St. Dunstaners and members of our staff.

We extend our sympathy to his brother, Edgar, his nephew, and all members of the family, as well as to his good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Barton.

G.L. Rees, 12th Welsh Regiment

George Lewis Rees of Port Talbot passed away on the 13th January in the Royal Sussex hospital, where he had been admitted from Pearson House during a convalescent stay. He was 89, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1977.

Mr. Rees served as a Private in the 12th Welsh Regiment during the 1st World War and lost the sight of his right eye after an illness contracted whilst on active service in the Dardenelles. After his discharge in 1919, our St. Dunstaner worked as a clerk in a local colliery and retired at the age of 67.

Mr. Rees's health unfortunately declined and he then lost the sight of his left eye and suffered a stroke. He was married with two daughters and he and his wife celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in April, 1980.

Mrs. Mary Rees nursed her husband devotedly during his ill health and to her, and their two daughters, Mrs. Betty Lewis and Mrs. Nancy King, we offer our deepest sympathy.