

# St Dunstons Review May 1982





## Message from the Chairman

### St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society

St. Dunstan's radio amateurs, through their Secretary, Mr. Ted John, invited my wife and me to join them on Saturday, 20th March, for the lunch which they held at Ian Fraser House during their special week-end.

Afterwards, we attended the very interesting lecture given by Mr. Ron Ham with his own museum exhibits of morse keys used in wireless transmitting from the earliest days. The thought then struck me how delighted Lord Fraser would have been to know of the continuing enthusiasm for this fascinating and valuable hobby. He was, of course, one of the first 'hams' himself, playing a leading part in obtaining recognition for amateur radio, and he would have been so pleased that St. Dunstan's own club was going from strength to strength. Many blinded men find it an excellent hobby for several reasons, not least perhaps that contacts with their friends around the world are often in the night-time hours.

We had a delightful lunch and altogether a fascinating day, when we were able to meet members and their wives, and it gave me much pleasure to present the G3MOW trophy to Mr. Len Wooller for the great help he had given to the Society during the year. It was very nice also to be able to thank all our friends in the Brighton area, who do so much to encourage and assist us in this special activity as well as in many other ways.

To all St. Dunstan's amateur radio enthusiasts and their good friends—Best 73's!

*Jon Lamell-Dunn*

### GOOD LUCK

We learn that Lieutenant-Commander David Perfect is serving in H.M.S. Hermes, the Flagship of the fleet sailing to the Falkland Islands. He is the son of our St. Dunstan Mr. John Perfect and Mrs. Perfect of Yealmpton. All St. Dunstaners will wish to join in wishing him good luck in the enterprise and a safe return.

### RNIB'S SHORT DOCUMENT SERVICE.

The RNIB provides a rapid Braille transcription service for short documents for blind people, and has recently made some improvements to the service. Each customer's allowance is now 50 Braille pages per job—jobs of greater length can occasionally be accepted—and 150 pages in a 3 month period. The number of duplicated copies is increased to 150 pages a month. Shorter jobs can now be turned round in a week. Reprints of documents of general interest are allowed, and they hope to publish a quarterly list of these documents so all customers can use them.

### RNIB'S NEW PRICE LIST.

The RNIB have brought out their latest Price List of over 400 articles specially designed or adapted for the blind, which are on sale at subsidised prices to blind people. The Price List is free, and is available in print or in Braille. Anyone wishing to have their name on the mailing list, to receive copies as they are published, should contact:

Sales Department, RNIB, 224 Great Portland St., London W1N 6AA.

Tel: 01-388 1266/2706

### Pensions and Allowances

With effect from the week commencing the 21st November, War Disablement Pensions, Retirement Pensions, Disablement Pensions, Social Security Benefits and most Allowances allied to these are all to be increased by the Government by 11%.

The October issue of the Review will contain a supplement carrying more information.

### MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

Those St. Dunstaners, their wives and St. Dunstaners' widows, who are in receipt of the Mobility Allowance, and who pay Income Tax, will have heard that Mobility Allowance has been exempted from the Tax from the 6th April, 1982. This has been brought about by a High Court decision in a particular case and, also as a result of that case, persons who received the Allowance during tax years 1975/76 to 1978/79 and who pay Tax, are eligible for a refund of the Tax paid. This could be done automatically but interested persons are advised to claim the refund before the 31st December next by writing to their Local Inspectors of Taxes.

### Percy Stubbs of Norwich

writes that he is a frequent traveller to Brighton for bowling events, etc., and upon his return journey recently, he had the bad luck to have a suitcase stolen at Victoria. The police told him that cases at Victoria Station are stolen every five minutes of the day, and Percy feels it would be advisable for other travellers to be aware of this risk and arrange for their luggage to be covered by insurance.

# St Dunstons Review

No. 740

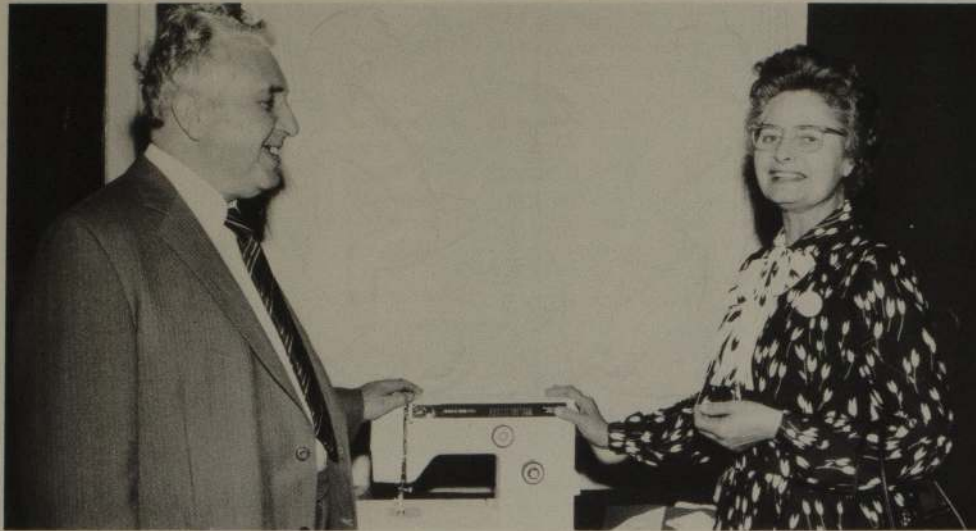
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Cover Picture: A fall for Peter Watson at Judo practice. see 'Getting Into the Black' on page 8.



Yvonne Lyall and Tommy Bice after the presentation.

## SOUTHAMPTON REUNION

The Polygon Hotel, Southampton, was the setting for the first of the 1982 Reunions, on April 3rd, and the Reunion was the scene for an affectionate farewell for Mrs. Yvonne Lyall, retiring Welfare Visitor in the area. Thirty three St. Dunstaners, including one woman, Mrs. Dorothy Martin, attended with their escorts. Altogether, eighty four people sat down to lunch under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Dufton, himself a St. Dunstaner, a member of our Council, and Consultant on Research. Mrs. Dufton accompanied her husband.

Speaking after an excellent lunch, Mr. Dufton welcomed everybody to the Reunion on behalf of the Council, mentioning particularly three widows, Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Nicholls, and Mrs. White.

Mr. Dufton brought his audience up to date with the numbers of St. Dunstaners world-wide. In the United Kingdom, there are 165 men who lost their sight in the First World War, and 65 overseas, making a total of 230. From the Second World War and subsequent campaigns, there are 811 in the U.K., and 432 overseas, making a total of 1243. Altogether, there are now 1473 St. Dunstaners at home and in the Commonwealth. Mention of the Commonwealth brought Mr. Dufton to a famous St. Dunstaner from New Zealand, the late Sir Clutha McKenzie, and his contribution to the international spread of Braille, through

his work in India and Asia. "By 1950, Sir Clutha had been invited to become consultant to UNESCO, and his work, 'World Braille Usage', has remained a standard reference work in many languages over all those years.", said Mr. Dufton. "UNESCO is putting up money now to bring his work up to date. It is a contribution that is sometimes overlooked, but it was an enormous achievement".

Turning to research, Mr. Dufton recalled his visit to Germany with Norman French, to discuss the problems of the multi-handicapped, and to offer aids developed by St. Dunstan's. He referred to the part played by the St. Dunstan's sponsored evaluation of the ultra-sonic torch guidance device, in leading to the introduction of the long cane technique in this country, and the important role played by St. Dunstaner, Walter Thornton, in promoting the use of the long cane in this country, where now some 3- or 4,000 people use it. "In sensory researches, particularly reading aids, we have kept you informed through the *Review*", he said. "At any moment, if research were needed in a special area, I am sure the Council would consider it very carefully. I mention this because today, if you listen to the radio, you might think we work in isolation and do not pass the information on. We are prepared at all times to make the results of our experience and our

research available to all, and I think the results show that we have done just that. I think your attendance here today is a manifestation of your loyalty and your faith in the organisation that has re-shaped all our lives."

Mr. Tommy Bice rose to propose the vote of thanks to St. Dunstan's—he referred especially to the members of staff and to the wives of St. Dunstaners. "I often think what we would have been like if it had been the Boer War we were blinded in. What a terrible thought to be sitting at home, doing nothing." After expressing thanks to the staff of the Polygon Hotel, Tommy Bice had a word of welcome for Mrs. Vivien Jackson, the new Welfare Visitor, who had arranged the reunion. He then turned to Mrs. Yvonne Lyall, retiring Welfare Visitor, to make the formal presentation of the St. Dunstaners gift to her, a sewing machine and dress-making materials: "I will say one thing" he said, "No matter what the weather was like, if Mrs. Lyall got a 'phone call about trouble, she was on the ball straight away. Not only was she our Welfare Visitor, she was also a family friend. I would like to wish her, on behalf of St. Dunstaners and staff, a very happy retirement".

