



**St Dunstons
Review**
March 1983



Message from the Chairman

Water Shortages

It will be March by the time you get this *Review* and I hope very much that the strike by some water workers will then be over and largely forgotten. However, as I write this, I am thinking sympathetically of all the problems some of you may be facing and especially older people. When you are reasonably young—and I know St. Dunstaners and their wives somehow remain young for a great many years—it may not be too bad coping with an emergency, but older muscles do not appreciate having to carry buckets or fill kettles over and over again in order to boil drinking water.

Although the immediate results of the strike should stop quickly once a settlement is reached, I am afraid that all the sewage that has had to be put into rivers will have longlasting effects. This is a sad thought, because so much good work on purifying our rivers has been done in recent years and a great deal of it may be set back through the strike. All forms of life which depend on clean water will suffer and I am sure anyone living near a river and perhaps looking forward to a spot of fishing will have this particularly in mind.

The early weeks of last year brought many of us a great deal of serious trouble, discomfort and hard work through frozen pipes and other horrors. What a pity that in 1983, when the weather has been much kinder for most of the winter, disagreement among men has led to a similar lack of water in some areas!

Jon Earnest-Dune

TROOPING THE COLOUR AND THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

It is anticipated that we may be allocated tickets again this year for Trooping the Colour on Saturday June 11th in the morning, and the Private View of the Royal Tournament on Wednesday July 13th in the afternoon.

Any St. Dunstaner who would like to apply for a ticket should contact Mrs T. Coyne by Monday 25th April, at Headquarters.

PRESENTATION FUND FOR MISS EILEEN BRIDGER

Following the announcement in the last *Review* of Miss Bridger's retirement, it has been suggested that her many friends amongst St. Dunstaners might like to subscribe towards a presentation fund, with which to make her a gift as a token of their appreciation.

Those wishing to participate should send their donations to Miss C. Mosley at Headquarters—cheques and postal order being made payable to St. Dunstan's, please.

The closing date for the presentation fund will be 31st March, 1983.

CRYSTAL CLEAR— Theatre Presentation

The play 'Crystal Clear' is being presented at the Wyndham's Theatre, London, from 23rd February onwards. It is about a man who is losing his sight due to severe diabetes, and the two women in his life, one of whom is sighted, and the other who is congenitally blind. People may find some of the language a little strong.

There are facilities at the theatre for the hard of hearing. Brailled programmes will be available. For further details, times, prices, etc., in Braille only, please apply to the PR department at HQ, or to Ian Fraser House. Otherwise telephone the theatre on 01-836 3028.

EXPLORING WOODLAND and SEASHORE: A special exhibition for the blind and partially sighted.

This unique exhibition is to be staged at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London, from the 28th February to 31st March. It's aim is to re-create many of the experiences of a walk through the countryside and a stroll along the seashore. Exhibit labels will be in Braille and a free exhibition commentary on cassette is available, visitors being invited to bring along their own portable cassette recorders and ear pieces.

Admission is free and Guide Dogs are welcome. The exhibition is open 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sunday.

CRUISING UNDER SAIL

The Jubilee Sailing Trust has chartered the 'Soren Larsen'—a brigantine which has been used as the flagship in the B.B.C. Television series, The Onedin Line—to provide sailing holidays for mixed crews of disabled and able-bodied sailors, under 60 years old.

The scheme is based on Southampton and runs from July to October. Details and booking forms are available from The Jubilee Sailing Trust, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX. Tel: 01-380 0160.

St Dunstans Review

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Cover Picture: H.R.H. Princess Alexandra chats with Tom and Nancy Taylor after the ceremony at Lancaster University when Tom received his M.Sc. degree. — photo: Lancashire Evening Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mr Tom Hart., M.C.P.S of Folkestone, Kent.

I had a sad letter from Church Stretton this morning which may be of interest to those who were at Church Stretton in those early days. It was from Mr Bill Treble telling me that his wife had died in November. Mr and Mrs Treble were the Landlords of the Plough Inn where lots of the boys spent many happy hours, not only were the Trebles very kind host and hostess, but gave lots of advice and help to the newly blinded boys.

Many a time Mrs Treble sent her ten year old daughter after the boys to make sure that they were on the right path home. Bill Treble still lives in Stretton as also does Pauline the daughter, now grown up with her own family. One of his souvenirs which he prizes is a book of photographs of many of the boys of the Church Stretton days.

From: Mrs Phyllis O'Kelly, widow of Mr Frank O'Kelly, Brighton.

Would it be possible to have a small corner of the *Review* to give widows of St. Dunstan's boys the opportunity of joining the 'War Widows Association of Great Britain'. There are regional officers in many places and it is possible to get details from the local Citizens Advice Bureau, but the name and address of the Chairman to whom anyone can apply is Mrs H. Rosbottam, 17 The Earl's Croft, Coventry CV3 5ES.

From: Mrs K.V.E. Robertson of Halesowen. Widow of Mr Gideon Robertson, and formerly of India.

I would like to thank you for the monthly *Review* which I have received during the past year.

I have found much pleasure in learning so much of what takes place in the family circle of St. Dunstan's. I always look forward to catching up on the Gardening Notes and find some of them very useful indeed.

From: Joyce and Robert Pringle, Ealing.

On February 2nd we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. John Brady, who used to work for the Estate Department in the North of England. He asked to be remembered to his old friends on the staff and the St. Dunstaners who knew him.

Mrs. Pauline Brady is the Matron of a Guinness Trust home for elderly ladies at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, and they would be pleased to hear from anybody. The address is Fieldhouse, Fieldhouse Gardens, Bourne End, Bucks.

From: Miss E. Bridger.

I would like to say thank you for the very kind note in the February *Review* and to express my sorrow in not being able to say goodbye personally to many St. Dunstaners, but take this opportunity to send you all my very best wishes and good health in the future.

From: Mr. Jock Forbes-Stewart, Norwich.

The date 16th January, the time 7.30, the place Ian Fraser House. Ladies and Gentlemen—take your seats for some entertainment by the staff. What an evening of first class entertainment.

The girls did a wonderful job with their jokes, poems and singing and what singing!

Peter on the drums, Beattie on the piano, Henry on the piano, Barry singing and the girls with their group singing too; Mary Frith with her cracks, Mrs. Pugh, Marie and Sheila with their poems and not forgetting Charles Pilgrim: What talent right on our doorstep at Ian Fraser House! It was a great pity it had to end.

Mrs. Pugh did a great job and on behalf of us all present at St. Dunstan's, many, many thanks for a wonderful evening. Long may it flourish, God Bless you all.

HONOUR FOR ST. DUNSTANER

In December, St. Dunstaner Terry Bullingham visited the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich, London, for a special ceremony. It was the presentation of a mini bus to the Hospital and the Guinea Pig Club.

Mr. David Porter, Appeal Project Organiser for the Friends of the Guinea Pig Club, launched the appeal for a vehicle for the use of both Organisations, with the generous assistance of the Hospital Aid and Donation Society, Orpington, Kent. The result—a purpose built mini bus/ambulance incorporating a wheelchair hoist and bearing the names of the Guinea Pig Club and the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, where it will be based and maintained.

Also on the ambulance is a plaque honouring three servicemen wounded in the Falklands: C.P.O. Terry Bullingham, Royal Navy, Lance Sergeant E. John Jones and Guardsman Simon Weston, both Welsh Guards.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has taken in many of the wounded from the Falklands and David Porter said: "The Facility Bus also made it possible to honour three of the severely wounded whose tremendous will to fight back has enabled them to make great strides in their rehabilitation".

Mr. Porter has been raising funds for the Friends of the Guinea Pigs through the production of porcelain figures in a series,

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.

George Hatton King M.B.E. joined St. Dunstan's on 2nd February. Squadron Leader King saw service from September 1925 to March 1965 having been commissioned in 1943. In civilian life Squadron Leader King worked for the North Thames Gas Board. He is married with one son and one stepdaughter.

THIS VEHICLE HAS BEEN PROVIDED FROM A SPONSORSHIP ORGANISED BY
DAVID PORTER
OF THE "FRIENDS OF THE GUINEA PIG CLUB" AND IS FOR USE BY SEVERELY BURNT
WORLD WAR II R A F & R N
"GUINEA PIGS" AND PATIENTS
OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH
MILITARY HOSPITAL
AND IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE
COURAGE AND FORTITUDE OF THREE
SEVERELY WOUNDED SERVICEMEN FROM
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CONFLICT
APRIL - JUNE 1982
C P O TERRY BULLINGHAM, ROYAL NAVY
L SGT E JOHN JONES, WELSH GUARDS
GDSM SIMON WESTON WELSH GUARDS
AND HAS BEEN SUPPLIED AND DESIGNED BY
THE HOSPITAL AID AND DONATION SOCIETY

This photograph shows the wording on the engraved plaque mounted on the side of the new minibus/Ambulance paying tribute to veterans of the Falklands Campaign.

