



St Dunstans  
Review  
June 1982



## Message from the Chairman

### Our Forces in Action

The Argentinian seizure of the Falkland Islands dominates our thoughts and at the time I write this it is impossible to foresee what may befall our Forces in the South Atlantic.

However, I know that all St. Dunstaners will join me in expressing our admiration and full support for our service men and women involved and in sending our heartfelt sympathy to the wives and relatives of any who become casualties.

### Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

On the 23rd April, I was privileged to attend a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Golden Jubilee of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association and I was particularly pleased to act as escort for Mr. Robert Young. Surely no one could better represent St. Dunstaners on such an occasion than a man like Bob, who was blinded and also lost an arm in the First World War, but joined our staff and was a successful speaker for many years and was also an outstanding sportsman.

It was a very nice Service in Westminster Abbey, attended by hundreds of BLESMA members and their friends and honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the Association. An historical note printed with the Order of Service told us how a small group of limbless ex-service men in Glasgow banded together soon after the First World War and their Association grew into the famous BLESMA of today. The Organisation works unceasingly for those who lost limbs in both World Wars and other conflicts and provides many forms of help and support, from residential homes to research and sporting activities. It was indeed an occasion for thanksgiving.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's, I congratulate all our friends in BLESMA on their Golden Jubilee and wish them every success and good fortune in the future.

### Links with Australia

Mr. Eric Boulter, who is a St. Dunstaner and member of our Council, and is so well known for his work in blind welfare all over the world, recently visited Melbourne. He was invited to attend a meeting of the Honorary Officers of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, of which he is a Past President. He also attended the Annual Convention of the Australian National Council of and for the Blind and he and his wife were delighted to give a lunch for St. Dunstaners in the Melbourne area and further afield in Victoria.



Eric Boulter with our Chairman and our President, Sir Michael Ansell.

This reunion was organised by Mr. Bill Gray, Honorary Secretary of the Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Association, and there were thirty-seven guests, including wives and escorts. Everyone was particularly pleased to see Mr. Pat Longden's widow, Joy, who escorted their distinguished oldest member, Mr. Foster McConnell, who has turned 90 and was in excellent shape and high good humour.

Eric Boulter tells us that "many members recalled with gratitude and pleasure their stay at Ovingdean and other visits to Britain. It was apparent that the bond of affection between St. Dunstaners in Australia and the United Kingdom remained as firm as ever". He extended warm greetings from all of us to our Australian friends and he and Mary look back on the Melbourne lunch as one of the outstanding highlights of their travels abroad.

ION GARNETT-ORME

### BRILLE BOOKS REQUIRED FOR IAN FRASER HOUSE

Phil Duffee is currently re-organising the Braille library. He would greatly appreciate any books no longer required by individuals. They should preferably be novels of no more than four volumes. Remember, Braille material goes post-free.

### VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS

St. Dunstaner Jimmy Ellis, who lives in South Africa, has been trying to obtain a copy

of Sir Arthur Pearson's book, 'Victory over Blindness'. If any St. Dunstaner has a copy he or she would be willing to part with, please get in touch with the Review office at Headquarters.

### IN TOUCH HANDBOOK

The B.B.C. Handbook, "In Touch", 3rd Edition, is now available on Cassette. For details, please send a stamped addressed envelope to: C. Cadwell Esq., 48 Fairfax Road, Grange Estate, Farnborough, Hants.

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Cover Picture: Charlie Hague talks with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at the Kirkby Sports Centre, Liverpool.  
photo: Knowsley Reporter



## Dr. ANTHONY de SILVA, O.B.E.

The sudden death on Easter Sunday of Dr. Anthony de Silva was a shock to all who knew him.

Qualifying in medicine in 1946 at the age of thirty, he was to lose his sight only six years later, but after training and rehabilitation at the R.N.I.B.'s Torquay Centre, he was appointed Admissions Officer with the Hospital Services in London, a post he occupied with distinction for 29 years.

Dr. de Silva was a member of the R.N.I.B.'s Executive Council for 23 years, and a Chairman of its committees, but his interests extended to rehabilitation, housing and the training of blind youth. He was a past President of the National Federation of the Blind, and an enthusiastic guide dog owner, and had official links with the Association. He was a protagonist for the long cane technique and a member of the National Mobility Centre's Committee in Birmingham.

Climbing was one of the pastimes he enjoyed, and he will be greatly missed by the Milton Mountaineers.

At the Funeral Service, held at St. Peter's, Kidbrook, S.E.3, on April 20th, St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. Richard Dufton, who also represented the National Mobility Centre. A large congregation joined Mrs. de Silva, their two daughters and son (also a Doctor), to pay their respects and to give thanks for the life of Dr. de Silva and his dedicated service to the community and to the blind world.

*Richard Dufton*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S POSTBAG

### Letter from Agnes Stickings, Christchurch, New Zealand

I write to you on behalf of my brother, Andrew Luke, who wishes to thank you and St. Dunstan's for your kindness and generosity. He has very little sight, having lost one eye a few years ago and the other deteriorating badly. He is a bachelor and will be 70 years old in June.

He left N.Z. with the 2nd Echelon in 1940, and was for a time at Aldershot. He then went through the Greece Campaign, and was later captured on Crete and sent to Stalag 8B in Germany. He was repatriated in an exchange of prisoners in 1944 under the Geneva Convention. He had the misfortune

to be in an explosion of a primus lamp in Maadi Camp while awaiting transport home to N.Z. He suffered severe burns, and was eventually brought home by Hospital Ship. . . He really has had a stormy passage, but all that has in no way deterred him from living a busy and useful life. He has wonderful friends and neighbours, and I live just round the corner.

He lives in the family home and has three-quarters of an acre of beautiful garden which he loves and tends. He keeps his home very nice, with little help, and his garden is a showpiece.

I, too, join him in expressing gratitude to you and St. Dunstan's. N.Z. St. Dunstan's, based in Auckland, have been very kind, as has our "Fernwood" Blind Institute, where Colin Fisk and his staff go far beyond the bounds of duty in their care.

I hope you are getting past the worst of your severe winter!

## CORRECTION TO ARCHERY ARTICLE IN THE APRIL REVIEW

Inadvertently, Doug Howard was listed as a Partially Sighted man, whereas, of course, he is in the TB category. I apologise for this mistake and any upset it may have caused. The medal position will be sorted out at the June shoot.

As a club, we hope to avoid such errors in future, by introducing an identity card system such as is already in operation in the Bowls club. This card will carry a man's picture and his visual status as certified by an ophthalmic surgeon. The purpose of the card is to serve as a means of showing the officials of any club or outside shoot the official status of the individual concerned. This will be especially useful when competing with other disabled persons.

Any club member who has not yet sent me two passport-type photos is advised to do so in order to speed up the issue of the identity card.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped us to have a grand time in February, especially Phil Van Buren, Ted Bradford, Laurie Austin and the Care Assistants and Drivers who supported us so well. A big 'thank you' must also go to Dr. Stilwell for his valuable help in making all the arrangements, and to the office staff who helped me with the typing and copying of the programme.

