

St Dunstons Review

July 1983





Message from the Chairman

Thirty Years of Service

As I write this, I am also about to send St. Dunstan's greetings to Her Majesty the Queen on her Official Birthday, which this year is on Saturday, 11th June, just a few days after the thirtieth anniversary of her Coronation in Westminster Abbey. Many of us will remember the splendour of the solemn service and the spirit of happiness and rejoicing which was shared by millions of people, not only in this country but throughout the Empire and Commonwealth and a good deal of the rest of the world.

In 1953 we still had some rationing and things were very depressed and difficult, but the nation had somehow survived the war years and their immediate aftermath and we all delighted in the glories of the Coronation of our young Queen. Now, in a world still full of disagreement and suffering, where so many hopes are unfulfilled, we are thankful and proud of our much loved and deeply respected experienced Sovereign.

At St. Dunstan's we are honoured to have the Queen as our Patron—we remember the special occasions when she visited us in Brighton in 1962 and allowed us to use St. James's Palace and joined us there to celebrate our Golden Jubilee in 1965—and we send Her Majesty our heartfelt good wishes.

Jon Earnell-Dave

BROADHURST GARDENS

Following the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Lawrence from 152 Broadhurst Gardens, the management has been taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Ian Dickson. The *Review* wishes them every happiness in their new position.

USE OF CB

It has been drawn to our attention that comments about St. Dunstan's and personal affairs are being discussed over CB radio in the Brighton area. Breakers should remember that their conversations are open for all to hear.

THE AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE 4 TRACK CASSETTE RECORDER

The Audio Reading Trust, from where these machines can be obtained, have notified us of a change of address. It is now: Audio Reading Trust, Spirella Building, Bridge Road, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 4ET. Telephone 04626-77331.

AMATEUR RADIO MEETING

The next Amateur Radio Meeting will be held on Saturday 23rd July. The speaker will be Mr. Al Slater, call sign G3FXB, who will give a talk on 'The relationship between world travel, international understanding and amateur radio'. Mr. Slater is a member of the Channel DX Group.

Note: DX is a term for long distance.

Ted John

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Please note that the list of committee members should be amended to read *R. Davis* and not *R. Hazan*.

SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

It was another very popular year for Derby Sweepstake tickets. 3,167 tickets were sold, and the total prize money, less the cost of printing the tickets, amounted to £618.20.

There were 21 runners this year, and the pay-out was as follows:-

1st Prize £309.00
L. Ellaway
Teenoso Ticket No. 2606
2nd Prize £124.00
N. Daniel
Carlingford Castle Ticket No. 1968
3rd Prize £62.00 W. Slade
Shearwalk Ticket No. 1974

All those holding a ticket for the remaining 18 horses received the sum of £6.84.

CASSETTE MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN

Six teenagers on a Y.O.P. training scheme in Sunderland have produced a 'Newstile Magazine' on a cassette tape, designed for blind and partially sighted women.

Anyone interested in receiving the cassette, which is free, should contact Jim Friday, Paddock Stile Centre, Philadelphia Lane, Houghton-Le-Spring, Tyne and Wear.

POPPY APPEAL

Bill and Alice Griffiths write with the news that William Griffiths Court, Blackburn, were runners-up in the Royal British Legion Housing Association Poppy Appeal Prize.

Mr. Rawcliffe, Chairman of the William Griffiths Court Committee, was informed that the winners, Clee House, Tewkesbury, had collected £46.61 per dwelling and William Griffiths Court, were second with £38.52.

St Dunstons Review

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Cover Picture: Eileen Williams and her son, Terry, dance the 'cha cha cha' at the Sheffield Reunion.

Reunions

BRISTOL

From Haverfordwest, from Ross-on-Wye, from Upton St. Leonards and from Llanelli. From Midsomer Norton, from Black Torrington and from Abergavenny. There is no reunion like the Bristol Reunion for the romance of the names of places St. Dunstaners travel from, or for the distances they travel, to be part of the occasion, held this year on May 7th.

In a brief speech, Mr. William Weisblatt, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, made a similar point when he said that it was not altogether surprising that Bristol was such a happy reunion, when the St. Dunstaners came from some of the most attractive parts of Britain.

He was speaking at the invitation of Mr. Richard Dufton who, as a Member of St. Dunstan's Council, was presiding, accompanied by his wife. Mr. Dufton's own speech, after conveying the greetings of the Council, was wide ranging. Speaking of the members of St. Dunstan's in the

Commonwealth he said "St. Dunstaners have distinguished themselves enormously in these countries by setting up national organisations for the whole of the blind. In the last sixty years they have taken up posts as national Secretaries or even as Chairmen.

Turning to St. Dunstan's in the United Kingdom, Mr. Dufton said that everyone knew that Sir Arthur Pearson founded St. Dunstan's in 1915. "Perhaps not everyone knows that he began writing about blind people twenty five years earlier in 1890, when he wrote in the first copy of his own publication 'Pearson's Weekly'. He wrote a review of a whole range of blind people who had been successful in previous times."

Mr. Dufton described how, after losing his own sight, Sir Arthur came to set up St. Dunstan's in 1915. "That was a terrific start but there were only six years that he was Chairman until 1921 when, at his untimely passing, the young Captain Ian Fraser took over at the age of 24 and we know that his spirit has been carried to the ends of the Commonwealth."

Mr. Dufton spoke of the wonderful partnership of Lord and Lady Fraser over 53 years. He referred to the pressure that Lord

Fraser had exerted on politicians in the interests of ex-service people. "On the technical side he had a wonderful appreciation of the relationship between science and technology and the welfare of the blind.

"There is an old saying, genius does what it must, talent does what it can. There have been many examples of genius and talent in the leadership of our three Chairmen and today, we are fortunate in our present Chairman and his wife. It is we St. Dunstaners, with the support of our wives, who have benefitted most."

Dennis Tufnell, of Ridgeway, Bristol, spoke for his fellow St. Dunstaners in thanking 'The ladies of the Parish', Miss Meyer and Miss Newbold, for their arrangements for the reunion and Mr. and Mrs. Dufton for attending and bringing the good wishes of the Council. "I must also thank the management and staff of this Hotel", he said.

In the very pleasant surroundings of the Crest Hotel the reunion continued with dancing in the afternoon until tea. This was one of the best attended Bristol reunions, no less than 53 St. Dunstaners, with their wives or escorts and guests making a company numbering 119, to enjoy a happy day among friends.

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan at Newcastle.



NEWCASTLE

Edinburgh, Inverness and London were some of the more distant starting points of the 16 St. Dunstaners, 1 widow and 8 members of staff attending the reunion at the Station Hotel. Air Vice Marshal W.E. Colahan, Member of Council presiding, was able to confirm the 'cold weather, but warm hearts' of the North. When asking people the way, they did not just point, but accompanied him a block or two. He extended "a special greeting to the three St. Dunstaners who are experiencing the pleasure and the friendliness of a gathering such as this for the first time. Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor of Ponteland, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers of West Boldon, and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson of Sunderland. I would also like to mark the presence of one veteran, Mr. Pinder of Peterlee".