"Although I thank you for your gift", said Mrs. Lyall, "My thanks come to you for everything over nearly two decades. The friendship of you all over the years—I am going to miss that most dreadfully. This area is the salt of St. Dunstan's, and I am terribly proud to be able to hand over to Mrs. Jackson and be able to say that she has inherited the élite. God Bless and thank you all very much indeed."

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MASTERS

by Bert Ward

I know that many St. Dunstaners enjoy classical music and I use the term 'classical' with some reservation, for this usually implies a highly studied knowledge of music and tends to be off-putting to many who, like myself, just enjoy a good tune or the lovely emotional feeling one often derives from a stirring melody.

I have listed below some of the pieces of music which helped to introduce me to the legendary figures of the world of music. Most of our record or tape purchases these

days are long playing: 'therein lies the rub'. For, if we are hoping to enjoy the works of, for example, Gustav Mahler, and buy his 5th Symphony, it comprises 2 long playing records and I am sure that at the first listening, like me, you would either fall asleep or wander off into the garden before reaching the beautiful 'Adagietto', which comes somewhere in the middle. This problem did not arise in the days of the old 78's; one could buy a single disc with a popular movement and then progress to the rest of the symphony or whatever. It is perhaps significant that only this week, Julian Lloyd Webber, the celebrated Cellist, has released a single of Stravinsky's 'Firebird Suite' on the R.C.A. label.

Here then, are some of my favourite short pieces to whet your appetite and, hopefully, help to enrich your listening:

Bach, J.S. 2nd movement of the Concerto for violin and oboe  
 Beethoven 'Für Elise', a short piano piece  
 Brahms The final movement of the 1st Symphony  
 Britten, Benj. 2nd movement of the 'Simple Symphony'  
 Dvorak 2nd movement of the 9th Symphony  
 Haydn The final movement of the 96th Symphony, 'The Miracle'  
 Mahler The 'Adagietto' from the 5th Symphony  
 Poulenc Ballet Suite, 'Les Biches'  
 Rachmaninov 2nd movement, Piano Concerto No. 2  
 Satie, Eric The 3rd 'Gymnopédie'  
 Shostakovich 2nd movement, Piano Concerto No. 2  
 Tchaikovsky 2nd movement, 5th Symphony  
 Williams-Vaughan 'The Lark Ascending'  
 Vivaldi 1st movement, 'The Four Seasons'

I hope this list may be of some value to you. I accept that it is my personal choice; nevertheless, it is a fact that many of these pieces of music have been used by film producers as theme music, by the advertising boys of television for their 'jingles' and some of them have been turned into popular songs and have even got into the 'charts'.

So, I suggest you pop along to your local record library, ask them to help you if you are alone. I am sure they will gladly help. Leeds record and tape library is now free of charge for the blind. If yours is not, why not mention this fact to your local librarian — they often respond to a 'comparative' prod.

Lots of happy listening.

## CITIZENS' BAND RADIO

In November 1981, the Home Office allowed the use of citizens' band radio on an allotted frequency. The craze started in America, as truck drivers used personal radios in emergencies, to discover location, and be kept up to date with road conditions, and thereby effect a more economic and efficient service. Whether the walkie-talkie became another attractive gadget, or an easy way around the amateur radio licence regulations and licence, or simply man's desire to communicate with others, may explain the proliferation of the hobby in the USA. Inevitably, where the Americans go, the English are soon to follow.

In this article, we attempt to give comments about the hobby, and an idea of the equipment available. Within the first month, 89,972 £10 licences were issued. The licence allows the holder to use 3 rigs. Though the licence figure appears high, it has been a bit of a disappointment to the manufacturers. Reasons put forward are that, now that CB is legal, the fun has gone out of it; the range of sets, especially hand-held, is very limited in a built-up area; battery consumption in the hand-held set is high; the air-ways tend to get very busy, especially in built-up area. The manufacturers see themselves in the business for two years only. In the short term, they see a reduction in prices in order to get stock moving.

But now for the more cheerful news. CB can be an important aid to the disabled in times of emergency. A blind operator is at no disadvantage compared with the sighted operator. A radio means communication with many new people, and perhaps new friendships. During the recent bad weather, one St. Dunstan in the Worcester area used his base station as part of an emergency network to help stranded motorists. He has been made an honorary life member of his local CB club.

Those living on their own, or who are not very mobile, can 'invite' many friends into their home. The progress of those out late at night can be monitored. Fellow CB enthusiasts appear more than willing to turn out in cases of emergency. However, it cannot be stressed too much, that to give your address out over the air, is to invite

visits by unwelcome guests. So, please be careful.

CB is divided into 40 channels. Channel 9 is only used when putting out emergency calls. Channel 14 is used to establish contact. Once achieved, the two callers can then agree to move to another channel to converse. It is a common misconception that CB requires a knowledge of radio slang. Not so. Normal conversation may be used, with radio procedure kept to a minimum. If you can talk on a telephone, you can talk on CB. Users pick their own 'handle', or call-sign. All you need is a £10 licence, obtainable from the post office. As previously mentioned, CB has not taken off as quickly as predicted, but that does mean that the airwaves are not as cluttered as expected. (Weekends, however, may still prove to be the exception!) In June, the Home Office is expected to release 934Mhz. These rigs will cost more, may have a more limited range, but because of these two factors, will be used by fewer people, giving a clearer means of contact.

There are three types of CB radio:— Hand-held, Mobile, and Base Station. There are so many different models, that it would be impossible to name individual sets here. At the end of the article is the address of a magazine, "Which Rig?", which lists all makes, with their characteristics, and gives a star rating. The magazine also has a list of CB clubs. Remember, the more you pay, the more facilities you get, but do make sure those facilities are worth having.

### 1. Hand-held sets.

2 channels only, around £20. 40 channel sets, around £65. However, these sets are not recommended unless you have a particular short range use in mind. The batteries, 7 x HP7's, last about 3 hours.

### 2. Mobile Stations.

From £35 to £100. These can be used both in the car, and as a base station at home. In the former mode, an aerial will be needed. This can either be screwed to the gutter or be attached to the roof of the car with a magnet. If the set is to be used in the dual role, then some extras will be required. A

slide-housing can be fitted both in the car and at home, so that when the rig slides in, connection is automatically made with the electrics and the antenna. In the home, an aerial (about £25 to £30) will be needed, a transformer to decrease voltage from 220 to 24, (about £12 to £15) and an SWR meter sound wave ratio, (£5 or £6). This meter tunes the aerial with the radio set for optimum efficiency. Alternatively, a housing can be purchased in which the SWR meter and transformer are already fitted, and the mobile set simply slides in.

### 3. Base Stations

From £120 upwards. Most come with SWR meter built in, and so are simply plugged into the mains and aerial. It is difficult to give a range of transmission, as much will depend on location, atmospheric conditions, etc. Ranges of 40 miles have been obtained, but perhaps between 5 and 15 miles is more usual. All sets have 4 main controls:— On/off/volume knob, a Squelch knob, (which controls the sensitivity of the set); a Channel Selector knob; and a High and Low power switch. Options include Tone control, Emergency Channel Button, (which flicks the set straight to channel 9 in emergency) a Dimmer Control for the lighted panel, R/F gain, and so on. Most important for blind people is to get a channel selector knob which gives some help in finding a particular position. All have a distinct click when moving round, but a knob like those on cookers, with a bar across them, should help to indicate position, like the hand of a clock. It should be pointed out that the aerial should not exceed 1.5 metres in length, so it should not affect the aesthetic appearance of your roof. If the aerial is higher than 7 metres off the ground, then the set should be used on low power, ie., 0.4 watts, (high power being 4 watts). If you do not have access to a roof, a wire aerial can either be draped around a picture rail, or dangled from a window. Further optional extras include voice-operated lapel microphones, and stand microphones. St. Dunstan's can help with the purchase of equipment and you should contact your Area Welfare Superintendent for details. Another very good way of assessing the hobby is to rent either a mobile or base station. you will have to make enquiries locally for shops that rent, but for those south of London, and between

Dover and Southampton, RENT-a-RIG, (TV and Video Rentals, 68, Milner Rd. Brighton, BN2 4AD, Tel: (0273) 672409), will fit the set either in your car or at home and this is included in the rental fee of £1.68 per week for a mobile rig, or £2.48 per week for a base station. If, after 6 months, you wish to purchase a rig, then 45% of what you have paid will be taken off the purchase price. Another Brighton shop is prepared to despatch sets, fit them in homes locally, offer discounts, and make adaptations, such as Braille knobs, etc. They are: TREBLE THREE CB, 14 Coombe Terrace, Lewes Rd., Brighton, BN2 4AD, Tel: (0273) 690536. Good prices may also be obtained in the Brighton area from: 625 Aerial Erections Ltd., 44 Queens Park Rise, Brighton, Tel: (0273) 607506.

