

St Dunstons Review

May 1983



Message from the Chairman

Right Hon. Viscount Head

Viscount Head, of Throope, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., who died on the 29th March, was a very good friend of blind people in this country for many years.

He had a distinguished and varied career in the Army before and during the Second World War and subsequently in Parliament and as a diplomat in Nigeria and Malaysia. In 1966 he joined the Executive Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind; he was their Chairman from 1968 to 1975 and continued his excellent service to the R.N.I.B. as President until 1979. Lord Head was a member of St. Dunstan's Council from 1969 to 1975 and helped us so much with his wide knowledge and understanding.

We all mourn the loss of a valued colleague and friend and offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Head and their family.

Come into the Garden . . .

Many people these days open their gardens to the public in aid of some organisation and in our case we open ours two or three times a year for the National Garden Scheme and the Hampshire Red Cross. The opening dates have to be decided in November for the following year, so that they can be included in the 'Gardens Open' books, and one has to have a splendid gamble on the winter and spring ahead.

This year we opened on February 20th for snowdrops, aconites and early bulbs. On February 19th it snowed all day and there was still a good covering on the 20th. It is difficult to pick out snowdrop heads bravely poking through the white background. The day was bitterly cold and everyone who came was frozen!

We tried again on March 27th for the daffodils. It poured with rain and blew an easterly gale—I think the radio said Force 9—and the daffodil blooms did not appear for another ten days!

Explaining to people that you got the date wrong last November makes one feel slightly guilty, but perhaps when we open again in June we shall only have a thunderstorm!

Jon Earnest-Dance

GOING FISHING?

Mr. Ralph Pacciti of Saltdean, has offered a day's fishing for any interested St. Dunstaners visiting Ian Fraser House, at any time of the year.

Membership of the Brighton Club would be necessary and the club would assist with the cost of a day's fishing.

Further details from Ralph Pacciti. Telephone Brighton 0273 37820.

THANK YOU

Mr. C.H. Lawrence, who has now retired from Headquarters staff, wishes to thank St. Dunstaners and their wives for their kind donation towards a retirement gift and would like to say that this will be very wisely spent during the transit from London to Wokingham. He writes:

"My final retirement from 152 Broadhurst Gardens will be in the middle of May 1983, when I move to Wokingham in Berkshire and may I please take this opportunity to thank everyone for the company and friendship during the past 14 years and look forward to perhaps seeing you all in the future."

NUFFIELD MUSEUM

An exhibition is planned for 1985 to mark the anniversary of the opening of the original talking book library. In view of the support Lord Nuffield gave to the scheme, a request has been made for any vintage machines, records or tapes that may be hidden in attics, or under the stairs, for possible inclusion in the exhibition and a projected Nuffield museum.

If any St. Dunstaner has such an item, it would be gratefully received. Please write to the Editor.

NEW PRICE LIST FROM R.N.I.B.

A new price list for specially designed or adapted items for blind people, sold through the R.N.I.B. is available from April 1st in print and Braille. The list covers 480 items, including 20 new items not included in the 1981-82 list. These cover such things as Braille note frames, a talking address book and new games such as a Rubik's cube.

Mail Order

Articles can be bought by mail order from R.N.I.B., 224 Great Portland Street, London W1. Arrangements can also be made for viewing and purchase at R.N.I.B.'s seven regional branches.

The R.N.I.B.'s Showroom at 224 Great Portland Street is temporarily closed for alterations until the summer and so those requiring articles may find it more convenient to order by post.

PET CARE IN EMERGENCY

For some time the R.S.P.C.A. have been concerned with the welfare of family pets when the owner is suddenly taken ill, or is involved in an accident. Often a pet can be in the house alone for some considerable time, without neighbours being aware of the situation.

They have devised a card, which can be kept in a wallet or a purse, on which is shown details of the pet, name and address and a request that the pet be cared for.

Cards can be obtained from the R.S.P.C.A., Causeway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG. Telephone Horsham 64181.

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Cover picture: Mrs. Carol Anne Theobold, Mayoress of Brighton, presents first prize at the Easter Bonnet Parade at Ian Fraser House to Percy Stubbs.

Photo: John Barrow.



The Ambassador handset coupled to a Falcon answering machine, one of several pieces of equipment that can be coupled to this unit.

Trying to Connect You

by Ray Hazan

Photos: British Telecom

The ending of the Post Office monopoly in the field of telecommunications equipment has meant a whole new range of items on the market. Several models, because of their design, or through the additional functions they contain, may be much easier for disabled people to operate. This article attempts to give an idea of some of the telephones now available, both from British Telecom and the commercial market. The list is by no means exhaustive, and is intended as a guide. You should contact your local BT sales office, whose free phone number will be in your local directory, or any shops in your home locality. The prices quoted by BT should be relevant country wide.

It is now possible to buy your telephone outright, which may be a cheaper proposition than renting. But as the situation stands at the moment, you must have a

British Telecom line, which will have a BT telephone on the end of it. The days of just renting a line are not with us yet. BT obviously recommend that you use only telephones approved by them, i.e. they have a green circle on the base. Unapproved phones have a red triangle on the base. All the commercially available equipment I looked at was not approved, but obviously works!

All prices quoted in this article exclude VAT except the BT purchase prices. The rental price is over and above the standard quarterly rental charge of £13.50.

British Telecom equipment

The Ambassador: a. Press button; connection charge £10, extra rental £3, outright purchase price £72.45.

b. Dial version; connection £10, rental £1, purchase £49.95.

This measures about 10 inches square, by 3 ins. thick. The handset runs from front to back on the left hand side. Under the handset is a recess for carrying. Above this a flap raises to reveal a very small paper for noting numbers; it is too small for Braille. The handset is the conventional round shape. The push buttons are located at the front right of the box, and consist of four rows of four; 10 digits, recall operator and 4 non functional, until the whole network goes completely electronic. The same model is available in dial version, and, like all models, comes in a variety of colours.