Inspiration

Air Vice Marshal Colahan went on to give the most recent statistics, 1428 St. Dunstaners world wide, "members of an organisation inspired and founded by one brilliant man, Sir Arthur Pearson, and nurtured and consolidated to full recognition by another, Lord Fraser. Since then, the organisation has been looked after, and forwarded most devotedly by our third Chairman, Mr. Garnett-Orme". Before concluding, he reassured his audience that St. Dunstan's would always be there to give succour and encouragement. His final thanks was to Mrs. Inman who had organised the gathering.

However, it was not a Geordie who proposed the vote of thanks, but a man from Saltdean, Mr. Miller, who was holidaying in the area. He echoed the feelings of the assembled guests in thanking the Air Vice Marshal, members of staff, St. Dunstan's and the hotel staff.

Interesting encounter

One interesting encounter was between Professor Alan Milne and Mr. Nicholson, a previously mentioned new St. Dunstaner. Mr. Nicholson's son, serving in the Police Force, is currently on a three year degree course at Durham University. Alan is one of his instructors. Coincidence, perhaps, but entirely in keeping with the spirit and aim of the reunions.

Dennis Tufnell speaking at the Bristol Reunion.



SHEFFIELD

Perhaps it was the fact that it was Cup Final Day, but there were fewer old friends to meet at the Grosvenor House Hotel this year for the Sheffield Reunion on May 21st. 24 St. Dunstaners attended and with their wives or escorts and guests there were 58 people at the lunch table to hear words of welcome for Sir Richard Pease, presiding as a Member of St. Dunstan's Council, accompanied by Lady Pease.

First War St. Dunstaner

Sir Richard particularly welcomed John Burgan "who served in the First World War and, I think, is probably the most senior citizen here". He also welcomed Mrs. Jackson, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, George Jackson, of Bridlington.

"Looking down the list I have been given of St. Dunstaners and the hobbies and employments, of you here", continued Sir Richard, "as usual there is a wide variety and there are no less than seven skills that are practised. As an amateur gardener myself and still hoping to acquire the skill of a gardener, I certainly look on this as a skill."

Physiotherapy

Saying that the list included physiotherapy and that Eric Foster, sitting on his left was a physiotherapist, Sir Richard pointed out that this year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee. "A body of St. Dunstaners, which, with the help of this organisation, has assisted in the development of physiotherapy as a profession for blind men and women. In the early days there was opposition to blind people practising physiotherapy but as a result of what they have done it has now been widely accepted that they can hold their own with anybody in this field and it has helped blind people achieve full recognition in society."

To generous applause, Sir Richard referred to the award of the C.B.E. to our Chairman, Mr. Garnett-Orme. "In recognition of the work he has done for St. Dunstan's over the last 25 years, work in which his wife has fully participated."

As well as referring to the number of St.

Dunstaners living at home and abroad, Sir Richard mentioned the only St. Dunstaner from the Falklands Campaign, Terry Bullingham, and that, training at Ian Fraser House completed, he is working at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton.

Replying to Sir Richard on behalf of fellow St. Dunstaners, John Barlow of Sheffield said that when asked to make his speech he was practising a speech he was to give at his daughter's wedding. "If I happen to say, 'I hope all your troubles are little ones', I hope not!"

Turning to the Falklands, he said "Sir Richard has told us there is only one blind man to add to our numbers. Thank God. In spite of the way youngsters are pulled to pieces, the young men did us proud and they showed that they can do equally as well as we did, if not better".

'All Old St. Dunstaners'

John Barlow concluded by saying he was sorry to see a smaller number at the reunion, he recalled an earlier occasion when he had made a reunion speech. "I compared us, being the young St. Dunstaners, with the old St. Dunstaners. Now I am afraid we are all old St. Dunstaners!"

The afternoon, organised by Mrs. S. Parry with the assistance of Mrs. D. Inman, continued with dancing to an excellent band, the Geoff Bell Trio, and concluded with tea and the prize draw.

LONDON Kent and Surrey

The 42 St. Dunstaners who gathered at the Russell Hotel on Saturday, 4th June, were all aglow. This was due partly to the temperature, and partly to the warmth of renewed friendships. It was a small world gathered there, despite places as far apart as Bideford in Devon, Aberdeen, Northern Ireland and Durban, South Africa. The latter by the twin grand-daughters of a former neighbour of Tom Hart when he lived out there. Also present was Mr. Horace Mantle of Thornton Heath attending his first reunion. He was in the same POW camp as Bill Griffiths, one of our St. Dunstan speakers. Bideford was represented by our President, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell.



Tom and Mabel Hart at the London Reunion with Diane and Wendy Field, from Durban.

"I am naturally very proud to be a St. Dunstaner. We come together and have an excellent lunch, giving our wives a day off from cooking. I never cease to marvel at all the activities you get up to, which I read about in the *Review*. None of us is getting any younger, but I still think the worst thing is to feel bored. St. Dunstan's waste no opportunity in finding things for us to do." Sir Michael went on to describe the endless pleasure he obtained from gardening. He raised a laugh describing how Mr. French wanted him to tie his mower to a pole in the middle of the lawn, "like lungeing a ruddy horse", and going round in ever decreasing circles.

Sir Michael referred to the odd looks he would get when he brought out his knitting on a long distance train journey. But if he knew there was an attractive girl nearby, "all I had to do was to drop a stitch!". The President went on to praise the Chairman and staff and he hoped their reward was in the results they produced. He compared St.

Dunstan's to a fantastic regiment, highly trained, and he was proud to wear its badge. David Clark spoke on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present. He started by reiterating Sir Michael's thanks to the hotel staff. "It has often been said that St. Dunstan's is a large family; the atmosphere this afternoon is no exception." In the family vein, David went on to relate the story of the daughter who expressed concern to her mother, because her boyfriend was an atheist, and had no concept of hell. "I think", said her mother, "that between the two of us, we should be able to show him!"

"Finally", he said, "I often think of people such as the Frasers, and others, who have built St. Dunstan's up into what it is today. We owe a great debt to them and to those carrying on their works today. There is one person who always has our welfare at heart. I am sure you would want to join me in a special thanks to someone who has worked so hard to make today such a success—Miss Helen Stewart."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Alf Bradley, Burton on Trent

'Not a moment to lose'

May I please share a page in the *Review* by way of comment on Syd Scroggie's June article under the title of 'A Moment to Spare', "When Adam Dalf".

Although Syd finds the story of creation as recorded in Genesis, and the theory of evolution quite compatible, the controversy as recorded in the Dundee 'Courier' has been going on for a great number of years, and as I feel that the Biblical account to be so neglected as to be almost unknown, I do the little I can to put this right.

In years past if I read what I considered to be a very good book in Braille, I would on occasions buy a print copy to put on the bookshelf for my growing family to have the opportunity to benefit. When I came across 'Scripture of Truth', by S. Collett, I found there a great deal of material relating to Anthropology, Geology and Astronomy; and much, very much more which revealed the sciences which lie hidden in Scripture. Although the book had some 19 editions after its first publication in 1904, I was sorry to hear that it was out of ink print, and this above all was material that I wanted others to know. Briefly, Marshall Morgan & Scott gave me permission to attempt to transcribe some extracts from the original book, and it was published in January of last year, under the title of 'Through the Dark Glass', (Another look into Christian Education). The book is doing the rounds, and I have had two very good reviews, one from the London City Mission, and the other in a 'Believer's' magazine, which was printed in Kilmarnock.