"Which Rig?", the magazine for Summer '82, may be purchased for £1.25 from 145, Charing Cross Rd., London WC2 0EE. Tel: 01-437 1002.

Many Citizens' Band enthusiasts have gone on to obtain an amateur radio licence, and many hams have tried CB. Whatever the title, CB represents one more channel of communication between human beings. Good Keying.

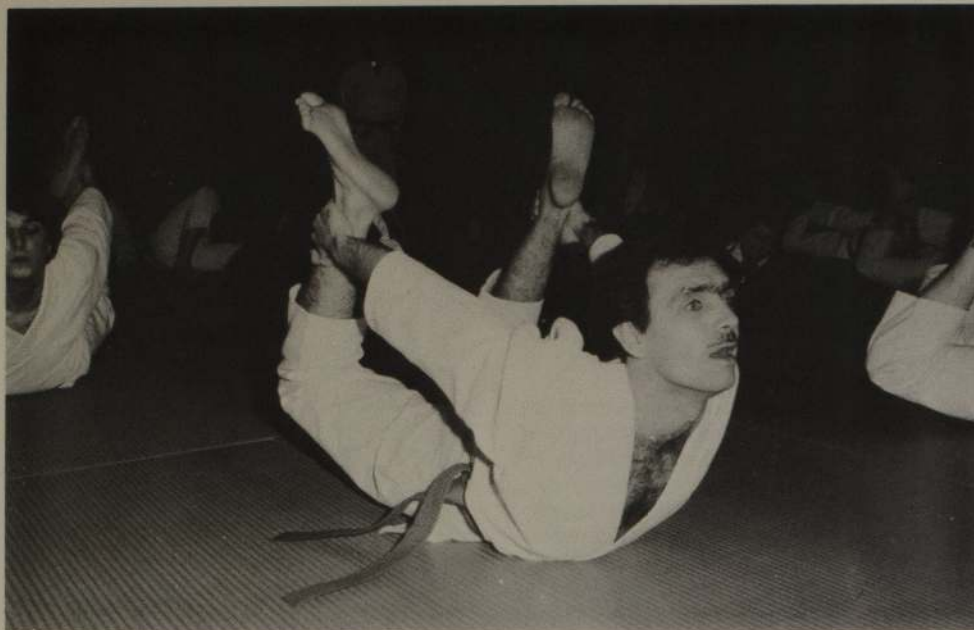
NB Since this article was started, it has been learnt that plans are afoot by a group of Brighton CB'ers to donate a station to Ian Fraser House, so that St. Dunstaners can try for themselves when on holiday in Brighton. Further announcements will be made when details are confirmed.

Ray Hazan

### ELECTRONIC ORGAN WEEKEND 3-6 SEPT.

The weekend mentioned in last month's *Review* will take place from Friday 3rd, to Monday 6th September inclusive. The outline programme so far is as follows:— Friday pm: Demonstration by the organist at the White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean, with an opportunity for St. Dunstaners to display their talents (—at playing!). Saturday 4th: Demonstration, talk and tuition by Tony Back, a professional player. He will bring along examples of 'Elka' and 'Casio' organs. Sunday 5th, or Monday 6th: Demonstration of 'Wersi' organs by Mr Arthur Griffiths of 'Aura Sound,' Purley. Sunday, 5th pm: Concert by Mr. Tony Back.

Will anyone interested please book into Ian Fraser House via HQ without delay.



Warming up at the start of the session.

## Getting into the Black – The Hard Way!

Story and pictures: David Castleton



Wham! The blind man fell to the floor. He had not tripped over anything, nor had he missed a 'step down'. He had been thrown down by a sighted person!

Peter Watson was soon on his feet again and at grips with his opponent during a practice session at the Judo class he attends in Telscombe, near Brighton. He wears a green belt, the sign of his progress through the grades, which start with yellow, then go on through orange, green, blue, brown, black and then on to the real aristocracy of the Judo world, the Dans.

His interest in Judo began in October 1980. "It was an advert. in the local paper. I 'phoned up the number. It was a Monday night and he said, 'It's on tonight, why not come round and see?' When I went round, the instructor, Bob Willats, knew of a blind fellow who had done it before and he said, 'No problem'."

Left, Peter throws his partner, Jonathon Melville-Brown, during a session practising throws.

Peter had been blind then for roughly three years. In October 1977, he was serving with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment when part of the patrol he was with at Crossmaglen in Northern Ireland was blown up by a 30lb bomb, detonated from across the border.

Now he works as a telephonist in Brighton – and he is a green belt at Judo. He is working for the next grade. "To get my blue, I've got to do 28 throws, 7 half sacrifice throws, where you go down on one knee, 6 full sacrifice throws, where you throw yourself to bring down your opponent, and 12 ground holds. It snowballs as you go higher. There are 52 basic throws for the black belt, 22 ground holds and 20 full sacrifice throws." Peter's aim is to achieve the black belt as a milestone and then go on to the Dans. He estimates it will take two years.

### Touch sport

Of Judo, Peter says, "It has changed me a lot. I think it's an ideal sport for the blind. It's a touch sport – you can't start until you are touching each other. You bow to your opponent and you start with your right hand on your opponent's lapel and your left on his sleeve.

"The whole idea is to get your opponent off-balance. I can tell by the way my opponent pushes or pulls me, what his throw is going to be. Once you've started, it's every man for himself. They used to worry if they threw me; they'd say, 'Are you alright, Pete?' Now they don't worry."

### Little trouble

The only help Peter needs is during the warming-up period that starts each session. Then, the class practises break-falls and other exercises, ending up with movement around the room-size mat and forward rolls across it. Then a quick word from a sighted member that it is all clear to fall in that area or forward-roll without hitting anyone, is all Peter needs. "I try to be as little trouble as possible" he says.

Peter says he learns best by working out the throws with Bob Willats. "I've instructed him by touch", said Bob; "When we began I thought, 'Oh God, we're going to have accidents' – but we never have. Really, we treat Peter like anybody else in the class." What better compliment could any St. Dunstaner have?



Showing how a blind man can take on a sighted opponent.

Coach Bob Willats gives some advice.



## AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY AGM.

by Ray Hazan.

*Mr. Garnett-Orme and Peter Jones, examining the collection of morse keys, under the guidance of Mrs. Joan Ham.*



When conditions are right, the flick of a switch or two, the turn of a dial, and the amateur radio enthusiast is in contact with friends all over the world. But it is still most pleasant to meet friends face to face. 23 enthusiasts gathered at Ian Fraser House on the evening of Friday 19th March, prior to the AGM.

It is worth mentioning at this point, that not all the enthusiasts are amateur radio licence holders, for such is the interest of these weekend get-togethers that many periferal topics are aired: tape recording, construction, aids and gimmicks, and citizens' band radio.

During the AGM, a new Chairman, Peter Jones, G3DRE, of Sheffield, was elected. Ted John, G3SEJ, of Wallasey kindly agreed to be, and was unanimously elected Secretary. Bill Shea, G4AUJ, Tom Hart, G4KPF, and Eric Rowe, G3ULX, were elected to the committee. Tribute was paid to Bill Shea, who had been in the Chair since the Society started. A keen enthusiast himself, he has encouraged many others. During his term of office, the society has grown to a respectable size, and he has seen the establishment of a radio shack at IFH. Bill also took the opportunity to praise the efforts of Ted John, who worked extremely hard for the society.

There were some 60 guests for lunch, including the President of the Society, Mr.

Garnett-Orme, and his wife; Dr. Stilwell; Mr. Conway; Mrs Frances Woolley, G3LWY, representing the R.A.I.B.C.; representatives of the Royal Naval, Royal Air Force, Mid-Sussex and Brighton Radio Societies; John Hoolihan; Bob Field; several friends who had proved so helpful to the Society, and many of the wives who had proved so tolerant of their houses being covered with bits of wire, and strange noises emanating from radio sets. Indeed, it was to one of the society's great friends, Mr. Len Wooller, that the President presented the G3MOW trophy, 'For Services Rendered to the Society'.

At this stage, we should also pay tribute to the services of Paul James, Catering Manager and his staff for the most excellent lunch, though he must take the blame for the attack of somnolence which took hold of several people during the afternoon!