The Rhapsody: connection £25, rental £2.25, purchase £67.75. Measures 14 by 8 by 3 ins thick. Handset runs back to front on left and is the modern flat shape which fits snugly when held between cheek and shoulder. The push buttons, also located front right, only just stand proud of the surface and could be difficult to locate. There are 4 extra non functional keys. There is no carrying handle. In all, a slightly larger, chunkier version of the Ambassador.

The Viscount: connection £25, no extra rental, purchase £49.95. Approximately 10 inches square, and slopes from the front up to the centre and back down again like a roof. This is a very light phone. A modern shaped handset is located fore and aft on the left. There are only 10 push buttons,

which although smaller than most, are widely separated.

The Statesman: connection £20, no extra rental, purchase £41.95. This is very similar to the Viscount except that it is flatter in shape, and the handset is of the old fashioned round variety. Of the range, these last two are the simplest and cheapest.

The Candlestick telephone: connection £65, rental £2.25, purchase £102.25. Here is a touch of nostalgia at a price. It is a replica of a pre war unit. The mouthpiece is on a 12 inch high stem, with the detachable ear-piece hanging down from a branch on the left of the stem. The dial is located at the base of the stem. Although the unit is made of plastic, the base is well weighted, and should not be easily knocked over.

The Dawn telephone: connection £20, rental £2.25, purchase £65.25. This is a good dial unit for anyone with dexterity problems. The base, which is quite heavy, is rather like an upturned soup plate of about 10 inches diameter. The handset rests conventionally from right to left at the back of the unit. The dial is sunk down in a recess, which may make for easier handling, and is light to the touch.

Ericofon 600: connection £20, rental £2.25, purchase £57.75. Imagine a handset standing vertically on a table, and you have the Erica. The microphone is incorporated in a slightly

The Dawn telephone.





rounded base, on the underside of which is the dial. The phone is automatically turned on as you lift it off the table. The unit is light and unencumbered. It would not be recommended for those who only have the use of one hand.

Ericofon 700: connection £75, rental £2.25, purchase £156.75. As above except for press button instead of dial, and lighter overall weight.

The Contempra: connection £20, rental £2.25, purchase £65.60. The unit again incorporates the modern shape, i.e. rectangular base, with handset on the left. In this case, the dial is located in the handle of the handset. This would prevent that "chasing the dial round a slippery table surface". The '1' and the '0' are separated by a bar only, which is easily felt.

The Sceptre 100: connection £30, rental £2, purchase £86. This unit incorporates several functions which could be of great benefit to blind users, in that it has a

(Left) An unusual design: The Ericofon.

(Below) Perhaps the most interesting of all for blind users, the Sceptre.



memory. Again, the unit is rectangular in shape with handset on the left. The base is higher than all those so far described as it has a small display screen above the press buttons. Partially sighted people may just be able to read the screen; the numbers are large, but not in good colours, being in black and white. The screen displays a digital clock and the numbers stored or dialled. While this may not excite St. Dunstaners, the stop watch feature, which times a call, may encourage others to be more concise! A Braille display would not come amiss either! The unit contains one row of 2 press buttons, and 4 rows of 4. All are functional and include: recall operator, setting digital clock, last number recall (the last number you dialled will be automatically redialled at the touch of just one key), set memory (you can record a complete number under each of the 10 digits, i.e. 1 for doctor, 2 for mother in law, etc. To dial the doctor you need only then press memory plus that one key. The numbers can be changed at any time), memory recall (shows on the display what numbers you have recorded under each digit).

All the units have a small 4 pin plug which fits into a wall mounted socket. Sockets cost £25 for the first, unless included in the connection charge, and £10 for each subsequent socket. There is then a rental of 15p per quarter per socket. All handsets can be fitted with amplifier and inductive coil for the hard of hearing. You will notice that the connection fee differs widely. The higher the purchase price, the higher the fee. This is because BT feel they must try and recoup some of the cost of the unit from those who only rent.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Roper at the British Telecom showroom, 151 Shaftesbury Ave., London, for demonstrating the above telephones.

The Commercial Market

Callsaver, of 3 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1, Tel: 01 278 5187, is one of the retail outlets. They will despatch units nationwide and operate a postal repair service. It must be pointed out that none of the telephones examined bear the green circle of approval yet. It is not possible to make any direct comparison, apart from one model, between Callsaver and British Telecom, as both stock different

units. The one exception is Candlestick, which retails from BT at £102, and from Callsaver (in brass as opposed to plastic) at £55.

The Crypto 2. £200. This unit represents the top end of the market and is a rectangular box. It has a loudspeaker system enabling 'hands off' operation. A screen displays time, date, length of call and recorded.

The Superfone CT 650. £200. This is a cordless telephone. It consists of a base station which is plugged into the wall socket. The out-station measures 6 by 2 by ½ inches. With this, you can dial out or receive incoming calls up to 600 ft. from the base station. In addition, the Superfone can be used as an intercom, there being a microphone and loudspeaker on the base unit. The unit has a security coder, which prevents anyone in the vicinity, with the same equipment, dialling out on your account.

Answerphones, from £130 to £200. As the name implies, these units answer calls while you are out. In the higher price range, you can listen into the call, and intervene if you decide it is someone you wish to talk to! Plus, from outside phone, you can call your home number, and have the messages replayed to you.

Press Button Telephones. £28-£35. A variety of shapes and sizes are available. Some include additional functions, such as locks to prevent certain types of numbers (international calls) being dialled.

Door Intercom Systems. Robin DPK 249 and DP 20, £10-£50. These systems enable you to speak to somebody at your front door without actually having to open the door. This is most useful in keeping away unwanted callers, as well as being a desirable security aid.

British Telecom are currently replacing the old electro mechanical exchanges with electronic ones. Once the whole network becomes electronic, many more telephone facilities will become available. While many will regard the telephone as a noisy intrusion into the peace and quiet of their private lives, it can, nevertheless, offer comfort to the lonely and succour in emergency. As always, when purchasing items, you are advised to shop around. Beware of equipment which is too cheap. But do not spend time, money and effort visiting the various establishments—telephone them!