"Warriors of our Time", depicting aviators of the second world war. A new series, officially approved, under the title "Heroes of our Time" will depict the men who served in the Falklands—both series are only obtainable through the Friends of the Guinea Pig Club, 29 High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Said Mr. Porter, "We are now working towards a second vehicle as soon as funds from the sale of the figures make it possible".



Jeffrey Harold Parker of Quorn joined St. Dunstan's on the 1st February. Mr Parker saw regular service as a Private in the R.A.S.C. He was wounded in Hong Kong in 1956.

Mr Parker is a bachelor and is employed by the Halifax Building Society.

George Henry Yale of Dudley joined St. Dunstan's on the 1st February. Mr Yale served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers during the Second World War. He is married with one son.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie



HIC JACET ARTURUS

If I am careful getting into and out of my bath, securing a press-hold on a certain ledge, another on the towel'd rim of the bath, it is not that I am going back to my old rock-climbing days, but because it was falling in his bath that the founder of St. Dunstan's met his end. So far, this fact has been concealed from my wife, Margaret; now it is out, she will very likely never allow me to have a bath again, at least, not unsupervised. I never knew Arthur Pearson, he was dead before my time, but he is one of those chaps you do not have to meet to feel a sense of intimacy with them. Such as I know of him I owe to Tom Fisher, a rugged Tasmanian St. Dunstaner, who used to run his chicken-farm down the road from us here; and while Tom smoked his pipe, he would tell me about Pearson, a first-war St. Dunstaner armchair'd with a neophyte, me. Lottie, his wife, prepared ham salad, his daughter Joan got out the plates, but Tom and I were back in the old Regent's Park days, a rumble of guns in the background redolent of Loos and Somme. It was a tattie-masher grenade that got this Australian infantry sergeant, and I for my part told him it was a schu-mine accounted, in my day, for me. The breeze stirred outside, a cockerel crowed, and everything in the arrangements at Craig-y-Darra, the log-fire in the hearth, the clouds of tobacco-smoke, a quiet and pleasant domestic

economy, suggested the failure of blindness adversely to affect a householder cheerfully bent on the business of life. "What sort of a chap was he, then", I said, alluding to the blind magazine proprietor who had made Tom what he was. For there was something in my friend's response to his blindness which made him distinct from the blind in general, wretched and down as my boyhood had known them of old. There was a step at the door, the chinkle of cutlery, and Tom tapped his pipe on a log. "It was like this", he said; "You went into Pearson's office one man, you came out another, and his secret was simple; He knew to a 'T' if what you needed was a clap on the shoulder or a good kick up the backside". This was the Greek 'agape', what Christians call 'love', and it is the only thing in the world that actually works. King Arthur's epitaph sees the Brythonic monarch as irrepressible, even in death. "Hic jacet Arturus quondam rex rexque futurus." It is the same with Sir Arthur as King Arthur. "Here lies Pearson, living, whole; no coffin cancels such a soul."

POET OF THE HILLS

Readers who enjoy Syd Scroggie's monthly column in the *Review* will not be surprised to learn that his literary talents extend to poetry. A volume of his verse,

"Give me the hills" was published in 1980 and reprinted in 1981. The subjects of his poems are as widely varied as his *Review* articles and some of them are written in Scots dialect, which may need translation for the ignorant Sassenach!

Now seven poems from that volume and two others published elsewhere are included in an anthology by Hamish Brown, Scottish hill walker and poet, entitled "Poems of the Scottish Hills". The honour for Syd is the greater for the fact that his work appears along with John Keats, Hugh MacDiarmid, Norman McKaig, G.K. Chesterton and R.L. Stevenson.

Comments Syd "I never thought much of my verse before and it surprises me that my stuff stands up reasonably well even in such august company. Now I am grudgingly beginning to accept it at the value put on it by others".

As a result of the new publication, Syd has been interviewed on Radio Scotland in the Ken Bruce Show and the interview was repeated in a 'pick of the week' type programme, 'The Best of Scotland'.

'Poems of the Scottish Hills' is published by Aberdeen University Press but readers can obtain the best of Syd Scroggie in 'Give me the Hills' published by David Winter & Son Ltd., 15 Shore Terrace, Dundee, for a mere 95p.

We reproduce here one of Syd's poems included in the new anthology:

LOCH OSSIAN

It was a heat to melt the mountains in,
The basking adder sunned his varnished span
And cooled the burning rock beneath his skin.
The aromatic resin swelled and ran;
Whilst, in the arid timber, tall and still,
Each needle nodded in the larch's shade:
And, bare above its plaid, the shapely hill
Seemed as the sunburnt shoulders of a maid,
Shyly disrobing by the shore alone.
Loch Ossian looked its very loveliest,
With lazing water warm against the stone,
The heron silent in his island nest,
And such a golden langour through the haze
That Summer seemed in love with idle days.



Tom Taylor with his talented grandchildren: Mark (11), Rachel (8) and Paul (10). Mark has the gold medal for personal survival, swimming; Rachel has passed her second grade ballet examination and Paul has the bronze personal survival and the one mile swimming badge. They are holding Tom's bound thesis.

MASTER'S DEGREE FOR ST. DUNSTANER

Tom Taylor, of Leyland, Lancs, who was blinded in action in Burma in 1945, has obtained the degree of Master of Science. In December he received his degree from H.R.H. Princess Alexandra at a ceremony at Lancaster University.

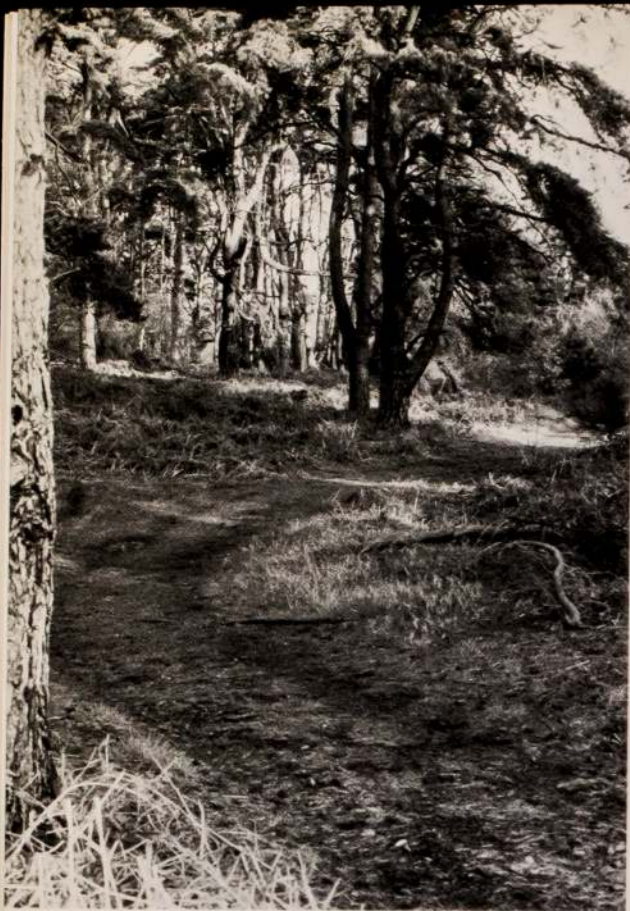
Tom, who is 60, was congratulated by Princess Alexandra on the success of his part-time studies. His degree is the result of a three year research project at Lancaster University on Behaviour in Organisations. As a Methodist lay preacher he based his investigation on a local ecumenical group he belongs to, the Leyland Fellowship of Study.

Tom's proud moment with the Princess was shared by his wife, Nancy, who has spent hours reading text books to him, 'It has been marvellous really' she said, 'worth all the hard work'.

SHIP'S TROUSERS

Paul Baker of Sidmouth, Devon writes with an amusing tale of mislaid trousers whilst cruising last year.

'As Chad was busy, I got on with my own packing, but when we unpacked on board, I had packed my son's trousers which had been hung alongside my dinner jacket—and he is a beanpole! There were none to be had in the ship's shop, but fortunately we knew the Assistant Purser. With the aid of my collapsible stick, which we knew measured 86 cms long, and a tie, we measured my inside leg and obtained a pair of ship's black trousers! Not a bad fit and match either!



BRECKLAND

by Ron Smith

The path through the Waterloo Plantation, East Wretham.

Breckland is an outstanding area, partly in Norfolk and partly in Suffolk, consisting of a thin, sandy soil over chalk and covering an area of three hundred square miles. Two hundred years ago, after centuries of grazing by sheep, cattle and rabbits, this area of poor soil and near-dry continental climate had become a sandy waste. To give you some idea of what conditions were like I quote two letters which were kindly copied for me by Mr. Raynor of the Forestry Commission at Santon Downham.