### Interesting talks

In fact, it was hard to fall asleep, as there were three very interesting talks. Ron Ham, who has spoken on several previous occasions, talked about, and had on show, a dozen morse keys, some dating back to the beginning of the century. Each key had its own story; two belonged to the first women radio amateurs, others were

examples of RAF, USAF, and Luftwaffe keys, and clandestine keys used in the Resistance. Ron went on to talk about his amateur and commercial Radio Museum, whose new housing opens at the Chalk Pit Museum, Amberley, Sussex, on June 6th this year. Miss Elaine Howard, G4 LMF, gave a most entertaining talk about her work as Technical Sub-Editor of the 'Practical Wireless' magazine. Elaine had originally trained to be a Radio Operator in the Merchant Navy, but was unable to 'get a ship'. In the event, this may have been a lucky break, for, as part of her training, she had to leap from a 15 ft. diving board, with a life-boat radio set strapped to her back. Not being totally trusting, and since it was meant to float, she tossed the set overboard ahead of her. It promptly sank, and took days to dry out, so that it could operate once more! Finally, Ron's wife, Joan, talked about the Chalk Pit museum as a whole.

### Living Museum

Not only is this old, lime-producing area a natural reserve for all sorts of flora, but a living museum for steam engines, pottery, pumping machinery, a cobblers shop and lime kilns, to name but a few. Saturday night provided a short pause to re-adjust liquid levels and make some late-night contacts—by radio, of course! Sunday morning ushered in more friends, Bredhurst Communications, who brought along a sizeable quantity of radio sets and some of the latest morse keys. Without knowing morse, you can 'write' a message on a print keyboard. Up to 100 characters are stored, and the message is then sent out in morse at the required speed. However, it does not translate the morse reply—so cheats do not prosper! Communication in all its forms, visual, written or spoken word, plays an invaluable part in our daily lives. We thank the speakers and demonstrators for their contribution to our greater knowledge of the various methods of communicating, and the staff at IFH, for providing such conducive and comfortable surroundings in which to communicate.

### Future Events.

It is hoped that as many members of the Society as possible will be present on the Open Days at Ian Fraser House on 6th 7th July, when GB4 STD will be operated.

Please let Ted John know, via the booking clerk at HQ, of your intention to be present. At the next meeting of the Society on 24th and 25th July, a visit to the Chalk Pits Museum will be organised. In both of the above cases, will you please book in with Miss Bridger at HQ as soon as possible.

### HOME INSURANCE

A number of cases have occurred recently of St. Dunstaners suffering loss or damage to the contents of their homes either through fire, flood or theft. In some of these cases the insurance company has made it painfully clear to the St. Dunstaners involved that their contents policies were for a grossly inadequate sum. The result has been that they have not been reimbursed in full. The system usually operated by insurers means that if, for example, your furniture and other possessions are only insured for half of their real value, then compensation for any item lost or damaged may also be limited to half of its value.

It is therefore essential that all householders review their contents policy to make sure that the sum is sufficient to cover all items, carpets, curtains, furniture, clothes, electrical and musical equipment, etc. This is an individual responsibility on which St. Dunstan's can only help by offering advice. We shall be happy to assist you in informing your insurers of the new figures. If you are not insured at all, or would like to change your policy, you may wish to consider insuring with the "Sun Alliance", for which St. Dunstan's holds an agency providing cover at competitive rates.

As the cost of everything is rising so fast, it is essential to keep your contents policy, as well as your house cover, under constant review; check the figures each year. You are reminded that by payment of a comparatively small extra premium, you can obtain cover that will meet the actual cost of replacement rather than merely paying the "second hand" value of your lost or damaged goods. If in doubt, you can obtain particulars from Mr. Charles Lawrence at HQ.

T. Lloyd

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

Have you remembered to apply for your Derby Sweepstake tickets? Each ticket costs 20p — and the closing date is **FRIDAY, MAY 14TH**. Please hurry!



## A VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

by Jane and Charles Williamson

*Charles Williamson and Stuart Craig at Bluff, the most Southerly point of New Zealand.*

Our journey started by train and taxi in snow and freezing fog from Darlington to Heathrow on 28th December 1981. A night flight to Singapore with a dawn touchdown at Bahrain for refuelling and a change of crew – temperature 70F and Charles removed his thermal underwear!! Arrived in Singapore at 7 p.m. on 29th December 1981 – temperature 82F – for a four day break before flying on to Australia.

We were agreeably surprised by the cleanliness and lack of graffiti – the penalty for litter, even a cigarette end, is a fine of \$50! The airport was fantastic, like a 5 star hotel – it was only officially opened on the day we arrived!

We visited the Botanical Gardens to see orchids in various stages of growth, and a factory printing Batik cloth and the Tiger Balm gardens, where all the figures are made of concrete and then painted.

We spent the quietest New Year we can remember. The majority of Singaporeans are of Chinese origin and their New Year was 26th January. We didn't hear a Scottish song, nor Auld Lang Syne, despite the fact that the Restaurants and bars of our hotel had Scottish names, were decorated in Black Watch tartan, and the staff wore tartan waistcoats and/or kilts!!

From Singapore, we flew to Perth – a very attractive city. The gardens around the municipal buildings and law courts are open

for everyone to enjoy – even picnic chairs provided to put on the grass if one preferred them to the park seats!

Kings Park is a huge leisure area and memorial to the dead of two World Wars. There is an avenue of trees, each bearing the name of a fallen serviceman from Perth in the 1914–18 war.

Another night flight on 6th January, 1982, from Perth to Brisbane, changing planes at Melbourne and Sydney. We were offered breakfast on each plane! We touched down at Brisbane at 8.45 a.m., and Colin and Elizabeth Johnston were there to meet us, having driven about 150 miles from Warwick the previous day. (Colin and Charles were at the Physiotherapy School in Gt. Portland Street at the same time.) They took us to the Club they had stayed at overnight and we had a welcome shower and change, whilst they had their breakfast. We then drove to Malcolm and Vera Bryce's home in Brisbane, where we met Hector and Lee Cowen, Jim and Eileen Bowen and Ted and Connie Blackmore – a mini St. Dunstan's reunion. Charles first met Malcolm at the Physio. School in 1954; Malcolm sends his best wishes to all who knew him when he was in the U.K.

Several beers later, we were on our way to Warwick and Colin and Elizabeth's home. We spent a very enjoyable two weeks with them, meeting their relations and friends.

Mrs. Smith, Elizabeth's mother, is a grand lady, eighty seven years young, and we all went with her to visit the sheep station – now run by her son John – where she had lived and brought up her family. About 5,000 sheep, cattle and yearlings, which are bred for racing.

A friend of Colin's, a retired wine merchant, took us to a winery to do some tasting, and commented on the various wines. He visits regularly and had all his notes from previous years' crops and blends. He also took us to a fruit farm, where the farmer and his family were hand-thinning the apples on three thousand trees, and hoping for rain to swell the crop.

We also went to several local beauty spots and at one, got stuck in a creek and had to wade out and push the car. At one place, Toowoomba, we had a pleasant hour in a garden full of aromatic plants especially for the visually handicapped, presented by a Japanese business man for the Year of the Disabled. We also visited the Jondaryan Woolshed, a sort of museum. It is made up of a collection of old buildings rescued from destruction, depicting the life of the original settlers. An old church, schoolhouse, jail and shop as well as the wool shed, and a very comprehensive collection of tractors,

traction engines, milk carts, lorries and cars, all in working order. From there, we went to a motel at Dalby, where we stayed the night, and the next day went to the Bunya Mountains to walk in the rain forest. We heard and saw many birds – Cat birds, which sound just like a cat meowing, Eastern Whipbird, sounding like the swish of a whip, Laughing Kookaburras, Rufus Fan Tails, Willie Wagtails, and others, too numerous to mention. After a picnic lunch, it rained really hard so we turned for Warwick as we had crossed several creeks and didn't want to get stuck again!

One evening, we went to the Rotary dinner and one afternoon we watched Colin play bowls and had tea and a few jars with the members of the Bowls club.

On the 20th January, Elizabeth and Colin drove us back to Brisbane, where we stayed for three nights with the Bryces before continuing our journey to New Zealand. It poured with rain most of the way to Brisbane, and during our stay, lots of roads were flooded, but Vera and Malcolm managed to take us on a sightseeing tour of Brisbane and to the famous Gold Coast, a holiday area which was in full swing, it being summer holiday time in Australia. We were fortunate that day, as we ran out of the rain

*Colin Johnston and Charles bailing out the car after it stalled in a creek.*





Another 'mini-reunion': left to right: Bill Baker, Betty Baker, Andrew Luke, Charles and Jane Williamson, Mary Scholes and Jim Scholes.

and had beautiful sunshine again. Brisbane was very humid and the temperature was 35C. There is a large reservoir, Somerset, which was full for the first time in six years whilst we were there!

