

St Dunstons Review

April 1983





Message from the Chairman

Greetings to Australia

Some weeks ago I was delighted to be asked to send a tape recorded message to be played at a luncheon during the 26th Biennial Conference of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Australia, to be held this spring. This conference is always a useful and happy occasion for those attending it as representatives of their fellow St. Dunstaners all over Australia.

This recording gave me an excellent opportunity to send sympathy from us all over here to those who have been affected by the appalling fires and terrific storms and floods, which have been so serious in South Australia and Victoria, and I added offers of practical help to any St. Dunstaners who might have had their homes damaged or suffered other losses.

Of course the message also included more light-hearted greetings to the Conference and I send very best wishes from us all to our Australian friends.

Reunion for St. Dunstan's ex Prisoners of War

The first Reunion of the year took place over the week-end of the 18th-20th February, when a large group of ex Prisoners of War of the Japanese and Germans, with their escorts, foregathered at Ian Fraser House. It was a very successful occasion when old friends who had undergone hardship together were able to meet and reminisce in comfort. What wonderful memories stirred and what a range of human emotions they brought with them!

My wife and I were invited to join the POWs for their dinner on the Saturday night and it was an evening which we both much appreciated and enjoyed.

Jon Earnest-Dune

RETIREMENT

Mary and Charles Lawrence retire on May 15th after 14 years in charge of St. Dunstan's hostel at Broadhurst Gardens. There has been a suggestion from among the many St. Dunstaners who have enjoyed their hospitality that a collection be organised for a retirement gift.

Mr. Weisblatt has agreed to act as treasurer and contributions may be sent to him at Headquarters. Please make cheques payable to St. Dunstan's.

BRAILLE AND TAPE

The R.N.I.B. has set up a Bibliographical Unit to collect and catalogue information about Braille and tape publications worldwide.

At present there is no single source of information anywhere in the world on what is published in Braille or on tape. The new unit will start by making contact with other libraries and producers, including private Braille and taping groups and building up catalogue and information exchanges. The Bibliographical Unit will eventually be able to tell blind users of Braille and tape whether a particular publication is available and where.

The Unit will improve dramatically blind people's access to published material and help to avoid duplication of effort and waste of scarce resources.

Customer Liaison

The R.N.I.B.'s Customer Liaison Unit deals with individual requests for Braille and tape material and also collects and analyses information about blind people's needs. This information will help the R.N.I.B. to use its Braille

and tape production resources to reflect fairly and efficiently the varied wishes of blind people in education, at work, for general information and special interests and for enjoyment.

The Customer Liaison Unit is visiting schools and organisations using Braille and tape, to collect their views, and welcomes comments and suggestions from Braille and tape users. The address is R.N.I.B. Braille House, 338/346 Goswell Road, London EC1, Telephone: 01-837 9921.

Michelham Priory

Michelham Priory is situated at Upper Dicker, Hailsham, East Sussex and has much to offer the visitor. There is a collection of historic 13th-16th century buildings, such as a Tudor barn, 14th century Gatehouse, 7 acre moat and a working water-mill, plus other items of interest. A 'mini guide' has been produced in Braille and is available to blind visitors, either on loan, or to purchase as a souvenir of the visit.

Opening times are 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. between April 1st and October 16th (the house is closed from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.).

Further information can be obtained on 0323 844224.

IN TOUCH TAPED

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has now put on tape the BBC's book 'In Touch'.

The Book contains useful information for blind people on subjects from legal and financial advice to kitchen gadgets.

The tapes are available on loan to the members of the Talking Book Library (catalogue number 4400).

St Dunstons Review

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Front Cover: Riverside Tea Garden celebrates 50 years in business this year but baking has been carried on there for more than 100 years. The Proprietors are our St. Dunstaner, Ken Walker and his wife, Mary. The story of their 150 year old Good Friday loaf appears on another page.



Mary and Ken, with the Good Friday loaf, are seen in front of the original oven door from the bakehouse, preserved in their tearoom.

The Good Friday Loaf that lasted 150 years

Proof of an old Hampshire legend in the shape of a loaf, 150 years old, is to be found at the home of St. Dunstaner, Ken Walker and his wife Mary, whose Riverside Tea Garden has reached its 50th anniversary.

The loaf, a miniature cottage loaf such as might have been made with the remnant of dough after the day's bake, has been in the house at Riverside since it was given to an ancestor of Mary Walker, in 1830.

"He was only 15 and he was told that, according to the Hampshire legend, as the loaf has been baked on Good Friday, it would never go bad. To prove it, he kept the loaf, and although it is now a dry fossil, it shows no sign of ever having been bad," says Mary.

It is appropriate that the Hampshire Good Friday loaf should have been preserved at Riverside, which is itself a hundred years old bakehouse on the old A34, between Bullington Cross and Sutton Scotney, which was run by previous generations of Mary Walker's family. Today she main-

tains the family tradition, baking her own cakes and scones to the original bakehouse recipes, and serving light meals, morning coffee and teas in the old bakehouse.

Her cooking is recommended by Egon Ronay and no wonder, for she refuses to use any synthetic ingredients,—"We make our own lemon curd, jams and marmalade and we would rather go out of business than lower our standards", she says.

The entry in Egon Ronay's guide begins, "Heavenly scones, teacakes and sponges made by Mrs. Mary Walker bring customers to this pretty little tearoom". It also says, "in summer there are strawberry teas on the terrace overlooking an immaculate lawn". The lawn and garden are Ken's responsibility as well as general maintenance of the house and the grounds. He is helped by some vision remaining to him, after privations as a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese. He served in the Royal Air Force in the Far East as an engineer on air/sea rescue launches in the second war.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Peter Spencer M.C.S.P., Weston-Super-Mare.

The St. Dunstan's "Music Makers" will again be in full swing this year at Ian Fraser House, for a week commencing Saturday 20th August.

All players of band instruments, from learners to professionals, will be very welcome to join us. It is principally a week for making music amongst ourselves, but these activities are combined with visits to other bands, and musical groups, in and around the Brighton area.

We have many musical friends to call on for help and advice, including Harry Leader, Harry Otterway and Ernie Took and his band, and with the full backing of the Ian Fraser House staff an interesting and enjoyable week is assured.

I would again like to thank all those who have sent us musical instruments, but just two or three more brass one's would be very welcome—and of course, the players to go with them if they are still missing out.

Book early and come and join us—you won't regret it.

From: Ernest Ford of Middlesbrough. P.O.W. Reunion. 18th to 20th February.

May I, on behalf of all P.O.W.'s present, express our thanks to Tom Hart, for the charming and capable way in which he carried out his duties as secretary over the weekend. We know that it was just the culmination of all the hard work he has put in for our benefit over the past year.

Our thanks also to Arthur Morris and Bill Griffiths for all they do to make the weekend a success.

Lastly, but not least, praise indeed for all the staff at Ian Fraser House, also from Headquarters, for all they do to make us welcome, our stay a pleasant one and for the many kindnesses shown to us all, including our wives.

How many not so hidden talents they all have, from wine waiters to furniture removers, the room all in readiness for the band concert. A very enjoyable weekend. Thank you all.

John Gilbert of Wimborne, who was on the ski-ing trip, writes:

My very first attempt at ski-ing without my sight proved to be a terrific challenge and despite many a tumble and the necessary allotment of bruises, I enjoyed it tremendously.

It was encouraging for me to see how some of the others managed, particularly Don Planner, who was going great guns, and only on his second trip. The experience of ski-ing blind is impossible to describe, but the overall result of good healthy exercise, fresh air, unsurpassable comradeship and pure good fun, makes even a couple of broken ribs a pleasure, especially with the prospect of returning to put into effect all I learned this year.

From the Chairman's Post Bag

From: Mrs. Lilian Channing of Sidmouth, widow of Mr. Fred Channing.

It may interest you to know that I have had a long association with St. D's starting way back in 1917 when I started in the office in Gt. Portland Street, known then as the After Care Department, which was moved to the house in Regent's Park. In those days there were several other houses, i.e. Cornwall Terrace, The Bungalow, The College and Sussex Place, all within walking distance of the main house. When this was given up, we moved to St. John's Lodge, where workshops had been built. I left in 1934.

I suppose there are many around who remember this. They say as time passes ones memory of days past is better than the present—I certainly find it so.

Derby Sweepstake

A reminder

Do remember to apply for Derby Sweepstake tickets. The closing date is Friday May 13th. The tickets are 20p each. Don't miss the deadline!



Lt. Comdr Clive Kidd, Chairman, Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society presents the G3 MOW trophy to David Mitchell and Bob Field, for services to the St. Dunstan's A.R.S. in 1982.

Amateur Radio Society A.G.M.

by Tommy Gaygan G4AFV

Ian Fraser House and a bright spring-like morning heralded the opening of the Annual General Meeting of the Amateur Radio Society on Saturday 5th March.