ANNUAL METROPOLITAN POLICE ROAD WALKING ASSOCIATION DINNER

The Annual Metropolitan Police Road Walking Association Dinner was held, as usual, at New Scotland Yard, on Wednesday, 2nd March.

This annual event enables members of the Metropolitan Police RWA, many of whom have retired from the Force, to meet together from all parts of the country, and traditionally, they have always escorted St. Dunstaners with road walking races. It is always a most convivial evening with a splendid five course meal, attended by senior members of the Police staff, and this year, the Guest of Honour was Mr. Bunyard, the Chief Constable of Essex. Chief Inspector Doug Fotheringham, Deputy Chairman of the MPRWA presided over the evening's activities, which included frequent toasting of well known National and International Marathon champions, and St. Dunstaners, no less, as well as clubs and sports organisations.

Custom

It is the custom for those of us who have participated in this sporting pastime, to attend this Dinner, over the years, as members of the St. Dunstan's Road Walking Club. Those present at our table were Maxie Elliott, Bill Miller, Secretary of the St. Dunstan's Road Walking Club, who has done so much in the post-war years to encourage St. Dunstaners to carry on the tradition of those illustrious members of the St. Dunstan's Road Walkers, who between the Wars integrated with their able-bodied confederates in those great marathons, such as the London to Brighton Stock Exchange Walk, the Barking to Southend, and others. Tommy Gaygan was there, escorted by Rex Carpenter, Mike Tetley, with Reg Denny, who escorted Mike over his Himalayan climb, and yours truly, accompanied by Bill Harris MBE, now in his 85th year, who has championed this sport for St. Dunstaners since 1923. Fred Duff, who had had a hip operation a few days earlier, was unable to attend and escort Tommy Gaygan, and, of course, we all missed our old friend, Ben Mills, who died last year, and Charles Stafford, whom he usually escorted in the races.

Jimmy Wright

Brush up your Bridge

Below is another Bridge problem to test you skill.

Hand (2)	N S Q8 H KQJ2 D K83 C9765	E S 104 H A7 D A10964 C 10432
	W S AJ7652 H 1096 D Q7 C AK	S S K93 H 8543 D J52 C QJ8

Dealer E N/S vulnerable

East may miss his best chance to make 4S rather than rely on a defensive error. On a heart lead he may finesse a spade immediately and North should force dummy to ruff a heart, thus declarer now has to lose two spades, a heart and a diamond. Declarer should cash AK of clubs after taking the second heart, ruff a heart and ruff a club. He can now discard a diamond on the 10C. South can ruff this but the defenders now have only one more trump trick.

MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END

by Fred Barratt

There is a new type of hair style worn by young people today, called the 'New Wave'. The whole head is shaved off, leaving a two inch strip of hair through the centre. Somehow this hair is twisted into a pattern looking like two or three inch tufts glued together, so as to look like a hedgehog. Then the tufts are coloured with yellow, green or blue. The best description that I have is that it is like a chicken who has swallowed an hand grenade and it had exploded!

My brother, a London bus driver of long standing, with a dry sense of humour, born in a German prison camp, had one of these strange hair cuts get on his bus recently. "I suppose the fare to New Cross is 40p," grumbled the teenager with the hair. Never lost for a quick reply, my brother eyed the youngster and said, "Yes, 40 pence for you and 20 pence for the Cockatoo!"

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

Edgbaston M.P., Mrs. Jill Knight recently visited the Queen Alexandra College at Harborne, together with Baroness Young, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, to see for themselves the work being done to teach young blind people to live independent lives. St. Dunstaner, Walter Thornton, Chairman of The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who is also Chairman of the college appeal, accompanied the ladies on the visit and gave them a chance to experience the problems of being blind, by blindfolding Mrs. Knight and demonstrating the use of the long cane.

The appeal hopes to raise £350,000 to build special residential accommodation to help young people with handicaps in addition to their blindness.

First steps with long cane: Walter Thornton with Baroness Young and Mrs. Jill Knight, M.P. -photo: Birmingham Evening Mail.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Syd Scroggie, 'Roseangle' Dundee

The letter raising his name which was published in the March issue of the *Review*, reminds me that it was during the factorship of John Brady that the above property passed into the hands of St. Dunstan's, and Robert and Joyce Pringle in meeting John, as it seems by chance they did, met someone I last saw on a brisk, bright day in November as long ago as 1949. It was the occasion when John made an offer on behalf of St. Dunstan's, for a house called Braeknowe. It was accepted, and under its original name, Roseangle, this house has been let to me ever since then. Now, my wife was born on the other side of the road, an aborigine I call her, and it is likely that she has a relationship with the house of which she is mistress, unique in the history of St. Dunstan's properties. On behalf of their father it was cousins of Margaret's maternal grandfather, who with their own hands, built Roseangle, carving the date '1876' above the door, so that a descendant, in some sense of the builders, now

occupies the property. Margaret's first cousin thrice removed, a retired farmer, never occupied the house his sons built for him, he died of a heart attack. It passed into a succession of alien hands, and it was not until 1981, the year of my marriage to Margaret, that the Soutars came into their own.

From Mrs. Joy Walters of Hove.

I would like to say thank you to Mr. Garnett-Orme, Miss Lord, Mr. Lloyd and all staff at H.Q. for their kind letters, help and floral tribute on the sad loss of my dear husband. Thank you all at Ian Fraser House, and Brighton Club members for all the support I received from you all.

A very special thank you to Joan and Bob Osborne, Jean and Dusty Miller, Rae and Ted Brown, for their help in nursing Collis and staunch support after his death. Last but not least, Mary and Fred Jones, who kept in constant touch despite a serious illness of their own to endure.



St. Dunstaners and escorts at East Malling.