"Breckland, two hundred years ago, September 21st, 1732. Set out from Brandon, seven very long miles to Barton Mills over the sands. Terrible tedious travelling both to man and horse. I could not but reflect what terrible travelling it must be when the heat of the sun is intense upon the wide sandy desert where the poor travellers are often smothered with the sand or scorched with the sun's heat reflec-

ted from the burning sand. We left Mildenhall, the seat of Sir Thomas Hammer. On one side he's subject to be choked with sand, on the other he lives close to a dark, vile, black fen which lies to the north east of him, so that he enjoys that wicked wind with the addition of the air from that fen. We leave the sands at Barton Mills, which we were glad of. Harley, second Earl of Oxford."

Sands at Barton Mills! And yet one village was almost buried by sand. Here now is part of the second letter which I received. From Kirby's Suffolk Traveller by John Kirby, 1764. "The Great Sandstorm. Between the years 1665 to 1670 a terrific sandstorm took place which threatened to overwhelm the whole parish of Santon Downham and silted up the river between Brandon and Thetford. The following is an account given in a letter by Thomas Wright who was then living in Santon Downham

and who was a great sufferer by it. He says he found difficulty in tracing these sands to their original site but he found it to be in Lakenheath."

Regardless of our past experience we didn't seem to learn very much about wind erosion. For example, reverting to the 1939-45 war, when an intense ploughing campaign was in operation in East Anglia. Unwanted belts of trees, also many hedgerows, were removed to make larger fields more suitable for mechanised cultivation but when the authorities realised how serious the soil erosion was, especially to such important areas as Fenland, things were hastily realigned and attempts made to restore them.

Great changes

Since then, great changes have taken place in Breckland where farming and forestry have claimed so much of this once widespread habitat. The Forestry Commission has planted fifty-two thousand acres of trees, mostly pines. Other sections are controlled by the Ministry of Defence; access is forbidden and can be dangerous. On Forestry Commission land, especially around May time, deer culling is taking place. To get away from all that and busy roads and the numerous airfields, and to find a self-catering base with access to the countryside can be a problem but we found a delightful place surrounded by parkland where there were a number of golden pheasants.

The Merton estate has been in the de Grey family since the fourteenth century and covers two thousand acres. We were not the only creatures interested in the immediate vicinity, for along came a queen bee with a huge retinue of followers to investigate the granary floor. A number of estates breed pheasants but I notice that many are also rearing mallard ducks. Many of these become almost domesticated but I am sure a few of these escape and return to the wild. On our travels we came across several and they were nervous of human intrusion. My recordings of them, especially one taken in the middle of the night, are often quickly ended by the bird flying away.

We spent a good deal of time listening to the nightingale, both in the very early morning and late at night. On one particular recording, when a nightingale sang in the background, the interesting sound was a

three-note call from a cuckoo while a female cuckoo gave out her bubbling cry.

Some of the trees in the parkland were magnificent. Three beech trees very close together displayed their massive spread, so dense as to hide us from the green woodpeckers there. Going deeper into the woods we came across huge rhododendrons, still in bloom above our heads and a great attraction to the bees. Although we could hear cuckoos, chiff-chaffs and wrens the most fascinating sound here, for us, was the tapping of the greater spotted woodpecker as he worked hard on the bark of a redwood tree.

Here is an extract from the 1981 newsletter of the Norfolk Naturalists Trust. "At the end of a Trust Council meeting in December last year the Regional Officer of the Nature Conservancy Council made the dramatic announcement that Thompson Common was up for sale, moreover, his Council could not buy it. After some soul-searching, but not much, the Norfolk Naturalists Trust decided to go ahead and begin negotiations with Lord Walsingham, the owner. To cut quite an involved story short, the Trust, at the end of April this year, became the proud owners of one hundred and sixty four acres of the Common."

Lord Walsingham

When I had this article read to me I had no idea that one day I would have the pleasure of meeting the previous owners, Lord and Lady Walsingham. Kay and I were invited into the Hall. We were both surprised to find that Lady Walsingham had visited St. Dunstan's at Ovingdean, near Brighton to visit an old friend, Alec Purves, who stays there once or twice a year. Lady Walsingham is also President of the local Guide Dogs for the Blind group at Watton. Each year they raise several thousand pounds to help provide guide dogs for blind people.

I asked Lord Walsingham how important Thompson Common is to the conservationists. "It is such awkward land to deal with", he said, "and has not been farmed since the last ice age. About ten years ago I borrowed the Dean of Environmental Studies at the University of East Anglia to come and do a weekend task on the land-use of about three hundred acres of wetland. He found that there was no very economic land-use but he did write about three pages in an



One of the pingoes on Thompson Common. They are the haunt of Mallard, Teal and Tufted Duck.

appendix about the pingoes which had survived from the glaciers. He remarked that the nearest pingo is in Iceland and he didn't want to take his students there so would I be careful not to destroy any pingoes."

I then asked Lord Walsingham to tell me what a pingo is. "I used to wonder about pingoes but I've been dining out on them now for about ten years. Only once have I found anybody who knew what a pingo was and I nearly lost five quid on it. I went to my daughter's school and was somehow inveigled into the staff room. Having to make conversation, I challenged them, because they were supposed to be intellectually respectable, to say what a pingo was. Nobody could say, except for the junior matron who, in fact, was waiting to go to university. If I remember correctly, she said a pingo is a puddle about fifty yards across, usually with water in it, and an enormous lip to it like a bomb crater. It was formed by the ice cones at the edge of the glacier melting and the dust each summer, as the sun shines on it, running

down the edge and forming a collar."

I enquired of his Lordship about the botanical specimens on Thompson Common.

"There are a lot of orchids and other interesting things, too, but I'm not an expert. I remember one rare grass is called *calamagrostis stricta*. I have this from an old lady who died recently, whom I remember from my youth in Tottington as an expert on local flora. Recently when I was opening the fishery at Thompson Water to anglers I wanted to produce a blurb to encourage people to come and I rang her up and asked her for details of what I should put in. The principal thing was the rare grasses and it is these that the Norfolk Naturalists Trust are interested in preserving on Thompson Common."

I then suggested that many of the grasses have been eaten off by deer. Now there are many small ponies there and I wondered what is the idea of that.

"I have a herd of sixty-five Shetland ponies and they are eating off the grass to keep the surroundings of these pingoes

clear. This means that the edible frogs, which were introduced from Belgium at the end of the last century, will have a satisfactory environment and will not be rubbed out. The Norfolk Naturalists said that if the grass was allowed to grow too long the edible frogs would suffer and would I please do something about it. We are now raising a herd of Shetland ponies there in order to compete in the European circuit of marathon driving and this seems to be a satisfactory solution."

Finally I asked about Thompson Water. How had it come about? "Thompson Water is not one of the Breckland meres. It was artificially constructed in the last century," said Lord Walsingham.

Some time ago I had an article read out to me from the Norfolk Trust News describing how Mr. Peter Steel, warden at East Wretham, and his band of volunteers, had done a vast amount of work over at Thompson. I paid Mr. Steel a visit and asked him to tell me about the importance of Thompson Common to the N.N.T.

He said, "Thompson Common is the most outstanding, and certainly the most important, botanical site in the county. We were all very, very excited when we got it and even more so when we got over there and saw how much variety there was in the plant life. It really is superb." I asked him how they had found out about this. Did somebody go over there and have a look at it and say, "Oh, my word! This is worth looking into"?

"I know our Field Officer, Richard Hobbs, keeps his finger on the pulse and knows very much what is going on and where, throughout the county. When he heard that Thompson was coming on to the market I think he got quite excited about it and came down and had a look. Of course, he is a very good botanist. He came back and said, 'Well, what I've seen already, we've got to have it.'"

I suggested that the ponies must play a very important part in all this, now. "Indeed, they do. Without the grazing the Common would soon be overgrown with

Shetland ponies grazing the water meadows. They play an important part in the ecology of this part of the reserve.



OBITUARY

ERNEST WRIGHT M.B.E.

Ernest James Henry Wright M.B.E., died at the age of 83 on the 7th January. He was the father of St. Dunstan, Jimmy Wright, and we extend our sympathy to Jimmy, his mother and his family.

Jimmy followed his father into the film industry and into the Royal Air Force and he had an example well worth following:

Ernest Wright served in the First World War with the Royal Flying Corps and continued to serve as a fighter pilot in numbers 1 and 43 Squadrons of the Royal Air Force.

With the coming of sound on film, he left the R.A.F. and joined British Movietone News as a founder member, taking the first sound truck to Europe to record celebrity news items in various countries. On the formation of British Paramount News, he joined the company as General Manager. He served British Paramount for 28 years, becoming Editor and Managing Director, until the newsreel was wound up in the late

nineteen fifties. He was known as Jimmy Wright in the film industry.

During the Second World War he became a British war correspondent with the U.S. Eighth Air Force based in this country. He also served with the Fifth Army in Italy and with the Fourteenth Army in Burma. While in Italy, he and Jimmy met in Naples, when Jimmy was flying with the R.A.F. film Unit, also as a cameraman.

The parallel courses of father and son continued after Jimmy was wounded in a crash. In October 1944, they were both at Buckingham Palace for the same investiture. Ernest to receive the M.B.E., as the first British war correspondent to be decorated and Jimmy to receive the D.F.C., as the first R.A.F. cameraman to be honoured.