New Committee Members

The meeting got under way with the minutes of the last meeting being read and discussed, as were the financial matters. All was in order and passed unanimously. The new Committee was voted upon and George Cole G4AWI was elected to stand in place of Bill Shea G4AUJ who has retired after several years of good service to the society. Ted John G3SEJ continues as our very able Secretary and Tom Hart G4KPF and Ray Hazan were re-appointed. These members will serve under the chairmanship of Peter Jones G3DRE, who was re-elected. Our thanks were expressed to him and Ted John for their untiring work on our behalf.

A discussion followed about the installation of a trapped dipole donated by Duncan Sutherland G4DJI and it was agreed that the aerial should be erected on the same site as the previous one and not over the entrance as had first been thought. We look forward to this equipment being in place before our next meeting, so that it can be put into use and our thanks are due to Duncan.

Luncheon

The business side of the meeting being over we adjourned to the fifth floor canteen to be joined by our President and his Lady—Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme together with Lt. Comdr and Mrs. Kidd, Dr. & Mrs. Stilwell, Mr. and Mrs. Conway, Mr. & Mrs. Norman French, Mr. George Miles, Mr. Len Wooler, Mr. Barvie Cook, Mr. John Houlihan, Mr. Jack Brooker, Mr. Alan Baker, Mr. David Castleton, and other friends. After a glass of



Chairman, Peter Jones speaking at the luncheon, with him is Mrs. Jones. In the foreground is Ted John, Secretary and Treasurer of St. Dunstan's A.R.S.

wine we sat down to an excellent lunch then Peter Jones called us to order for the presentation of the G3 MOW Cup. We were all delighted when the recipients were Mr. Field and Mr. Mitchell, in recognition of the excellent work they have done for the Society. This included the somewhat difficult job of re-erecting the aerials blown down in the winter gales.

Naval Communications

Lunch over, the afternoon session began with Peter introducing Lt. Comdr Kidd, R.N. who gave an extremely interesting talk on Naval Communications from the time of the Ancient Greeks, through to Napoleon, and the first world war. We were certainly made aware of the modern methods of communication and how fortunate we are today.

And so the official side of the weekend came to an end and there was time to spend at the transmitter again, whilst some stalwarts spent the evening making sure

the local brew was up to standard in Rottingdean.

Contacts were made over the air on the Sunday morning, but by lunch time the festivities were over. It had been nice to meet up with old friends again and to make one or two new ones.

Next Meeting

Our thanks are due to everyone who contributed to our weekend, especially our guests and speaker, as well as all at Ian Fraser House.

The next Ham Radio Meeting will be at I.F.H. on 22nd/23rd July and we would be more than pleased to welcome any newcomers who may be interested and care to come along. Don't forget that accommodation should be booked at H.Q. as soon as possible.

Since receiving this report we have learned of the sad death of Duncan Sutherland.

St. Dunstan's Ex-Prisoner of War Reunion

by Tom Hart

The Reunion of the St. Dunstan's P.O.W.'s took place at Ian Fraser House over the weekend of 18th, 19th, 20th of February and began with a Buffet Dance in the Annexe on the Friday evening. This gave everyone the opportunity of meeting old friends, and making new ones, such as Bob Chalmers who had only been admitted to St. Dunstan's in the September of last year and was on his first visit to I.F.H. and his first official function.

It wasn't long before everyone was eating the excellent buffet, dancing, drinking or chatting, tho' I am not sure which order this should be in. Billy and Alice Griffiths entertained us with some jolly duets, but the Annexe was in deep silence whilst Jim Fraser, who had entertained his friends in the Jap camp with his mouth organ, (before he had to barter it for some scraps of food so that he could survive), played so beautifully on his harmonica, the haunting melody of 'Moonlight and Roses' and I think many thoughts went back to those sad days, when the misery of their daily existence was only exceeded by the fear of the future. This mood, however, only lasted for a few moments and the evening continued to the music of Ernie Took and his Band. Ernie, we found out, had played for our Dances in St. Dunstan's for twenty-six years. May he play for another twenty-six years, and may, God willing, many of us still be there to appreciate him.

Saturday morning saw us in the Winter Gardens for the A.G.M. Thirty-three members were present and fifteen guests.

Billy Griffiths, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, welcomed the guests and after asking them to stand for a few moments in memory of our Founder and those of our members who had passed on since our last meeting, read a message from Sir Mike Ansell, who unfortunately was not able to be with us, on account of illness.

It was unanimously agreed that we should invite Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre to be our President.

A letter was received from the Assistant Secretary of the National Reunion of ex POW's Melbourne 1984, informing us

that a National Reunion was to be held there, from 2nd to 7th October 1984. Many members thought this would be too far, and the trip too expensive, unless it could be combined with a planned holiday or visit to relatives. If, however, anyone were interested, please contact Tom Hart our Secretary, who will pass on a copy of the letter he has, or you will find particulars in the FEPOW Forum.

On, Saturday evening, eighty-six members and their guests assembled in the Winter Gardens. After pre-dinner drinks they sat down at beautifully laid out tables decorated with silver candelabras, red candles and beautiful flowers. The decor was only surpassed by the dinner itself catered by Paul James. Well done Paul, keep it up.

After dinner, Mr. Garnett-Orme, who had served with the Welsh Guards and was himself taken prisoner at Boulogne in 1940, welcomed the guests and read a message from Sir Mike Ansell, who was ill at home with bronchitis. Sir Mike sent his best wishes to everyone and hoped that all would have a very fine evening. He wished to be remembered to all those who were with him in Stalag 9A/H, Klostas Heina.

Amongst the guests were Mr. Payne, National President of the National Federation of the Far East Prisoners of War Clubs and Associations; Mr. R.L. Dunne, Vice-President and his wife; Commander Pool and Mrs. Pool; Mr. and Mrs. Weisblatt; Mrs. E. Dacre; and Dr. and Mrs. Stilwell.

Mr. Dunne responded on behalf of the guests and gave a witty and humorous talk, but also said how angry he was on being introduced to the St. Dunstaners who had been prisoners of the Japanese, to discover that ninety-nine per cent of them were blinded, or partially blind, due to malnutrition which could have been avoided, as the food was there, but was not distributed; and although other associations now invited their enemies to their functions, this would not happen in the case of the N.F.F.C.A.

Commander Pool, whose ship was sunk, was picked up by the crew of another ship of which Charles Mantle our St. Dunstaner,



was a member. Charlie's ship was later sunk and after spending three days in the water, he was picked up by a British submarine. They were landed on one of the Islands which unfortunately was later invaded by the Japanese.

Billy Griffiths then proposed the toast to St. Dunstan's and thanked Dr. Stilwell and all the Staff for their hospitality and help in making the Reunion such a success.

The Bar was then opened and an informal get together got on its way with a sing song. I am sure it was one of the most delightful evenings we have had.

At the Church Service on the Sunday morning, one of the ex-P.O.W.'s read the lesson and the Rev. Meek, in his Address, elaborated on the Lesson which brought much satisfaction to the large congregation.

The Reunion came to an end on the Sunday evening, when the Lounge was filled to capacity to hear Harry Ottway and the Band of the Royal Engineers Association.

"Colonel Bogey" and "We'll Meet Again" brought back many war memories and it was surprising how many knew the correct words for the tune with which Harry finished the Concert: "Hurrah for the C.R.E."

Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Stilwell and his Staff, Mrs. Pugh, David Bamber the House Steward, and all the others who helped to make this a Grand Reunion.

This Gentlemen, is your Reunion, you make of it what you wish.

The next date will be 17th, 18th and 19th February, 1984.

The Reunion brought together people long separated. Above, Jim Harrington and St. Dunstan Eric Rowe who both served in the Corps of Drums of the Middlesex Regiment and were prisoners in Shan-Shui P.O.W. camp until separated later. Their reunion after forty years was through Len Wiggins, of St. Dunstan's Employment Department, who is Jim's brother-in-law. Below Cmd. R.M. Pool and St. Dunstaner Horace 'Charlie' Mantle, whose story is told by Tom Hart.



READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Ending up

By Kingsley Amis

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 5 hours

Tuppence-ha'penny Cottage is in the heart of the country, isolated. It is occupied by five old people from differing backgrounds and of diverse temperaments.

Adela Bastable, faded and overworked, looks after the day-to-day running of the house. Her brother Bernard, a retired army officer, is a secretive embittered man with a savagely wounding tongue and a penchant for malicious practical jokes.

Marigold Pyke, widowed and an old friend of Adela's, is a silly pretentious woman. Her inane empty-headed chatter sickens Bernard and the two are perpetually in a state of open acid-tongued hostility.

George (Professor George Zeyer) an old friend of the Bastables, is partially paralysed and mainly confined to his room.

The last member of this strangely assorted menage is Derek Shortell ('Shorty') who occupies a curious position in the household, midway between 'family' and servant. Shorty is a cheerful alcoholic and he and Bernard had a homosexual relationship many years earlier. . .