St Dunstan's Gardeners Week

by Fred Barratt

Photos: John Barrow

As every St. Dunstan's Gardeners Week approaches, I am filled with apprehension. Will the six months hard work in planning and preparing for our week by our committee develop as we hope? Just like planting a shrub or a bed of flowers, will the result be a sick garden or a bed of flowers? However, the St. Dunstan's springtime Gardeners Week turned out to be another very successful venture, with success popping up like spring flowers from many places.

Over forty of St. Dunstaners were at Ian Fraser House for our opening meeting, where apologies had been made for several absentees. The first act of the Club was to express their sad loss of Collis Walters, one of the Club's most popular members. The whole meeting stood for a few moments in silent tribute to him. Then the week's programme was read out in detail and the week was launched. It was cheering to meet new members like Alf

Waters, and Bob Holmes from Northern Ireland with his wife. I last saw Bob in Dormitory Three, in 1949, where he occupied a bed near to me. During the course of the week, he said it was just like the old times again.

On Monday afternoon, Mr. Moor, of Peacehaven Gardeners, gave us a talk about March in your garden. His talk, full of interest, showed just what a fountain of knowledge he is, and although I know him to be a tireless worker and helper for the Club, he presents himself as just a humble man of the soil.

Tuesday was our first day out and what a joy Michelham Priory turned out to be. Everything was there and more. Splitting our party into two groups, we either walked the grounds or entered the Priory itself. Pages could be written on what we learnt, gardens being prepared with shrubs, etc., the tale of a flock of Canada Geese with a grounded China gander, history of the

1500's and producing food for the poor—old methods of cooking and Mr. Moor filling in with methods of economy cooking in the old days. Also surprises galore, like today's modern invention of a baby walker, actually made in wood in the 1500's. There was even a ghost or two!

An interesting item, was the fact that there was reported to be a map of Dieppe, drawn in the Priory just before the raid there. We were told that some Canadians were billeted there, just before the Commando raid. Our trip ended with a light snack, which included small loaves made from the Priory's own flour. Next, off to Sussex Country gardens with a demonstration and talk on shrubs and herbs and various items for the garden. Again, another winner. The evening was spent by many on an evening drive, where, after some light refreshment, a sing song on the coach home showed St. Dunstan's budding stars.

On Wednesday morning there was a discussion on our proposed visit to Edinburgh in September 1983, where a

good number have shown interest in going. After lunch, it was off again to High Beeches at Hand Cross.

High Beeches, a woodland garden in St. Leonards Forest, is privately owned, although open to the public at times. Thanks to the kindness of the Honourable H.E. Boscawen it was specially opened for our benefit. The weather was a little unkind as Club Members descended on the sixteen acres of this most unusual garden, but their spartan qualities rose to the challenge and the long walk was completed without complaint. Their silence might well have been due to them being so absorbed in the surroundings. Dozens of the fore runners of the Spanish hoop petticoat daffodils set the scene for multitudes to follow—Swamp Lilies of American origin, Chinese Magnolia and Camellias and many more too numerous to mention, were all in early bloom. Trees and shrubs from all over the world make this garden a must, perhaps in the early autumn or some other week. After this, off to the village hall at Hand Cross, for

Examining an unusually trained fruit tree in the garden at East Malling.





At the cold store, the group hears about experiments in storing apples.

tea and cake, all very nice and very much appreciated.

In the evening, Dick Hall took over, with Bette his wife. The Winter Garden was very full for Wednesday evening. To bring in the old war time atmosphere, the windows were covered with posters well remembered—'Careless talk costs lives', 'Dig for Victory', 'Join the Army today', 'Walls have ears', to name but a few. Even posters of the Falklands were there. Dick was on the piano and Bette did her Carmen Miranda bit. An invited artist was supported by Clayton and Keymer, Royal British Legion. A good evening and a lot of hard work by Dick and Bette Hall. Our thanks to them and all who helped.

Thursday was a very big day, with two coaches leaving after breakfast to visit East Malling Research Station. We were shown around by Mr. Cook, the Liaison Officer.

The trip was full of interest and enjoyment about growing apples. We saw trees just two or three feet high producing crops of a tree many times bigger. There were trees looking like a wheel on its side, just three feet tall, trees with long trailing arms knee high and instruction on how to bring this about. Many like myself wanted to dig up our existing trees at home and try to do the same! After lunch, apple preservation. Very enjoyable, but I think H.Q. might have bitten their finger nails if they had seen Winnie and Vi being put in a refrigerator with some apples, just to see how they would keep under freezing conditions. Our

thanks to everybody for giving us such an interesting tour and sending Vi, Winnie and Margaret back to us with such a rosy bloom on their faces!

Note: I do not recommend St. Dunstaners to put their wives into a fridge to get the same results!

On Thursday evening, a social gathering at Ian Fraser House, presided over by our President, Mr. R. Dufton and his good wife. We opened the evening with a talk by Mr. Dufton and then introduced Miss Yvonne Guilbert, who was in at the beginning of the Club. Several Club members asked if she might be invited to see how the Club was progressing. Miss Guilbert gave us a short talk of encouragement. Before the raffle, thanks were expressed to Dr. Stilwell and Mr. Conway and to the staff, for their great help in making the week such a great success.

Reg Newton with John Walborough took over the raffle. Mr. Dufton drawing the numbers showed just what a success it was, three money prizes and 16 complimentary prizes. 4,000 tickets had been sold thanks to Reg, Club members and Club supporters. First prize went to Birmingham, second to Belfast and third to our Margaret Bingham. The rest went all over the U.K. with St. Dunstaners taking two or three. Well done Reg, and thank you all who helped and donated gifts for prizes.

Pleasureable Week

Friday closed with a general meeting and the distribution of the Club's seed allowance. Alf Dodgson spoke of the pleasures he had found on being with the Club and the committee were pleased with the view being felt by many St. Dunstaners and their wives that there was no pressure at all during the whole week.