*Phil Duffee*

# A Moment to Spare –with Syd Scroggie

## GOODBYE, TODAY

If you have a fancy for disappearing without trace, getting murdered on an official basis, or being put to the torture, then you have been born into a world well-constituted to meet your requirements. Many are the countries where these amenities are on offer, and in fact, in contrast to so many other things, this is an expanding market. St. Dunstaners of my age, about sixty, were born at a time when the world was a bit disappointing in this respect. There was a certain amount of law and order, the international set-up was reasonably stable, and there were even moral pressures within countries, hostile to the abuse of power, careful of individual rights, as against the requirements of Government. We lived in safer times, and those with masochistic tendencies had to go to quite inordinate lengths to get official co-operation. In the dangerous world of today, which millions died to secure, we cannot open a newspaper or hear a news bulletin without realising how easy it is fully to exploit what lust we may have for self-destruction. Not the meek, but the masochistic have inherited the earth and

in all quarters of the globe there are official bodies eager to further their needs. I am old-fashioned enough not to want to disappear without trace; the prospect of being murdered, especially by state decree, has little appeal for me; and, where torture is concerned, there is nothing further from my thoughts than that I should assist in fastening the electrodes or present my fingers for the bamboo skewers. I share the opinion of Louis Armstrong that we live in a wonderful world, in some vestiges of it, anyway, and would seek to enjoy it in so far as an obsolete specimen of European man may. Here in Dundee there is music at the Bonar Hall, volumes abound in the Reference Library, works of art in the Albert Institute nearby; there is conversation with friends, civilized conviviality, and Radio 3 is available at the touch of a button. Besides, are there not dawns and sunsets, birds in the bushes, flowers in the borders, the whole range of uncorrupted nature for ears that can hear, eyes that can see? There is a time for the ivory tower, Plato tells us, and so far as I am concerned, in a world given over to the rule of Yahoos, the erroneous, the psychopathological, the irremediably manic, that time has now come.

## ISRAEL – MAY 1983

The outline details of this trip are as follows: Depart from Heathrow, Saturday, 21st May, 1983, returning Saturday, 4th June. The itinerary will include 5 nights in Jerusalem with visits to the Old and New City; Bethlehem; Dead Sea and Massada; Possible audience with the President; 9 nights in Netanya, which is on the coast just North of Tel Aviv. From here there will be trips to Nazareth; Lake Tiberias; Caesarea; Port of Acco; an Israeli Air Base; parachute school and Naval Base; a centre for the Israeli War Veterans; reception at the British Embassy. There will be several free days during the fortnight. The cost to cover flights, hotels at half board, excursions and insurance, will be approximately £420 per person. Anyone interested, other than those people who have already been in contact, should write to me, or telephone soon at HQ.

*Ray Hazan*

## ROYAL FLYING CORPS REUNION

by Jimmy Wright

On Wednesday, 5th May, Bill Harris, M.B.E., invited me to be his guest at the Annual Reunion Luncheon of the members of the Royal Flying Corps Wireless Operators Old Comrades Association. The luncheon was arranged by Bill, and took place in the Griffin Rooms of London Transport's Club in South Kensington, where he is a member, as a former employee of L.P.T.B. In fact, Bill mentioned on Tuesday that he first started work in 1914, in the days of the horse drawn trams, which were run by the London County Council.

Twenty-three members of this illustrious group, more than a third of those known to exist in the U.K., were present, including two who actually joined up in the R.F.C. on the same day, and later served with the same unit in France. In those days, wireless was not as we know it today – it wasn't possible to communicate from the ground to the



### ROYAL FLYING CORPS REUNION *contd.*

flyer; marking out with signs on the ground was the best that could be done to guide a pilot. The Morse Code was the only means of wireless telegraphy between the R.F.C. wireless types on the ground and the army chaps.

The Chairman of the Association is ninety year old Eddie Woolley, still remarkably alert despite being stone deaf in one ear as a result of his wartime injuries; he had travelled some considerable distance, as did many of the other members, in order to be together for this special annual occasion and to mark their respect for their wartime comrades who never returned from battle.

It was altogether a splendid event, an excellent lunch, and obviously enjoyed immensely by everyone present, and all thanks to Bill, as organiser of these Reunions.

### BARBICAN CENTRE

by Jimmy Wright

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Registered Charity, Disablement in the City, I represent visually handicapped residents of the City of London.

On 30th April, on behalf of D.I.C., I was invited to attend a meeting at the new Barbican Arts Centre, in the company of others, some of whom were able-bodied members of organisations concerned with the care of disabled people, as well as several who had differing disabilities.

One severely physically handicapped lady was confined to a wheelchair. The object of the exercise was to ascertain what precise special facilities had been provided for disabled people during the construction of the building. The building is not fully in commission, and we still have certain reservations about the adequacy of (a) sign posting; (b) the rise and fall platform in the theatre; (c) the provisions of adequate information written or tactile, in the way of a guide which will inform disabled people where the facilities are placed.

Access is best made from Silk Street and Level 3 has the best access from the point of view of those who are confined to wheelchairs. Unfortunately, most doors are heavy and hard to push for those who are on crutches; however, there would seem to be plenty of help from staff. The reason the doors are difficult is because they are on

self-return springs, for fire precaution reasons. There is ample accommodation for wheelchairs in the theatre, hall, pit, and cinemas, so that the person in a wheelchair can be with his or her escort. People in wheelchairs must be escorted, although visually handicapped people can go alone, or with their guide dogs, and there are staff available to look after the guide dogs in a special room. We have suggested tactile numerals close to the press buttons operating the four lifts on each of the levels. There is an excellent library with plenty of space to manoeuvre wheelchairs which also applies in the restaurant on the main level, No. 7; on level 5 there is a cafe, including a terrace.

As a group, we shall make a return visit in about three months' time to assess the improvements that have been made.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

*Cat. No. 3650*

**The Pic-nic & Suchlike Pandemonium**

by Gerald Durrell

*Read by George Hagan*

*Reading Time 7½ hours*

This is a collection of short stories set in differing localities, different countries even, but apart from a total absence of animals (flourishing *or* endangered) they all have one thing in common – the Durrell magic. They range from the very funny to the hilarious and outrageous. Durrell has a genius (almost Wodehouse-ian sometimes) for the comic situation and here he exploits it to the full.

The first tale concerns a celebratory picnic "organised" by his mother to mark the return of brother Lawrence after a ten-year absence. Everything which can go wrong with a pic-nic *does* go wrong – with a vengeance! Each new catastrophe is accompanied by the acid comments of "Larry", who didn't want to go on the picnic in the first place and is in consequence even more caustic and difficult than normal...

After this masterpiece the rest is compulsive reading. The final tale in this enchanting book is the famous "The Michelin Man".  
A gem of a book.



Eileen Williams with Dr. O'Hara.

## Easter at Ian Fraser House

The Easter Programme at Ian Fraser House started on Good Friday with a special Service conducted by the Rev. Meek in the Chapel at 9.30 a.m. and in the afternoon a coach load of St. Dunstaners and escorts drove to the Dixieland Restaurant at Eastbourne for an enjoyable afternoon, including tea.