HOW TO GET A GOOD JOB DONE — by George Brooks

As we all know, there are lots of jobs done by 'cowboys'. One day a workman arrived at the bungalow to do a repair job. I had thought up a good ruse to give the workman inspiration to make a good job.

"Not many young men go in for sound apprenticeships these days" I said. He agreed with me and continued by saying that there were not many skilled men around, and some do botched up jobs. I knew by his answers that he would do his best to make a really good job and would show me his skill.

When he had finished the job, he came into the lounge and to emphasise what I had been saying about 'cowboys' I pointed to the french window and said "two or three years ago a workman came to repair the lock on that. He took out the four screws

In this painfully sad 'black comedy', the author writes quite brilliantly of the interactions of this oddly assorted quintet, the powerful undercurrents of spite and malice, and senile acrimony, and the inexorable advance to 'second childishness, and mere oblivion, ending inevitably, in tragedy. Absorbing (and chilling) reading.

The boy who followed Ripley

By Patricia Highsmith

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 12 hours

In the village cafe near his French home, Ripley is approached by a seventeen-year-old American boy who introduces himself as Billy Rawlings. Intrigued, Tom takes him home where the boy eventually confesses that he is Frank Pearson and he has run away from home, following his father's tragic death when his wheelchair plunged over a cliff on his estate.

The verdict was accidental death but the boy claims that he pushed his father to his death.

Ripley gets the boy a false passport from one of his shady friends in Hamburg. During a trip to Berlin the boy is kidnapped and a large ransom demanded from his wealthy family. With the agreement of Frank's family, Tom Ripley acting as go-between, foils the gang. The boy returns unharmed and with the ransom money intact. . .

holding the plate to the window with the horizontal brass handle and when I pulled the door shut the whole lot came away from the door!". I went on to say that I had to get my tools out, rebore the holes and put in the plastic plugs and screws myself. "You try that lock now" I said! He agreed that it was a good job, "take a horse to pull that lock off now" he said.

I asked him if he would mind me seeing the job he had just done and without doubt he had made a really good solid and skilful repair job. I thanked him and saw him to the door. When I returned to the lounge my wife was laughing her head off, "what are you laughing at" I asked her—"that man" she said "was the workman who did the lock job some years ago!" Gee, was my face RED!

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie



NO NEWS LIKE THE OLD NEWS

Accustomed to receiving our Dundee "Courier" through the letterbox each morning, invariably of that day's date, Margaret and I were surprised recently by the arrival of a "Daily Mail," a somewhat frail copy, which turned out to be dated the 4th May, 1896; in fact, the first issue of this paper. Documents turn up in strange places, aged chests, forgotten cellars, private libraries; it was in the back of an old picture-frame that my brother discovered a "Times" with the first news of Waterloo in it: and in the case of this "Daily Mail," as subsequently came to light, it had turned up in an old snapshot album in Fort William. There are no pictures in it, but Margaret and I were able to read a sentimental love-story, thrilled to the story of a Guardsman, caught sleeping at his post, who thereupon blew out his brains, and discovered the existence, hitherto unsuspected, of a product called "Vi-Cocoa" which you only have to drink in order to ensure virility, regular bowel-movement, and the rosy cheeks of good health.

Hans Richter is conducting at the St. James' Hall, George Du Maurier's "Trilby" is on at the Adelphi, the Princess of Wales has a poodle trimmed and trained in the most advanced fashion, incompetent bicyclists, mostly women, are the curse of London's traffic; these and many other items entertained Roseangle over its breakfast, but it was a note in the parliamentary column which most caught my attention, Canadian-born as I am. Millions of acres in Southern British Columbia, this was to be the subject of a question in the House, had been inadvertently annexed to the United

States by the error of an American cartographer, and would the Minister see to it that these territories were restored to the Dominion of Canada forthwith. I felt suddenly involved because this is the very part of Canada I come from, my hackles rose at this high-handed seizure of my birthplace, and it was only when Margaret pointed out that these events related to 1896 and not 1983 that I calmed down and got on with my porridge. Kootenay Lake is a hundred miles long; at its southern end it all but touches the 39th parallel, and it was to this region of snow-capped peaks, forests, and potentially fertile valleys that my father came in 1910, exchanging the straw hat and cane of a young blade of the Dundee professional class for the plaid shirt and kneeboots of a Canadian backwoodsman. There is still a snapshot of the grizzly bear he had no option to shoot, lured to its death by a can of maple syrup outside the cabin.

My mother joined him there, so that it was not to the sound of jute-mill "bummers" in Dundee that I was born but the whistling of marmots, the call of the Canada jay, the bugling of elk in the crisp autumn nights around Harrap and Nelson City. "Where were you born, Scroggie," said Mr. Stanners, the knickerbockered Cambridge don who gave his services to St. Dunstan's in the Church Stretton days of old. "B.C.," I replied. Mr. Stanners studied this. "I think we'd better write British Columbia, Scroggie," he said, "or they might think that was when you were born." Putting away our 86-year-old "Daily Mail" for future reference, packed with fascinating titbits, interest and sensation as it is, Margaret and I turned to the pretty predictable items, the unremarkable tenor of the current "Courier."

Sixty-second Birthday

by 'Tiny' Pointon

There must be many ways of celebrating one's birthday, indeed not so many years ago I went out and bought an outboard motor for my fishing boat. This year, being my 62nd, I got up at 5 a.m., an hour I did not believe existed, and my ever loving and long suffering wife got up with me to get my breakfast so that I was ready when a friend picked me up by car to motor to Gatwick. Leaving the car with Crawley Down Garage, we were taken by bus to the airport where we boarded the Boeing 737 flight to Geneva. Here we were met by the Ski Travelway coach and representative, who greeted us with the glad news that there had been heavy snow the previous night at Chateau D'Oex and that they had had to use chains to get the coach out.

Coach journey

On this coach we travelled the 100 miles plus, passing on our way through the vineyards, Lausanne, Montreux, Gruyere, famous for its cheese, to Bulle where we started climbing into the mountains, arriving at Chateau D'Oex at about 3.30 p.m. jubilant to see so much snow. Rick, the courier, had en route given us an interesting description of the journey, which last year we did in the dark so that no one could have seen the sights. Having been allocated our rooms, we went up the road to get fixed up with skis, sticks, etc., and these were stowed away in a very convenient room at the rear of the Hotel De L'Ours, which, I am told, had been refurbished in a big way last June and from the layout very intelligently and specifically as a ski lodge, with the warmest and most beautiful duvets that I have ever come across.

My room mates, Dave and Roger, I had never met before, largely because circumstances had prevented me from doing any pre ski training, but in the end I think that my water skiing through the summer helped a great deal to keep leg muscles right. We were each issued with a lift pass which one needs to open turnstiles, etc. to get on to the cable cars or drag lifts, simply

by inserting the thing into an aperture. I am told that all lifts in the area are connected to the main computer in Gstaad, 14 kilometers away and that the pass is rather valuable as it also covers one on all the buses and trains. "So don't lose it" said Steve, the Ski Travelway Rep at the Hotel, who was an inch taller than me, three stone or more in muscle, and final insult, had reversed the numbers of age! He seemed able to carry any amount of questions in his head and deal with them without any trouble at all, and if he did not immediately know the answer to a question, was not long in finding out.

Next morning, after a continental breakfast, reinforced by the two hard boiled eggs I had taken with me, I met Michel my ski instructor; he being 28 years of age, a Swiss, speaking very good English and by far the best instructor I have met. We seemed to communicate very well.

First day

We went on the first day to La Bray, boarding the Tele Ferique which carries about 30 people with skis, etc. up to the first stage of the mountain and a Tele Cabin and a two seater for the rest of the way up to the restaurant. On the gentle slopes we discovered that there were a few problems with my skiing to be put right, like finding it more difficult to turn right than left, but by the end of the day it was coming together.

For the next day, Michel took me in his Mini to Les Moulins to Mont Chevreuile where for the next three days we built up my skiing and rode up the T bar drag lift, which is so simple to use. By the Friday night I was mentally rubbing my hands together with glee, going to take a ski test the next day and thinking that I would twist Michel's arm to take me up on the Red run (there being only one more difficult colour in graduation, that being black). I phoned my wife that evening to say how well things were going, went to bed and then, the lurgy got me—right between the shoulders with one meat skewer, another in the front of my

chest, a blow lamp down my throat and two little men with big hammers inside my head—I was also subjected to hyperpyrexia and prevented from sleeping at all! I stayed in bed on the Saturday and that evening as soon as they came in, members of the Club called in to see me, and I asked Julian, a 19 year old man who had driven up with me, and who spoke some French, if he could go to the Chemist and buy me some 'Night Nurse'. He did his best to explain my wishes to the people in the shop and brought back with him what they told him I wanted, which turned out to be a bed urinal! Ah well. In spite of the amusement this caused me, I did get some sleep that night, but Sunday was about as stable as a jelly, so no more skiing on this trip. We returned our gear to the shop, which was the first time I had been out of the Hotel. (The gear was very good.)