Vera and Malcolm took us to the airport on Saturday morning, 23rd January, and after checking in our luggage and having a cup of coffee, we said our thanks and farewells and were on our way to Christchurch.

The last part of the flight was a little bumpy as we crossed the range of mountains which runs the length of New Zealand. We had a very pleasant surprise after going through Customs. A young lady introduced herself and said she and her father, a St. Dunstaner, had heard on the grapevine that we were arriving that day, and had met three planes, hoping to find us. It was Jim Scholes and his daughter Brenda. They helped us with the luggage and to find the car we had hired, got us maps from the A.A., and led us to a motel where we stayed the night. Jim and his wife, Mary, and Brenda were going on holiday themselves the next day, so we arranged to ring them when we got back to Christchurch after touring the South Island.

Most hotels and motels in Australia and New Zealand have help-yourself buffet breakfasts. Fruit juice, fresh fruit, cereal, bacon, sausage, chops, tomatoes, kidneys,

rice, mushrooms, scrambled, poached and fried eggs, toast, rolls, tea or coffee. After that, one doesn't need lunch!

We travelled down the East side of South Island, stopping a couple of nights in Dunedin, then on to Invercargill to spend two days and nights with Stuart and Meg Craig; Stuart was in the Korean War, and also trained at Gt. Portland Street. He is now breeding horses for Trotting and Pacing and he explained the harnessing and some of the business side of the enterprise. We had a few hours sunshine at Invercargill, and visited Bluff, the most southerly point of South Island. We had intended to go to Fox Glacier, but the roads were blocked because of landslips and rock falls, so we continued our journey northwards again, via Queenstown. The sun shone about an hour after leaving Invercargill, and it was fine the rest of the way.

There are hundreds of old cars in New Zealand. A new car is very expensive to buy – as they are all imported – and the roads are never salted, so there is no rust problem and the cars are so well maintained. All cars have to have a certificate of road worthiness every six months. There are no dogs wandering around either, as the licence is high, apart from sheep or guide dogs, and all dogs have to have an anti-rabies injection

every two months. Every community has its Veterinary station.

Most of the roads are single carriageways, but there is very little traffic, so plenty of time to stop and stare. At one pass, Lindis, we had to wait for the road to be cleared of a landslip. Charles never got used to travelling on metal roads – we would call them 'unmade' – and even if there was bitumen sometimes, it was only a car's width in the middle and the near-side wheels had to run off into the rough, to pass another vehicle. I had to try to remember to warn him of the approach of a car or lorry so that we was prepared for the jolt!

There is masses of water in New Zealand – rivers, lakes reservoirs, as well as the sea, which is never too far away. The scenery was beautiful, and we stayed at some attractive motels on our way back to Christchurch.

We contacted the Scholes again, and we had dinner with Mary, Jim and Brenda one evening, and they had invited two more St. Dunstaners for a few drinks afterwards: Bill Black and his wife, Betty (Bill is helpless as well), and Andrew Luke, a bachelor who was in London during the Blitz and still sings the praises of the stalwarts in the underground railway shelters! Another mini reunion.

Tuesday, 2nd February, 1982, we left Christchurch by air for Wellington and the North Island. We picked up another car. On day two of our journey in North Island, we experienced a broken windscreen and had to travel 70 km before we could get it replaced at a town called Taupo, at the head of a lake of the same name. The motel owners were ex-Londoners, who had lived in New Zealand more than twenty years. They gave us a trout that they had caught in the lake and we had it for dinner at the next stop. We visited several thermal areas with their belching steam and bubbling mud-holes; all very fascinating – and a bit smelly. We travelled as far North as Russell, the first place settled by Europeans, on the Bay of Islands. We had a day out on the Bay, on the Mail boat, delivering mail, groceries, and newspapers to the few families who live permanently on the small islands, and collecting mail and/or fresh fish from them. We also visited Waitangi, to see the Treaty House and the Maori Meeting House. This particular Meeting House is unique because all the tribes have contributed their own carvings, so that it represents them all,



Stuart and Meg Craig with one of their horses.

not just one tribe as is customary.

South again to Auckland and a couple of nights with Graeme and Nalda Thomson (Graeme is an R.N.I.B. Physio, who trained at the same time as Charles). Nalda took us on a tour of Auckland, and we were interested to see the passenger liners and large cargo ships moored at the bottom of the main shopping street. There were hundreds of small craft – I don't know which there were most of, cars or boats! We went to the Memorial Museum in Auckland and had a close look at, and for Charles, a feel of, Maori carvings on Meeting Houses, and their large canoes with room for one hundred paddle men. All intricately carved inside and outside.

From Auckland to Sydney for a couple of days so that we could see the harbour bridge and opera house. We had a day on the harbour – masses of small craft, sailing and motor, as well as ferries and pleasure boats, and the naval as well as commercial docks. Lots of little bays and beaches, some protected by shark nets.

On from Sydney to Honolulu – a very colourful, crowded, aromatic, noisy city! Whilst there, we visited the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour. The memorial is actually built



## A Visit to the Southern Hemisphere—continued

across the sunken battleship where over one thousand members of her crew are still entombed.

We were shown a film of the history of the USS Arizona from its commissioning until its demise, and the events leading up to the U.S.A. entering the Second World War.

On to Los Angeles and the final stage of our journey. We were booked into the Hilton and the taxi driver asked which one! - There are four! Fortunately, he took us to the correct one. We had a conducted tour of the Hollywood Bowl and Sunset Strip and Beverley Hills and spent a day in Disneyland. We were impressed by the cleanliness and reasonable prices of this famous tourist attraction.

We also spent a morning at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles. It is privately funded and run by a small, permanent staff and a host of voluntary helpers. There are classes every day on mobility, music, Braille reading and writing, carpentry, ceramics, weaving, cooking and housekeeping, a

counselling service, an advisory service, a shop selling various aids for the visually handicapped and gifts that they may want to purchase for family and friends and where they can sell some of the things they make in various classes. A bus service has special pick-up points throughout the city. The Braille printing shop, library and talking book sections are run by volunteers and are the only services which receive some government funding. It appears that each State runs its own show. We couldn't find out anything about what is done for war blinded. It seems that San Francisco is the main centre concerned.

Wednesday, 24th February, 1982, our last flight - Los Angeles 8.50 p.m. touch down at Heathrow, 2.10 p.m., Thursday 25th February, 1982. Raining and cold!!

Ian and his wife came to meet us and drive us home. We got back to Darlington about 9 p.m., after a very memorable and enjoyable holiday. We are already discussing when and where to go next!

## THE START OF A LOVE AFFAIR

by V. J.

"Welcome to St. Dunstan's." The four words that made me not only want to dance a jig, but also to prostrate myself before him and kiss his feet!! An act which, no doubt would go down well in the Arab world but is not the sort of thing to impress the Secretary of St. D's! I remember mumbling my thanks rather inaudibly and then reeling from his office as if in a dream. What in the world had I done to deserve this honour? Had they really chosen the right one? Would they live to regret it? Please God, no, for this was the job I had been looking for but did not really believe could possibly exist.

Ever since the children had fled the nest (albeit, only as far as the nearest boarding school which was sympathetic and brave enough to take them) I had felt the need to "do" something. But what? What sort of job did I want? For a while I immersed myself in voluntary work in the village and loved every minute of it, but there comes a time in every wife and mother's life when it would

be nice to be able to buy the old man a new pair of pyjamas on his birthday without running short of housekeeping to do so. Whatever job I chose to do would have to vaguely fit around my part-time job as a taxi driver for the offspring during the holidays, the very occasional attacks of illness that only teenagers manage to produce and husband's wicked suggestions, however infrequent, of having a couple of boozy nights at our favourite pub in Welsh Wales!! Also I would want to choose my own hours, up to a point, have an excuse to get out of the house to avoid the accumulating dust, to meet lots of people and, as a bonus, perhaps be of some help to those I met. Such a job just couldn't exist. . .

But it did. . . I was meandering around a newsagents one day at the end of Sept. '81 and I picked up a copy of *The Lady* and there, glaring at me from the printed columns was IT. I couldn't believe my eyes! I rushed home and very carefully wrote out my c.v. and

letter of application, posted it off and, gathering my week's supply of cigarettes and two flasks of black coffee, I sat under the letter box! I didn't have long to wait. Would I please go to London for an interview. . . enough to send me straight to the drinks cupboard! Not the interview, the London bit!! I HATE London! How would I get there? Would I need my passport?! What should I wear? How on earth would I find 191 in such a vast city? When I got there, what would they be like? Oh! Panic!!