On Saturday a group of racing enthusiasts enjoyed a day at Plumpton Races.

An Easter Sunday service was held for the Roman Catholics in the Roman Catholic Church at Rottingdean and a Communion Service was held in the Chapel at Ian Fraser House for other denominations. This service was again conducted by our Padre.

That evening, we were again entertained by the large band of the Royal Engineers Association conducted by Mr. Harry Ottway. As always the band gave a most enjoyable performance.

On Easter Monday we had our Easter Dance with Bar and Buffet in the Lounge. We were pleased to have Dr. and Mrs. O'Hara as our guests and they kindly judged the Easter Bonnet Parade.

The standard of hats exhibited was again extremely high and the judges had great difficulty in making the final choice.

Dr. O'Hara felt that three of the ladies should have prizes for attractiveness and inventiveness –

Elsie Aldred had a delightful creation made up of various spring flowers

Eileen Williams had a most attractive hat covered in peach blossom

Barbara Bell had a silver coronet from which sprang daffodils

The male prize winners were Alf Waters with a hat entitled "Easter Produce". This was made of various gardening items such as a flower pot, gardening hose, packets of seeds, etc. Charlie Pilgrim with a creation entitled "Eggsquisite" produced a hat covered with decorated egg shells and Stan Grimsey from Pearson House looked very fine in a hat entitled "Over the Rainbow" being a bonnet decorated with the rainbow colours.

Following the presentation of the prizes, Eileen Williams thanked Mrs. O'Hara and her husband and made a presentation of a basket of flowers to Mrs. O'Hara.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all those who attended, even Harold Williamson, whose hat, composed in part of an inflated balloon, unfortunately burst during the prizegiving!



## REUNIONS

### MANCHESTER, 22nd APRIL

37 St. Dunstaners gathered at the Midland Hotel for the Manchester Reunion. Of this total, 5 were from the 1st World War. Their attendance was a magnificent effort on their part.

Although a Yorkshireman, Mr. Garnett-Orme, who chaired the Reunion, was not embarrassed at being in Lancashire: "The name Garnett is a common one in Yorkshire, and the name Orme is not unknown in Lancashire." He extended a warm welcome to the three St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion - Mr. Blacklock of High Greaves, Mr. Bumby of Manchester, and Father Tierney of Blackburn.

Mr. Garnett-Orme continued, "The thoughts that will be uppermost in our minds, will be those of the Falkland Islands. We all hope and pray for a peaceful, diplomatic solution. However, I am quite sure that, should the worst happen, our armed forces in all the Services will show the same skill, courage and determination that you all showed during your service days. One assurance I can give you, is that all of us at St. Dunstan's are well aware of our responsibilities. We are prepared to do everything in our power to train and help any new St. Dunstaner who, sadly, may join our family."

Mr. Garnett-Orme referred to the success of the Open Days held in Brighton last year, and announced that they would be repeated on the 6th and 7th July this year, circumstances permitting. In mentioning the toy-making course at HQ, he described how many of the wives were becoming as proficient as their husbands at carpentry. "This leads me on to think what wonderful wives and helpers we have. We owe them so much." The Chairman concluded by thanking, on behalf of all present, the organisers of the Reunion, Miss Broughton and Mrs. Henderson.

Mr. Norman Kershaw, responding on behalf of St. Dunstaners, re-emphasised the Chairman's remarks, by saying how grateful everybody was to the welfare visitors who continued their visits despite the very bad winter. He thanked them, the members of Council, and all the staff.

The afternoon concluded in the usual manner with dancing, a raffle and tea.



*Dancing at the Manchester Reunion.*

### LIVERPOOL, 24th APRIL

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., who presided at the Reunion, started by telling the tale about a Mr. Hetherington who was arrested in January, 1797. He was charged with 'Appearing in a public highway and wearing upon his head a tall structure having a shining lustre, and calculated to frighten timid people'. He was fined £50. His crime? - The very first public wearing of a top hat. "You could say that was proof that you really ought not to be too far ahead of your time! But what a good thing for St. Dunstan's that Sir Arthur Pearson was ahead of his time."

In welcoming the 31 St. Dunstaners present, the Air Vice-Marshal made a special mention of Mr. Alf Lincoln, the only 1st World War St. Dunstaner present, and his wife. Less than a week before, they had celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. He also welcomed the three women St. Dunstaners, Elsie Aldred, Vi Delaney and Sadie Stokes.

To most people, he continued, the word St. Dunstan's was synonymous with the word inspiration. This was part of the message of Sir Arthur Pearson, and, in turn,

St. Dunstaners helped inspire others with the sense of independence. The word inspiration sprang to mind in another way. "There is much about this world that is rough, tough and materialistic. Fortunately, man still retains some noble aspirations, not the least amongst these being the achievements of individual St. Dunstaners and their marvellous wives."

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan concluded by wishing a happy birthday to Jack Beattie, and a happy wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Hague. But before that, on behalf of the whole gathering, he 'sent our hearts' out to those on duty on behalf of their country in the South Atlantic.

Mr. Taylor, replying for St. Dunstaners, said it would be remiss of him if he said 'Thank You' for today only. There were all the other days of the year which came under the influence of the inspiration of St. Dunstan's. "I feel that to the word inspira-

### BRIGHTON, 7th May

It was an animated group of over 200 people who gathered at the Bedford Hotel for the Brighton Reunion. Of this group, 12 were from the 1st War, 69 from the 2nd and 8 from post-war.

Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C. presiding, re-emphasised the importance both St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners attached to these occasions - the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. He welcomed old friends, the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, Matron Blackford and Matron Hallett, Commander Fawcett and Dr. John O'Hara.

Sir Douglas was encouraged, when looking through the list of those present, to see how many were busy in their retirement. He underlined the importance of keeping occupied.

Again, it was repeated that St. Dunstan's was fully prepared to meet its obligations towards any victims of the Falklands crisis. The hope that it would not come to a fight was applauded by all. Sir Douglas ended by hoping the Council would see everyone back in a year's time.

The Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Wakefield, responded by thanking St. Dunstan's for the hospitality extended to himself and the Mayoress. He told the gathering about how, as Chairman of the

tion, we should add security, for St. Dunstan's has been our security over many years." Mr. Taylor concluded with thanks to the Chairman, all St. Dunstaners for their inspiration, and the hotel staff. Vi Delaney presented a bouquet to Mrs. Colahan, and the rest of the day organised by Mrs. Henderson continued.

The afternoon turned the Air Vice-Marshal's reference to inspiration into reality, and realised the aim of the Reunions - contact, on a personal basis, between St. Dunstaners and staff. One could only draw inspiration from a conversation with 83-year-old Alf Lincoln. His charm and quiet politeness are captivating. One cannot but be impressed by his active mind, his Braille reading and his continued interest in the world of communications, in which he worked for 45 years. Mrs. Lincoln derives much pleasure from painting. Long may St. Dunstaners continue to support each other.