Twin ladies

On the first day whilst talking to another of our party, the name of Bowles Outdoor Pursuit Centre of Crowborough was mentioned, and two identical twin ladies sitting nearby and aged by the way 70, came over and we had a short conversation, arranging to meet these two ladies that evening in the Hotel. I am told that they zip around the pistes, as much at ease on the snow as if doing a little gentle shopping! They were worth a guinea a minute to be with.

I must mention the magic of the yellow bib with three black circles on, which is the international sign of the blind skier. Every courtesy is extended to one on the pistes and in the cafes, and on the slopes everyone wants to come and talk, from a group of 13 year old Irish girls, all of whom wished to photograph me, to a group of young people from Utrecht.

With last minute shopping and packing completed, we left on Monday afternoon through a land of pure white, even on the trees, as no wind had disturbed the last fall of snow. Down the hill from the 900 metres of A.S.L. of Chateau D'Oex to Bulle and so through the vineyards again to Geneva. Strange to think that grapes grow so well where there is so much snow.

After a good flight home and the car collected, what happens the next day—snow—but now one doesn't rub hands together gleefully, but to keep warm! All a matter of perspective.

Now to roll the credits. Thank you to Ray Hazan without whom I would never have met and been infected by the ski-ing bug and would have missed a great deal of enjoyment, to Margaret Baynes, Secretary of the Kent and Sussex Ski Club for all her hard work in organisation and to every member of the Club for personal assistance given unstintingly to me by all age groups. Thank you to Ski Travelway, who fixed everything in the ski resort and every one of their staff for all they did, and to the Swiss people as a whole for their truly commercial approach to life in that they appear to want to make money by giving the best possible value for it, which is why they are so successful as a nation and lead the world in finance, as well, of course, as skiing. Lastly, thank you to St. Dunstan's without which nothing would have been possible anyway.

As for the future, I wonder if my marriage and my pocket would stand a month next year, instead of one week. But, I shall be packing "Night Nurse" next time!

BRUSH UP YOUR BRIDGE

In the next few editions of the *Review*, we hope to publish some bridge problems to test your skill. The first appears below.

	N	
	S 843	
	H AQ864	
	D AQ102	
	C J	
W		E
S AJ752		S Q106
H 102		H J75
D 85		D K74
C Q1092		C K653
	S	
	S K9	
	H K93	
	D J963	
	C A874	

Dealer N Love all

An interesting play arises in this hand should North play in 4H. He needs a spade ruff in dummy to make 10 tricks. West will take the first spade and return a diamond to the King and a second diamond. A diamond ruff will now defeat. Declarer needs to ensure that West takes both spades by playing the nine on the first spade lead.

Snow Queen and the Six Dwarfs

by Ray Hazan



The snow slopes at Wertach.

The skiing party were very fortunate this year as the Snow Queen only donned her white mantle some three weeks before the group embarked for Germany. Although the small Alpine villages depend mainly upon their summer trade, when tourists flock in to enjoy the glorious walks and sports facilities on offer, nevertheless, winter sports provide an essential source of income. As agriculture comes to a grinding halt during the winter, farmers operate ski lifts, snow tractors and emergency services to augment their income. Skiers this year, therefore, were welcomed with open arms, the first arms being those of mine host, Alex Lipp, owner of the Hotel Magnus, where we had stayed on three previous occasions.

We arrived in the village of Wertach, situated some two and a half hours by coach south of Munich, in time for dinner on Friday, 18th February. And were we ready for something to eat! Dan Air had provided us with three small sandwiches during our flight from Gatwick. The same route by British Airways would have cost fifty pounds more, so it was a worthwhile

sacrifice. It was with cries of sheer delight that our party of 18 found waiting at Munich airport, 2 very good friends from last year; Bombardier Bill Mullan, the coach driver, and Gunner Olly Allport, from 94 Locating Regt., Royal Artillery, who, once again, had so kindly agreed to provide guides and generally look after us.

Continuity

Indeed, continuity was to be the theme of this year's trip. During dinner at the by now very familiar 'Weinstube', we met our other three guides. 2nd Lieutenant Simon Clegg has, for the past 2 years, organised, trained and led the Regimental langlauf, or cross country ski team. One can only assume that he either 'saw the light', about downhill skiing or was volunteered to look after us! He turned out to be a respected leader, who organised in the most pleasant, cheerful and competent of manners. Simon was accompanied by Bdr. Pete Zamudio and Gnr. Jerry Pitman, both of whom we had met last year. Familiar friends, the same hotel room, and snow slopes, with whose



Don Planner moving fast on the slope.

bumps, trees, pylons and ravines, we were on intimate terms; all meant we could carry on where we left off before. We did have two new guides, both of whom cottoned on remarkably quickly. Major Mike Boocock of the Royal Anglian Regt. acted as our official escort, and David Williams, former ski racer, lent us his invaluable experience. His ability to race through a plate of cream cakes was phenomenal!

Quiet life

Some readers may recall last year's saga, and tales of skiers in fancy dress, performing all sorts of unmentionable things as a last fling before the abstinence of Lent. Well, this year, St. Dunstaners were prepared to forgo the sight of women in black fishnet stockings, on skis, all for a quiet life. The first weekend was anything but quiet. With the previous lack of snow, everyone was trying to make up for lost time. But because of the instant understanding between pupil and guide, most of us felt that by the end of the first day, we had caught up with where we had left off last February. By the Monday we had the slopes largely to ourselves. Despite changing

guides every 2 days, instant confidence existed. This speaks loudly for both competence and continuity.

Conditions were ideal this year. Though the sun shone, it was cool and even cooler when an icy North wind blew. This meant that the snow remained in a constant condition. Skiing can become very testing when the surface varies from soft patches to plaques of ice. We had a variety of temperatures, as attested by a thermometer at the top of one of the ski lifts; minus 8 degrees centigrade one day, plus 22 degrees the next. Minus 20 was recorded one evening, but it was a dry cold, or was it the lager?

Blindfolded guides

To take advantage of the quieter slopes before the weekenders arrived, our traditional 'end of week laugh', was held on the Friday afternoon. Unfairly, we laugh as our guides are themselves brought down the slope blindfolded, not by us, we hasten to add, but by our wives. In fact, this year, the last laugh was on us. A proper race, with gates and official time keeper was arranged, and we were filmed at the attempt! Some British Army instructors very kindly offered



to take a video for us, which will at least prove that we do go skiing, and the tan is not obtained under a sun lamp. But both pupil and guide found it a very different matter to be free wheeled down a slope, and guided through narrow gates. At first, Simon decreed that anyone missing a gate would be disqualified. It would have been a non-existent race! However, a half day's practice would soon get us used to this new style of guiding. Wives and children had a race of their own, so we all waited with interest for the results to be announced in the evening.

Après ski

An integral part of a skiing holiday is the après ski. Since our hotel only serves breakfast, it means we can try all the different guest houses and restaurants in the village. Again, we are known now. To turn up at 5 pm and ask for a table for 25 people in 2 hours time seems to create no problem at all. Their dinner plates make ours look like side plates! The average price for a family of 4, for food and drinks worked out at just over three pounds a head. Add to the food, the delights of good company, and the

satisfaction of a day of fresh air and activity, and you have much of what you could want out of life!

Thank you dinner

We try and make up for blindfolding our guides, by inviting them to a thank you dinner. In his response to our vote of thanks, Simon Clegg affirmed that Bill 'the bus', Pete, Olly and Jerry had all volunteered for the trip. We were tremendously grateful to them and their parent unit, without whom our trip would not be possible. Simon then went on to announce winners and give out prizes. The lads had most generously clubbed together and presented Rachel Wortley with some chocolates for winning the youngster's race. Although Joan Wortley won the women's race, all were presented with a most sought after prize—a kiss from Simon! But the supreme Champion, if not for missing the least number of gates, was Gerry Jones, closely followed by Don Planner, Alan Wortley, Ray Hazan, and Bill Shea. Gerry was presented with a huge cow bell, which will be mounted on a shield, and awarded annually. Best loser, and most loving couple of the party prize, a pair of chocolate

hearts, was presented to John and Daphne Gilbert. This was their first trip, and John writes elsewhere about his experiences.

Fading snow

The next morning was not so much a matter of fading spirits as fading snow. The sun shone brilliantly, and beneath our skis the snow began to melt, and grass and mud make themselves visible. Soldiers who had come down for a fortnight's skiing in January and early February, had spent the time hiking, so we had been extremely lucky. The rain on Sunday morning merely added to the sadness of our leaving—sad that we could not carry on this great week. But the bonus was some extra time in Munich, where we went our separate ways according to interest. No names! Some visited the largest bar in the world, which seats 3000 upstairs, and 2000 downstairs, and where beer is served in litre glasses. It was with extreme reluctance that the party made its way back to the coach. Others headed for the town square, with its Rathaus, (Town Hall), its famous clock, and a more substantial meal.