Ernest and his wife, Beatrice, celebrated their 63rd Wedding Anniversary in November 1982. As well as his widow, and his son, Jimmy, he leaves a daughter, Joan.

BRECKLAND

—continued

thorn scrub and we wouldn't have the plant life that we've got there now. The ponies play a very important part in the ecology and that's why we want Lord Walsingham to keep his ponies there." My next question was, "What about the pinguos?"

"We believe there are ninety six pinguos in all and the water we get in them now, which we believe comes from a spring, is beautifully clear. They're very rich in plant life. The trouble is that some of these have been neglected or the ecology has broken down and this has enabled willows, particularly, to grow in these pinguos. Once the trees get into them all the litter that falls in the autumn stagnates the water. The trees take out all the moisture and it's not very long before you've lost your pingo."

As I suggested to Peter, he has years of work ahead of him at Thompson Common.

"We started work at the end of August, '81, with my band of volunteers, continued through much of the winter until March, when the bird breeding season began. In that time we cleared eight pinguos." We left Peter to get on with the other eighty eight!

Returning home that evening Kay spotted quite a few young rabbits by the roadside. There are fewer rabbits since myxomatosis came so that some areas have been colonised by pines. Of course, a proportion of the rabbits are now immune to the disease and some farmers who have these creatures on their land would willingly pay for them to be removed.

Many decades ago the law for stealing a rabbit was very severe. Two cases, extracted from "In Breckland Wild" by W.G. Clark, will evidence the severity of the law a century ago. At a Quarter Session held at Bury St. Edmunds in January, 1805, a man named G. Cross was convicted of stealing a trap and two rabbits from Wangford Warren and was sentenced to six months solitary confinement and hard labour and to be publicly whipped at Brandon. In 1813 Robert Plum, aged 22, and Russ Lingwood, aged 18, were indicted at the Norfolk Assizes held at Thetford, for entering the warren of Thomas Robertson of Hockwold, warrener and farmer, and taking one coney from a trap. Plum was transported for seven years and Lingwood received two years imprisonment.

Did I hear somebody mention the good, old days?



FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Carol, daughter of St. Dunstan, Edward Pepper, of Chelmsford has recently completed her new entry training in the Women's Royal Naval Service. At a Passing Out Parade at H.M.S. Raleigh, Torpoint, East Cornwall, she and her parents met H.R.H. Princess Anne, who took the salute at the Parade.

One of the subjects of their conversation must have been Edward's own service in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1968 as Chief Communications Yeoman. Now Carol is following her father into the same branch of the service and undergoing specialist training at the Royal Naval Signals School, H.M.S. Mercury, near Petersfield, Hants.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1983

Once again we invite St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees *only* to apply for tickets in the *Review* Sweepstake. Please remember that every application for tickets made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. The tickets are 20p each and applications for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on Friday May 13th. Each applicant must state the name and full address of the sender and the number of tickets required, and with a stamped addressed envelope must be sent to: The Editor, D.S.S. Dept., St. Dunstan's Review, P.O. Box 58, 191 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QN. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively and are limited to twenty-five. The total money subscribed, less the cost of

printing and expenses, will be distributed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The draw will take place in London on the 24th May, the race being run on June 1st.

N.B.: 1st class post 16p from April 1st

CALENDAR CORRECTION

Please note that the date for the Chess weekend at Ian Fraser House should have read 30th April to 1st May 1983.

As I Remember

A Lifetime's Work

Avis Spurway interviewed by David Castleton

A presentation to an old friend: Avis Spurway presents a clock to Bob Young whose sporting prowess in the 1920's she recalls in this article.



"I was in London for some dances and things and somebody—she did the books for St. Dunstan's—offered to take me there, but I said I couldn't go. She had Jack Harrison in to see her. He had been riding in the Park. He was a totally blind Australian St. Dunstaner and he was still in uniform. The Australians went on wearing uniform. I was slightly overcome by him and she said 'I don't think I had better take you to St. Dunstan's.'"

Mrs. Avis Spurway, looking back over more than sixty years, was recalling the beginning of her lifetime's work for St. Dunstan's. As Avis Hodgson, aged 22, an aspiring actress balked by her parents' disapproval of that profession, she had as she puts it, "rather paused"...

"Then I was feeling rather lowly about something and I said 'Alright, I'll go to St. Dunstan's.' I was taken into the lounge of the Bungalow. I sat down and they were all round me in a minute. I found that I was back again among the troops and it was no good—they got their claws into me straight away."

Avis had spent the latter years of 1914–18 war nursing wounded troops but she had been involved much earlier than that, "I was an orderly in a hospital, emptying the ashtrays in 1914 and I can remember being so thrilled by the first English wounded—we had Belgians first—and finding that I adored them from the first moment that I ever talked to them".

Those years tending the casualties as orderly, later as nurse, with 18 months working in the operating theatre, were a hard training but they fitted her for the work she would undertake for St. Dunstaners, "I was perfectly at home with them and when I walked into the lounge, I just thought I was back again. There has always been something between me and the ex-servicemen right from the very start".

At first she simply went to Regent's Park each day, acting as cox for the rowing fours on the lake. It was not long before she was invited to join St. Dunstan's and in August 1920 she became a V.A.D., living in. Coming from a family of rowing blues, Avis Hodgson loved boats and did not mind the early start to a Sports Sister's day: "We started at half past six or seven on the lake, had breakfast, and then the men went to their work. We had jobs to do looking after anyone who wasn't working, taking them out for walks. At twelve o'clock they came out of the workshops back on to the lake. Lunch at one, and back on the lake—because they swallowed their lunch in about two minutes as they still do!—at half past one. They went back to the workshops at about half past two and then we were back on the lake again at about five until seven. I always used to go to the dances at night, too, at the Bungalow."

It was anything but a quiet life at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. "There were about 300 St. Dunstaners in that one

annexe. There was an absolute scrummage when they all came up. There was a circular carpet in the hall and the lounge was one way and the dining room the other. When they all came in, bumping into each other, shouting and calling, 300 of them tearing into lunch you can imagine what it was like. In the early morning it was great fun. When you went over they were all having tea in the hall because Corporal-Major Tovell used to take them out for physical jerks. The fours crews used to be shouting 'sports, sports', they wanted one of us you see. We took them and the others went off to do their exercises."

She was one of the three Sports Sisters. "They called all the V.A.D.s 'Sister', it was a tradition but, of course, we had no business to be called Sister, because we'd never been trained."

When Mrs. Spurway joined St. Dunstan's in 1920, the original house, St. Dunstan's, had already been vacated and returned to Mr. Otto Kahn, who had loaned the property to Sir Arthur Pearson for the war years. "The Bungalow shut at the end of 1921, I think, and then St. Dunstan's moved over to St. John's Lodge and had some of

the trainees there. The Annexe and the Hall were temporary buildings. There was a gate from the Outer Circle and there was an old soldier, Hetherington, with a lot of medals. He was a great friend of mine. He used to be on the door watching everybody coming in. When we started doing tandem bicycle riding—I am not very good on a bicycle, I was quite terrified of riding with a blind man behind but I just felt I'd got to—I had to get Hetherington to hold the back and push us off!

"Miss Morris, who was the other Sports Sister, didn't fancy it much either. The joke was that I couldn't get on and she couldn't get off! She went round the Circle once and when she got back, she looked and hoped Hetherington would be there to help her, but he wasn't. So she went round another three miles, and he still wasn't there. She went nine miles before she caught him!"

Rowing was Avis Spurway's first love and it was a most popular sport with St. Dunstaners. When she joined St. Dunstan's they were already holding regattas at Putney.

"We had a sports captain: the Chaplain, Corporal-Major Tovell was our sports

Physical jerks.





At a regatta in the early 1920's Lord Fraser, then Captain Fraser, presents a trophy to St. Dunstaners Tommy Thompson, D.W. Robinson and Billy Birchall in the presence of some of the coxes from Bedford College.

instructor and the Head Sports Sister did all the draws and got the entries. We had heats on the lake to eliminate, because we had so many entries that we couldn't get through in a day. We started in the morning down at Putney with the ones who had won their races on the lake.

"There weren't enough Sports Sisters so we used the girls from Bedford College. In the mornings we used to fix them up with crews and before you went out with your own crew you had to make sure that the Bedford College girl had found her men and gone off!"

Rowing with a crew of blind men had its hazards and Avis recalls some near things: "Once in the 30's I was in a pair-oared boat with a deaf and blind man. We couldn't talk on his hands because he was rowing but we used signals—we tapped him once or twice on the hand, one for go and one for back, I can't remember the code. This time he did exactly what I told him not to do and backed the boat over a mooring cable. He then got very excited and we had to be pulled off the cable. Another time I nearly went in was another pair-oared boat and a

very fat old boy in the bows. He caught a crab and he nearly fell right over to the side of the boat. I flung myself the other way to try to balance it but we shipped the boat full of water right up to the gunwales. However, we were afloat and the river police came and seized us, put us in the tug and put us off very, very wet."