Planning Committee some years ago, as a result of a telephone conversation with Lord Fraser, he was able to help Ovingdean. The erecting of an illuminated name board had been refused, as it 'might distract drivers on the coast road'. Now, every time he passed the illuminated fascia board, it gave him a pleasant reminder of something he had been able to do for the organisation. The Mayor was relinquishing his post in a fortnight's time.

#### Birthday

In introducing Mr. Hobson, responding on behalf of St. Dunstaners, it was pointed out that the reunion was being held on his 65th birthday. Mr. Hobson started by thanking Miss Stuart and Miss Blebta for organising the day. He continued, "I have been thinking quite a lot about the Falklands this past week. I have had fantastic treatment, speaking for myself, for the past 40 years. There is not an organisation in the world that can look after its members like they do at St. Dunstan's. All I can say is, Thank God they can carry on their good works." He sat down to loud applause.

The noise during the speeches was exceeded only by the music of the band which accompanied numerous dancing couples, and the sound of chatter and cheer as of people enjoying themselves.





Don and Sharon Planner.

## WAYS OF LIFE No. 44

### LIVE NOW – Don Planner

Talking to Ray Hazan  
Pictures: Prue Williams

"I had learned to cope with my blindness. I had a job. What I had seen of St. Dunstan's did not impress me. There seemed to be no need to become a St. Dunstaner."

Shocking words, if not blasphemy, to those who have been with the organisation for several decades. But 13 years of service life, and the nature of his work, have trained Don Planner to be resourceful and independent. The fact that an accident had nearly cost Don his life, let alone his sight, bears further proof of the nature of the man.

Don admits to being an extrovert, and to having a persuasive manner. But, beneath this exterior lies a quiet determination, as his several exploits witness. Don was born in October 1947 and spent his childhood and school days on the Isle of Sheppey. Being very determined to join the Army as soon as possible, and gain an apprenticeship, Don commenced at the Army Apprentice

College, Arborfield, in January 1964. For 3 years, Don was taught the skills of a vehicle mechanic and engine fitter. The Junior Army offers a wide range of sports and hobbies, and it was cycling that caught Don's fancy. He represented the College, and then the British Army against NATO forces, in Paris, 1966. He was married to his wife, Sharon, in December of that year.

Wearing the cap badge of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Don joined his first unit, an Engineer Regt. based in Maidstone. But Kent was to be a very temporary home, his unit being posted twice to Gibraltar and once to Kenya. In the latter country, they spent 6 months building 130 miles of road. "It's a fantastic country, and one I would love to visit again." In Gibraltar, one of Don's jobs was to assist in the building of a sports stadium. Another was to take the ferry, the *Mons Calpe*, to

Tangier once a fortnight, where he had to inspect, service and repair two Landrovers used in adventure training jaunts across the Atlas Mountains.

Don went on to see service in Osnabrück and West Berlin. From here he went skiing with the 2nd Bn., The Coldstream Guards, and was in the Tug of War team for the 3rd Bn., The Greenjackets.

#### Explosion

On 15th June, 1975, Don's army career came to an abrupt end. He was carrying out a conversion on a fuel storage tank. As so frequently happens, the impossible occurs, and the tank got through the system without being cleansed. As Don applied a welding torch, the fumes ignited, "...and that was the last I remembered until I awoke from a coma, 10 or 11 days later". Don spent 4 months in a German hospital while they repaired a fractured skull, broken jaw bones and haemorrhages. As a result of the explosion, Don has now lost most of his sight, his sense of smell, most of his sense of taste and some hearing in one ear. He admitted to these handicaps reluctantly, and recalled the date of the accident with difficulty – a healthy sign, surely, of how much the past is behind him.

"I thought life was finished. Because you have never been through anything so traumatic before, you simply don't know what life has in store. My sons, Stuart and Daniel, were 8 and 4 at the time. I do remember Daniel saying 'doesn't dad look horrible, just like Frankenstein!' He was right – I had a shaven head, 174 stitches, and a wired-up jaw." A staff car was provided to take Sharon to the hospital, and her visits and support were obviously a great morale boost.

#### Training

Don returned to the UK in October 1975 and in February of the following year, started training at Ian Fraser House. Although Don was officially classed as 'border-line', he had very little sight, and his training was geared to a totally blind person: Braille, long cane, typing, and, of course, as a mechanic, quite some time in the workshops, learning to adapt to familiar machinery, as a blind person. Just prior to Brighton, Don and his family had moved to Kemsley, just outside



At archery practice.

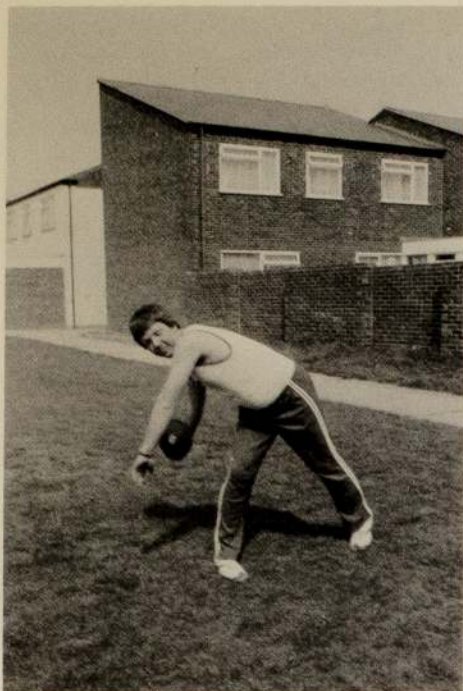
Sittingbourne; thus, Don was once more a Man of Kent.

#### Without Work

There followed a depressing 6 months without work. Many will have no doubt experienced the same frustrations of adapting to a new and seemingly inactive life as a blind person, unable to give vent to one's pent-up energy – and the sheer boredom of inactivity. But eventually, Don found work with a local firm as a machine operator. "The work consisted of milling and grinding cast-iron – a dusty, dirty job. Standing for 8 or 9 hours at a machine – the job became purely a reflex action, with the mind in a trance. I stuck it for two and a half years, and then found a job elsewhere as an assembly fitter." The work involved reconditioning starter-motors, dynamos and alternators. This job also lasted two and a half years, until August last year, when Don was made redundant.

During his time at work, what little sight Don had deteriorated even more, so that he was accepted onto full benefits at the beginning of 1981. Once more, the machinery of





Throwing the discus.

Ian Fraser House swung into action to help find a new area of employment for his skills. Engraving was considered, and, in co-operation with John Brown, a system was devised for setting up each job dead centre, prior to engraving. But it was decided that Don's area would not provide sufficient work and so, earlier this year, Don returned to IFH to train for telephony. Mrs. Purchard of British Telecom trained Don on St. Dunstan's own switchboard. It is now deemed not necessary to learn shorthand Braille. As Don learned, during part of his training on a three-day telephony course, the concept has now changed; the telephonist principally operates the switchboard. He does not take messages himself but puts calls through to a member of the staff who will take the message. The course also taught how to deal with customers, how to 'educate' one's employer as to how a telephonist should be used, indeed, all the theoretical side of the job. Don has learned the practical side by acting as temporary telephonist at Ian Fraser House, until he can find a permanent job in his own area. Once again, Don will face a 'depressing time', but let us hope a position may soon be found.