Alan Wortley negotiating a 'gate'.



A satisfyingly tired group of people arrived back at Gatwick that Sunday night. That is our fifth visit to Germany, and each has improved upon the last in some detail. This year we had more skiing, and to a higher standard than ever before. Responsibility for this must go, in large part, to Simon and his team. Their dedication and enthusiasm brings great credit upon them and their Regiment. We are very grateful to Lt. Col. Fowler, Commanding Officer, 94 Locating Reg., R.A., for permitting the trip to take place. We hope that Mike Boocock and David Williams have recovered by now from their experiences. We thank St. Dunstan's for their assistance.

Skiing is . . .

Skiing is not just the physical thrill and, yes sometimes, fright, of skimming down a snow slope at speed, the wind in your hair, the sun in your face, and the sense of achievement at the bottom, but also the conviviality of a warm meal, wine, pleasant surroundings, and above all, shared experiences and near misses, with good friends. Snow Queen, long may we serve you!

OUR TRIP

by Tom Daborn



Tom Daborn with a friend, Archie, at Wasaga Beach.

On October 1st, 1982, my wife and I left Heathrow for Canada. We were met at Toronto by a Canadian Red Cross V.A.D. (who was at St. Dunstan's 1944/45) Verna Ritchie, (née Johnny Johnson) and her husband Herb. We were just moving off to the car park, when someone came and put his arms around my wife. That was her cousin! He knew the time of our arrival, and met us with a list of the families addresses and telephone numbers.

We spent a lovely weekend with Verna and Herb, and were taken to their golf club to have a look around. We were also taken to friends of theirs and ours, The Shouldices, where we had lunch, and a lovely walk around Centennial Park, Etobicoke; and then taken out to dinner. Everyone is so hospitable.

We left Toronto with friends to drive up to Stayner Wasaga Beach, on the Georgian Bay (Part of Lake Huron). We drove miles whilst there, to the Blue Mountain Pottery and around Bracebridge and also to Midlands (Saint Marie) an old Indian settlement, which had been reconstructed after it had been burnt down. All very interesting, and they let me handle all the tools that had been made, as they were made and used 300 years ago. You need about 6 months or

more to really examine the history of it all. This settlement was started by a French missionary.

Collingwood, which is on Lake Huron, not far from Stayner, still has a thriving ship building industry, and 600 feet ships are still built there. The vastness of these lakes has to be seen to be believed, when a storm can sink ships plying across the lake.

The 'fall' in Canada is beautiful. The leaves of the Maples go from red, orange, yellow and brown all on the same tree. We stayed in Stayner a week, then back to Toronto to stay a week with Eleanor Johnson (née Shaw) another St. Dunstan's V.A.D. who married Joe Johnson from Liverpool, who could make a cracking cup of English tea!! We were taken up to the Toronto C.N. Tower. The highest tower in the world. 1815 feet. Took us 4 mins. 35 seconds to get up there in the lift (slow because of the wind) but we came down in 58 seconds! Wow! From the tower you had a panoramic view of Toronto from 4 sides of the tower, including Niagara Falls, 90 miles away, which is seen as a cloud of spray. When entering the tower you are given a 'Magic Wand', which transmits a commentary of the view seen from 4 different angles, including the gold windows of

one of the banks. This stands out!! This stay with Eleanor and Joe Johnson, resulted in a reunion with many people, ending in a party of 21 of my wife's relatives, cousins and their families. Didn't those tongues wag!! Also we met up again with a young couple (and their family of three boys) who when students on a trip to Britain 14 or 15 years ago, stayed with us in Kent. They also are called Shouldice—son of the other Shouldice!! A trip to Toronto *must* include a visit to the new Eaton Centre. Built like a massive greenhouse, with several floors, it is the pride of private enterprise. Joe, having retired from Eaton's took us to lunch. Everytime we talk about it we laugh! The restaurant was on the third floor. Into the glass lift we went, pressed number 3 button, and went up to number 4, press number 3 again, returned to basement! This went on to a combination of all floors except the third, until we were all in hysterics. In the end, we won, got out, and went to our table in the restaurant, which gave us a perfect view of people in the lift *repeating our performance*. With their gestures and no sound, it was hilarious!! In the Eaton Centre we felt at home seeing Marks and Spencers, Boots, etc. Toronto is 3 cities in one, now it has expanded and my wife is glad she doesn't have to drive over there.

Florida

We were picked up by our friends from Stayner, to drive to their 'mobile home' in Florida, through New York State (roads very pot-hole) through Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia with a special stop for two nights at Williamsburg, (where we lost the colony). There was a church called Bruton. The first governor was from Bruton in Somerset, Raleigh Tavern and plenty of English place names. Lots of buildings had burned down and were rebuilt in the 1920's and were opened as a 17/18th century historic sightseeing Williamsburg village!! Williamsburg together with Yorktown and Jamestown was the nucleus of the U.S.A. We found things very expensive there. Driving through the states of Maryland and Virginia, brought thoughts of England as we drove through counties with signs saying, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Somerset, etc., and village signs named after towns in England. After driving over 1800 miles, we

arrived in Boynton Beach Mobile Home estate. Dozens of these Mobile Homeparks are in Florida, and most of the people have 3 wheel bicycles to ride around the estates for exercise! Our welcome was thunder, lightning and rain, and one morning we had 5½ inches of rain in 6 hours. Me, well I was in my shorts sitting on the porch, *trying* to keep cool in the humid atmosphere of 82°. Oh to be in England now that winter is here! Whilst in Florida (besides shopping plazas) we went to Wellington Park. A beautiful English style park where they train horses for show jumping and play polo. The vicar of the Church we attended had an interesting story to tell. Three years ago, he was asked to take morning service in a church near the park. People were asked to turn and greet all neighbours. One lady turned to shake hands and greet a young man on his own, and said "Oh my God". It was Prince Charles, who was on a visit to play polo. The congregation were most impressed by the way he stayed behind after the service to chat to them all!!

Happy Memories

We returned to Heathrow on November 9th, excited at seeing our grandchildren again, and full of happy memories.

NATIONAL METRO SPORTS FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

The sixth annual national Metro Sports Competitions for the visually handicapped, will take place this year on July 9th at the New River Sports Stadium, White Hart Lane, Wood Green, headquarters of the Harringay Athletics Club. The nearest station is Wood Green on the Piccadilly Line.

Anyone who would like to take part in the sports competitions should contact Graham Salmon, 59 Southern Drive, Loughton, Essex, telephone 01-508 7623. In addition to the usual field events, there will be a three kilometre walking race. This will be an opportunity for St. Dunstaners, who have usually taken part in the St. Dunstan's Walking Club races in the past, to participate in this event, there is a danger that walking races will not be included in future athletics competitions for the visually handicapped, if support for this particular event isn't forthcoming. *Jimmy Wright*

CASSETTE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

- SD 1. C60.** Visit by H.R.H. Duchess of Kent to IFH.
SD 2. C60. Lord and Lady Fraser Memorial Services.
SD 3. C60. St. Dunstan's Dance Band 1927.
SD 4. C60. Lord Fraser, wireless for the blind appeal, In Town Tonight, 1952.
SD 5. C90. Track 1. KRM Press Conference. Track 2. KRM extracts from radio and TV.
SD 6. C90. Track 1. Sound track, "To Live Again". Track 2. Sound track, "Ability is where you look for it".
SD 7. C90. From BBC 2 History of medals, Gen. Sir John Hackett.
SD 8. C90. Track 1. J. Wright; BAFTA awards. Radio 4 Profile. Track 2. E. Knight; Radio 4 Death of the Hood.
SD 9. C60. Track 1. D Day recordings. Track 2. Film on sailing by J. Wright.
SD 10. C90. Radio Brighton at IFH.
SD 11. C60. Gardener's Year. One year's extracts from the Review. Track 1 Jan-June, Track 2 July-Dec.
SD 12. C90. FEPOW Forum extracts.
SD 13. C90. Gardener Magazine No. 1. April 1982.
SD 14. C90. Gardener Magazine No. 2. July 1982.
SD 15. C90. D. Reeves-talk and musical demonstration.
SD 16. C90. T. Back-talk and demonstration on Yamaha.
SD 17. C90. T. Back in concert.
SD 18. C90. M. Leary on Wersi.
SD 19. C90. Talk and musical demonstration by B. Pagan.
SD 20. C90. Gardener magazine, Oct. 1982.
SD 21. C60. In Touch, Jan. 1981.
SD 22. 4 C90's. To Revel in God's Sunshine. Story of RSM Lord.
SD 23. C90. S. Jack reads poems by John Masefield.
- R 1. C90.** New Rae format—R. Canning.
R 2. C90. Interference.
R 3. C90. Repeaters and 70 cms.
R 4. C90. New Licence Regulations.
R 5/6. Morse code in slow and quicker time.
R 7. C90. Satellites—R. Ham.
R 8. C90. G5RV antenna.
R 9. C90. Experiences with BBC—F. Hennig.
R 10. C90. Radio teletype.
R 11. C90. Worked all Britain awards.
R 12. 2 C90's. RAE revision notes.
R 13. C90. Experiences in S. America—L.