Before Mrs. Spurway joined St. Dunstan's there was an incident that earned the cox, Miss Stein, a medal from the Royal Humane Society, when a four was swamped and turned turtle. The *Review* of September 1919 reported it thus: 'It might have proved a disastrous affair but for the pluck and presence of mind of the cox—Miss Stein—who, although fully dressed, swam about the upturned boat placing the men in position and keeping them there until the Police boat arrived and rescued them'.

Mrs. Spurway did not know her well but recalls, "She was the most wonderful cox, they all adored her. Later I had one of the men on my welfare list. We used to talk about it so I had a very graphic picture of what happened".

The annual regattas were held all

through the years between the wars. The last being held in 1939 when, finishing second among the crews of the Coxes' Race, was the London crew coxed by Lady Fraser and including Mrs. Spurway.

Remembering those years, she says, "Oh, it was great fun, the regatta dinner was marvellous. We all went to dinner and you sat with your crews. They all came out in a very hilarious state but in those days we were expected to get them home on ordinary public transport. They didn't have the luxuries that they do nowadays. I can remember going around Oxford Circus with them all. Drummer Downs sitting up in the front of the bus with a large bottle of beer and one of the semi-sighted men jumping off the bus. I don't know what happened to him, I couldn't leave the others to go after him! Awful! Then getting them to the right billets because they used to be billeted up in Albany Street, just beyond the barracks there. How the landladies put up with it, I don't know. We had about 12 or 14 St. Dunstaners all lodged up there and we had to get them all back after the regatta when they were tight. There were roughly between 20 and 30 men rowing as a rule.

"Lord Fraser rowed with the House of Commons crew one year. They used to row the winning four and sometimes the

London Fire Brigade came. I coxed them one year and they won, but I didn't want them to a bit! They used to give us a powder bowl with a silver top. I've still got it. The joke was, Miss Morris coxed them once and they didn't win. When they got in they discovered they'd picked up an enormous branch of a tree on the rudder. They said she did it on purpose to handicap them!"

In 1922 Mrs. Spurway started the Birmingham Club and in 1923 she became a welfare visitor, sharing the Midland area with Miss Gough, a former senior V.A.D. "I had a hundred men on my half. I reckoned all the time I was doing it, about seven years, I got an average of three special calls a week and you had to keep your ordinary visits going. I got around using my father's old car—which only wound up. I didn't mind driving but I couldn't get it started so I always had to hunt for a slope on which to start it down!"

"It was a pretty variegated pattern of jobs in Welfare but I don't think I was a very good visitor. It wasn't really my line, but I loved them, so I would do anything for them."

Her real love was still sport and the Birmingham Club she founded was St. Dunstan's first. "It was sports and social because in the winter they played

A regatta incident when stroke's oar broke – in the re-race Avis Spurway and her crew: W. Trott and J. Dennick won for Birmingham.





A four man sprint in Regent's Park using fixed wires as guides.

dominoes and things and there were some who weren't any good at sports." But it was sport that Avis was determined to keep going. "I couldn't bear to think of them just sitting in an armchair. They were only 22-23, most of them, they had to have outdoor sport and competition, that was my feeling."

The Birmingham Club met once a month and soon Avis had enlisted the support of Birchfield Harriers. "Directly they got their own ground at about 1926 or 27, I think, they said use it just as if it were yours. We did running up there and sports."

Under Avis's inspiration a St. Dunstan's Club was formed in Manchester by Mrs. Irving, later a Matron at Church Stretton, and when she began her family, Avis ran both clubs, Manchester and Birmingham. Meanwhile, in London, "Miss Stacy, now Mrs. Hollins, was in London with Miss Woolrych, and she got the shield going which the various clubs competed for. They had teams for the sports in London, teams at the Regatta—they had one racing pair and double sculls for the Clubs— and there was Field Sports Day which moved about, but usually it was in Regent's Park. We had a little piece in the Park railed off, just behind the lake, but it wasn't good enough. It was rough and it was bumpy. Looking back, I think it was a disgrace that we didn't have a proper sports field. There we had the running equipment: posts concreted into the ground at each end of a hundred yards and braced by wires down to the ground to strengthen them. Then you had a thick wire running the whole length of the hundred

yards into the other post and you screwed it up until it was tight. You had four of them. Before the wires were fixed you put on curtain rings and on the curtain ring there was a tape. The runner held the tape and he pulled on the wire to keep straight. They made good times: Bob Young did 75 yards in 10 seconds."

The system was not one that could be easily set up temporarily and in those inter-war years sports were held in different places throughout the Country. So the time trial sprint became established—one runner at a time against the clock, rather than four runners dashing their 75 yards race along their 100 yards of guidelines.

"One year they did some running round the Park with escorts. The Birchfield Harriers took the Birmingham men on and trained them. It was really quite funny because London always thought they were going to win everything and they did have a tremendous advantage because they always had trainees and extra people. They came up to Birmingham thinking they were going to wipe the floor with us in the running. Billy Castle, Billy Trott, Percy Cashmore and Albert Benning won nearly every race. They wiped the floor with London who weren't a bit pleased!"

Mrs. Spurway's long service to St. Dunstan's has gone on through the Second World War and the years that followed. Race-walking, the Lee-on-Solent camps, international sport for the disabled; her record is too much for one article and we shall return to her recollections in a future article in the "As I Remember" series.

Granada Mañana

by Emm Aitch

Did you ever have the idea that Granada in Sunny Spain was perpetually pulsating with the music of mandolins and castanets, dancing feet and the swirling of frilly skirts of double-breasted, raven-haired, gypsy señoritas?

In a passionate desire, as yet unfulfilled, to know more of this mystic City—made famous by the Moors in the 13th & 14th Century when King Carlos V built the magnificent Alhambra Palace—I had organised myself, paid up and ready to go, fed and watered, washed and dried, ticket clutched in hot little hand and was standing on the appropriate spot at the appointed time—7.15 a.m., at the deserted corner of a square in a well-known sunspot on the Costa del Sol.

Buses came and went, Couriers came and went, everybody came and went, but two hours later I was still there and hadn't went. The mystery was eventually resolved: the date on my ticket was the 13th (wouldn't you know?) and in their book it was the 14th. So—24 hours later, repeat performance and we were on our way.

We sped through the heart of the ominous rocky foot-hills on an impeccable new road, built in 1973, up to the fertile plateau watered by the melting snows of the Sierra Nevada, to behold acre after acre of maize, sugar beet, asparagus and potatoes, plantations of olive and almond trees, warehouses full of onions and endless vistas of newly tilled and planted ground intended for barley and oats.

We arrived and were conducted through the Royal Chapel where we saw at close quarters the golden casket filled with jewels which was presented to Christopher Columbus by Queen Isabella, after he discovered America. Then, on to the Alhambra Palace.

From courtyard to courtyard, each one more breathtakingly decorated than the last with intricate plasterwork looking like fine lace, all beset with fountains and pools fashioned to keep the atmosphere cool.

We saw the Harem—the alcove where the

King entertained his favourite—the Ladies' Room, the Sultana's Room, the Sauna and the Bath-house for the Ladies, all ornately decorated. But this Bath-house included a Musician's Gallery. . . .

This brings me to the point of my tale—the only requirement of the musicians, apart from their musical capability, was that they be totally blind and unable to see the ladies in the bath!

So, St. Dunstan's Music Makers, take Heart! Somebody, somewhere, some day may need you!

ANIMAL SCULPTURES ON SHOW AT BRITISH MUSEUM

A 'Please Touch Animal Sculpture' exhibition will be on display at the British Museum in London from 31st March to 8th May. The exhibition is specifically for the blind, though all members of the public are welcome. During busy periods, the blind will get priority. Guide dogs will be welcome.

There are 27 items in the exhibition, all animal sculptures from a range of ancient and not so ancient civilisations. They are numbered from 1 to 20 and are linked by a wooden handrail, and have labels in large type and Braille. They vary greatly in size, from tiny jade ornaments, to larger than life size marble lions. The exhibition is on the ground floor. Enter the museum by the main entrance and turn left.

The sculptures have been chosen for their suitability for handling, but visitors are asked to treat them with care. Many of them are some thousands of years old.

An illustrated booklet in large print and Braille is available. There will be a free, recorded guide on cassette, which can be collected at the entrance. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 2.30 to 6 p.m. The exhibition will be closed on Good Friday (1st April) and 2nd May. Further details from: Education Service, British Museum. Tel: 01 636 1555.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

May I thank everyone for their Christmas greetings and good luck for the New Year.

The gardens will really be starting to come to life by now, so give the borders a forking over to check the growth of those weed seedlings, which always come along whatever you have done to blot them out. Many items will of course arrive from other gardens round about which have not been looked after as well as yours.