I find all the time they need to be given to the Evolutionists, and little or none to the Creationists. I recall the series of the late Dr. Bronowski, quite a few years ago, called 'The Ascent of Man'. And much more recently, the 'Life on Earth' series by David Attenborough. This latter one, with repeats and a complete re-run, has taken up no less than 52 episodes. Have you ever realised that when there is a weak link in the evolutionary chain, the artist lends support by

sketching for the producer what he thinks the wee beastie may have looked like, while his sound effects colleague adds a bit more strength by way of bleep, whistle or roar, or even the supposed appropriate musical background? So the nation sits back, relaxes, and resigns itself to the 'Big Bang' theory, or something they may have seen in the museum.

Genesis is nothing like this; by the time you reach Chapter 4 and Verse 22 you are reading about one who was 'An instructor of every Artificer in brass and iron'. No slime here, but REAL MEN; and all in under four chapters.

Did you ever do a brief exercise in comparing the use of the words, 'Creation', 'Made', and 'Formed', in those first chapters? In my Bible the word 'Creation' isn't mentioned until the fifth day. I've got words like 'Divided', 'Gathered together', 'Appeared', 'Set'. Did you know that the animals went into the ark by 'Sevens, the male and his female'. They had to, as Noah made sacrifices of all the 'Clean' beasts and birds, and the species would have been extinct.

In a very great measure, the Bible in Genesis and some other places is not referred to, and often misquoted. 'Pride goes before a fall', we quote, but it doesn't, not in the Bible anyway. It '... goes before DESTRUCTION', and that makes all the difference to the make up of the world's geology. But I mustn't go on, or I shall be talking about Lucifer, and the oil which seems to be in many places under the oceans. I will just send Syd a copy of the book I have managed to get recirculated, and ask Margaret to read the first two chapters, 'Beginnings', and 'Astronomy'.

From: Jimmy Wright, Shepperton

I thought you might like to have some notes on the 52nd Annual Reunion of the Royal Flying Corps Wireless Operators Old Comrades Association, which was held on Wednesday, 4th May, at the London Transport Club, South Kensington.

This was the second time Bill Harris had invited me to be his guest at this very

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 3523

Inspector Ghote Draws a Line

By H.R.F. Keating

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 7½ hours

Inspector Ganesh Ghote of the Bombay Police is sent to Madras to investigate death threats being sent to a retired judge, Sir Asif Ibrahim. The autocratic old man flatly refuses to assist the inspector in any way. Allah, not evil men, will decide when it is time for him to die.

Thirty years earlier, the judge had sent members of a Nationalist gang to the gallows for their part in the famous Madurai conspiracy. Why had the group's sympathisers waited so long before threatening vengeance?

The death notes are typed and in good English. This should narrow down the field considerably. There can be very few English speakers with access to a typewriter in that remote and backward community. There is the judge's daughter, Begum Roshan, the saintly Annan-Baba

and the fiery left-wing American priest, all living under the judge's roof. A frequent visitor to the house is the editor of the local newspaper, who speaks good English and uses a typewriter in his daily work. And what is the secret of the old fort on the judge's estate, with its yet unsolved mystery...?

With his usual thoroughness and quiet determination, the indefatigable Ghote beavers away until he finally solves the enigma—but only just in time.

Perhaps not quite as good as some of the other Ghote books, but entertaining reading nevertheless.

Cat. No. 3444

The Human Factor

By Graham Greene

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 10½ hours

Davies, Castle and Watson are employed in section 6 of the Foreign Office dealing exclusively with despatches from Africa. Watson is steady, unemotional and to all intents and purposes transparently honest and trustworthy. Davies, on the other hand, is unstable, restless and disenchanted and with a penchant for good claret.

Castle has a South African black wife, smuggled out of the country by anti-apartheid friends. She has a child by a former relationship.

A soviet defector gives information of a leak emanating from the section, and Davies seems to be the prime suspect. The Chief of MI5 decides that a public trial would be embarrassing to the department and orders the 'elimination' of Davies. He dies of 'liver failure' brought about by heavy drinking.

The leaks continue. They have killed the wrong man. There remains the vital question—who is passing on information...?

Another winner from the old master. A clever book which sets out to show that the 'traitor' is not always the double-dyed villain he is portrayed, but an ordinary human being tortured by doubts, beset by fears and finally overwhelmed by the inexorable march of events.

LETTERS *Continued*

special annual luncheon attended by twenty-one members of the Association who served in World War I. Among the seven guests present was Norman Gilham, Secretary of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service Association. It was Norman Gilham who was responsible for members of the Royal Flying Corps to be represented at the Remembrance Day Festival at the Royal Albert Hall last year. I am sure those of us who were watching the television programme that evening, were highly delighted to be told that Bill Harris was among those elite few RFC members represented.

Once again, this luncheon party was a tremendous success. It isn't often that as a reunion gets older, the members who attend increase. However, this was the case this year. The total aggregate of the ages of the twenty-one members present exceeded 2,000 years. Surely that must be a record!

Cat. No. 2936

The History Man

By Malcolm Bradbury

Read By Malcolm Ruthven

Reading Time 10½ hours

Howard and Barbara have been married for twelve years. They have two children (who address their parents by their forenames). He is Dr. Howard Kirk, lecturer in Sociology at the new red-brick—or more correctly—concrete-and-plastic University of Watermouth.

Barbara favours Kaftans, Howard wears tee-shirts emblazoned with slogans, mostly incomprehensible. They are both a-moral, ferociously left-wing, full of radical indignation, tireless protesters, inde-

fatigable embracers of lost or ailing causes, sworn enemies of The Establishment and Faceless Authority.

They are both exceedingly fluent in the jargon of the 'progressive' sociologist. Phrases like 'Maturity is the code-concept of the a-moral 1950s' and 'You are a conjunction of known variables' or 'to maximise one's historical potential' and similar gems trip easily off the tongue.

Howard and Barbara are the central characters in this book about life in the close-knit suffocating atmosphere of the university, with its intrigues, its struggles for personal power, its sexual romps, its artificial galloping radicalism...

The prose is erudite (and tongue-in-cheek) and the book is a small masterpiece of fine satirical writing.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Thanks to a common interest in Ham Radio, St. Dunstaner, George Cole of Shoreham-by-Sea and Hans Fishbeck of Munich, have become firm friends. Hans is hard of hearing, but by using morse code a bond of friendship has developed over the air-waves which would normally seem to be impossible with their joint disabilities.

Recently George received a letter from Hans, mostly written in uncontracted Braille, together with two cards of the German Amateur Radio Station, bearing his call sign. Part of the letter is reproduced below: (sic)

Dear Friend George.

I send you two cards of the QSO of 20.4.83. The one means the symbol of Bavaria, the other with the little child is that of the City of Munich.

I am happy to have the opportunity to send you some words you can read yourself. I'm sitting here by the side of a lovely young lady with blonde hair who has the kindness to write in her writing what I dictate. I hope you are enjoying about this surprise.

Now following, when we had our first QSO I didn't understand all your info at once, but later after we had QRT, I read what I had written and understood it in all importance. You know my English is bad and bungling and the mind is getting slowly. Now I think to know what really happened in Africa when you was about 20 years old, very SRI, dear friend".



Hans Fishbeck's QSL card.

Hans goes on to say that George generally comes over very clearly, although sometimes between Shoreham and himself there are terrible electrical noises, 'strong, like an airplane'. He also says that he is hard of hearing and so is forced to use a 'hearer'.