- Varney.
R 14. C90. Microwaves.
R 15. C90. Ragchew no. 1, Nov '78.
R 16. C90. Ragchew no. 2, May '79.
R 17. C90. NE555 IC timer.
R 18. C90. Wiring by touch—P. Jones.
R 19. C90. RAE question papers for May '79.
R 20. C90. Telecommunications.
R 21. C90. Ragchew no. 3, Aug '79.
R 22. C90. Talk on HM Coastguard.
R 23. C90. Ragchew no. 4, Nov '79.
R 24. C90. Life with BBC—H. Hatch.
R 25. 4 C90's. So you want to pass the RAE exam.
R 26. C90. Ragchew no. 5.
R 27. C90. Ragchew no. 6.
R 28. 12 C90's. Guide to Amateur Radio.
R 29. C90. Various appendices to above.
R 30. C90. Ragchew no. 7.
R 31. C90. RAE question papers, Dec '80.
R 32. C90. Ragchew no. 8, Apr '81.
R 33. C90. Talk by Pres., RSGB, Jul '81.
R 34. 6 C90's. RAE Manual.
R 35. C90. Becoming a Radio Amateur.
R 36. C90. Ragchew no. 9, Oct '81.
R 37. C90. Auditory aid/—G. Day.
R 38. 2 C90's. Smith Kettlewell Technical File (SKTF), summer '81.
R 39. 2 C90's. SKTF, autumn '81.
R 40. C90. Ragchew no. 10, Jun '82.
R 41. C90. Speakers at March '82 AGM—R. and J. Ham, E. Howard.
R 42. 2 C90's. SKTF, winter '82.
R 43. C90. Technical Innovations Bulletin (TIB), brochure.
R 44. 2 C90's. Ragchew no. 11, Aug '82.
R 45. C90. TIB, Jan '82.
R 46. C90. TIB, Apr '82.
R 47. 2 C90's. Instruction manual, Trio 130 S.
R 48. C90. Ragchew no. 12, Dec '82.
R 49. C90. TIB, Jul '82.
R 50. 2 C90's. SKTF, spring '82.
R 51. 2 C90's. SKTF, summer '82.
- G1. C60.** P. Jones, DIY hints.
G2. C90. R. Smith, ultra sounds, bats, whales.
G3. C90. Trip to Outer Hebrides.
G4. C90. R. Dufton on research and TSI Open Day, 1978.
G5. C90. BBC 2. Gardener's World.
G6. C90. R. Smith, trip to Shetlands.
G7. C60. Acrol bridge system.

Research Comment

BRAILLE CONTRACTIONS

by Richard Dufton

St. Dunstan's Research Consultant

Readers of journals and magazines in the RNIB range of Braille publications cannot fail to have noticed in recent months that these are now conventionally embossed in contrast to plastic or solid dot system.

The introduction of Autobraille reported in December's Review has superseded the latter and readers comment favourably on the change. Autobraille's impressive output of forty eight pages at each working stroke of the press, coupled with high product quality, augurs well for readers.

Returning briefly to solid dot, it was an ambitious concept eliminating embossing and using thinner paper to reduce the bulkiness of publications. The process involved extruding dot-sized slugs of plastic through holes in metal stencils, mounted on opposed drums. A wide paper web moved upwards between the drums enabling whole lines of Braille characters to be deposited simultaneously on both sides of the paper. Before the final folding and cutting stage, the web passed through a heat controlled phase, hardening the dots and bonding them to the paper fibres. Great credit, I feel, is reflected on the RNIB's Technical Officer, his staff and the production team for operating and controlling so demanding a process. The Braille produced was of uniformly readable quality but of somewhat higher frictional drag on the

CASSETTE CATALOGUE

- G8. C90.** Machines that talk, machines with ears.
G9. C90. "Which" report on music centres, May, 1980.
G10. C90. Black box in flight recorder.
- I 1. C60.** Instructions — Fidelity Chess Challenger.
I 2. C60. Instrs. — Sharp Talking Clock.
I 3. C60. Instrs. — Sharp EL 620 Talking Calculator.
I 4. C60. Instrs. — Casion VL 1 Tuner.
I 5. C60. Metalcraft Manual.
I 6. 2 C90's. APH Vari Speech 2 manual.

sensing finger compared with embossed Braille.

Many readers claimed that this made solid dot more difficult to read and this could have limited the amount of Braille read by those of modest ability. Certainly after 22 years, the unconventional machinery employed must have been nearing the end of its useful life.

BRAILLE RESEARCH

The Braille Authority of the United Kingdom is the legislative body responsible for the standard English Braille code. It comprises representatives of all the main blind Organisations, teachers, and the producers of Braille. All readers are thus represented through their organisations nominee... ensuring the widest discussion before agreement on any change to the code is made. There have in fact, been very few alterations to the contracted code in the past fifty years. At the previous meeting, held with the USA on unification in London in 1956, four contractions were added to Grade 2, and in the early sixties, a number of lower signs for mathematical purposes, were incorporated.

About a year ago the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick completed a three year project entitled "A study of Braille contractions". The work was commissioned and supported by the Department of Health and Social Security and an edited report is planned both in ink print and Braille.

"BAUK" as far back as 1978 passed a resolution aimed at guiding research into the efficiency and economy of space saving, suggesting that codes be explored, some with fewer contractions than grade 2, and some with more, for an advanced code. The Warwick group, in addition to circulating a questionnaire to organisations and readers, also undertook a computer-aided word count in a wide range of transcribed material, to gather data on the frequency of occurrence of all the contractions and many other words that occur with greater frequency.

Word counts of upwards of 2,500 pages of interpoint, and involving a wide range of literary Braille, show that the majority of contractions in grade 2, occur only once in a thousand words of text; about 4½ pages of interpoint.

The result indicates that groups of other words can be selected which would occur more frequently and so save space. Language itself is always changing and some of the contractions we use have almost passed into linguistic history. No doubt more light will be thrown on this important issue when the project report has been fully analysed and discussed.

The Birmingham team measured the learning and reading performance of some ninety readers of a wide age range, using variations of the standard contracted code, with test passages running to four pages of interpoint. Other factors motivating the research include the teaching and learning task faced by children, newly blinded adults and the aged.

Mr Bill Poole, Chairman of BAUK, recently reported on a Braille Unification conference held in Washington in August 1982, when delegates from countries where English Braille is used, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and the UK., met with representatives of the host country. At the end of this very important conference, and ahead of it's published proceedings, there was an unanimous agreement that a period of five years should elapse before the convening of a further conference in London, hosted by BAUK to consider the results and the implications of all developments, including the investigations at Birmingham and Warwick, together with studies and developments in any of the participating countries. Meanwhile, all agreed that there should be no change to the standard English Braille code in the interim.

Although the present grade 2 contractions seem to have been chosen arbitrarily, the problems in tackling a revision are many and varied. It may be that there is some merit in BAUK's suggestion that a 'grade 3' Braille system should be created with significantly more contractions for the advanced Brailist. There are also the developments in translation to be borne in mind. Both solid dot and Autobralle were developed to operate on information generated via a computer translation programme using punched cards to control the

stencil making machines. It is not easy to predict just how modern translation methods will develop, but already there is optical print recognition as a means of direct automatic input to the computer. The magnetic signals on composers' tapes now widely used in newspaper, periodical and book printing may, in the future, also prove amenable as input to modern micro-processors, which might well handle the Braille translation.

In these circumstances, perhaps, it is not surprising that at least five years are to elapse before any proposals are discussed internationally.

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS

The Post Office has issued revised regulations for the Articles for the Blind free postal service. The main change is one that regularises the position of the many hundreds of talking newspapers for the blind which have grown up in recent years. Organisations sending out talking newspapers or magazines still have to enter into special arrangements with the Post Office, but, whereas previously recordings sent free of postage were limited to readings from actual published books, newspapers etc., the Post Office will now accept recordings of material which is IN THE NATURE OF newspapers, books or magazines etc. but which does not necessarily exist in printed form. Talking newspapers may now include, for instance, listeners views and comments, specially produced features of particular interest or importance to the blind, interviews and exchanges of ideas on topics of general or specific interest, recorded, if required, by blind listeners themselves.

However, music or entertainment programmes are not allowed. A few bars of music, a line of song or a joke are perfectly acceptable as a means of breaking up sections of the recorded programme, but the service is not intended to provide a light entertainment service for the blind.