### Sport and Leisure

If you are young, and not content to sit around, then sport and leisure activities take on an even more important role. "I found myself putting on weight, and, with the help of a local schoolmaster, took up putting the shot, discus and javelin. At my first attempt at the Stoke Mandeville games, I won two golds and a silver medal." Don has thrown the javelin 38 metres, the shot 8.4 metres, and the discus 37 metres. What he likes about these sports is "that you can do them on a par with anyone else".

### Chairman

"I found out that there was no sports association for the visually handicapped in Kent. In fact, the British Sports Association for the Disabled contacted me just before Stoke Mandeville and asked if I would form a branch. I have now been Chairman of the BSAD of Kent for 4 years." Don also sits on a local sports and recreation council as an advisory member on behalf of the disabled. As if this work were not enough, in October last year, Don co-founded the Kent Sports Association for the Visually Handicapped. The object is to encourage and organise sporting events and send teams to compete elsewhere in the country. These include bowls, cricket, and 5-a-side football.

### Archery

Don is also keen on archery. Members of his club come from a local avionics group. Apprentices from there have made him a sighting stand, and when at home, he tries to shoot once a week. For the first time, Don joined the St. Dunstan's skiing party to Germany this year. He was a great success, as skiing blind is a totally new experience. Don proved to be quietly determined on the slopes, and good company off the slopes.

### Young Blind people

Don's other interest is the encouragement of young blind people. Once more, he has been involved in the setting up of a Social Club for the young blind of Swale. A tandem ride from Trafalgar Square to Sittingbourne last November raised funds. In May, he took a party to Holland for a weekend trip, spon-



At the organ.

sored by Round Table and hosted for one day by Rotary.

Still in connection with the welfare of others, Don does his best to attend the twice-monthly meeting of his local Lions International. They raise some five to six thousand pounds annually to help worthy causes within the community.

### Music

Another way of being involved in the community, but on a very personal basis, is playing music at various clubs or functions. During his first stay at Brighton, Don got talking to Peter Larson, an organist who occasionally played at Ian Fraser House. Don was advised to buy a Yamaha organ, and, unable to find anybody to tutor him, taught himself. He now has a synthesizer and a large additional speaker. "I can play a good, all-round selection for three-and-a-half hours." He plays in a local club, at birthday parties and receptions. "My only previous experience with a musical instrument was when I failed to learn the bagpipes while in boys' service."

Don was asked, 'why all these activities?'

"When you have nearly lost your life, it shows you how important it is to live now. Sometimes, I know I take on too much. I suppose I am trying to prove things to myself, not to other people. Because I have lost the satisfaction I had when serving in the forces, I have to try something else. The only way now, is to do the things I can to the best of my ability. I don't think my personality has changed. I still consider myself a fairly forceful person. This, together with the fact that I too cannot see, helps when encouraging the young blind in Kent.

### Determination

"I know I would not be the person I am today had my wife pampered and done everything for me." Like almost every other St. Dunstaner, Don has been re-equipped and retrained for his new life, but Sharon has had to learn for herself. Life has not been a bed of roses since that day in June 1975. What stands out is determination, motivation and character. With these three ingredients, and St. Dunstan's to do the stirring, the result should be tasty!



## PAPER LOGS

The impending arrival of summer time will doubtless turn the minds of the more cynical to thoughts of blazing, crackling, open log fires. Friends of the environment may have already installed one of those imitation log fires which burn gas, and money. But here is a simple method of slowing down the destruction of trees, recycling waste paper, cutting out saws, splinters, aching backs, and preserving valuable garage space.

Watts of Calcot have produced the "Briketpresse". Sheets of newspaper are crumpled and soaked in water overnight, preferably in a plastic dustbin to get a reasonable quantity. The resulting pulp is compressed in the Briketpresse, under 1600 lbs. pressure per square inch, according to the brochure, and a 'brickette' 9" x 3" x 2", is produced. The brickettes need to dry out for one or two weeks, depending on weather and air circulation. I found that the drying period needed to be much longer in my garage. I dried my first brickette indoors for speed, and found it burned for well up to the 1½ hours claimed by the makers.

The Presse is made of heavy metal. Two large, square handles exert a 6-to-1 ratio pressure on a cage, which, in turn, compresses the pulp. It is simple to operate and does not need much strength. Very approximately, two newspapers make one brickette, which, due to its shape, will take much less room to store than logs.

The Presse is available from: Watts of Calcot, Environment House, Bath Road, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire, RG3 5QP.

Price, including VAT, post and packing, is £31.50. Cheques should be made payable to Watts of Calcot.

St. Dunstan's is very grateful to Watts of Calcot for the use of a Briketpresse for the writing of this article.

### ST. DUNSTAN'S ARCHERY CLUB

Readers will be interested to hear that the distinguished actor of 'Vet' and 'Winston Churchill' fame, Mr. Robert Hardy, has kindly agreed to present the Dacre Archery Trophy on Sunday, 1st August at Ian Fraser House. Apart from being a great actor, he is a world-authority on Archery, and has written a Social and Military History of the Long Bow. He is at present concerned with

the care of the Long Bows from the Mary Rose.

Readers will also be interested to hear that his wife, Sally, is the daughter of Sir Neville Pearson and the late Dame Gladys Cooper. Thus, we are doubly honoured at this support from a distinguished personality and a connection with the St. Dunstan's family.

The Club has now increased to 31 members and it is hoped to get wives and families involved by shooting with the members.

### "ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND" POST REGULATIONS

The question about whether recorded 'cassette letters' could be sent under the "Articles for the Blind" label, post free, has been raised as a result of a recent "In Touch" programme. Post Office regulations state that specially-adapted items, items sent to or by an organisation for the blind, and Talking Newspapers/Magazines previously cleared by the Post Office, may be sent free of charge. Letters, therefore, are *not* covered. Perhaps we should all 'write' to the Chairman of the Post Office?

## 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.*

**Henry James Turley** of South Ruislip joined St. Dunstan's on 16th April. Mr. Turley served as a Private in the R.A. and subsequently with the Pioneer Corps, during the 2nd World War. He is 59 years of age and unmarried. He lost the sight of one eye in 1945 as the result of a gunshot wound whilst on service in West Germany.

**John Walbrugh** of Woodgate, nr. Chichester, joined St. Dunstan's on the 26th April. Mr. Walbrugh served as a gunner with the South African Artillery from 1944 until 1946, and he suffered grenade injuries to his eyes in Italy in 1945. He is a married man with two adult sons and was previously a St. Dunstaner from 1950 to 1955.

## IF YER GOTTA GO. . .

by Penelope Goodwin

Listening to Brahm's Fourth—stimulating. Reflect on today. If I even mention First Line Management Course, the editor will plonk this firmly on the spike, but it's not the management I'm on about. Oh no, not anything half as sensible as that. I leave all the motivating, deployment and that yak to those more able. I confess Algorithms sounds more like some form of furtive birth control than anything to do with any sort of management, but that is only a passing thought.