Hans ends his letter, "if you are interested to hear something of my life, remember me next QSO.. Then I will tell you more of me. Dear George —OM, I will finish now as we always do it with "keep smiling". Kindly regards to your XYL God Bless you both MNI 73-55.

Your friend,
Hans.

The Braille letter was remarkable considering that the young lady he refers to was writing in a foreign language and German signs are different to ours. What a delightful story of friendship.



Robert Pringle with some of the puzzles.

A MAGNIFICENT GESTURE

by Joyce Pringle

Robert was given a 3-D jigsaw puzzle for Christmas. When it was done, we looked in all the shops and could not find anything similar. On February 24th, I sent the following letter to the manufacturers, Mag Nif Incorporated, in the U.S.A.

Dear Sirs,

My husband, who is totally blind, was given an 'Adam's Apple' for Christmas. He so enjoyed doing the puzzle (it took him a month) that he would like to do another. Please do you manufacture other puzzles of the same type? Are they stocked in England? If not, would you please let us know the dollar price and how much it would cost to post and package and we would send a dollar cheque in payment?

I heard no more, until on the 13th April the post office delivered a parcel containing 6 more puzzles with the compliments of the Vice President of the Company. We were completely overwhelmed. They even sent solutions for three of the puzzles. One of the puzzles, which comes in handy for doing in the car, is based on the binary system and there are 170 moves which have to be done in the correct sequence to get the darned thing out.

We wrote to thank them and said it would increase our pleasure if we could pay for the puzzles and, if they did not want to accept any money, would they put it to the American Association for the Blind or any veterans charity they cared to nominate.

Wasn't it a magnificent gesture on their part?

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.

Arthur Kitchener Henderson of St. Austell, joined St. Dunstan's on the 12th May.

He enlisted on the 2nd September 1939 in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and was wounded in 1940. Mr. Henderson is 66 years old and is married with a son and a daughter.

George Martin of Redhill joined St. Dunstan's on the 6th June, aged 93 years. Mr. Martin lost his right eye as a result of a hand grenade explosion whilst on active service as a Private in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment during the First World War. Until the sight in his remaining eye deteriorated, our St. Dunstaner was able to work as a gardener, finishing at the age of 75.

Michael Gerrit De'Ath Pirrie, LL.B. of Eastbourne, joined St. Dunstan's on the 10th May.

Mr. Pirrie was a Lieutenant in the Royal Tank Regiment. He enlisted in 1959 and was injured in North Africa in 1962. He was discharged in 1963. Mr. Pirrie is a Barrister, aged 43 years, and is unmarried.

John Henry Ward Best of Liverton, Newton Abbot, joined St. Dunstan's on the 10th May.

Major Ward Best served in the Royal Artillery in the Second World War and was discharged in March 1945 following a serious accident. Major Ward Best is 72 years of age, and is married with two adult sons.

Henry Alfred John Williams of Ely, joined St. Dunstan's on the 27th April.

Mr. Williams served as a gunner with the Essex Yeomanry during the Second World War. He is married with two sons.



Ron Smith recording with George Rutterford at Lakenheath.

THE BRECKLAND PART 2

by Ron Smith

Over the years a number of friends have remarked how wonderful it would be to hear the blackbird singing through the night. I suppose they are really comparing it with the nightingale, but it is worth hearing a blackbird at any time of day especially when the voice is improving as the summer months approach. It is a special joy to hear the echo of the blackbird's song where the trees are tall.

Of course, there are many wonderful songsters and one which comes to my mind is the mistle thrush. My father always used to refer to this bird as the "storm cock" and I remember listening to it many a time after thunder showers.

As we progressed into the wood at Merton, we could hear, some little distance away, Keats' "immortal bird" accompanied by two impudent cuckoos, then the bubbling notes of a female cuckoo coming in close. Then came great fun and games, one chasing the other, at times coming so close to the microphone that the wing beats could be distinctly heard.

I have known Mr. George Rutterford of Lakenheath for several years. He is an amateur botanist for the Suffolk Conservation Trust and his years of local experience have been of great benefit to my programme. May, 1982, was no exception. George took Kay and me on to the outer perimeter of Lakenheath airfield, which is keeper-patrolled. After our introduction to the keeper and his wife, we visited various habitats on the estate.

I began by asking George if this was typical Breckland country. He said, "The actual piece of Breck where we are standing is, to my mind, the best example of Breckland that you'll find anywhere in the Breck country. It varies and this is a typical, chalky grassland type of country".

We were close to a wire enclosure and Kay asked what it was. George told us the land had been enclosed for about fifty years. The fences were put up by botanists from Cambridge, to see how protection from rabbit grazing affects the local flora. One or two plants were introduced into the

enclosure, in particular the flax. This can be mistaken for the harebell from a distance but is an open, flatter flower. Inside the enclosure and safe from the rabbits there are one or two special plants like the Erect Brome, a chalk-loving grass, and the Long Heath-grass.

I remarked on the sponginess of the ground beneath our feet. It seemed that this was caused by the presence of a springy plant known as reindeer moss, which is not really a moss at all and grows in the arctic circle. Kay noticed what looked like small, yellow flowers in the enclosure. These, said George, were the spore cases of a tiny fern, called Moonwort, as he gently touched the little globes, a fine yellow dust floated away on the breeze. George said it is called Moonwort because those yellow, globular heads are round, like the moon. Now they were ripe and split open to release their spores.

The chalk plants are so tiny and close to the ground that a botanist is lost without a 10 X magnifying glass, even when on all fours on the turf. The white Fairy Flax is very stunted here although elsewhere it can grow to six inches. Storksbill and

Cranesbill make dwarf tufts of pink against a pretty carpet of golden moss. There is a great variety of mosses here. Kay found the perfectly round tunnel opening of a Sand-wasp and saw many different kinds of spiders. A gnat was trapped, on the sticky stem of the rare Spanish Catchfly.

Here on the chalky grassland we came across acres of the beautiful Purple Milk-vetch which is so rare on the Sussex chalk. A white beauty was the dainty Rock Cress which is a cruciferous plant, one of the Wallflower family. Kay noticed the Chalkhill Blue butterflies and George pointed out that their food-plants, the Bird's-foot Trefoil and the Purple Milk-vetch, grow here.

Seed Scattering

One thing George felt strongly about was the now-fashionable scattering of wild flower seeds about the countryside. This, he thought, was a mistake and in years to come the records will be very confused. Just as we were leaving came the lovely piping of the Common Curlew, the tallest of our waders. It rounded off a delightful morning with George. We both convey our

Blowing sands area at Wangford Warren. This aspect of the Breckland was referred to in part 1 in our March 1983, issue.





A view of Langmere at East Wretham.

grateful thanks to him and the Suffolk Trust for Conservation.

Weeting Common is a National Nature Reserve covering about three hundred and forty acres. It is a long, narrow strip of typical Breck heathland. The Report of April, 1982, told what a successful year this place had. Twenty six kinds of butterflies had been counted here. It is also the home of some of the rare British spiders and there were seventy two pairs of wheatears nesting, most of them, in old rabbit burrows.