Up at dawn on the day, allowing at least two more hours than was necessary to get to H.Q., I caught the train; but would you believe, the train drivers suddenly went on strike and there was no connection at Ascot for 2 hours!!! I felt as though my innards had dropped to my shoes but I managed to drag myself to the nearest phone to explain to a most charming voice at H.Q. that I would be late, desperately humble apologies, really not my fault, etc. I was reassured and told just to get there when I could. Despite all B.R.'s efforts I was only 10 minutes late so it shows how early I would have been!!!!

### Heart thumping

I can't say I remember too much about that first interview due to the fact that my heart was thumping so loudly against my rib-cage that I couldn't hear what she was saying all that clearly! I do remember thinking how efficient she was and hoping that that didn't mean she was unapproachable. I needn't have had any worries in that direction; many laughs have flowed under the bridge (or rather, over the 'phone) since then!

After the second interview there followed two weeks initiation into the Rites and Rituals of THE FAMILY. The first week was spent in trying to grasp the essentials of the job up at H.Q. and meeting what seemed like hundreds of folk in their various offices. Each one of them kindly explaining what their jobs entailed and me trying to look very intelligent by taking notes and nodding sagely at what I assumed to be the appropriate moments. One fact did emerge very forcibly. That was that I was taking over from a very popular Welfare Visitor. (Having met her during that first week I wasn't surprised that the Family members under her care were devoted to her and had been for

eighteen years.) Despite this, all at H.Q. were very friendly, helpful and went out of their way to make me feel at home.

The second week was spent down at Brighton. First at Pearson House where a glass of sherry was thrust into my hand as I entered the holy sanctum. (Matrons were never like that in my day, I thought!) I worked at Pearson House as a Care Assistant amongst some of the kindest, most caring and hard working people it has ever been my privilege to meet. Then on to I.F.H. What an amazing place, almost made me wish I was a St. Dunstaner! That swimming pool is enough to make anyone give up their package holidays in Benidorm!!

### Meeting the Family

During the following three weeks my predecessor took me round with her to meet some of her members of The Family. The night before I went out with her for the first time I asked the children, "What do you think I should wear?" Practical and unimaginative 17 year old son, "Well, seeing as how they're all blind, I don't suppose it matters much. According to these back numbers of *Review* you should wear sensible brogues, thick knitted stockings, a vast tent-like coat and a shapeless felt thing pulled firmly down over your curls. Oh! and of course no mascara!!"

"Well, you're wrong", I said. "Their wives and family are their eyes so they can see better than we can. So if I feel like wearing high-heeled boots, black stockings and my safari suit, I shall. They are bound to ask their family what I looked like when I've gone."

(I know for a fact that one St. Dunstaner said to his wife, "Well, if she's been in the army she'll be the size of a house and behave just like a Sgt. Major!!")

### Happy Feeling

So, now I'm on my own, as it were. Visiting my members of The Family and their families, gradually getting to know them all and feeling as though my own family had suddenly increased by several hundred! It's a warm, happy feeling, too. I look forward to each day as I leave the house, not knowing what to expect but in the knowledge that I shall enjoy my day and return home tired but contented.

I couldn't ask for more from a love affair, could I?

## 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.

**Reginald Mason** of Clapton, London, joined St. Dunstan's on 12th March. Mr. Mason served as a T/Sgt. in the Royal Artillery from enlistment in July 1939 until his discharge in 1948. He is a married man.

**Thomas Scholey** of Rotherham joined St. Dunstan's on 31st March. Mr. Scholey served in the Royal Engineers during the 1st World War and was wounded in France. He is a widower and lives with his married daughter.

### Disabled Persons' Railcard

We would like to remind St. Dunstaners that British Rail have recently introduced a Disabled Persons' Railcard. This card entitles the holder, and one accompanying adult, to purchase ordinary single and return tickets, at half the normal adult fare. The concession also applies to off-peak reduced fares, which thus gives even more saving. The card, which is valid until December 31st, 1982, costs £10, and St. Dunstan's will give a refund of £5 to all St. Dunstaners who apply. Enquire at your local British Rail station for an application form, which should be sent, with remittance, to: British Rail, Dept. XX, P.O. Box 28, York, YO1 1FB. War pensioners need only quote their payment reference no. to prove their disability. The R.N.I.B. have put British Rail's conditions of use into Braille and copies are available free to blind people from their HQ at: 224 Great Portland St., London, W1N 6AA.

### Physiotherapy Catalogue

We have now received up-to-date Catalogues from the Percy Way Library at the North London School of Physiotherapy, of all books available in Braille and on cassette as well as professional journals.

Would physiotherapists please notify the Physiotherapy Department at Headquarters if they would like one of these Catalogues sent to them.

N. French

## REMEX TALKING CLOCK

Remex have produced a mains operated talking clock. The clock measures 5" by 5" by 3". The operating button on the top is quite large, and the front display illuminated for the partially sighted. Functions include a time read-out every half hour, alarm, and elapsed time read-out. When pushing the buttons to operate any of the above functions, they will play a tune to confirm the setting. The voice, while more synthetic than the Sharp Talking Clock, comes from a larger speaker, and may therefore be of more use to the hard of hearing. The mains lead is provided with a two pin shaving plug, which may be more adviseably changed for a three pin, 13 amp plug, with a 1 or 3 amp fuse. The clock is obtainable from:

Dagenham Wholesale Supplies Ltd.,  
Silenas Lane, Dagenham, Essex.

Please send a crossed cheque or Postal Order to Mr. Cox for £29.00. The clock is guaranteed for one year, but should be sent back to Remex in case of malfunction.

### THE BLIND, THE HALT, THE WITHERED. by Syd Scroggie.

"Wilt thou be made whole." John, 5, 6.

1982, our local chow mein vendor tells us, is the Year of the Dog. Next year may be the Year of the Budgie, for all I know of Chinese chronology, or the midge, the beetle, the forkytailie, or any other superstitious oriental claptrap, but this I do seem to remember, that 1981 was called the Year of the Disabled, and it is now the time for St. Dunstaners to ask themselves, what did it mean to them? For there cannot be any doubt, blind all of us, deaf some as well, others wanting a leg here, an arm there, regarding our inclusion in this gloomy category. I cannot speak for the rest of the sons and daughters of Arthur Pearson, there may be as many opinions on the subject as there are names on the Old Marylebone Road nominal roll, but for myself, I am neither better nor worse for all these international goings-on last year, neither higher nor lower, and the reason for this is that, whatever the world may say, I do not consider myself disabled, anyway not in so far as it really counts. People may say, that's all very well for you, Scroggie;

you've got a fat pension, you've got St. Dunstan's behind you, and so you are cushioned against effects which would bear cruelly on a blind amputee less fortunately placed than you. Not so, for I am convinced that had it been my lot to beg my daily bread on the steps of Dundee Cathedral, I should have been no less contented than I am, no less complete in all that makes a man the entity he has it in him to become. I recognise no disablement that is not psychological and self-imposed, the bitter fruit of wrong reaction to one's fate. What are arms and legs, hearing and sight, but peripheral irrelevancies to the core of actual life? Hamlet could be bounded by a nutshell and yea count himself King of infinite space; a Roehampton basket-case likewise has it in him to live a life of perfect usefulness and self-fulfilment. The only thing is that both must first embrace their limitations, will them to be what they are, love them as any painter loved his sight, musician his hearing, athlete the limbs which led him to his prized pentathlon crown. Seen in this light, 1981 was internationally concerned not with the realities of disablement but with a figment of the deluded imagination. Was it by any chance the Sonic Year of the Bat?

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No 3002

**The Children of Dynmouth,**

By William Trevor

Read by Andrew Timothy

Reading Time 7½ hours

Dynmouth is a small seaside town of no particular distinction. It has a couple of minor hotels, some light industry, and the usual sprawl of bungalowoid growth where the retired folk live... It also has Timothy Gedge.

Timothy Gedge is a practised liar, an insatiable Peeping Tom and a compulsive attender of funerals. He filches small objects and sums of money from the homes of the pensioners for whom he does odd jobs. Timothy Gedge is fifteen years old.

Through his spying activities he has gathered a useful collection of unsavoury tit-bits of knowledge about some of the residents of Dynmouth, certain shameful little peccadillos, illicit sexual activities,

well-protected skeletons in the cupboards. This information he uses to blackmail his chosen victims, not for money, but to "persuade" them to perform certain small services to further his half-mad scheme to become a popular entertainer. In the process he virtually destroys two elderly married couples. Then he turns his attention to two young children, on holiday from boarding-school...

A brilliant, disturbing book, dealing in graphic detail with the destructive a-moral lifestyle of a boy with the spurious "freedom" permitted him by an uncaring mother with whom he has little, if any point of contact.