No, think back to this morning. Manage to manage myself into the lift at the tech. with all sorts of efficient looking characters clutching brief cases. I look a bit out of place with my plastic bag in bright scarlet with a Charles Schultz Snoopy picture emblazoned on the side of it. Shoot out at the third floor and bustle along, trying to look like an eccentric executive. "Mawnin" we all mumble to each other as we wade through the accumulation of literature which has been hustled into our eager paws.

### Dynamite

Nine o'clock, and pow! Enter dynamite, singing and dancing in form of lecturer, who is a lean, lithe character, wearing trendy cinammon-coloured suit with equally trendy orange shirt and tie to match. He opts to introduce himself, which he does with *savoir faire*, panache, etc, etc. So he damned well ought, having once worked at Mogul. We are all part of the team, he seems to be saying. I draw one ear of a teddy bear. We may therefore smoke surreptitiously into those grotty little tins on our tables. It isn't really allowed, but . . . he shoots to his jacket pocket, and out come his own fags. Crafty devil, I think, dwelling on his psychological acumen.

### Star Performance

Note with interest that though quite a few of the assembly are smokers, only one other bod gets out a fag. The lecture starts. Well, it isn't a lecture, it's really more of a star performance.

Yes, really Mogul type. Cor, look at those ribs through that dizzying orange. Mmm, natty buttons on his trousers. Teddy bear now ha's face and a dicky bow. Scribble a word that seems relevant. Lithe leaner striding up and down the deck, reviewing the troops, or something. He starts posing a problem. Second fag lights up. He goes on and on and on. We all have a good chortle at his ready wit. We all listen to dissertation on punctuality. Marvelous man, doesn't pull his punches. Ruthless, managerial, more cor. Third fag lights up. Cor, and ever so cor. Pity his shoes aren't as trendy spotless as the rest of the ensemble. He probably overslept. No, "Cor" types would never oversleep. Much too motivated for that. Wot, another ciggy? Glance at the clock. Four in one hour. Blimey, that's pushing his luck a bit, isn't it? I look at his face. He looks healthy, he doesn't cough. He's certainly aware of his potential as an educator in management in one sense. Another ciggy. Teddy bear is wearing a pair of hot pants—ooh, rather refreshing. Furtively I get out of my lecturer assessment chart. I put a neat circle round the top mark to indicate my approval of his projection.

### Lung Cancer

I gaze at remarks column. "Imminent departure due to lung cancer—has smoked six fags in 1½ hours." I wonder reflectively what his performance would have been without them. He's a friendly young man, and for a split second when we adjourn for our coffee break he reminds me of a kid cousin who is about to embark on a business studies course. "Mate," I say thoughtfully, "if yer gotta go, yer gotta go, but do you know you smoked six cigarettes in 1½ hours?" His face registers complete blankness for a moment, then incredulity. We return from coffee, and as I walk through the door I see Mogul tipping his fag ends into the waste-paper bin. He stares at me, then says, "I really did smoke six, didn't I?" I nod. Who am I, a mere mundane ward sister on a first line management course, to tell him that he is courting death? Who am I to start pushing the No Smoking rules down his throat? Who indeed? Only somebody who was once in charge of terminal cancer patients—far too many of whom had smoked themselves to the brink of death.

If yer gotta go, yer gotta go—but what a way to go . . .



## DOOR TO DOOR

The Department of Transport has published a guide to transport for disabled people under the title, "Door to Door". The booklet explains the Mobility Allowance and through different sections gives advice and information on all forms of mobility for the disabled, including blind people. It covers walking, cars and taxis, special transport schemes, local travel by bus and train, inter-city journeys by coach and train and travel abroad by air and sea.

The guide aims to bring together basic information about transport for disabled people and to provide the reader with addresses to contact for detailed information. It is available free from: Department of Transport, Door to Door Guide, Freepost, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0BR, (no stamp required), or from local social services departments or D.H.S.S. offices.

## ADDITIONS TO RNIB'S CATALOGUE OF APPARATUS AND GAMES

### Maps of Devon and Cornwall and of Central and Southern England

Two vacuum formed plastic relief maps to a scale of approximately seven miles to the inch, printed in strong colours with the names in print for partially sighted people. The main towns are shown by long raised dots, the principal rivers by depressions and the boundaries of counties by raised lines. Names of seas, rivers and towns are in braille or braille symbols, with a key given in the guide. The maps are 23 by 19 inches.

|  | <i>Subsidised price</i> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Map of Devon and Cornwall (catalogue no. 9273)           | £0.88                   |
| Braille guide to the above (catalogue no. 45035)         | £0.20                   |
| Map of Central and Southern England (catalogue no. 9245) | £0.88                   |
| Braille guide to the above (catalogue no. 45192)         | £0.20                   |

### Map of Central Manchester

A vacuum formed plastic map covering the area around the city centre, scale approxi-

mately nine inches to the mile. Main streets, railway stations, churches, hospitals and so on are shown by various symbols. The braille guide gives the meaning of these symbols, and other general information.

|  | <i>Subsidised price</i> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Map of Central Manchester (catalogue no. 9246)   | £0.88                   |
| Braille guide to the above (catalogue no. 45019) | £0.20                   |

### Game of Othello

A game for two players: the object is to outmanoeuvre your opponent and end the game with more of your coloured discs on the board. The designers claim that it is a game 'that takes a minute to learn and a lifetime to master'. It consists of one folding board and 64 magnetic double sided playing discs, with print and braille instructions and hints on playing the game.

|                                      | <i>Subsidised price</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Game of Othello (catalogue no. 9180) | £5.15                   |

### Ringer timer

RNIB is clearing its backlog of orders and the new ringer timer should be in the London showroom by the end of the month.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ringer timer (catalogue no. 9492) | price: £3.75 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|

RNIB's illustrated catalogue of apparatus and games is available in print and braille.

## D. F. Robinson's

## GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you have all had the fine sunny weather in the middle of Spring, though the winds were very cold. It may have made it easier for you to make a good start to the coming growing season. It was sunny in the North, but we had very cold winds, which made me a bit late in getting the vegetables out in their quarters, especially those I had raised from seed. It turned out alright but I had to keep the watering can going over the seed beds which tended to dry out so quickly.

As I said in last month's notes, pests and diseases will be about now, so be wary and spray at the first sign of any trouble. Water thoroughly all the newly-planted items in the flower borders and vegetable patch. Keep the hoe going on all parts of the garden to keep down the weeds which seem to grow no matter what the weather is like.