Two items I felt very deeply were when, on more than one occasion, a St. Dunstaner said that he was advised to join the Gardening Club as he suffered from depression. This is down to the spirit of the Club members. Then, during the next months many St. Dunstaners homes will be hopefully sporting windows full of the Achimenes blossoms that will be the envy of their friends and neighbours. Just a suggestion from St. Dunstan's Gardening Week. I am sure the local nurseries were amazed at the sudden emptying of the shelves that held these corms.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

CAT. No. 3741

The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano

By Martin Gosch & Richard Hammer

Read by Marvin Kane

Reading Time 18½ hours

This is the astonishing life story, as told to Gosch, of the man who for more than half his lifetime, was the most powerful figure in America, the 'boss of bosses', the undisputed head of organised crime in the USA.

When he was eight the family exchanged the grinding poverty of a tiny Sicilian village for an overcrowded slum in New York's notorious Lower East Side. It was a nursery of crime, everybody was stealing from somebody. At ten he was offering 'protection' to small children who were being beaten-up and robbed by the older ones.

At twenty-one he was a very rich man, controlling rackets netting millions of dollars—and this was just the beginning. The gangs paid out millions of dollars as an insurance against harrassment. They 'bought' whole police forces (a Chief of Police could rate as much as ten thousand a month) manipulated elections and controlled City Hall and State politics.

Luciano and his gangs were all-powerful. On one occasion one of his men had decided to turn States Evidence. He was locked away in a suite on the upper floor of an hotel, guarded day and night by a team of detectives. He was safe from gang vengeance. But the police were on the payroll and they received their orders. They picked up the man from his bed—and tossed him through the window. This is just one quoted example of the awesome power wielded by Luciano and his men.

The book deals exhaustively with every facet of organised crime in the USA. It is a brutal and chilling saga about the lengths to which evil men will go in their lust for power and wealth.

And it makes enthralling reading. Coincidentally, at the time I was reading

this book, the death was announced on the radio of Meyer Lanski, one of the very few non-Sicilian members of the gangs. Lanski was their man of figures, the evil genius who engineered all financial operations. He died in his bed—and of course he was a multi-millionaire.

Cat. No. 1742

Fillets of Plaice

By Gerald Durrell

Read By Peter Barker

Reading Time 7½ hours

The title is a bit of nonsense suggested by brother Lawrence and the book is a compilation of reminiscences by the irrepressible author and zoologist.

In the first hilarious tale the whole Durrell family and friends take a holiday cruising leisurely along the coast of Corfu stopping for picnics where and when the fancy takes them . . . or at least that was the idea. Characteristically, catastrophe strikes from the word 'go'. Very much against his mother's wishes, Larry decides they must take the precious ice-box, a formidable object and Mrs. Durrell's pride and joy.

It takes a team of sweating men to carry the ice-box to the jetty, which collapses under the weight and the family watch in horror as the portable 'fridge disappears in the water. . . And this is just the beginning. There is more, much more, trouble in store.

The other stories, equally bizarre, equally funny, are set in England, with Durrell as a boy employed in a London pet shop, situated in a most extraordinary street, in Africa where he was collecting animals, and who but Gerald Durrell could take a mundane incident, like a nose-bleed, and transform it into a three-act screamingly funny farce?

For all Durrell fans this is a 'must', and for those who have yet to read him—I strongly advise you to make a start as soon as possible.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

This month is quite a busy one for planting out items for colour on the borders and eatables in the vegetable patch. Don't despair if you have missed out on some items, as seeds can still be sown for both gardens. Naturally, pests will be about in damp warm weather and plenty of slugs and snails, so put out a protective agent. Keep the hoe going regularly against weeds, to keep the soil open for the penetrating of soil and to let any fertiliser you may have put down, to get to the roots of the plant. Don't be in too much of a hurry to water after a short dry spell, as moisture will be below top level and down by the roots.

May I wish you all loads of colour outdoors, and under cover, plus ample vegetables and fruit to keep you going and also to fill the freezer.

Vegetables

Keep the top soil open and stop the weeds growing by using the hoe regularly. Most of the vegetables and salad items can still be sown, especially the latter, for the continuation of crop to go with the tomatoes. Get those items under glass or frame and hardened off properly, into their main growing places, to give a crop. One can also sow some carrots and beet for a continuation crop to keep you going, and even to put in the freezer.

Do ensure that the late potatoes are in their positions, as it is not too late to get some set out. Any potatoes which are growing well should be earthed up. Sow runner beans and french beans in their cropping sites towards the end of the month, and it might be a good thing to set a couple of seeds in each sowing hole. They will come up quite quickly under warm conditions and if all take, some of them can be thinned out.

Those of you in the south can plant out tomatoes in a warm sheltered spot, but in the north, wait a bit longer. Do put in some sturdy stakes in order to tie the main stems in position as they grow.

Set out marrows in favourable conditions, but give protection if the weather

turns cold. The same can be said of cucumbers, but it really would be better to wait for June. Garden peas may be growing well, so keep them up the sticks, especially after high winds, to give the flowers a good chance to set and have early pods for picking. Do remember to put down some soil pest powder when sowing seeds and planting out growing plants. Insect pests will be on the rampage now, so get the sprayer going. When you have black fly on the broad beans, the best way to deal with this is to nip off the top growth where the flies are.

Fruit

Give the soil around the trees and bushes a good soaking in dry conditions, then cover with compost to keep the ground moist. Some young trees may be setting profusely, so pinch out the young fruitlets to a minimum, in order not to take too much out of them and to get good trees for the future, with plenty of fruit of a good size. Thin out any suckers appearing on raspberry canes and cut away any runners not wanted for future plants on strawberries.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly, keeping down the number of mowings in very dry conditions. Don't forget to trim all the edges. As with other parts of the garden, give the lawn a good soaking with water in very dry spells, by using a hose or better still, a sprinkler moved from place to place. Be sure there are no restrictions on the use of water, before using quantities of it. A lawn weedkiller would be good for getting rid of those daisies, dandelions, etc., but be careful when spraying that none goes on the borders. It might be wise to keep it from the edges, and use a small hand fork to remove those on the lawn edges.