Nor are personal messages; the Post Office has considered requests for this further concession but are unable to take on the considerable additional expense that it would cause.

There is no intention of charging for what has been free in the past, nor to cut back on the facilities already provided.

DYNAMIC DUDLEYS

Andrew Dudley has certainly something to smile about. He and his sister must rank high among the talented grandchildren St. Dunstan's *Review* has reported on over the years. Andrew and his sister, Caroline are the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. *Ted Dudley* of Croydon. They have both achieved success recently. Andrew, aged 12, became Berkshire's No. 1 under 12's at Badminton, winning the singles and doubles matches. Caroline, aged 11, has been accepted as a full time pupil of the Redroofs Theatre School and has appeared on television. She has won several gold medals for Ballet and Tap, and has passed the Royal Academy of Dancing examination in Grade 2 Ballet, with honours.

Andrew Dudley



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.

Cecil John Crane of East Grinstead, joined St. Dunstan's on the 3rd March.

Mr. Crane served as a Private in the Machine Gun Corps during the First World War, when he was the victim of a mustard gas attack.

He is married, with three adult children.

Francis Bernard Martin Delany of Brighton joined St. Dunstan's on 13th January.

Mr. Delany served in India as a Lieutenant in the Royal Indian Army Corps, during the Second World War. He is a married man.

Alexandra McBain Morton of London joined St. Dunstan's on the 18th February. Following service with the Black Watch, Mr. Morton served as a Sergeant in the R.A.F. during the Second World War, when he suffered gunshot wounds to both eyes. Before retirement, Mr. Morton, who is a married man, was an engineering draughtsman and a professional entertainer.

Albert Percy Pearson of Birmingham joined St. Dunstan's on the 11th February.

Mr. Pearson served in the R.A.F. during the Second World War. He is married, with two adult sons.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Jim Barlow retires from the Industrial Department on March 31st, after 17 years with St. Dunstan's. He joined on the 1st April 1966. He was previously employed by a large electrical manufacturing company as Head of one of their Engineering Departments, and his engineering skills, and negotiating experience in dealing with other administrators and with Union Officials, soon became apparent, when he put them to use on behalf of our St. Dunstaners employed in Industry, and many benefitted by his wise counselling.

When a St. Dunstaner retired from work, Jim continued to visit him in his home. When he noticed that some were taking up basket work as a hobby, he asked to be trained by our basket maker, Phil Townsend, so that he could help to solve any problems met by our St. Dunstaners.

STAFF RETIREMENT

—continued

When wrought iron was introduced as a hobby, Jim's engineering skills again came to the fore, and he never failed to give help and advice to anyone who wanted them.

I am sure many of our St. Dunstaners' wives can recall a time when Jim called to find they were having trouble with some electrical appliance; Jim would take it to bits, and if it was possible to repair it on the spot, he would soon have the fault rectified.

These are just a few examples of how Jim Barlow has helped us all over the last seventeen years and we will all miss his friendly visits, but know that he deserves to have his time to himself now, and wish him and his family every happiness in the future.

Some St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to show their appreciation by donating towards a retirement present for Jim. Contributions may be sent to St. Dunstan's Headquarters, c/o Norman H. French, Esq. Employment Department. Cheques made payable to St. Dunstan's please.

Norman French

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

Work will certainly be starting in earnest now, both outdoors and in the greenhouse, so I hope that you will all be fit enough to cope, together with your wives.

I only hope that the weather will be kind, with little or no frost and not too much rain, but plenty of sun to warm the soil and give the plants of all kinds a good start.

Weeds will be growing like mad, so keep the hoe going. Watch out for insects and deal with them at once. Snails and slugs will be wandering about making their first line to the lush seedlings and new growth on the perennials. Get the appropriate bait down to kill them off.

Ensure that you have the canes and netting on hand for the taller growing items of flowers and vegetables.

Water has been a bit of a problem as I write these notes, because of the strike and

I only hope that it has come to an end well before you get these Notes.

Vegetables

Do make certain that all the ground is ready for the reception of cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts, lettuce, etc., which you may have raised earlier from seed, and grown on to have plants large enough to be planted in their final quarters. Seeds of all kinds of vegetables can be sown. Thin out those which are coming along well, so that they have room to make really good things for the kitchen, especially those lettuce, which you people were able to sow earlier. Don't forget to put some soil pest powder in the holes of the young plants when they are put in and also in the rows of seeds.

Put in the main crop of potatoes and some early marrows on well manured positions, plus new rhubarb plants to give plenty of fruit for years to come. Sow runner beans in the greenhouse, or frames in a sunny site, to get well grown plants for setting out in June. Get the bed ready for them and set up stakes and strings. Some autumn sown broad beans will be growing sturdily and may even have flowers nearing opening. Watch out for Black Flies and then pinch out the growing tip. It will not stop growth and may even give side shoots for a larger crop.

Keep the soil hoed and forked over between the rows in order to kill off the weeds. Some black cotton on small stakes over and about the seeds you sowed earlier, will probably deter the birds from pinching out the tops. Put in taller stakes where the peas are sown, so that they can get a good start to climb.

Lawns

Get the lawn swept to get rid of earthworms, any dead leaves, twigs etc., from trees round about, before getting the lawn more into full action. I hope that you have had the machine overhauled and sharpened, ready for use and have the blades set a little high for the first few cuttings and if you have a roller, it would be a good thing to have it in use after the cutting. It may also be a good thing to have a rake after this cutting, to get rid of dead grass and moss. The rake will also tend to lift the blades of grass up, ready for the next cutting. Make the whole thing look neat and tidy by trimming the edges. Do remember not to go on the lawn when frost is about.

Fruit

All pruning and planting should cease now. Protect surface roots by covering with a further layer of soil, plus manure or compost. This will also give some protection against cold early on and too much heat later in the summer. It will maintain moisture in dry spells.

Where you have black currants which may develop a dose of Big Bud, give them a spray with lime sulphur for several weeks, or with one of the more modern remedies. Use it for a period of six weeks. Picking off those round, large buds in a small infestation may be alright.

Flowers

Get all the borders ready for the summer by forking over and getting the weeds out. Put stakes in by those tall growing perennials and tie in growth regularly if you are in a very open and breezy area. Most of the crocus and daffodils should be over by the end of the month, but don't cut the leaves down. Leave them to die naturally, as the bulbs get their nourishment from them for next years show. Where daffodil leaves are rather an eye sore, bend over, and either tie down with string or use rubber bands. Tulips will be making some sort of a show and will last quite a time yet.

Where you have got some tuberous begonias without a source of heat, get them into containers of peat, moisten up and keep in a shed or garage, or even on the windowsill. This will start them off, and should be ready for planting outside by the end of May or early June.

Sweet peas should be in their flowering quarters now, with canes and some netting in place ready for them to climb. It is a good thing to pinch out the main tip when about 18 inches of growth has been made, to get really well branched plants and plenty of flowers. Leave the geraniums under cover in a light spot, where plenty of sun is available, but keep from planting outdoors till some time in June.

Insect pests will be starting their lives, so spray at the first influx. There are many types about these days, but have still found that Derris, either used as a powder or a liquid, is as effective as these modern brands. There are quite a few systemic types which go into the plants system, via the leaf veins and pores, but do be careful of them, as some types are not so good for some of the flowering plants.

Greenhouse

Most of the time now, temperatures should be high enough during daytime to cut out the heaters, but do relight for the night, as frosts can easily come along and destroy all the hard labour you have put in to raise the plants. Give plenty of ventilation during the day and a little at night, provided you are happy that the temperatures are not going to drop too low.

Pests and diseases of all kinds will start to get going, so burn some smokes. Light in the early evening with all windows closed and open up in the morning. Also, don't go inside to work for some time.

Try and harden off all those bedding plants which are to be used in the borders. Place the boxes outdoors, in a warm sunny position, during the day and return under cover at night during the first few days and then leave out all the time to make them ready for summer use in early June. Nip growing points of taller items. Half hardy annuals can still be sown for outdoor and pot use, and may germinate quite well without any source of heat.

Cuttings of geraniums and fuchsias can still be taken if you are a bit short of some varieties. Start off begonia and dahlia tubers in containers of peat, well moistened and put in fairly light, warm conditions. These should be ready for planting in pots very soon, and later, in about June, in good warm sunny beds.

Tomatoes should be in their final pots and some of the really early ones may be showing their first trusses of fruit. Others will be showing flowers, so use a fine spray of tepid water over these flower trusses, to get a really good set of fruit. Tie into their stakes or twist round the strings at early stages, so as to keep them straight. Water and feed regularly.