## Vegetables

Hoe regularly along the rows of plants and if the soil appears to be on the dry side, give a good soaking with a hose or watering can. Also a scattering of a general fertiliser would give all the vegetables a boost. Don't forget to carry on sowing small quantities of Lettuce and Radish to keep you going with salads. Also, more Peas and French Beans can be put in for a later crop, and pick the Peas etc. which are coming to maturity regularly so that the other pods can grow well and get filled out. Give some liquid manure to the early Cauliflowers and, where the heads are forming, bend a leaf over the curd to stop it bolting. Water Lettuce very regularly and pick as they get to a good size. Tomatoes can be put outside and those of you in the South can put out a few more if they are available. Don't forget to tie into stakes regularly and keep moisture at a fairly high level and feed when the fruit is starting to show some size. It is a good time to sow your main crop of Parsnip and Swede. Cucumber on ridges can also be put in. Thin out the crops of Carrots, Beet and Onions to get better size and quality. Plant out any Marrows not already done, and if already in and growing well, stop main shoot to encourage side shoots and make for better growth. Ensure that the Runner Bean supports are in place and if a bit slow in climbing, tie in loosely to the supports of string or canes. Earth up the Potatoes as they grow and dig up earlies for use as you need them. Utilise the spare room for putting in Cabbage and Savoy.

## Fruit

There may be an invasion by Aphids, so give a spray of a good insecticide to counteract the pests and try to do it in calm conditions. Cut away any surplus growths on all trees, especially the rather strong ones on young plantings. Thin out the fruit if there is a very heavy set, more especially on Peaches and Apricots. Pull up all surplus and weak canes on Raspberries to ensure a good crop and

pinch back all side shoots on all Currants. Tie in the canes of these plus Loganberries and Blackberries so that they do not snap off due to a heavy crop. Water Strawberries well and pick all berries as they ripen. Layer the runners you need for future plants and cut away the rest. All fruit will need plenty of water if there are dry conditions or you may have a bad crop and poor size in the fruit at maturity.

## Lawns

Mow regularly but not so often if there has been a long period without rain. In these circumstances, provided there are no restrictions on the use of water, use a sprinkler on the lawn; if you have a large area, move the sprinkler from time to time to get an even distribution.

## Flowers

Finish off the planting out of all the bedding plants as early as possible. Don't forget to water them in well in order to settle in the roots and carry on with this watering especially when the weather is on the dry side. Cut away the flowering spikes of border plants such as Lupins, Delphiniums, Phlox, etc. as they go out of flower. This will probably give you more flowers up to late summer and autumn. Put out the Begonias, both tuberous and fibrous-rooted; they can take a good deal of sun but also like a bit of shade at the hottest part of the day, so find a sunny spot with some shade from trees or other tall plants. Spring flowering plants can be divided, the best parts retained for next year and the rest consigned to the compost heap. Iris can also be divided. Stake the hardy border Carnations and disbud to get quality of blooms. Dahlias need attention, as do the Sweet Peas, and cut blooms regularly to make for a longer flowering period and give water with some liquid manure added. Thin out those seedlings sown outdoors and if there is spare room elsewhere, put the things there. Polyanthus will need dividing if they have ended their blooming and put the other divisions along the borders which are empty and they will increase the show of colour in spring and early summer next year. Give the whole border a real soaking in dry periods and do this in early evening. At the same time, it might be a good thing to sprinkle a general fertiliser in pellet form or a liquid on to the better plants. This latter will have to be put on with a watering can. Roses could do with a balanced fertiliser and there



are several on the market specially for them. Also, spray if Black Spot is about, using a fungicide. Hoe and fork regularly to keep the weeds down and the soil friable.

### Greenhouse

Give plenty of air by keeping the windows wide open in daytime and a little open at night. Damp down the floor during hot dry weather to keep the atmosphere moist. Also attack the insect pests and fungus diseases by burning a smoke every so often but ensure that any plants which are susceptible to these are kept outside for the next twenty four hours after use. Use the smokes at night and have all the windows tightly closed, and open up these and the door and don't work inside for a little while afterwards. All heating should be off now, so there will be a cut in heating bills, but switch on again if there are some really cold days and evenings about. Cut away all faded and dead blooms on pot plants. Give plenty of water if it is needed and if in doubt, leave for a day or so.

## CLUB NEWS

### BOWLS

The Wills-Fawcett Handicap Championship took place at I.F.H. from 22nd March to 2nd April. After a very keen and lively time, a new winner's name went on to the Trophy: Bob Forshaw, after so many near-misses, came good at last to capture this fine award. Well done, Bob. The group winners were: Walford Davies, Monty Golding, Jock Forbes-Stewart, Arthur Carter and Ted Brown. Our only lady competitor, Vi Delaney, did well too, winning 2 of her 5 games; well played Vi. Good luck to you all, and Happy Bowling!

*Len Scales*

### BRIDGE

#### HORSHAM

The annual visit took place on Sunday 18th April. We left Ian Fraser House around 12.30, taking 12 players, and we were all made very welcome and greeted with refreshments on the house. As this is an annual event, many friends have been made over the years. The game itself started just after 2 p.m. St. Dunstan's team did very well, the first 12 boards scoring 21 imps to nil. After a short

Give a liquid feed at every other watering. Keep the Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Melons, etc. going well by giving plenty of water and high Potash feeds at every other watering. There are plenty of these high Potash liquid feeds on the market. Pick all fruit as soon as they ripen to give a chance to those following on. Nip out side shoots as they appear between the main stem and leaves. Pot on all plants that seem to be root-cramped in their present containers and those seedlings raised earlier on. Get the Chrysanthemums, Carnations, and Fuchsias into their flowering pots. Sow seeds of some annuals such as Schizanthus for an autumn or winter show. Other seeds for next year's pot plants in spring and early summer such as Calceolaria, Cineraria, Cyclamen and Primulas and Polyanthus can be sown now. Don't let any leaves, petals or parts of plants rot on the floor under the staging or passageway. Brush up regularly and keep everything shipshape so that there is no chance for mould or mildew coming into its own.

break of tea and sandwiches, it was decided that 6 boards would be sufficient to play in the 2nd half, but this did us no good at all, because the final result was Horsham 44, St. Dunstan's 40. Nevertheless, our Captain, Bill Phillips, congratulated Horsham on their win, and thanked them for a very nice afternoon.

*Ralph Pacitti*

### BRIGHTON

#### Bowls

Once again we come to the end of another Indoor Bowling Season, and we said goodbye to this season with three very interesting and enjoyable matches. On Friday, March 12th, we were hosts to our very old friends from the Old Woking Bowling Club, and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. On April 16th, we entertained our friends from Castle Green Bowling Club, Guildford, and it was great to have them with us, this being their first visit to Ian Fraser House, and apart from it being an enjoyable bowling match, they were very impressed with Ian Fraser House itself. On Sunday, April 18th, we were honoured by a visit of the Woolston Bowling Club,

Southampton, and after a very cheerful and enjoyable match, which we eventually won, we finished the season with a little sing-song.