Cat. No. 2981

**Memoirs of an Advertising Man**

By John Mellors

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 7 hours

The author begins by dealing very briefly and sketchily with his childhood in the north of England. The highlight of this period was (for me at any rate) the occasion when his mother gave him a penguin's egg for his tea. It had come, she said, from the local fishmonger. I was intrigued! Where on earth, I speculated, did he get it from? Did he have a colony of these enchanting birds in his back garden? Or, did he have a penguin-keeping chum at Belle Vue Zoo? I must confess to being somewhat disappointed at not being given this vital information. But I digress...

After Oxford, Mellors got a job as trainee copywriter with an advertising agency. At his first office party he got hopelessly drunk - which appears to be the *sine qua non* of any self-respecting ad. man.

He writes racily and with a considerable wealth of explicit language about the many adventures which can befall the advertising man, whose professional life would seem to be one long dazzling round of expense-account high living, bacchanalian orgies and women, interspersed with advertising campaigns to sell Bovril, soap and confectionery. One project he gladly undertook involved making the rounds of Irish pubs to gauge the popularity of Harp lager...

A bright, bawdy, often funny book with a lot of naughty words, enough to render Auntie Mabel's curlers positively incandescent.

Cat. No. 1295

### The Spoilers

By Desmond Bagley

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 11¾ hours

A girl is found dead from an overdose of heroin. She proves to be the estranged daughter of Sir Robert Hillier, millionaire film magnate. She had been attending the clinic run by Dr. Nicholas Warren, a leading authority on the treatment of drug addiction.

Warren and Hillier meet and the millionaire offers to finance a small expedition of picked men to go to the Middle East with the object of smashing the powerful drug ring known to be operating from there.

Warren and five of his friends set off in the guise of film technicians looking for suitable locations. Two of the number manage to infiltrate the gang, led by the beautiful and ruthless Jeanette de l'Orme.

After many hair-raising and desperate adventures, accompanied by a certain amount of blood-letting, culminating in the spectacular demise of the leading baddies, the operation is brought to a most satisfactory conclusion...

Exciting and quite entertaining.

D. F. Robinson's

## Gardening Column

The whole garden should be showing lots of growth, with plenty of colour from the flower borders, and the vegetables and fruit trees and bushes giving good signs of what is to come later on, for the table and kitchen. If you have a freezer, it will help to cut down costs later in the year by consigning vegetables here and trying to store fruit. During really dry spells, get the watering can and hose out, but try and leave using till late afternoon or evening, to save the burning of leaves by the hot sun, as water is heated up very quickly to boiling point. Also, do remember to give a thorough soaking. There may be restrictions on the use of water, so utilise the washing up, bath water, etc. Soapy water is quite a good insecticide for items like Roses, shrubs and perennials, but try and keep it away from those border annuals. Pests and diseases of all kinds will be starting their year of attack on all plants in the garden, so get the sprayers out, and start early to stop the onsets.

### Vegetables

Keep a good tilth on the soil and free of weeds, but not after periods of heavy rain, or you may clog the earth, especially on heavy land. Plant out the Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussel Sprouts and Tomatoes, but in the North, leave the Tomatoes till early next month. Some Calomel dust and soil pest deterrent would be a good additive to the planting holes. Water in well after planting, and ensure that the plants are solidly set. Most of the less hardy items, such as Runner Beans and French Beans can be sown at their cropping quarters. Peas can also go in and make a follow-on, sown for several weeks to give a continuous supply through the season. Try and get the main crop of Carrots sown now, and from time to time, sow some Lettuces and Radishes for cropping all the time. Cut Lettuces early to get good, crisp hearts. Ensure you have given the Broad Beans some protection against strong winds in the shape of a few canes put in and some string tied to them along the beans. Where the beans have grown well and are starting to crop, it is a good thing to pinch out the main growing point, to deter Black Fly and make the energies of the plant go into producing more beans. Get the Runner Beans frames in position plus some support for those Peas, so that they can climb off the ground to give them more room and air for better growth plus the added bonus of making picking easier.

### Fruit

In very dry conditions, give a good mulch of manure or compost round the base of the trees to keep the roots moist. Should neither of these be available, give a really good drenching of water, as one may have a very bad crop of fruit if the roots get dry. Thin out the fruit a bit where there is a heavy set to increase quality and size. Keep the fruit to a minimum on first year trees or too much may be taken out of the trees before they get a good root-system going. Pinch back the shoots on Apricots and thin out the fruit buds on Peach, Nectarines and Murillo Cherries. Cut away Raspberry suckers and any unwanted runners for new plants on the Strawberries.

### Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly with the box in place, but don't overdo it in very dry weather. It would be better to give the lawn

a soaking with a sprinkler and keep the mower in the shed for a while. See to it that all the edges of the lawn are well trimmed. Contain those large weeds such as Dandelion, Thistle, etc. by digging out as far down the roots as possible. They may appear again, but carry on digging out as soon as new growth appears. A weed killer-cum-lawn fertiliser can be used in damp weather, but not if it is windy, or some drift may occur onto the flower borders.

### Flowers.

A busy time here on the borders, getting the soil in good condition to put in the half-hardy and hardy annuals. Sprinkle a little general fertiliser, and then rake in to give the plants a good base for the season to come. Towards the end of the month, get all those seedlings raised under glass and in frames out in their flowering quarters. Plant all the seedlings, whether raised yourself or bought, at slightly lower depth than from trays etc. Firm in and then water in well to get the roots well into their new quarters. It is a good thing to arrange the plants either in clumps or in rows with the taller items at the back and smaller in the front. The smaller items are Ageratum, Aster, Alyssum, fibrous Begonia, Lobelia, and then on to the Nemesia, Phlox Drummondii, Antirrhinum, Calendula, African Marigold, Petunia. Keep the Dahlia and Geranium further back amongst the perennials. Even if you haven't grown any from seed, there is still time to make a start by sowing where they are to flower and thin out as they grow and use the spares for other spots in the garden or even for pots and urns. Stake up the areas where you are to grow the Gladioli, as strong winds can cause havoc just as they are coming into flower. Plant out the Chrysanthemums if not already done and put in stakes to each plant and tie in as they grow. Tie in the Sweet Peas as they come on and give them a dose of liquid manure as they are hungry plants and they will give you better blooms. Tidy up the area where the bulbs are and tie in the leaves, especially those of the Daffodil family. There is still time to put in the perennials, but don't expect too much from them this season. Give the Roses a good spray over with insecticide and fungicide to ward off Black Spot. There are sprays on the market which are specially made for these diseases on Roses, and they should be available at most garden shops and stores.

### Greenhouse.

Many of you will be getting the place cleared of bedding plants and getting it ready for the Tomatoes and Cucumbers, plus the potting on of the perennials and tubers. Those of you in the South should have their permanent fruiting places now, but delay a bit towards the end of the month in the North unless you have some heat still on. Where they are growing well, don't forget to pinch out the side shoots and train in the plants as they grow up. Keep Cucumbers growing well and keep only the flowers which have a growth at the back of the flower, which is the embryo Cucumber. The male flowers may give a bitter flavour to the fruit. In order not to have this bother, grow only the Femina types, which have the female flowers only. It might be a good thing to keep on some of the bedding plants to grow in pots for the house. Schizanthus make fine plants and look like small orchids. Pot on all the Achimenes, Gloxinia and Begonia into their final flowering containers. Seeds of Calceolaria, Cineraria, Cyclamen, Coleus, Primula and Polyanthus can be sown for pot work or, in the case of Primula and Polyanthus, outdoors, in the autumn. Geranium can also give a good winter show if sown from seed now and cuttings taken from the larger plants in the garden.

Keep windows open most of the day, except when lighting smokes of insecticide and fungicide. These should be used regularly even if nothing is noted. Keep the atmosphere moist in very hot, dry weather, by soaking the floors. A shading of one of the white, so-called paints on the windows will keep direct sun out. The type that I use is called Coolglas, and can be either brushed on, or used in a sprayer.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON

#### Social & Sports Club

##### Bridge Results

Pairs Results for match played March 14th.