On one side is a railroad and, on the other, a busy main road. There are two hides where the public can observe and listen to the, now scarce, Stone Curlew. The same report says that eight young ones were successfully reared that year. The Stone Curlew belongs to a group of birds known as the "thick-knees" and looks nothing like the Common Curlew. It is a fast runner with a short, stubby bill and is nocturnal, with a mournful call.

After several days of extremely hot weather we had a few showers when we were deep in the heart of the woods but it made little difference to the calling of the

birds. The forest floor was deep in fibre and leaf mould, supplying ample food for such birds as robins, blackcaps, nightingales and the next special guest, *Lucinia lucinia*, the Thrush Nightingale, a visitor seldom coming as far west as Britain but taking advantage of the few beautiful days. This bird is difficult to distinguish from the nightingale, though it is darker, especially on the tail, and, unlike the nightingale, has very faint bars across the breast. Unfortunately it left the close proximity of our microphones but it was singing a couple of hundred yards away for some considerable time.

The Woodcock is a most elusive bird, either for vision or sound, but after sitting for a few hours in the right spot we heard its low rather peculiar cry several times. My last thoughts about the Merton estate must be about the number of nightingales we heard and the many hours we sat listening to them.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those people who helped to make my visit so enjoyable.

GARDENING CLUB TRIP TO EDINBURGH

The dates for the Club trip to Edinburgh have now been finalised, and will be September 11th to 18th, 1983.

In view of the visit, the next Club Meeting will not be at Ian Fraser House until March 1984.

Final lists are being drawn up to be sent to H.Q. and Edinburgh and so to cover anyone who for some reason has not heard of this visit, I am making this announcement in the *Review*.

Arrangements have been made for single room accommodation at Edinburgh University Halls of Residence for 50 people at reasonable terms. Preparation of the week's programme is in hand with the Royal British Legion Scotland and others to make it a very full week.

When booking accommodation, eight extra bedrooms were booked to take up any surplus numbers.

BEAUTIFUL TOYS

Mr. Harry Windley of Scarborough has recently received a letter from the Friends of Claypenny Hospital, which is affiliated to the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. It is in appreciation of his toy making, and a part of the letter is reproduced below.

"On behalf of the 'Friends of Claypenny Hospital' it is a privilege and a great honour to write to you to thank you very sincerely

Mrs. Windley reads the letter to her husband.

I am not quite certain of the final date when the list is closed, but quick action could avoid great disappointment.

Some members have already sent their deposit to secure accommodation, but there is still time for any other members to book, if they are interested to come on the trip. Please write as soon as possible to the address below if you would like more details.

Fred Barratt,
*Chairman, St. Dunstan's
 Gardeners Club.*
 2 Guildford Bridge,
 Llangwm,
 Haverfordwest,
 Dyfed, West Wales.

WATCH THIS SPACE

A notice regarding final arrangements for the trip to Edinburgh will appear in the August *Review*. Please make sure to look out for it.

for the beautiful toys that you have made for our children."

The letter goes on to say how happy the children were to receive them at Christmas and how happy they were to have toys to play with which are good to hold, strong and secure, and no rough edges to hurt them. 'You made them beautifully Mr. Windley and we can only thank you from the bottom of our hearts'...



D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

This year seems to be passing very rapidly, though as I put these notes together I wish the time would stop a bit, so as to get up to date in doing jobs all over the garden. The weather, I hope, will be better when you get these notes, or we shall still be a long way behind.

There is no doubt that the months to date have been terrible, with more rain than I can remember and temperatures at a low level, so items which should be carrying a crop, or near to a wonderful show of colour, are miles behind. Perhaps we will get a warm autumn and dry weather, to give everything a chance.

All that I can say, is to keep the garden going by hoeing, raking and forking, to keep the soil porous in order to dry out and keep the weeds down. These seem to grow in any conditions.

Vegetables

Try to keep the area where crops have been gathered clean and tidy by removing bean, pea and cabbage stalks and haulms. Dig over the area and leave rough. Lettuces can be grown from seed in some of these spaces for late cutting, but don't overdo it with the seed, as I tend to do, and have a lot of wastage. Radishes can also be sown here.

Ensure that the runner beans are attaching themselves to the strings or canes, otherwise tie in the earlier growth and then they will get their clinging actions on the move. Broccoli and kale for winter, or early spring, can be planted in their growing places and make certain that they are in the area which have not had the greens family for some years. As a precaution, dip the roots in a Calomel paste or special anti club root solution which are on the market. Some well rotted manure or compost will be a good mulch after watering.

Thin out the late beet to get good quality and size for picking later. Other items which can be sown now for late winter or spring crops are cabbage, onions, spinach and turnips. Earth up the late potatoes for the last time.

Tops of outdoor tomatoes should be pinched off to make bushier plants and also

some of the side shoots beyond a truss of fruit. It is a good thing to stake up the plants in case you get some strong winds. In dry weather, a spray of water over the plants will give a good set. Give regular feeds as the fruit sets.

Keep the hoe going all the time throughout the vegetable garden to keep the soil open and free of weeds. Plenty of water will be needed in dry conditions, though this seems a strange suggestion after all the rain that we have had.

Thin out the fruit where there has been a rather heavy set and little normal drop noticed. Cut away any unnecessary growth or those thin shoots are apt to take a good deal of the food and moisture that should go to the fruit. Pick soft fruit as it ripens, but if a little doubtful of ripeness leave for a bit longer.

As with other parts of the garden, plenty of water in very dry spells will be needed and it is a good idea to cover the area around the base of the tree with manure or compost after a watering, which will keep the moisture at a high level.

Mow the grass once a week to make the lawns look neat and tidy. It might be a good idea to use a fertiliser in liquid form to do the job of toning up the grass and killing off the main large leafed weeds, such as daisies, dandelions, clover and plantain.

Cut the edges with a long handled pair of shears and collect the debris, or it will drift all over the place when the wind is about. In very dry conditions, don't forget the lawn.

Keep those stone block paths free from weeds and grass, which tend to appear in the cracks at the joins and along the edges. Use a small hand fork, or even an old kitchen fork, to dig the weeds up. Refill with some cement. Where you have some badly broken slabs, try and get replacements, which are often available from the local council.

Flowers

Give all the plants, perennials, annuals and shrubs, regular doses of water in dry spells and also liquid feeds. A scattering of fertiliser in pellet form will help all the items in the borders and last a lot longer than

liquids. Keep the borders free of weeds by hoeing regularly. Cut away all the dead heads to encourage new growth and more flowers.

A number of the tall items among the perennials, such as chrysanthemum, delphinium, dahlia, paeonies, pyrethrum, garlardia and carnations will need staking, if not already done. Ensure that the sweet peas are climbing up the string or netting. If not, tie them to the climbing aids and they will then go along alright.

When the plants reach the top of the supports, nip off the tops and side shoots will grow to make more flowers over a longer period. A liquid feed every so often will benefit growth and flowers.

Gladioli will be nearing flowering time, so stake up if there is a tendency to bend over. The top shoots of chrysanthemums should be pinched out to make bushier plants, with plenty of colour outdoors and cuttings for use in the house.

See that the fuchsias, geraniums, plus tuberous rooted begonias are given plenty of water in dry spells, plus liquid feeds of fertilisers. Keep the roses in good shape to give plenty of flowers, by cutting away all spent heads. Check over for Black Spot and pick off the infected leaves and consign to the dustbin, not the compost heap. Give a good spray of Bordeaux mixture or one of the special mixtures available these days.