Keep the cucumbers going well and stop the shoots beyond each fruit, in order to make it shoot again and give more cucumbers. Where you are growing the normal plants which bear male and female flowers, pinch out the males—these are the ones with no small cucumbers behind the flowers. The femina types only bear the flowers with fruit behind the flower, so none need pinching out, although it may be a good thing to thin out the number of fruits, to get good size and quality. Remember, they are hungry and thirsty plants, so feed and water them often.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Bridge

Bridge Individuals—19th February, 1983

R. Fullard	61.4
R. Paccitti	58
B. Evans	57
R. Goding	55.7
W. Lethbridge	54.5
B. Burnett	51
Mrs. Barker	47.5
J. Majchrowicz	45.4
B. Phillips	44.3
P. McCormack	42
F. Griffee	42
J. Padley	41

Bridge Pairs—13th February, 1983

NORTH/SOUTH

G. Hudson. Miss Stenning	52.5
R. Goding. Miss Sturdy	50.8
W. Lethbridge. Mr. Goodlad	49.2
J. Majchrowicz. Mr. Douse	47.5

EAST/WEST

Mrs. Andrews. Mrs. Douse	53
B. Evans. Miss Barker	52.1
R. Paccitti. Mrs. Paccitti	50
A. Dodgson. Mrs. Dodgson	49.1
B. Phillips. Dr. Goodlad	45.8

*Bill Phillips
Captain*

Bowling

Once again another indoor bowls season is rapidly coming to a close, and may I remind all competitors in the indoor competition, that the last session will be held on Tuesday April 26th.

On January 14th, we were host to a team of bowlers from Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club and it was great to meet many old friends and a few new ones. The match was keenly contested and resulted in a good win for the Section. On February 11th we entertained a team at Ian Fraser House, from our near neighbours, the Rottingdean

Bowling Club, and once again we were successful in winning the match. On Wednesday, the 2nd March, 14 bowlers, accompanied by wives and escorts, journeyed as guests to Field Place, Worthing, to meet our very good friends in a match full of interest and good humour. I think, although not too sure, that we may have lost this one. It was great to have such good support and we hope that this will continue throughout the outdoor season as well.

We offer our congratulations to our new recruit, Alf Dodgson, who I understand bowled very well—well done Alf.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of one of our best bowlers, Collis Walters, who passed away at Ian Fraser House on February 27th. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Joy.

H. Preedy

MIDLAND

January

We had a good Club meeting on the 9th January and started our Domino Tournament by playing off some double and single games. We also discussed our Summer outing and decided that we would like a trip to Bewdley with a run on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth. Marjorie was asked if she would obtain quotes for coaches and the cost of the rail fare.

A splendid tea was put on by the ladies again and were thanked in our usual way. The meeting ended at about 6.45 p.m. with everybody having enjoyed the first meeting of the year and looking forward to the next in February.

February

The February meeting was held on Sunday the 13th February and was well attended. It was good to see Bruno at this meeting and now that Anna has passed her driving test, we hope she will be able to bring him to all our meetings. We all hope that they will bring George with them sometimes, as he was so helpful around the Club.

Our Chairman remarked on the slight error in our Club Notes for December. Our

Christmas dinner was in fact held at the North Birmingham Royal British Legion and not the Northfield Royal British Legion as was reported.

We played off more of our Dominoes, both singles and doubles. The tea was put on by the ladies again, their home-made cakes being enjoyed by all.

Sunday the 10th July has been fixed for the summer outing. We shall have a few seats on the coach to spare if any St. Dunstaner would care to join us, details from Eddie Hordyniec on 021 554 9186.

E. Hordyniec

FAMILY NEWS

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Brown of Buckingham, who are delighted to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Rebecca, born on the 9th February to their daughter, Janet, and her husband, Desmond Mee.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Osborne of Saltdean who are pleased to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Kristyan Graham, born on the 6th February to their son, Graham and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Parish of Norwich, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a first grandson, Donald Stephen, born on the 14th February to their son, Graham, and his wife, Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sandiford of Bolton, who are delighted to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, born on the 3rd March to Anne and Gareth Cathieson.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Eileen Leete, widow of *Squadron Leader B.M.T.S. Leete*, of Stanmore, who is delighted to announce the arrival of her first great grandchild, Barry Stephen, born on February 9th to her elder grand-daughter, Deborah Jane, and her husband.

Mrs. Doris Woofenden, widow of the late *Mr. Ernest Woofenden*, of Leicester, is pleased to announce the arrival of a first great grandchild, Anthony Graham, born on the 21st January to their grandson and his wife.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden, of Huddersfield, who celebrated their 61st Wedding Anniversary on the 25th February.

Friends will be sorry to learn that Mrs Holden suffered a stroke in January. She is now recovering in hospital.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. David Smith of Worcester who are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Karen, to Mr. Colin Unsworth on the 5th March.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. Arthur Burrows of Carnforth, who mourns the death of his wife, Jessie, on the 13th February.

Mr. George Cooke of Sydney, Nr. Crewe, on the sudden death of his brother-in-law, and on the 28th February the death of his eldest sister.

Mr. Ronald Freer of Broadstairs, whose wife, Joan Evelyn, died in hospital on the 20th February, at the age of 63. Our sympathy is extended to their son and daughter.

Mr. Jesse Mills of Wrotham, whose sister died at the end of January, at the age of 66.

Mrs. Norma Moon of St. Peter Port, Guernsey, widow of *Mr. Claude Moon*, whose son, Robert, died on the 28th February following an accident in January. Our sympathy extends to her daughter, Janet.

FAMILY NEWS

Continued

Mr. Sidney Roberts of Salisbury, whose wife, Mabel, died on the 28th February. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts would have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in December, this year.

Mr. Percy Peterson of Waterlooville, whose wife, Jane Isabella, died in hospital on the 14th February, at the age of 90. We extend our sympathy to their daughter.

Mr. Paul Walker of Lewes, whose mother, Mrs. Mary Walker, died on 2nd January.

In Memory

It is with 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.

F.W. Bell. Welsh Regiment.

Frank William Bell of Porthcawl died on February 4th at the age of 84.

Mr. Bell served as a Corporal in the Welsh Regiment from 1916 to 1918. He sustained an injury which robbed him of his sight, but was fortunate to recover sufficient vision after twelve months to enable him to work as a warehouseman until his sight failed again, some thirty years later. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1952.

He leaves a widow, Dorothy, who nursed him devotedly, a daughter and two sons.

R.A. Coleman, Royal Field Artillery and Royal Air Force

Robert Alexander Coleman of Kings Lynn, but previously of Beaumaris, Anglesey, died on the 16th February, at the age of 91.

Mr. Coleman held commissions in the Army in the First World War, when he lost his left eye, and in the R.A.F. in the Second World War. He was a stockbroker with a family firm. His sight ultimately failed and he became a St. Dunstaner less than a year ago. He was in poor health, but was in the process of moving into a new flat in Kings Lynn, when he was taken seriously ill and admitted to hospital.

He was a widower and leaves his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ivy Coleman, who had cared for him devotedly for many years, a daughter and other relatives.

J. Davidson. 6th Seaforth Highlanders

James Davidson, formerly of Morayshire, Scotland, died on February 23rd at the age of 90. He lost his sight whilst serving in France as a Private with the 6th Seaforth Highlanders and also suffered the loss of his right arm. Before enlisting in the Army Mr. Davidson had been a fisherman. After training with St. Dunstan's he opened a tobacconist's shop in Scotland in 1919, which he ran successfully for five years before moving south. Sadly, his wife died in 1972, after which our St. Dunstaner came to Pearson House.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to all relatives and friends.

E. Ellis. Royal Artillery.

Edward Ellis of Nuneaton died on the 7th February, at the age of 77.

Mr. Ellis served as a Regimental Sergeant in the Royal Artillery from 1933 to 1960. An illness contracted whilst on active service in Korea eventually caused his loss of sight and he became a St. Dunstaner in 1973. Following his retirement from the Army, Mr. Ellis was able to do some office work.

He leaves a widow, Isabella, and a son Edward.

W. Tickle. Home Guard.

William Tickle of Widnes died on the 13th February at the age of 81.

Mr. Tickle served as a Private in the Home Guard during the Second World War and it was due to an injury received whilst on duty that he lost his left eye. With the failure of the sight in his remaining eye, Mr. Tickle became a St. Dunstaner in 1974. Before joining the Home Guard, Mr. Tickle was a master plumber and after the war he was able to work as a school keeper for some time.

He leaves a widow, Mary and a large devoted family.

J.C. Walters, Royal Artillery

John Collis Walters of Hove died on the 27th February after a serious illness borne with great fortitude. He was in his 59th year, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1946.

Mr. Walters had worked as a core-maker in a paper mill, prior to enlistment, and he undertook a period of training at Church Stretton on admission to St. Dunstan's. He held several posts in the Midlands and the south of England until it was necessary for him to retire in 1975 on health grounds. From then onwards, our St. Dunstaner made book cases for our stores and after quota work was discontinued, undertook various hobbies, joinery always remaining his greatest interest.

Mr. Walters leaves a widow, Joy, who cared devotedly for him during his illness.