Flowers

Get all the beds well forked over to cut down the weeds and rake over the areas where you may be going to put in some annuals to grow in batches here and there. Where you have raised under heat and

hardened off in frames, they can be planted out in their flowering quarters. Give them a good watering to settle the roots in their growing positions. Thin out those hardy annuals which you sowed earlier, and spares can be planted in beds which seem on the empty side. Perennials will be growing well and it might be a good thing to scatter Growmore pellets round them to give them a boost. Put in some canes for the taller growing items and tie the main stems in to give support against high winds. Even some of the lower growing perennials could do with supports so as to stop everything looking tatty and falling over the annuals.

Tie back the branches of shrubs which are leaning over and cut away some thin shoots on low growing trees to give light and air to other items. Get the sprayer out regularly to cope with the pests and diseases, plus slug pellets on the ground near newly planted annuals. Many people like to get the spring bulbs up after they have completed their flowering, but I think it is best to tie back the leaves, so that they get some feed to the bulbs for next year. Once the leaves are shrivelled and brown, they can then be cut away.

Check over the roses which should be budding well and even starting to colour. Spray with a fungicide especially made to combat Black Spot and they can also be added to an insect spray. Take off any leaves which are affected and consign to the dustbin, or burn. To get really good sized roses, it is a good thing to pinch off some of the buds which come up in a bunch. Also, a good liquid rose fertiliser will be of great benefit.

Greenhouse

Don't forget to get the shading on the glass, as the sun will be very strong at this time of the year and through the summer. I find that the special white liquid put on with a spray or brush is the easiest to use, is not affected by the weather and at the end of the summer is rubbed off with a cloth in dry weather. Keep the windows open for 24 hours unless there are strong winds, when they can be closed a little. In very hot conditions, it might also be better to have the doors open as well.

Use insecticidal and fungicidal smokes regularly. Remember to light them in the evening and open all windows and doors for a while before working inside. Keep the

ventilators shut when using the smokes.

One can still sow some seeds and they will germinate without heat in hot weather. The items are calceolaria, cineraria, primula, coleus and schizanthus. The last one can be sown every so often to give plentiful displays in pots for the house.

Pot up those plants that are in small containers for their full show. Also liquid feeds every so often will give them a boost. Put the tuberous begonias and fibrous ones, plus gloxinias, into their permanent containers and harden off those which are to be used in the beds or in outdoor containers. Keep the plants well watered in dry sunny weather and spraying the leaves with water and even watering the floor, will keep a nice moist atmosphere. Tomatoes will be growing well, so tie in regularly and nip out the side shoots, so maintaining the plants to one stem. Fruit will be forming and it may be a good plan to hand spray with water the other trusses of flowers, to get a really good set. Feed regularly and also water the compost to keep it moist but do not over-water.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's, we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes that they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Mr. William Mabe of Cleveleys, joined St. Dunstan's on the 25th February. Mr. Mabe served with the South Lancs. 25th Division, 2nd Battalion, during the First World War. He is a widower, with four adult children.

Mr. Terence Smith of Boston joined St. Dunstan's on the 16th March. Mr. Smith was a regular soldier, serving as a Sergeant with the Staffordshire Regiment. He is a bachelor.

Mr. Robert George Spencer of West Croydon, joined St. Dunstan's on the 16th March. Mr. Spencer served as a Trooper in the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War. He has recently retired as a receptionist-telephonist, at Croydon General Hospital. Mr. Spencer is a widower, with an adult son and daughter.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

THE LUNATIC, THE LOVER AND THE ORNITHOLOGIST

It was some old Ludwig Koch records, given to me in discreet acknowledgement of my blindness, that started me off on the birds. Now I consider it a form of insanity, however harmless, to lie on your stomach for 48 hours in order to capture the sound of a greenshank chick hatching, and that is what Koch did, but if my knowledge of bird-song had to depend at the outset on the eccentricities of a charming old German pedant, then I am grateful to him for so directing his insanity as to open up for me, his disciple, a whole world of new sounds. Nobody knows the common flowers, nobody knows the common trees, nobody knows the common birds, least of all by their voices, and if I can distinguish between blackbird and mistle thrush, white-throat and willow warbler, make a fair guess at tree creeper, reed bunting and twit, it is largely because of those old 78 shellacs, now consigned to the lumber-room in this world of stereo and hi-fi.

Curfew

I could tell a curlew in the old days, they cried over the hills of my youth; could name the oystercatchers which piped along Esk and White Water; but as for dunnocks and wrens, robins, song-thrushes, tits and greenfinches, yellow-hammers, corn buntings, sedgewarblers and martins, though I'm sure I'd heard all of them at one time or another, they were no more than an amiable background to my boyhood and 'teens, most of my twenties as well, mere "smalle fowlis", as Chaucer says, "making melodie". Perhaps I do myself an injustice, for I certainly knew the

larks which twittered over Dun Hillocks and Meikle Kilrannoch, the croak of raven, grouse when they cried, "Go back, go back", in the heather, and in the boulders and lichens of Ben Macdhui the mournful golden plover, the ptarmigan's staccato utterance as it echoed in the wilderness. The great authority on ptarmigan is Nethersill Thompson, and in his voice as he describes them is an even more pronounced edge of insanity, as of having concentrated all his life too much on too little, than in that of the slightly less grievously affected author of my 78 records. Life is a balance of various activities, and the man who spends every waking hour looking for birds is little to be distinguished from the bird which spends every waking hour looking for worms.

Obsession

What starts as an interest all too easily ends as an obsession, and so our knowledge of the ptarmigan, as also the greenshank and golden eagle, has been gained at the expense of the soul of Nethersill Thompson, happy as this manic ornithologist is in his ignorance of its surrender. It makes all the difference to life to know the common trees, the common flowers, strictly avoiding at the same time any ambition to be the world authority on either and what is true of these is true also of birds, so that the pinks, cheeps and twits of everyday experience exist not as a meaningless jumble of sounds but resolve themselves each into its distinctive species. Charles Darwin hit upon his theory of natural selection by observing the pigeons round his own house.