Do ensure that all the garden tools are at hand and in good condition for the start of the season. Order the hardy and perennial plant seeds at once and get them going, plus the half hardy items, in the airing cupboard (but don't take all the room wanted by your wife for her clothes) or over the radiator. Give regular doses of liquid fertiliser to the indoor plants which will need higher amounts of water as they grow a bit more.

I do hope that the water strike is over by the time that you get these notes or you may have to cut down watering indoors and outdoors in the garden. Use the washing up water instead of flushing it down the drain, the soap will have a good deterrent effect on all the creepy crawlies.

I'm afraid that I did not take the advice I gave you about digging the garden in the Autumn, as the weather was so wet and my soil very heavy. I got in a firm to spread manure from my compost heap and dug it over very well. In addition they cut down some trees which I was a bit afraid to cope with, as they were very near the greenhouse and I could see myself smashing the panes!

Vegetables

Get all the soil, which was dug over earlier and left rough, in good condition for planting any earlier sown plants or the sowing of the early seed. Start at the farthest end of the beds and work backwards, so that you don't consolidate the soil again.

A dose of lime on the soil especially on the area to be used for the cabbage family will give them a good start and help to avoid infection with club root. Do

remember that it is better to work on a rotation of crops plan, so that you can use the same area each season for the same crop, rather than every three years or so.

All types of vegetables can be started from seed this month but I think that those of you in the North should delay lettuce, raddish, carrots and french beans plus runner beans, which are better raised from seed indoors and then put out when well grown, later in the season. Sprinkle a soil pest deterrent such as Bromophos in the rows when sowing the seeds. Also, some canes can be put up and cotton or string attached to keep off the birds from the seeds and young plants as they germinate. Firm the soil on top of the seeds and give them a good soaking. Don't let them dry off in dry conditions.

Some early potatoes can be planted if they have been well sprouted under cover. Rub off some of the shoots and maintain only the strongest on the upper facing side of the tuber when planting. Set them about 9 inches apart and 4 inches deep. Sprinkle some soil deterrent in each hole as you plant and it might be a good idea to put some well rotted manure or compost at the time of setting.

Get the bed, where you are to have the runner beans, well dug over and manure set in the bottom. Get the stakes in position for the beans to climb as they grow.

Lawns

The grass will be showing good signs of growth. Some manure added to areas which are a bit sparse of growth will help it along. Also, it might be a good thing to put the mower over, with the blades set high, to cut away the tall growths and give the whole area a roll over with the weight of the machine.

Grass seeds may also be sown, but give protection against birds by a criss cross of thread, or even an old newspaper, which I was told by one person in a letter to me, gave the protection and rotted down to give a sort manure to start of the seeds. However, I think that this would be alright for the small areas which are to be seeded, but not

the whole lawn. In addition, fix the paper in position in a very windy or exposed place.

Fruit

Complete all the pruning by the early part of the month and a general fungicide plus insecticide for all types of fruit will act as a precaution all round.

Don't plant any more fruit trees now, leave any new ones until the Autumn. However, new bush fruits can be set out on well prepared ground. Give all the soil around existing fruits a good forking, and a dose of manure or well rotted compost will give them a boost for the coming season.

Flowers

Get all the borders in good condition by forking over and raking out all the weeds, which always appear to grow better than anything in the winter! Be careful when forking around bulbs, as some items are surface rooting, and disturbance will spoil the colour which is on the way. Check over the perennials such as Lupins, Delphiniums, Phlox, Gaillardia and Paeonies, and if the roots are near the surface, cover with some fresh soil and compost.

Towards the end of the month, those of you in the South can get Dahlias and Gladiolis planted in the flowering quarters, but don't forget to put labels or canes in place, so that you know where they are, so as not to disturb them when planting the hardy and half hardy annuals later on. In some spots, sow seeds of Clarkia, Godetia, Calendula etc, either for flowering in that spot or for transplanting to other quarters as they grow.

Sow Sweet Peas in the positions that they are to flower and get canes, string, or netting in place ready for them to climb as they grow.

Try to get those Begonia tubers into growth by starting in peat in the shed or garage, if you have not got a greenhouse. Keep them moist and in a spot away from frost, which may occur even at this time of the season. As the shoots emerge, get the plants near the source of light.

Greenhouse

The temperatures should be better by now all through the day, so unless you have some seedlings germinating and growing, it might be a good thing to cut out heat during the day, but put it on again at the

start of the night. Give plenty of ventilation during the day and use fungicides and insecticides regularly as this is the start of the season for these things to be a real nuisance. Where you have a small oil or electric propogator, this can be kept on full time for the raising of all those half hardy annuals, but use only a few seeds if you only have a small garden. Remember to give blackout cover to these items until germination takes place, when they will need plenty of light but not in full sun.

Tuberous items for use in pots and all kind of containers, such as Begonias, Gloxinias and Achimenes are really coming on to the market now, are easy to rear and give a fine show. Don't be afraid to try them. Cuttings of Fuchsias and Geraniums, for flowering in pots indoors, can be taken now, if you have not already done so, or even put in some seed. This is certainly not very cheap nowadays, but if you get plenty, it will work out cheaper than buying in plants.

Seeds of all kinds of plants for show in pots later in the year, should be started at the end of the month. Items I suggest being Solanum (Christmas Cherry) Schizanthus (Poor Mans Orchid) Mimulus, Impatiens (Busy Lizzie) Cineraria and Calceolaria.

Get tomato and cucumber seed going at once if you have not already done so. I have found that spare tomato seedlings when planted outside at a later stage will give fruits, when those under glass have completed their run. In fact, I managed to have them up until Christmas by pulling green fruit and ripening them on the windowsill.

R.N.I.B. APPARATUS

ADDITIONS TO CATALOGUE

The latest additions to RNIB's catalogue of specially designed or adapted items for blind people have been announced.

Gym Ball with bells (catalogue no. 9230)

This 350 gram ball which comes in yellow, red and blue has a diameter of 16 cm and is suitable for general use and water sports. £7.24.

Gym/Playball with bells (catalogue no. 9231)

This 300 gram panelled ball is available in brown with a diameter of 17 cm. Suitable for general purpose sports and water sports. £7.93.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat No. 2285

The Tamarind Seed

by Evelyn Anthony

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 8 hours

Judith Farrow is private secretary to a top British official in New York. On holiday in Barbados she meets Feodor Svedlov, a Russian diplomat (and, naturally, a colonel in the KGB). The two strike up a completely innocent friendship, but their every move is closely watched by the CIA and British Intelligence.

On her return to her flat in New York, Judith is exhaustively interrogated by hostile British Intelligence officers regarding her association with the Russian.

Meanwhile Svedlov himself is under suspicion from his own people. He has powerful enemies waiting for the chance to destroy him.

Judith is drawn into the twilight world of espionage and cloak-and-dagger politics, with a terrifying climax, again on the island of Barbados...

Exciting, well-written "political thriller", but not, I feel, as good as the writer's later book, "The Malaspigi Exit".

Cat No. 3000

Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure

Read by The Author

Reading Time 11 hours

This is the autobiography of one of my most favourite ladies, now sadly no longer with us. She enjoyed a secure and happy childhood—and a reasonably well-heeled one, too, with boarding school and "finishing" in France.

Her parents' marriage was far from happy, a fact they managed to conceal from their children, Joyce and Tommy.

The mother was feckless, self-centred and incompetent—a very different person indeed from her sister, the redoubtable and formidable Nancy, Lady Astor. There is a lot about "Aunt Nancy" in the book, about her foibles, her intractability, her absolute

despotism, but above all, her open-handed generosity. She gave the young newly married Grenfells a house on the Cliveden estate.

At the outbreak of war Joyce Grenfell did hospital work and helped her friend Dame Myra Hess with her concerts at the National Gallery. Later, she joined ENSA and writes vividly and amusingly of the trials and tribulations, the triumphs and the catastrophes of her work throughout the Middle East and India.

After the war she continued to develop her unique style of entertaining, working closely with Richard Addinsall, who wrote all her music. She enjoyed the friendship of many of the great and famous, among them Shaw, Coward, Novello, Harold Macmillan and many others. It is perhaps typical of the writer that she never has an unkind word for any of the people she mentions in her book.

A delightful book. The warmth and humanity of Joyce Grenfell shows through quite remarkably.

Cat No. 1409

Life Begins Too Early

by Jack de Manio

Read by Jon Curle

Reading Time 8 hours

De Manio's father was killed in a flying accident before his son was born. His mother was an eccentric and dressed the boy in ermine cape and pearls and made him wear his hair in a page-boy "bob". She idolised her pet monkey, whose main pre-occupation seems to have been biting the luckless lad.

His scholastic attainments were, to say the least, minimal. In the Common Entrance examination he obtained a grand total of 13%, which he still claims as an all-time record.

Leaving school, he tried many jobs, including that of junior clerk at a brewery. The staff were allowed as much beer as they wanted with lunch, which tended to render them torpid, and falling off the high stools became something of an occupational hazard.