Aphids of all kinds will be around, so spray at first onset on still days, so that there is no drift which may affect pets around about. Make certain you use the mixture as set out on the label and keep well out of reach of any children. Wash out all the containers used for mixing and the sprayer utilised.

Greenhouse

Plenty of water will be needed, especially during hot sunny weather. Don't forget the liquid foods for the plants coming into flower. Open all the windows and it will be a good thing to leave the windows half open during the night, except, of course, when you have used a smoke against insects and various fungicide diseases.

Keep a good level of moisture inside by spraying the floor and staging with water during the early part of the morning and afternoon.

Achimenes, begonias and gloxinias will be starting to show their true worth, so

keep them going with a feed at every other watering, but, be careful not to keep the soil too wet or you may lose plants through rotting of the roots and tubers. Move cyclamens to their flowering pots or old corms put into fresh compost and re-start for winter and spring flowering.

Keep the tomatoes going by collecting fruit which is very near to this stage. This will encourage new trusses of flowers to come along and also give the young immature fruit a chance to get to a good size before they ripen. Spray the flowers with tepid water and feed at every watering. Pick off the lower leaves which are past their best. Where you have the plants in large pots, a little extra compost around the stem may give the plants an extra boost and give a longer period of fruiting.

Pick cucumbers as soon as ripe and give plenty of water and feed. Where you have a practically empty glasshouse, take any potted items that are still inside, outside in a nice warm position. Then give the greenhouse a good disinfecting and clean up. Leave for a while after doing this job before putting the plants back.

From the Chairman's Postbag

FROM: Mr. P.S. Baldwin of Whangaparaoa, New Zealand

"About 18 months ago, it was noticed in the *Review* a short paragraph to the effect that Frederick Reginald Hicks of Gloucester had been enrolled as a member of St. Dunstan's. Fred was a member of my own unit, the 239 Bty. 77th (W) H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery, and we spent our three and a half years captivity in the same prison camps."

A letter from Mr. Baldwin was forwarded at his request to Mr. Hicks and a very happy reunion has taken place. Mr. Baldwin writes again:

"I have heard from Fred, who is still getting over the surprise of having news of me, and it is very pleasing to be able to renew our acquaintanceship. Whilst on the subject I see in the *Review* for January/February, extract from a letter from Don Ross, Whangaparaoa. Living only ½km apart we are very friendly with Don and Freda and we go as a foursome to the functions to which Don referred in his letter."



The memorial standard.

They Shall not grow old . . . as we that are left grow old

by Joe Humphrey

On January 17th, 1944, 'A' troop, 40 R.M. Commando set out for the eighth time to raid the enemy. Our task was to cross a fast-flowing river in icy conditions—silence a German Gun Battery and proceed towards Castelforte before the main assault on Monte Cassino came through.

We had only one worry—this time we were not to go in front. Seven times before 'A' troop had been first in with me in the lead, knowing that anything that moved before us was the enemy and could be shot. This time we went in at the back.

The eight of us had been great pals for over two years, since the Royal Marine Commando was formed, we had not only lived together but shared all our experiences as well as our last fags and the iron rations. We had foraged for food together, washed in the same puddles and built up the kind of interdependant comradeship born of hardship and frugal living. We were all tough, independent and born survivors.

We had mourned the loss of our Troop Commander, the previous October, when in his enthusiastic bid to clear out some Germans, a sniper had killed him with a single bullet through the temple—he had dropped dead at my feet. This event had upset us all greatly but for ourselves we felt no fear. We thought we were invincible.



Joe Humphrey at Minturno Cemetery.

Before midnight came two of our group had bought it. Tommy had put his foot on a mine going up a lane, and Taffy was similarly blown up. At four o'clock the next morning I was blinded but later the oldest man in the troop 'Happy Day' aged thirty-six was killed. All three of these men were not only skilled and highly trained Commandos, but supreme characters in their prime—full of jokes—happy-go-lucky—good looking—nice guys—all of them only wanting the war to be over, to go back to the girls they loved.

For thirty-nine years I have wondered if I could do something to perpetuate their memory, so I have presented a Royal Marine Standard to the Belfast Branch of the Royal Naval Association in their honour. It has been dedicated in a local Presbyterian Church and the Standard-bearer is also an ex-member of 'A' troop 40 RM Commando some ten years after the war.

A pilgrimage to Minturno Cemetery on the west coast of Italy allowed me to pay my last respects to three great mates, buried in the same plot only yards apart, together, and with all the hundreds of other British and Allied Servicemen, each of whom in his own sphere was similarly held in high regard. It has also shown me to value the gift of life and especially to show appreciation to St. Dunstan's which lifted me up by my bootstraps at the time and filled me with new strength to carry on and appreciate my luck.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

Was there a dragon or wasn't there?

In the fourth century of the Christian era, Strathmartine was as turbulent and dangerous a place as everywhere else on the east coasts of these islands. The Roman grip on Britannia was relaxing, Caledonia was divided amongst petty monarchs, and, braving the North Sea, bands of marauding Saxons arrived with a view to exploiting the local political situation. It is hard to imagine as you look at Strathmartine today, the fields, dykes and farmhouses, evidences of long and peaceful settlement, what savagery and terror there was in the bogs and forests here of old, the bits of arable land defended to the death by Kelt in his struggle against invading Saxon. Broken and dispersed, what our Keltic forebears in these parts could not take with them in fleeing they buried, and treasures the Saxons failed thus to seize are now turned up from time to time by the ploughshare of today.

The tractor is as much an implement of archaeology as it is of agriculture. There is reason to believe that one Martin, who gave his name to this strath, was captain of a conquering Saxon band, one which slew or subjugated those Kelts that lived between the Sidlaw Hills and the southern ridge; and that Martin was looked back on as a hero by his fair-haired descendants, now settled in the Strath, is shown by a myth persisting on the banks of the Dighty Water to this day. Few are the Saxon placenames which mark this ancient local revolution, Sidlaws is one of them, Handwick another; farms like Baludderon



and Balcauk, Balkemback and Balbeuchly, in their Keltic nomenclature hark back to the pre-Saxon era, times when bronze not iron was the metal of social existence. It was upon one of these Keltic placenames, Baldragon, that a myth was constructed appropriate, as it seemed, to the power and invincibility of Martin, now vague in legend as puissant he once had been in battle, as also the creak of tholepin and oar on grey seas.

Breathing fire, it was said, a monster ravaged the Strath, and taking to horse it was Martin alone who had the courage to challenge it, pursuing it to the slopes of the Sidlaws, there to thrust through its coils his invincible spear. Far on the Baludderon lands, curlews crying around it, stands a squat stone, its surface engraved with this dragon, its mounted assailant in the act of killing it.