N/S	R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	58.7
	W. Phillips & Dr. Goodlad	51.3
	B. Ingray & Mrs. Gover	49.2
	P. McCormack & Mr. Douse	47.9
	W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	47.9
	F. Griffee & Mrs. Andrews	45.0

**BRIGHTON CLUB — continued**

<b>E/W M. Tybinski &amp; Mrs. McPherson</b>	<b>67.5</b>
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Sturdy	52.9
R. Fullard & Mrs. Buller-King	51.7
C. Clements & Miss Steyning	46.2
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Dogson	42.5
J. Padley & Mrs. Padley	39.2

Individual Competition Results for match played March 20th

<b>W. Phillips</b>	<b>98</b>
C. Walters	79
M. Tybinski	76
W. Allen	74
F. Griffee	74
H. Preedy	74
W. Lethbridge	74
V. Delaney	72
R. Fullard	71
W. Burnett	71
R. Evans	69
C. Clements	69
R. Palmer	68
J. Whitcombe	64
J. Majchrowicz	62
P. McCormack	60

The Easter Bridge Drive got off to a fine start. We had 7½ tables, a lovely sunny day and cheerful company. Half way through the drive we had a super tea—the sandwiches were varied and plentiful, and very well filled, and we also had some lovely cream cakes! They must have been appreciated, as there were none left to go to waste. Our thanks to the Red Ball caterers;— what good friends they are. When we had finished the drive, we came to the moment of truth: Who had won? The results were as follows:

- 1 Joe Majkrowicz & Mr. Douse**
- 2 R. Evans & Mrs. Barker
3. W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad
4. R. Palmer & Mr. Carter

Well done to them all, and for those who didn't win, there are many more to come. Madame President, who always kindly makes the tea (and Madame President, for those who didn't know, is Mrs. Dacre), also kindly presented the prizes. She and Miss M. Steyning, our secretary, are our two

female stalwarts—and we must not forget our two male helpers, Mr. R. Goodlad and Mr. Douse—who partnered our 1st prize-winning St. Dunstaner. Thank you, all the members who support the Bridge Club so well. Hope you will continue to do so.

*W. Phillips, Captain*

**MIDLAND**

A meeting of the club was held on 14th March, and although small, with the absence of friends, St. Dunstaners themselves were in full attendance. Also, I am glad to say, with the help of his good friend George, Bruno was also present.

After a little chit-chat amongst ourselves, we sat down to an enjoyable tea, laid on by the ladies of the club. Afterwards, our Chairman, Joe Kibbler, put forward one or two suggestions for the coming year, regarding outings, etc, and it is hoped that these will be finalised at our next meeting, and some definite times and dates can be announced.

As there was a good attendance of St. Dunstaners, Glynn, the chairman's son-in-law, was able to get the dominoes going in full swing, and quite a few games were played. The meeting ended about 6.30. Looking ahead, the May meeting will be held on May 9th, and all are welcome.

*Doug Faulkner.*

Our April club meeting was held on the first Sunday instead of the 2nd Sunday, on account of the Easter holiday. There was a good attendance. We also held a very successful Bring & Buy Sale. We were all very pleased to see Bruno Tomporowski again this month, and all hope his good friend will be able to bring him as often as Bruno is able to come. We played off part of the Arthur Pearson Dominoes Competition before tea. The tea was put on by the ladies and was enjoyed by all; we showed our thanks in the usual way.

Our next meeting will be held on the 2nd Sunday in May, when we hope to make final arrangements for our outing in June. Any St. Dunstaner who cares to come along will be made very welcome, and there is still time to take part in the Domino Competition. The meeting starts at 3pm in the Birmingham United Service Club Rooms in Broad Street, Birmingham.

*Marjorie Hordyniec.*

**NATIONAL BRIDGE DRIVE.**

The National Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on Saturday, 27th March. We were pleased to welcome all our friends and partners and succeeded in raising six tables. Our newly elected National Bridge Captain, W. Phillips, directed the proceedings for the first time.

The results were as follows:

- 1 R. Armstrong and partner**
- 2 W. Lethbridge and partner
- 3 F. Dickerson and partner
- 4 R. Fullard and partner.

We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Ian Dickson, who supplied their usual services and refreshments. A Committee Meeting was held before we all departed, and several points were raised, discussed and settled.

*W. Allen,  
Secretary.*

**FAMILY NEWS**

**WEDDINGS**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mr. Bob Cunningham* of Saltdean, who was married to Pat Tucker at Brighton Registry Office on 24th March. The reception was held afterwards in Bristol.

*Mr. Herbert James Habberfield* of Neath, on his marriage to Mrs. Mari Morris on 18th March.

*Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Homewood* of Bury-St.-Edmunds, on the marriage of their son, Gary, to Christine Leeder on 14th November, 1981. The young couple have settled in Cromer.

**GRANDCHILDREN**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mr. Ray Benson* of Billingshurst, on the birth of his fourth grandchild, Serefinia Rose, to his daughter, Sharon, and her husband Douglas on 18th February.

*Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Chatfield* of Chichester, on the birth of a second grandchild, Robert, to their daughter, Jennifer, and her husband on 3rd March.

*Mrs. Eileen Edwards*, widow of *Mr. J. Edwards*, of North Cheam, on the birth of a



*Her Majesty the Queen chats with St. Dunstaner Ray Billings during her visit to Hamilton, New Zealand.*

grand-daughter, Sophie Jose, to her daughter, Sally, and her husband, Robert Pullin, on 2nd February.

*Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newton* of Oldham, on the birth of another grandchild. A little boy, to be named Carl William Roy, was born on 22nd March to their daughter Elaine and her husband.

**GREAT GRANDCHILDREN**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mrs. Rose Peacey* of Saffron Walden, on the birth of a great grandson, Gareth, to her grand-daughter, Bella, and her husband, Robert, on the 2nd March.

*Mr. Joseph Whitley* and his wife, Ellen, of Southampton, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Gemma Elaine, to their grandson, Steven, and his wife, Beverley, on 30th March.

**RUBY WEDDINGS**

**Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boseley* of Wallasey, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 27th March.

*Mr. and Mrs. L. Hollamby*, of Oldham, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 18th April. They marked the occasion with a family party.

*Mr. and Mrs. Ike Pellington* of Prestatyn, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 28th March.

#### **GOLDEN WEDDINGS**

##### **Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Nicholson* of Beeston, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26th March.

#### **DIAMOND WEDDING**

##### **Congratulations to:**

*Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lincoln* of Wirral, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 19th April.

#### **PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

##### **Congratulations to:**

Andrew, son of *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamilton* of Manchester, who, at the age of 21, has obtained a position as Maths Master for the Sixth Form at a comprehensive school in Alsager, Cheshire. Andrew studied at York University.

Mark Sharples, grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. T. Taylor* of Preston, who, at the age of 10, has been awarded his Swimming badge for two miles, to add to his Junior Life Saving, and Personal Survival Silver Medal.

#### **DEATHS**

##### **We offer sympathy to:**

Mrs. Patterson, wife of *Mr. E. Patterson* of Birkenhead, on the death of her father, Mr. Williams, on the 18th March. Mr. Williams was 99 years old.

*Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Pointon* of Bexhill-on-Sea, on the death of Mr. Pointon's mother, Susan, on 12th March. She was 93 years of age.

*Mr. Alan Reynolds* of Shrewsbury, whose mother passed away on 17th March.

*Mrs. Brenda Rea* of Rottingdean, on the death of her sister, Mrs. Doris Cameron of Telford. Mrs. Cameron passed away on 22nd March.

## **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.**

#### **A.S. Corrin, King's Regiment (Liverpool).**

Albert Stephen Corrin, of Douglas, Isle of Man, passed away on 11th March. He was 86 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner for 9 years. Mr. Corrin served as a Private in the King's Regiment (Liverpool) from 1916 to 1918, and his sight was damaged as a result of a gunshot wound whilst on active service at St. Quentin. Upon returning to civilian life, he went into partnership in a butchery business, in which he looked after the management side. He was a well-known and well-respected member of his local community. Mr Corrin was a widower, and our sympathy is extended to his son and 2 daughters.

#### **A.S. Reeves, Grenadier Guards.**

Arthur Stuart Reeves of Bloxwich passed away on 13th March, at the age of 63. Mr. Reeves served as a Sgt. in the Grenadier Guards from 1939 to 1945 and lost an eye as a result of a gunshot wound in Normandy, but after his discharge from the Army, he was able to work as a Wages Clerk for an Engineering Company. With the failure of his remaining vision, he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1981. He had recently spent two periods at Ian Fraser House, where he was learning Braille, typing, cookery and handicrafts. Mr. Reeves was a widower, and our sympathy goes to his brother, William, and all friends and relatives.

#### **R. Sharp, D.S.M. Royal Navy.**

Robert Sharp of Girvan, Ayrshire, passed away suddenly on 9th March. He was 60 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1969. Mr. Sharp served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. He was wounded at Dieppe in August, 1942, and for his gallantry in this action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Both before and after the War, Mr. Sharp was at sea as an in-shore fisherman and at one time skippered a trawler. With the failure of his sight, he became a St. Dunstaner in 1969, and after a period of training at Brighton, was able to follow employment in light engineering in the South of England. Due to failing health, Mr. Sharp took an early retirement in 1980, and soon afterwards he and his wife returned to their native Ayrshire, where our St. Dunstaner enjoyed working in his garden and greenhouse. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Isabella and all members of the family.