Bird Song

The utterances of the great Australian bustard, if any, are of scant interest to me, of New England's scarlet tanager, of the condor, its shadow on the snows of Aconcagua, the golden mountain thrush in its Caucasian retreat, the flamingos of the Camargue; it is sufficient for me, as well up in bird-song as I am ever likely to be, that when a contralto warble is heard in the birches of Glen Tilt, the entangled conifers of Templeton near home, I can grip my wife's arm, point in the appropriate direction, and hiss in restrained but ineffable triumph, "Garden warbler".

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

BRIDGE-PAIRS

		N/S	
1.	Mr. and Mrs. Pacitti		73.8
2.	W. Lethbridge & Mrs. McPherson		55.6
3.	R. Evans & Mrs. Barker		49.4
4.	J. Majchrowicz & Mr. Douse		40.6
5.	M. Tybinski & Mrs. McIntosh		30.6

		E/W	
1.	W. Allen & Miss Sturdy		61.3
2.	Vi Delaney & Miss Stenning		59.4
3.	W. Phillips & Dr. Goodlad		50.6
4.	Mr. & Mrs. Padley		43.1
5.	Mr. & Mrs. A. Dodgson		35.6

BRIDGE-INDIVIDUALS- 19TH MARCH, 1983

1st	Mrs. Barker	69.3
Equal		
2nd	W. Lethbridge & Miss Sturdy	58.0
4th	J. Padley	54.5
5th	B. Allen	53.4
6th	P. McCormack	51.1
7th	J. Majchrowicz	47.7
8th	R. Pacitti	43.1
Equal		
9th	W. Phillips & M. Tybinski	42.0
11th	R. Evans	40.9
12th	Mrs. Vi Delaney	39.8

BRIDGE DRIVE, SUNDAY 27TH MARCH, 1983

1st	Mr. & Mrs. R. Pacitti	36.80
2nd	Mrs. V. Delaney & Mrs. Gover	30.70
3rd	W. Lethbridge & R. Goodlad	30.00
4th	Mr. & Mrs. J. Padley	27.80

All the Brighton Club members will sadly miss Mr. Collis Walters who died just recently and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife Joy.

Bill Phillips, Captain

Bowling

Once again we say goodbye to another Bowling season, and I would like to thank all bowlers, wives and escorts who gave us such good support during the winter season.

On Friday, March 11th, we were hosts to our old friends from Castle Green Bowling Club, Guildford, and a very enjoyable and close affair this match turned out to be. What a day Sunday, March 20th turned out to be—28 members of Woolston Bowling Club, Southampton were our guests at Ian Fraser House. From the time they arrived until the time they departed, laughter and banter was the order of the day. The result of this match was—well—least said soonest mended, but listening to the conversation of our lads everybody seemed to be looking forward to July 17th when we are guests at Woolston, and I can safely say to any bowler who has not had the privilege of visiting this Club before, this date should be a "must".

Our last indoor match will take place on April 15th when our friends from the Old Woking Bowling Club will be our visitors. As this report has to be posted before that date, details of this game will be published at a later date, this also goes for our indoor competition which ends on Tuesday, 26th April.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to say a great big thank you to all our Ladies, who under the leadership of Mrs. Mugan, have worked so hard in making this indoor season such a successful one. I would also like to thank Dr. Stilwell and his staff, especially those in the Catering dept. who have done us proud during the season. Thanks to you all.

H. Preedy

IAN FRASER HOUSE BOOKINGS

In the past, there has been some confusion when St. Dunstaners, intending to participate in a Club and other recreational activities at Ian Fraser House, have made their bookings with headquarters, but not informed the officials at Brighton. In future, it would be much appreciated if this could be done, so that events can be planned to include all who wish to participate.

FAMILY NEWS

TELEVISION APPEARANCE

On May 16th, Caroline Dudley, grand-daughter of St. Dunstaner, Ted Dudley, will be seen playing the lead part of Claire, in a Thames Television childrens play, entitled 'The Earls Daughter'. The play is one of a series of plays, under the title of 'Spooky'.

Caroline, 11, has recently appeared in a B.B.C. Schools and Colleges series, called 'History Trail—The Law of the Land'. She has been a pupil at Redroofs Theatre School for the past two years and has passed her Grade 4 Ballet examination—not Grade 2 as previously mentioned.

Congratulations to

Emma Warren, eight year old daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Warren*, who has passed her second stage in Life Saving and is going in for her bronze medal.



Caroline Dudley with Robert McBain—photo: Thames Television.

GRANDCHILDREN Congratulations to

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamilton of Manchester who are delighted to announce the arrival of two new grandchildren. Dominic, born to their son, Mark and his wife Denise, and Michael, born to their daughter, Jo-Ann and her husband Lawrence Prowse. *Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton* now have ten grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cookson, of Guildford, who are pleased to announce the birth of a first grandchild, Danielle Barbara, on the 9th March, born to their daughter, Barbara and her husband Ralph, of Brisbane, Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Howell, of Colindale, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, Lee William Cutcliffe, born to their daughter, Elaine and her husband, on the 20th February.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mead of Kettering, who are delighted to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Sarah Louise, born on the 7th January to their son, Raymond and his wife Teresa.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sandiford of Bolton, who are delighted to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Rebecca Fay, born to their daughter, Ann Catterson and her husband, on the 3rd March.

Mrs. Enid Shorter, widow of the late *Mr. Leslie Shorter* of Southwick, who is pleased to announce the arrival of a grandchild, Ashley John, born on the 20th February to her daughter Penny and her husband, Gordon Peters.