In Dundee town, on the other hand, is a pub whose name, the Nine Maidens, recalls the dragon's appetite for young, tender flesh at the height of its career. One after the other their father sent his daughters to the well to draw water; one after the other, eaten by the dragon, they never came back. Martin may have slain a dragon, and all credit to him if he did, but the Kelts he overcame were too clever for him, at least in one case. Auchray farm is no distance along the road from here; its name, Auchan-Righ, indicates that it was a piece of arable land belonging to a local Keltic king: and something has been dug up there in

recent times which Martin would have given much to possess, symbol as it was both of royal and druidical power. It is a spearpoint with a gold band round it, one of only three to be found in these islands, and as it lies on its cushion in Edinburgh, turned up by a casual plough, it not only embodies the events of a long bygone age, but also the astuteness of my wife and me who were responsible for saving it for posterity. The name Baldragon, and this could not have been known by non-Keltic speakers, has nothing to do, by the way, with scaley monsters; it means the place where the blackthorn grows.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Horses were sacred to the Saxon, hence our disinclination to eat horseflesh, and the dragon was, and still is in Wales, the symbol of the Kelt, so that when the one is represented as slaying the other, the thing harks back to those days when the older inhabitants of these islands went down before the Teutonic-spoken invaders from the sea. There is a connection therefore, between what is engraved on Martin's Stone here in Strathmartine and the St. George and the dragon motif which you chaps have down yonder, neither deriving from the other but independent witnesses both of local facts of history paralleled as between Strathmartine and King Arthur's remote domain. The engraved stone itself, the one that stands on the Baludderon lands, as regards lay-lines and that kind of thing, had served its antique function in this district long before Saxons had been heard of either in what is now called Cornwall or what is now called Angus. The carving on it is an addition from some period long antecedent to the events it purports to portray.

CLUB NEWS

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

At last the outdoor bowling season has begun, and for the St. Dunstan's National Bowling team it started with a resounding victory. Out of the seven tournaments entered, the team got five winning trophies and two runner-up trophies. Everyone is looking forward very much to the other

competitions with great excitement and enthusiasm and we hope, with more success.

It was a wonderful week weather-wise, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the week playing and socialising with members from other visually handicapped clubs.

I would like, on behalf of all those who went to Weston-Super-Mare, to thank Dr. Stilwell and Mr. Conway for the transport and the driver for the week. They were both invaluable to us, especially the driver, John, who worked all hours and was an asset on the bowling green as well.

I would also like to thank Mr. Carnochan and especially the wives and those that went on the greens game after game; without them and all the helpers, we would really be struggling, and out on a limb. But there is one person who I would especially like to thank, and that is Mr. Len Bridge, who never missed a game all through the week, and his dear wife Evelyn who did her share as well. I know they both loved it. Thanks again to you both, Len and Evelyn.

Ted Brown

MIDLAND

The Midland Club held their Club meeting on April 10th and it was very well attended.

Several Domino matches were played, and the singles are now drawing to a close. It is a tight contest this year and the winner will not be known until the final match has been played, as all members are playing like champions. The Doubles matches are only just starting and it will be sometime before this competition is finalised.

The tea was arranged by our ladies, with Marjorie Hordyniec treating us to her homemade cakes. A vote of thanks was expressed by the Chairman, Joe Kibbler.

Final arrangements have been made for our annual outing, which this year is to the Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth and Bewdley, on Sunday July 10th. This will be our first visit and we hope all the members will enjoy the ride on the steam train.

J.B. Coles

May 8th Meeting

On Sunday, May 8th, a meeting of the Club was held, and although Bruno, Janet and the children were absent, it was well attended.

Whilst wives and friends of the Club set to, to get tea ready, and the men played their domino matches, we were entertained with music played on the organ. We thank Hughie and his wife, for giving three hours of their time entertaining us by playing some lovely music and being only too pleased to have a chat with the men interested in the organ. After an enjoyable tea, for which we thank all concerned, our Chairman, Joe, spoke about final arrangements for our outing to Bridgnorth, via the Severn Valley Railway, which takes place on July 10th. At this point in time we can still take names of any members and friends of the Club. If interested please contact Marjorie Hordyniec, phone number 554 9186.

Our meeting ended with a bring-and-buy sale, which was a great success, and we thank all concerned for making it so. With all of us clutching our bargains, the meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

Doug Faulkner

BRIGHTON

Entertainment Section

A party of us left Brighton on May 12th, to enjoy a very pleasant and happy afternoon at Rustington, by kind permission of the "Not-forgotten" Association. We were welcomed by the Matron and members of the Association. Some of the party enjoyed a short walk along the seafront, after which we sat down to a very lovely tea, for which we thank the Matron and staff at The Princess Marina Convalescent Home, for their kind attention. The musical entertainment was of the highest quality, not least the compere, and judging from the applause it was greatly enjoyed by all.

We are still hoping to finish the competitions before the summer break.

A special dance will be held on Saturday, 16th July, at the end of the Outdoor National Bowling Tournament, when the trophies for the Indoor Competition will be presented, and we offer a welcome to you all.

*Phyllis O'Kelly
Secretary*

Bowling Section

Another outdoor bowling season has commenced, but so far the weather has not been very good to us, but being the optimists we are, we are hoping for a vast improvement during the coming weeks.

On Thursday, May 5th, twelve bowlers accompanied by their wives and escorts made the trip to East Preston Bowling Club, where a very interesting and enjoyable game was played against our very dear friends, and once again the hospitality bestowed upon us was of the highest order, each of our ladies being presented with a lovely flower arrangement.

Our outdoor competition is being held from June 7th until the end of September—this will be held every Tuesday afternoon at Saltdean Bowling Club; any bowler wishing to compete please be on the green at 2 p.m.

Bridge

Individual Results—14th May

Mrs. Delaney	59-7
Miss Sturdy	59-
J. Padley	58-
R. Evans	55-
J. Whitcombe	53-4
W. Lethbridge	50-7
R. Fullard	52-
J. Majchrowicz	50-
W. Allen	50-
G. Hudson	48-7
R. Pacitti	46-
K. Pacitti	43-
P. McCormack	43-
R. Palmer	42-5
W. Phillips	36-8

Pairs Results—22nd May

<i>N/South</i>	
G. Hudson and Mr. Ho-Haine	59-1
R. Pacitti and Mrs. Pacitti	50-
W. Phillips and Dr. Goodlad	48-4
W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad	42-5

E/West

J. Majchrowicz and Mr. Douse	62-5
V. Delaney and Miss Sturdy	53-3
J. Padley and Mrs. Padley	51-6
R. Palmer and Mrs. Douse	32-6

*Bill Phillips,
Captain*

NATIONAL BRIDGE

Three Way Competition

Listening to the conversations at the various tables the Three Way Competition seems to have become very popular.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Goodlad and Mr. Douse who ran the Tournament and Rubber Bridge.

My thanks to Dr. Stilwell who presented the cup and prizes to the winners and runners-up, and to Mrs. Pugh and Mr. Conway and staff who all helped to make it a successful weekend.

The result was a repetition of the previous year:-

1st—PROVINCES
2nd—BRIGHTON
and LONDON did their best.

In his vote of thanks, Bill Phillips announced that he would be giving up the Captaincy of the Brighton Bridge Club. This is very regrettable as it is the most demanding task and I sincerely hope that he can be persuaded to carry on, as he has done an excellent job.

Bill Allen
Secretary

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Keith Richardson, son of *Dickie Richardson*, who has just completed an intensive training course and has now been promoted to Sergeant in the R.A.F.

Mrs. June Shepherd, wife of *Mr. Jimmy Shepherd* of Pangbourne who has received a Merit Award Bar from the Royal British Legion for her work with the Pangbourne and District Branch of the Legion. Mrs. Shepherd is the organiser of the Poppy Day collections, and the Ladies' Section. The award is one of the highest made to the Women's Section by the Royal British Legion and is in recognition of outstanding service.