The war came as a godsend. He was sick of his job (he had gone into catering by this time) and he was even more sick of his wife—not surprisingly, they were later divorced.

Although his war stories are given the characteristic de Manio light touch, the horror and the lunacy are never far below the surface. He recalls that at one time there were only 250 survivors from his battalion.

The rest of the book deals with his travels, his Holy War against parking meters and his broadcasting career. Inevitably this includes his famous slip of the tongue, when during a most important broadcast, "The Land of the Niger" came out as something shockingly different, with an extra "g" in the name of the great African river—surely the most celebrated gaffe in the history of broadcasting!

The author describes the book as "a sort of autobiography", which I think is a fair description.

CLUB NEWS

Bridge

Would all those wishing to take part in the three way Bridge competition at Ian Fraser House on May 7th and 8th, please inform the Booking Office at Headquarters, as soon as possible.

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS BRIDGE DRIVE AND PARTY, 1982. LONDON.

This was held at Headquarters on the 18th December, 1982. It was well attended and we had the pleasure of Geof Connell's company, and he took charge of the Bridge proceedings. The remainder of the party took part in a Dominoes competition.

I was very pleased that Joe Carney and partner succeeded in getting into the Winners enclosure, I cannot remember the last time that Joe was successful. The second was R. Evans and Molly; third Wally Lethbridge and Pam Lethbridge, and fourth W. Phillips and Geof Connell.

After the completion of the Bridge and Dominoes, we had an excellent tea provided by Mr. and Mrs. Dickson, assisted by some of the staff, then we went down to the Lounge where Mr. Dickson ran a Bar and Roy Armstrong played dance music which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We held our final Committee Meeting and several points were discussed for the coming year which will be learnt by all in due course.

W. ALLEN
SECRETARY

BRIGHTON

Bridge

RESULTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS

Pairs match played Sunday
January 9th 1983

N/S	1. J.Majchrowicz	& M.Douse	67-5
	2. W.Lethbridge	& Mr Goodlad	57-5
	3. R.Fullard	& Mrs Buller-King	48-1
	4. R.Evans	& Mrs Barker	47-
	5. F.Griffee	& Mrs Andrews	30-

E/W	1. A.Dodgson	& Mrs Dodgson	56-9
	2. W.Phillips	& Dr Goodlad	55-
	3. R.Paccitti	& Mrs Paccitti	53-7
	4. W.Allen	& Miss Sturdy	47-5
	5. Mrs Gover	& Miss Steyning	37-

Individual results for match played
16th January 1983

	1. Mrs V. Delaney	68-2
	2. W. Allen	56-9
	3. F. Griffee	55-7
	4. J. Padley	53-4 shared
	M. Tybinski	
	6. W. Lethbridge	52-3
	7. W. Phillips	49-
	8. P. McCormack	46-7
	9. J. Majchrowicz	46-5
	10. R. Paccitti	44-3
	11. R. Evans	40-9
	12. R. Fullard	33-

W. Phillips
Captain

CLUB NEWS—continued

Entertainment Section

These results reached the *Review* just too late for inclusion in the January/February issue.

LIST OF PRIZEWINNERS

CRIBBAGE

Gentlemen

Winner:- J. Simpson
 Runner-up T. Giles
 Beaten T. Mugan
 Semi-Finalists W. Phillips

Ladies

Winner:- Mrs. M. Crabtree
 Runner-up Mrs. H. Webster
 Beaten Mrs. J. Osborne
 Semi-Finalists Mrs. E. Simpson

DARTS

Gentlemen

Winner:- T. Giles
 Runner-up R. Cunningham
 Beaten W. Phillips
 Semi-Finalists H. Preedy

Ladies

Winner:- Mrs. E. Simpson
 Runner-up Mrs. M. Blacker
 Beaten Mrs. N. Bickley
 Semi-Finalists Mrs. T. Mugan

DOMINO AGGREGATE

Gentlemen

Winner:- T. Giles
 2nd. R. Osborne
 3rd. B. Blacker
 4th. W. Phillips

Ladies

Winner:- Mrs. J. Osborne
 2nd. Mr. H. Webster
 3rd. Mrs. E. Simpson
 4th. Mrs. F. Pike

JOE WALCH MEMORIAL TROPHY 5's and 3's

Gentlemen

Winner:- T. Giles
 Runner-up R. Osborne
 Beaten W. Phillips
 Semi-Finalists The late J. Simpson

Ladies

Winner:- Mrs. J. Osborne
 Runner-up Mrs. F. Pike
 Beaten Mrs. H. Webster
 Semi-Finalists Mrs. T. Mugan

WHIST AGGREGATE

Gentlemen

Winner:- T. Giles
 2nd. W. Phillips
 3rd. A. Dodgson
 4rd. C. Walters

Ladies

Winner:- Mrs. M. Crabtree
 2nd. Mrs. J. Osborne
 3rd. Mrs. H. Webster
 4rd. Mrs. E. Dodgson

*Jeanne Kick
 Hon. Secretary*

Bowling Section

BOWLS FIXTURES 1983

BOWLERS if you are interested in taking part in any of the following fixtures you should contact without delay, H. Preedy, Hon Match Secretary, telephone Brighton 36926, or write, 46 Bevendean Ave. Saltdean, Sussex.

INDOORS

DATE	CLUB	VENUE
Mar. 11th	Guildford	I.F.H.
Mar. 20th	Southampton	I.F.H.
Mar. 28th)	Handicap	
Apr. 8th)	Championships	I.F.H.
Apr. 15th	Old Woking	I.F.H.

OUTDOORS

May 5th	East Preston	East Preston
May 21st)	Weston Super Mare	Weston
May 28th)		
Jun. 20th	Marine Gardens	Worthing
Jun. 26th)		
Jul. 2nd)	Scarborough	Scarborough
Jul. 5th	Hurstpierpoint	Hurst-pierpoint
Jul. 11th)	Outdoor	Queens Park
Jul. 15th)	Tournament	Brighton
Jul. 17th	Southampton	Southampton
Jul. 22nd	Rottingdean	Rottingdean
Jul. 30th	Mayford	Mayford
Aug. 2nd	Woodingdean	Woodingdean
Aug. 21st	Guildford	Guildford
Aug. 25th	Burgess Hill	Burgess Hill
Aug. 27th)		
Sep. 3rd)	Hastings	Hastings
Sep. 3rd)		
Sep. 10th)	Lowestoft	Lowestoft
Sep. 24th	Old Woking	Old Woking

1982 Bowls Report

We are sorry this material reached us too late for last months *Review*.

The Brighton Club Bowling Section received a sad blow with the sudden death of Mrs Phyllis Burnett on November 28th. She was for many years Treasurer of the Bowling Section and showed great skill and tenacity in keeping the books in a solvent state. Her passing came as a great shock to us all and she will be greatly missed by the Section. On behalf of the committee and all Club members, I send our deepest sympathy to Billy Burnett and his daughter, Margaret.

The indoor bowling season is well established and quite good attendances have been forthcoming for our competition which is held at Ian Fraser House on Tuesday afternoons.

On Friday November 26th, we were hosts to our good friends from the Marine Gardens Bowling Club, Worthing, and a very interesting and entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all, and the standard of bowling was very high.

On Sunday November 28th, we were privileged to receive at Ian Fraser House, a contingent of bowlers, wives and helpers, from Barclays Bank International Poole,

Dorset. Sadly, Mrs Burnett collapsed just before the match, but because we felt it would be her wish, and as our friends had travelled such a distance, it was decided to carry on with the match.

On Friday December 10th, we entertained a team of bowlers from Woodingdean Bowling Club, and it was great to see so many old friends again. The match was a triumph for the Section, both teams of four winning their matches. This result gave us the opportunity to "crow" a little during tea, but our friends took it all in good part, and came back with a few cracks of their own, so the banter certainly caused many laughs, and the evening finished on a high note.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mr Frank Harding as Treasurer of the Section, and we know that our books will once again be in very capable hands.

I wish all bowlers good bowling in 1983

H. Preedy

Brighton Club Dance

On March 12th the Brighton Club Dance will be a 'Mad Hatters' party., anyone who would like to make a fancy hat is welcome.

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Paul Cox, grandson of Mrs Ellen Shaw and the late Mr James Shaw, who has gained a B.A. 1st class Honours Degree at Norwich University and is now at Reading University on a year's M.Mus. course.

Caroline Hold, grand-daughter of *Mr. Ambrose 'Allan' Hold* of Yeovil, who has passed her SRN and been appointed a Staff Nurse at Salisbury General Hospital.

Esther Jane Thomas, daughter of *Mr David Thomas* of Manchester, who at the age of 18 has obtained a place at Withington Physiotherapy Training Centre in Manchester, which she will take up after 'A' levels this summer.

FAMILY NEWS—continued

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. Hugh Nabney of Belfast and his wife who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 6th January.

Mr and Mrs Daniel E. McCarthy of Northampton who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 23rd January.

BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Jane Lister, mother-in-law of *Mr. Stanley Gimber* of Whitton, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 27th December.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr and Mrs John Bailey of Kidderminster are pleased to announce the arrival of a first grandchild, Thomas, born on 26th January to their daughter, Jan, and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barlow of Sheffield are pleased to announce the birth of a third grandchild, John Richard, to their son John Robert and his wife Jacqueline.

Mr. and Mrs. William Elgood of Chingford are pleased to announce the birth of a second grandchild, Nicholas Patrick, born to their son, Brian and his wife, on 1st September, 1982.

Mr and Mrs Bert Green of Shoreham are pleased to announce the birth of a second grandchild, Alexandra Clare, on January 13th, born to their daughter Diana and her husband Dan Whitty.

Mr and Mrs Norman Nolde of Victoria Australia are pleased to announce the arrival of a new grandchild, Matthew Peter, born on October 15th to their youngest son Peter and his wife Cheryl.

Mr and Mrs Dickie Richardson of Worcester are pleased to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Jolene, on 3rd February, to their daughter, Heather, and her husband Mark.

Mr and Mrs Eric Rowe of Minehead are pleased to announce the arrival of their seventh grandchild, Samantha Jane, born on January 5th to their son and daughter-in-law Mark and Helen.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sheehan of Redbridge, Essex, are pleased to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Gemma, to their son Colin and his wife, on the 4th November.

Mrs. E. Shirlaw widow of the late *Mr. John Shirlaw* is pleased to announce the birth of a grandson, Jamie Peter John, to her son and daughter-in-law on Christmas Day.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Andrew of New Southgate are pleased to announce the arrival of a first great grandchild, Andrew John, born on 13th January to their grand-daughter, Heather, and her husband.

Mr and Mrs George Brooks of Saltdean are pleased to announce the birth of their first great grandchild, Caroline Anne, to their grand-daughter Julie and her husband John.

Mr and Mrs Sidney Firrell of Hastings are pleased to announce the arrival of a great grandchild, Clare Louise, born on 22nd November to their grand-daughter Nichola and her husband Stephen Tomlin.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey of Bitterne Southampton on the death of Mrs. Bailey's brother who died in August.

FAMILY NEWS

—continued

Mr William Carlton of Morecambe who mourns the death of his sister, Mrs Winifred Jones, on 22nd January.

Mr. Ted Cooper of Rhyl, Clwyd who mourns the death of his younger brother Fred.

Mr Gordon Parr of Worle, Avon on the death of his stepfather on January 21st, only six weeks after the death of Mr Parr's mother.

The Reverend Denis J.S. Pettit of Northampton whose wife died in hospital on 25th December after many months of failing health.

Mr Alan Naylor of Mansfield Woodhouse whose father died on January 18th.

Mr Trevor Phillips of Paignton on the recent death of his father.

Mr. Herbert Scaife of Osbaldwick whose wife died in hospital on the 7th January after a long illness.

Mr. John Taylor of Chessington whose mother died on Christmas Eve.

Mr Josh Williams of Swansea on the death of his elder brother Ivor at the age of 75.

Mr Harry Windley of Scarborough whose older brother, Walter, died on February 7th.

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. Cantello Rifle Brigade

Archibald Cantello of Kenton, Harrow, died on the 26th January aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1966.

Mr Cantello enlisted in the Rifle Brigade at the outbreak of the First World War, and was wounded in France in 1915, losing an eye and suffering gunshot wounds. He worked as a clock winder in London for thirty-four years, and had retired before joining St Dunstan's. Sadly, in the last ten years his health was failing but he enjoyed visiting Brighton with his wife.

He leaves a widow, Florence.

Captain L.E. Caudle, Royal Artillery

Captain Lindsay Edward Caudle, of Southsea, Hants., passed away in a nursing home on the 25th January, at the age of 86.

Lindsay Caudle served in the Royal Artillery in the First World War until his discharge in 1919. He was then a Civil Servant until his sight deteriorated seriously and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1934, ultimately becoming totally blind. He trained as a physiotherapist and had a very successful private practice for many years until his retirement in 1972. He was a keen bridge player.

In his time as a St. Dunstaner, he had many personal sorrows and in recent years suffered very serious ill health. However, his courage and

wonderful cheerfulness always sustained him and he was greatly helped by his wife and many friends.

He leaves a widow, Yvonne, and stepson and family.

C.H. Fagg, Royal Artillery

Mr. Charles Henry Fagg of Lyminge died in hospital on the 4th February in his 79th year. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1979. Mr Fagg served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and was a Far East Prisoner of War, suffering malnutrition and deprivation which affected his health in the years following his discharge from the Army. His wife died in 1976 since when he has been devotedly cared for by his step-daughter, Mrs Lorna Reeves. Until recently Mr Fagg was able to do his own cooking and was an excellent stool and rug maker. We offer our condolences to Mrs Reeves and all members of his family.

C. Jones Royal Welch Fusiliers and South Wales Borderers

Mr. Jones of North Wales dies on 24th December at the age of 70.

Before the Second World War Mr. Jones was with the Territorial Army and following the outbreak of war was mobilised into the Royal Welch

In Memory —continued

Fusiliers with whom he served until his discharge in 1946. He then enlisted with the South Wales Borderers in 1952 and served as a Staff Sergeant Military Bandsman until 1969 when his eyesight began to fail. He became a St. Dunstaner two years later. After leaving the Army Mr. Jones did craft work at a blind centre near his home. He leaves a wife Gwyneth.

L. Meadows Machine Gun Corps

Leonard Meadows of Leamington Spa died on 14th December at the age of 94.

Mr. Meadows served as a Private in the Machine Gun Corps during the First World War. He lost his right eye following a gunshot wound received whilst on active service and with the failure of his left eye, he became a St. Dunstaner in September 1981. Mr. Meadows had worked as a timber porter until his retirement at the age of 67.

Mr. and Mrs. Meadows celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in August 1981.

He leaves a widow, Beryl and a daughter Barbara.

H. Meckin Border Regiment. (Labour Corps)

Harry Meckin of Workington died on 12th January at the age of 90. He served as a Private in the 5th Battalion Border Regiment (Labour Corps) from March 1912 until March 1918 when he was discharged from the Army after being injured by gunshot wounds.

Mr Meckin was admitted to St Dunstan's in 1939. He was a keen gardener and looked after an allotment and greenhouse while his health permitted. He enjoyed an annual holiday at Brighton.

After the death of his wife in 1948 Mr Meckin lived with his daughter Josephine who cared for him devotedly.

H. Pople Royal Garrison Artillery

Harold Pople of Ross-on-Wye died on 31st December at the age of 88. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 32 years. His sight had failed while serving as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1915 and he was discharged from the Army a year later. With the further failure of his sight he became a St. Dunstaner in 1950 at which time he was employed as a gentlemen's outfitter with a tailoring business in Cardiff where he continued to enjoy his work until his retirement in 1960. Mr. Pople took an active interest in church affairs and his garden until his health began to fail.

Mr. and Mrs. Pople celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September 1979 but sadly Mrs. Pople died last September and soon afterwards our St. Dunstaner went to Pearson House.

He leaves a daughter Joan.

O. Thompson Royal Artillery (Maritime)

Oswald 'Ossie' Thompson of Bradford died on 26th December at the age of 61.

Mr. Thompson served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery (Maritime) from 1941 to 1946 and although not fully fit when he left the Army, he was able to follow employment as a sander in the cabinet making trade until 1976 when sadly he suffered a serious deterioration in his health. He became a St. Dunstaner in March 1976 by which time he was permanently confined to a wheelchair but he faced his severe disabilities with great courage and was unfailingly cheerful.

Mr. Thompson was cared for devotedly by his wife Winifred.

He leaves a widow and a son.

S.N. Weeks Reconnaissance Corps

Stanley Weeks of Letchworth died suddenly at home on the 2nd January at the age of 62. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1947.

Mr. Weeks served in the Reconnaissance Corps and lost his sight in both eyes in 1943 when he was in Egypt. He was a Hertfordshire man and returned there to work in industry after the war. He retired in 1979 having been with the same firm for over twenty years. Always very independent, he enjoyed his visits to Ian Fraser House in later years. He was keen on handicrafts and built an aviary where he bred budgerigars.

He leaves a widow Cicely.

J.F. Willis Royal Artillery

James Frederick Willis of Basingstoke died on 15th January in Pearson House in his 75th year. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1977.

He enlisted in the Royal Artillery as a Regular in 1932 and saw active service in the Second World War with the rank of Gunner. Mr. Willis suffered gunshot wounds to his chest and leg at Dunkirk in 1940 and was taken prisoner-of-war.

Sadly his wife Eileen passed away in August last year and our St. Dunstaner had a serious operation towards the end of 1982 from which he never fully recovered. Throughout this time, Mr. Willis was cared for devotedly by his grandson, Mr. J.T. Kelly and his wife, of Hemel Hempstead, to whom we send our sincere condolences together with all the members of his family.