Mr. and Mrs. David Smith of Worcester, who are pleased to announce the birth of a grandson, Daren Thomas, born to their daughter, Heather and her husband, on the 22nd February.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Smith of Lancing, who are happy to announce the arrival of their fourth grandchild, Daniel John, born to their youngest daughter, Mary and her husband, William Rock, on the 8th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Taylor of Leyland, who are pleased to announce the arrival of their seventh grandchild, Stacey Marie, born to their daughter Susan and her husband, on the 16th February.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Waller of Ham Street, near Ashford, who are delighted to announce the arrival of their first great grandchild, a boy, born to their grandson, Richard and his wife, on the 25th February.

SILVER WEDDINGS Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Worcester, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 29th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones of Birmingham, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 25th March.

PEARL WEDDING Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Padley of Saltdean, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on the 2nd April.

RUBY WEDDINGS Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John McDermott of Manchester, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 3rd April.

Mr. and Mrs. Ike Ostle of Cockermouth, Cumbria, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 17th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Phillips of Marldon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 20th March.

Mr. and Mrs. James Smith of Coalville, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 20th March.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Thompson of Teneriffe, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on March 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Vincent of Cricklewood, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on the 31st March.

WEDDINGS Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morgan of York, are delighted to announce the marriage of their grandson, Alan Paul to Jane Scott on the 26th February.

DEATHS We offer sympathy to:

Mr. Reg Chapman of Cambridge, on the death of his brother on the 20th January.

Mr. Leonard Cook of Swindon on the death of his brother, Sidney, on the 11th March.

Mr. Bob Fullard of Saltdean, whose mother died on the 16th March, in hospital.

Mr. Glyn Jones of Folkstone, whose brother-in-law died in Swansea, last October.

Mr. Reg. Page of Cross-In-Hand, on the sudden death of his brother, last November, at the age of 70.

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. Bullough Lancashire Fusiliers
Fred Bullough of Bolton, died on the 16th March at the age of 84. He had been a St. Dunstaner for thirteen years.

Mr. Bullough enlisted at the age of 18 as a Private in the Lancashire Fusiliers and during the First World War was a victim of a gas attack on the Somme. After his discharge from the Army in 1919, our St. Dunstaner worked as an engine driver on the Railways, until his sight was failing and he had to retire. Since 1970, Mr. Bullough, who was a widower, lived with his daughter, who moved with her family to care for him.

We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Tatlock and her husband, and their family.

In Memory

Continued

R.S. Barrett. R.A.F.

Reginald Sidney Barrett of Shirley, Southampton died suddenly at home on Easter Saturday, 2nd April. He was 61.

Mr. Barrett served with the R.A.F. as a Leading Aircraftsman in World War Two and was on active service in North Africa. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1964 and trained in telephony. From 1965, Mr. Barrett worked for Barclays Bank in Southampton, mastering and operating efficiently new types of switchboards over the years.

He and his wife, Molly, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1981 and we offer her and their four sons our deepest sympathy.

F.B.M. Delany, Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

Francis Delany of Brighton died on the 26th March aged 72. He only joined St. Dunstan's in January this year.

Mr. Delany served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps from 1941 until he was invalided out in 1944.

He leaves a widow, Phyllis.

H.A. Elford. R.A.F.

Mr. Herbert Ashby Elford of Midsomer Norton died on the 1st April in his 74th year. He served as a Leading Aircraftsman in the R.A.F. at the outset of World War Two and suffered the loss of one eye when he was wounded at Lavington in 1941. Subsequently, his other eye was affected and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1978.

Prior to his war service, Mr. Elford was employed in a branch of civil aviation and on discharge from the R.A.F. held administrative posts in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, until his retirement. He enjoyed numerous interests and hobbies, the most time-consuming over the years being research and the writing of a history of Temple Cloud, the village where he lived for many years, prior to a recent move to Midsomer Norton.

Mr. Elford was a tremendously keen gardener and a bowls player at County level. In 1980 he competed in two bowls tournaments by the Rotary Club, when he won the South West District bowls trophy for the visually handicapped, subsequently being runner up in the tournament held in London. Our St. Dunstaner also enjoyed going into the countryside, where he made excellent recordings of birdsongs.

Mr. Elford leaves a widow, Hazel, to whom he was married for over forty years, an adult son and daughter, and grandchildren, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

T.E. Evans Pioneer Corps

Thomas Edward Evans of Flint died on the 5th March, aged 69. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945, following service as a Private in the Pioneer Corps during the Second World War.

After training, Mr. Evans successfully ran his own poultry farm for six years, after which he retrained for industry and was employed by Messrs. Courtaulds Ltd., of Flint. Mr. and Mrs. Evans celebrated their Silver Wedding in 1965, but sadly, Mrs. Evans died in 1978.

Mr. Evans leaves five children and their families, to whom we extend our sympathy.

C. Riches 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

Charles Riches of Frimley Green died in hospital on the 14th March, at the age of 89. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1976.

Mr. Riches enlisted on the outbreak of the First World War and served in the 8th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers. He was wounded at Loos in 1915, when he lost his left eye. After the war, our St. Dunstaner became a military outfitter and on his retirement, took over the stewardship of his local Working Mens Club.

He leaves a widow and three children, to whom we extend our sympathy.

W.F. Rees Welch Regiment.

William Frederick Rees of Swansea died on the 17th March aged 83. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1979.

Mr. Rees enlisted in the Welch Regiment in 1918 and was gassed on the Somme. He was born in Tyerrig Caid and lived in Wales all his life, until 1982 when he and his wife moved to Tonbridge to be near their family.

D. Sutherland Royal Corps of Signals

Duncan Sutherland died very suddenly in hospital on the 12th March, in his 59th year. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1972 following service in the Second World War, as a Signaller in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Mr. Sutherland had received training through the R.N.I.B. before joining St. Dunstan's. After training in wrought iron work, our St. Dunstaner commenced making items at home which were of a consistently high standard. One of Mr. Sutherland's greatest interests was his aviary, which contained over 100 birds. He also was a keen Ham Radio operator, and always enjoyed the Amateur Radio weekends at Ian Fraser House.

He leaves a widow, Mary.