Mary Scroggie, daughter of *Mr. Syd Scroggie* of Dundee, on running in the Dundee Marathon on Sunday 24th April. She completed the course in 4 hours 14 minutes, and raised £25 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Mrs. E. Shaw of Woodcote, widow of *Mr. James Shaw*, who raised £50 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association when a patchwork quilt she had made was raffled. Mrs. Shaw is 88 years old and never stops working to raise money for charity.

MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis of Stratford-on-Avon are delighted to announce the marriage of their younger son, Martin, to Sian Teifi Davies on May 7th at Cwmcou, Dyfed.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chubb of Oxford, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 22nd February.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex McLeod of Luton, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 7th June.

PEARL WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Harris of Caversham, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding on May 30th.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Worthington of Blackpool, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 13th May. Mr. and Mrs. Worthington will celebrate their Anniversary with a cruise on the 'Canberra'.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blagrove-Ellis of Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 24th April. They received a message of congratulations from H.M. The Queen and members of their family travelled from abroad to join them in a most successful and happy celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sedgley of Cubert, Cornwall, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 20th May. Mr. and Mrs. Sedgley have received a congratulatory message from H.M. The Queen.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Osborne of Saltdean, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, Kristyan Graham, born on the 6th February to their son, Graham and his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne already have three grand-daughters. We apologise for the error in the April issue of the *Review*.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Freeman of Coventry, who are delighted to announce the arrival of a grandson, William Geoffrey, born on the 10th March to their daughter Ann and her husband Geoffrey Tull.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lilley of Canterbury, are pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Hanna Victoria, born on the 8th October 1982, to their daughter, Kate and her husband, Neale.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller of Leamington Spa, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grandson, Mark William George, born to their daughter, Angela and her husband Robert, on May 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. William Vickery of Plymouth, who are happy to announce the arrival of their first grandson, Michael, born on the 29th March to their son and daughter-in-law.

GRANDCHILDREN—continued

Mr. Leonard Withington of Wigan, who is pleased to announce the birth of another grandchild, Philip Thomas, born on the 5th April to his daughter, Norma and her husband.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Dorothy Coutts, of Morden, widow of Mr. Arthur Coutts, who is pleased to announce the arrival of two great grandchildren, Scott, born on the 13th April to her grand-daughter, Christine, and her husband, and Emma, born on the 25th April to her grandson, David and his wife.

Mr. Alan Emerson, of Clacton-on-Sea, who is pleased to announce the arrival of his first great grandchild, Gemma Margaret, born on the 22nd March to his grand-daughter, Sandra and her husband, Richard Hildrow.

Mr. John Jiggle of Great Barford, who is delighted to announce the arrival of his third great grandchild, Kary Anne, born to his grandson, Michael and his wife, Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. William Muir of High Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who are proud to announce the arrival of a great grandchild, Anna Louise, born on the 11th February to their grandson, Paul Steele, and his wife.

Mr. Tom O'Connor of Erdington, who is delighted to announce the arrival of a first great grandchild, Adam, born on the 28th May to his grand daughter, Janet and her husband, John Duncan.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. Eileen Charlick, wife of Mr. Frederick Charlick of Orpington, whose youngest sister died recently.

Mr. Leslie 'Les' Halliday of Saltdean, whose wife Denise died unexpectedly on the 16th May, aged 29 years. They had been married for only nine months. Their wedding took place at St. Dunstan's Chapel with a special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nash of Cardiff, on the death of Mrs. Nash's brother, on the 24th February.

Mr. Thomas Page, of Morecambe, who mourns the death of his father on the 19th May.

Mr. Jimmy Wright, of Shepperton, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Beatrice May Wright, on the 6th June after a short illness. Mrs. Wright was 83 years old.

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.

D.L. Howard, Royal Engineers

Douglas Lionel Howard of Cwmbran, died suddenly on the 26th May at the age of 67. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 10 years.

Mr. Howard served as a Staff Sergeant in the Royal Engineers, having enlisted as a regular soldier in 1932. He was discharged from the Army in 1945. His loss of sight was due to injuries received from an explosion whilst in Malta.

Our St. Dunstaner worked as an Appeals Organiser for the R.N.I.B. in Wales for 23 years before his retirement in 1981. For his services to the blind he was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Years Honours List, 1982. Mr. Howard's hobbies included archery and playing the organ.

He leaves a widow, Joyce and two sons, to whom we extend our sympathy.

E. Jinks, Lancashire Regiment

Ted Jinks of Hebden Bridge, died very suddenly at his home on the 13th May, at the age of 54.

He was a regular soldier and towards the end of his second engagement with the Colours was blinded as a result of an accident in Hong Kong. He was discharged from the Lancashire Regiment in 1960, with the rank of Sergeant. Mr. Jinks became a St. Dunstaner in April that year and after training, commenced a career in industry. He was still working at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Jinks had a family of two sons and three daughters and Mr. Jinks was especially proud that one of his sons had chosen a career in the Army and saw service in the Falklands Campaign last summer.

Mr. Jinks excelled as a sportsman and will be sadly missed by his many friends at St. Dunstan's, not least by those with whom he attended Lee-on-Solent Camp. Our sympathy goes to his widow, Joan and all the family.

G. Marcuis 7th Royal Worcesters

George Marcuis of Bewdley died at his home on the 23rd May, at the age of 90. He had been in failing health for some time.

Mr. Marcuis served as a Corporal in the 7th Royal Worcesters from May 1914. He received a gun shot wound at Ypres in 1917 and was discharged from the Army in May 1919. Although he had lost the sight of one eye, Mr. Marcuis was able to follow employment in the engineering service of the G.P.O. He retired at the age of 60, and at one time used to sail pleasure craft on the river.

Mr. Marcuis became a St. Dunstaner in November 1977. He was a widower and shared a home with his married daughter and her family.

It is to his daughter, Mary, and all members of the family that we send our deepest sympathy.

J. Rowlands, 1st Cheshire Royals and Engineers

James Rowlands of Bebington, Merseyside, died on the 7th June at the age of 90.

Mr. Rowlands served as a L/Cpl. with the 1st Cheshires and Royal Engineers during the First World War. The sight of his left eye was damaged by a gunshot wound, but despite his disability, Mr. Rowlands was able to follow a career as an engineer with Shell Mex after his discharge from the Army in 1919. It was with the failure of his right eye that he became a St. Dunstaner in 1976.

Mr. Rowland was a very keen philatelist and had an extensive collection of stamps. He was a widower, but shared a happy home life with his daughter June Andrews, and her family. Mr. Rowlands had four children, twenty three grandchildren and over thirty eight great grandchildren.

Our sympathy is extended to June and all members of the family.

C.S. Shepherd, Army Catering Corps.

Charles Stephen Shepherd, formerly of Bosham, died at Pearson House on the 25th May, at the age of 70. He had been a St. Dunstaner for seven years.

Mr. Shepherd served with the Army Catering Corps from 1940 to 1945, when he was injured in a flying bomb explosion. His sight deteriorated in 1970 and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1975. A keen gardener in former days, Mr. Shepherd learnt to make stools and rugs. He always enjoyed his visits to Brighton, and following his wife's death in 1976 he became a permanent resident at Ian Fraser House and then at Pearson House. He will be sadly missed by his many friends at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sympathy to his son and daughter and to all members of the family.