The results of the Sir Michael Ansell Trophy competition were as follows:

|   |                |          |          |
|---|----------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Bob Osborne    | 15 games | 85 shots |
| 2 | Harry Preedy   | 15 games | 77 shots |
| 3 | Jimmy Morrish  | 11 games | 60 shots |
| 4 | Dickie Brett   | 15 games | 58 shots |
| 5 | Walford Davies | 10 games | 55 shots |
| 6 | John Simpson   | 12 games | 45 shots |
| 7 | Johnny Cope    | 8 games  | 27 shots |
| 8 | Collis Walters | 7 games  | 25 shots |

On May 2nd we had our first outdoor fixture for 1982, when we were guests to our friends from Burgess Hill Bowling Club, and although the weather was rather blustery and on the cold side, it was great to feel the grass under your feet, and we are all looking forward to a very good and successful season and, if our first game is any criterion, then I am sure we are going to enjoy every match we play.

*H. Preedy*

### BRIDGE

Individuals played 17th April.

|                |     |           |
|----------------|-----|-----------|
| C. Walters     | 100 | Joint 1st |
| J. Padley      | 100 |           |
| R. Pacitti     | 94  | 3rd       |
| C. Clements    | 92  | 4th       |
| W. Allen       | 88  |           |
| J. Majchrowicz | 88  | Joint 5th |
| W. Phillips    | 87  |           |
| R. Goding      | 87  | Joint 7th |
| H. Preedy      | 86  |           |
| R. Fullard     | 83  |           |
| W. Lethbridge  | 81  |           |
| R. Evans       | 70  |           |

Pairs Results for 25th April.

|     |                                  |     |           |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| N/S | Mr. & Mrs. Pacitti               | 57½ | Joint 1st |
|     | R. Evans & V. Barker             | 57½ |           |
|     | B. Ingray & F. Gover             | 56  |           |
|     | P. McCormack & F. Andrews        | 47½ |           |
|     | J. Majchrowicz & M. Douse        | 31½ |           |
| E/W | W. Phillips & C. Sturdy          | 57½ |           |
|     | W. Allen & J. Douse              | 54½ |           |
|     | W. Lethbridge & Mrs. Buller-King | 51  |           |
|     | A. Dodgson & E. Dodgson          | 45½ |           |
|     | F. Griffiee & M. Steyning        | 41½ |           |

*W. Phillips,  
Captain*

## FAMILY NEWS

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Adele Veronica Conroy, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Conroy of Middlesborough, who was married to Christopher Lajvort on 22nd May.

Mrs. Jean Wiggins, widow of the late L.T. Wiggins of Halifax, on the marriage of her only daughter, Sandra, to Anthony Brennan on the 20th March at Kings Cross Methodist Church, Halifax. Sandra was given away by her brother, Stephen, and she and her husband will be living in Golcar, Huddersfield.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Gladys and George Betteridge of Hucknall, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 25th April. They marked the occasion with a family lunch party at a local hotel.

Bett and Dick Hall of Hassocks, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on May 16th. Dick writes, "Ours was a real 'wartime' wedding - it took place in the aisle of All Saints Church in the Old Kent Road (the body of the Church had been blitzed) and we had the usual cardboard cake (I think the wedding ring (utility) cost one guinea!)."

Betty and Reg Newton, of Redhill, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 2nd May.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

Robert and Gladys Bailey of Southampton, who celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary on May 15th, the same day as the marriage of their niece, Cheryl Comley, with Alan Ricketts of Bitterne.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

Mary and Russ Crombie of Epsom, who are pleased to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Holly Rachel, on the 21st February, to their youngest daughter, Allison and her husband, Bernie Verblow.



## **GRANDCHILDREN (contd)**

### **Congratulations to:**

*Gweneth and Eric Bradshaw* of Northampton, who are pleased to announce the birth of their first grandson. A boy, Rhys Andrew, was born on April 24th, to their daughter, Jane, and her husband, Andrew.

*Florence and Fred Lipscombe* of Exeter, who are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a grand-daughter, Susan Elizabeth, born to their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Dick, on April 14th, in Exeter.

*Margaret and Sydney Scroggie* of Strathmartine, on the arrival of their first grand-child, Jason William Valentine, born, at home, on the 11th April to their son, Sydney and his wife.

*Elizabeth and Ken Ward* of Exeter, who are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a grandson, born on April 10th to their daughter-in-law and son Ronald, in Basingstoke.

*May and Robert Wood*, of Plymouth, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Joanne, born on Good Friday to their daughter Susan and her husband.

## **PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Congratulations to:**

Jason, son of *'Curly' Wagstaff* of Whimple, Devon. Jason, who was an Army cadet, has decided to sign on for 22 years and has been recommended for a commission – the only cadet of his year to be selected for this.

## **DEATHS**

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

*Pat Dent* of Wimbotsham, on the death of his sister, Phyllis, who passed away in hospital on the 7th March.

*Horace 'Charlie' Mantle* and his wife, of Thornton Heath, on the death of our St. Dunstan's mother on April 4th.

*Cecil Pennells* of Brighton, whose wife, Alice Mabel, passed away on April 28th.

Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, wife of St. Dunstan's *"Mickey" Robinson* of Patcham, whose mother passed away suddenly at the beginning of May.

*George Swanston*, of Pearson House, on the death of his son Blake, who passed away in

Canada on April 29th, at the age of fifty-three. Blake was the elder of Mr. Swanston's two sons.

## **In Memory**

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

### **A.J. Coutts, Hon. Artillery Company**

Arthur John Coutts of Morden passed away on the 8th April 1982, at the age of 75, following a serious illness which he bore with great fortitude. Mr. Coutts served as a Gunner in the Hon. Artillery Company from 1941 until 1945 and had been wounded after the Normandy landing in the 2nd World War. From that time, his eyesight deteriorated, although he was able to work as a Supervisor at the Imperial War Museum until retirement age and ultimately came to St. Dunstan's in 1978. Before his health began to deteriorate, Mr. Coutt's greatest hobby was gardening, and he grew splendid dahlias. Over recent years, he much enjoyed holidays at Ian Fraser House, particularly when accompanied by his friend and fellow St. Dunstaner, Mr. Joseph Bane of Morden.

During his illness, Mr. Coutts was cared for devotedly by his wife, Dorothy, with whom he shared 34 happy years. We extend our condolences to his widow, their son and 3 daughters, and their families

### **W. Osborne, City of London Regt.**

William Osborne of Leigh-on-Sea passed away on 15th April after a long illness borne with great courage and fortitude. He was 85 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1980. Mr. Osborne served as a Private in the City of London Regiment having enlisted at the age of 18, during the 1st World War. He was wounded on the Somme in 1916, when he received gunshot injuries to his face and lost the sight of one eye. Mr. Osborne was subsequently bomb blasted during the 2nd World War, whilst serving as an A.R.P. warden, yet despite all this, our St. Dunstaner was able to work until retirement age. With the failure of the sight in his remaining eye, 'Bill', as he was affectionately known, came to St. Dunstan's, but, sadly, by then, his general health had deteriorated. Nevertheless, he greatly enjoyed listening to his talking books and the radio, as well as visits to our Brighton Homes. Bill Osborne was a widower and for almost twenty years lodged with Mrs. Glenda Huddle of Leigh-on-Sea, who cared for him devotedly, and remained his close friend and companion to the end. We extend our condolences to Mrs. Huddle, to Mr. Osborne's son and daughter, and all members of the family.