



**St Dunstans
Review**
January/February
1984

From the Chairman

Another year – 1984. May it be a year of hopes fulfilled, expectations realised, and a good one generally for you all.

Thank you most warmly for all your letters and Christmas cards with their kind messages on my becoming Chairman. It has been wonderfully encouraging to receive such a generous welcome.

Thank you, too, for your prompt and helpful responses to my enquiry concerning the future of Ian Fraser House. I have had a great many replies – over 400 – of which more than 85% were enthusiastically in favour. This is a clear mandate to proceed and we shall do so without delay.

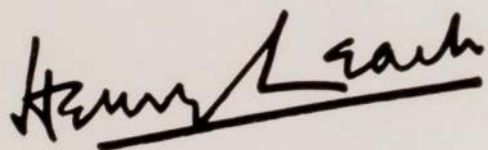
When developed the plan is likely to convert the whole of the South "Wing" into some 35 twin-bedded double rooms, each with its own shower and lavatory. Separate lounge and dining room facilities will be provided for married St. Dunstaners taking their holidays there. Additional single and staff accommodation will be provided in the Central "Fuselage". Otherwise the existing facilities for St. Dunstaners staying on their own will continue unchanged.

Of course, predictably, there were a few who did not support the proposal. I hope they will see from what I have said above that the fears they expressed in their letters (and which I quite understand) are groundless. I hope it will reassure them completely when I say that I greatly doubt if they will notice any difference from their existing way of life.

The work will probably take about 18 months and will incorporate major repairs to the present windows. I hope we shall be able to open the new facilities in time for the summer of 1985.

A number of the letters I have received also contained suggestions concerning certain aspects of the existing arrangements at Ian Fraser House; often they were critical. I want you to know that I welcome this and every comment of this sort will be fully investigated and where possible and appropriate, the necessary action taken. Unless people tell us when they think something is wrong we may not find out and it may never be improved. So I am grateful to those who took the trouble to represent these matters; – everyone – continue to do so.

A Happy New Year to you all.



Dr. Hopewell with Mrs. Ethel Arnold and her late husband Leonard, celebrating their Golden Wedding at a Reunion in 1976.

Dr. Donald Hopewell, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Hon. LL.D. (Leeds), a Vice-President of St. Dunstan's, died on December 15th. He devoted a lifetime to two consuming interests: literature through his connection with the Brontë Society for nearly fifty years and blind welfare through nearly forty years' work for St. Dunstan's.

As a member of its Council from 1948, Dr. Hopewell was deeply involved with the work of St. Dunstan's and, at a personal level, with its war-blinded members and their families. Many St. Dunstaners will remember him warmly. Despite his failing eyesight he travelled all over the country from his Northampton home to represent the Council at reunions where he was a popular guest not least for his witty and amusing speeches.

He represented St. Dunstan's on the councils of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. In 1977, he was elected a Vice-President of St. Dunstan's. Although he resigned his Council membership for health reasons in 1979, he remained a Vice-President for the rest of his life.

Born on October 27th, 1891, Dr. Hopewell studied law at Cambridge. He became a member of the Council of the Brontë Society in 1926, and was elected President in 1932, holding that post until 1974. For his services to literature and the arts he was made an Honorary Doctor of Law by Leeds University.

Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan, a Member of the Council, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral on December 30th.

Sir Henry Leach writes:

Our records show that Dr. Hopewell attended more of our Reunions than any other member of our Council and I think this fact illustrates so well his devoted service to St. Dunstan's. He was always ready to give his time and attention to our affairs and everyone benefitted

from his experience, wisdom and sympathy. Both Lord Fraser and Mr. Garnett-Orme greatly valued his good advice and support; St. Dunstaners and their wives appreciated the deep, kindly interest he took in them and their families; and members of the staff knew his helpful

10p MONTHLY

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Cover Picture:
H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent talks with Alfred Lockhart at the "Not Forgotten" Christmas Party (see report on page 26).

attitude to their work and problems.

St. Dunstan's pays tribute to the memory of one of its oldest friends, who for so many years played a considerable part in our story. Donald Hopewell will long be remembered with gratitude and affection.

From the Garnett-Ormes

Our most grateful thanks to all those who have so kindly sent us such beautiful Christmas cards and personal letters and messages. Regretfully we have found it impossible to answer more than a fraction of them, but now we send you our affectionate greetings and very best wishes for 1984.

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Mr. Weisblatt, Mr. Wills, Mr. French, Mr. Martin, Miss Mosley, Miss Lord and other members of staff at H.Q.; Commander Simon Conway, Major Arthur Neve, Matron Goodwin and staff at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House thank the many St. Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1984.

Mrs. Carol Henderson and family thank all St. Dunstaners for their Christmas greetings and send good wishes for the New Year.

Phyllis Rogers thanks the many St. Dunstaners who have kindly sent Christmas greetings and sends greetings to you all for your health and happiness in 1984.

CAMP AT HMS DAEDALUS 1984

Those wishing to avail themselves of the Royal Navy's hospitality at the Fleet Air Arm's station HMS Daedalus this year should send their applications to Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG or better still telephone 0799 22874. The camp will take place from Friday, 10th August, 1984 until the morning of Saturday, 18th August. Please apply as soon as possible and in any case not later than Monday, 3rd May 1984 when the draw for places will take place.

CRETE 5th - 19th JUNE, 1984

There are still places available on the above holiday excursion. The cost is approximately £380 for 2 weeks, half board. Flights are available from both Gatwick and Manchester. For further details please contact Ray Hazan at headquarters as soon as possible.



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu announcing the Radio Taxis scheme with Jimmy Wright and Miriam Farress.

DISCOUNT ON LONDON TAXIS

On December 13th, 1983, a new discount card was launched to assist blind people using particular London cabs. The first card was presented by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu to Jimmy Wright. The card bears the telephone number of Radio Taxis, (Southern Ltd), in braille. The number is 01-272 0272. Anyone presenting this card to the driver gets a 10 per cent discount on the fare. Anyone interested in having some of these cards should apply to Ray Hazan at headquarters in writing.

Order of the British Empire

There is to be a Service of the Order of the British Empire in St. Paul's Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, May 17th, 1984. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master of the Order will be present.

Those belonging to the Order and holders of the British Empire Medal who wish to attend should apply for a ticket, giving their name, address, appointment (K.B.E., D.B.E., C.B.E., O.B.E., M.B.E., B.E.M.) and other decorations in block capitals, as soon as possible and not later than Thursday, March 29th, 1984, to the Registrar of the Order, Central Chancery, St. James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BG.

As no tickets are available for spouses or escorts who are not members or medallists, it is suggested to those St. Dunstaners qualifying and who intend to apply, that they also indicate on their application that they are St. Dunstaners and wish, if it is possible, to be allocated a place with other St. Dunstaners attending.

St. Dunstan's will, of course, be prepared to assist with travel and, where necessary, overnight accommodation, for those attending the service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mr. S. Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine, by Dundee.
Another Miracle

Captain J. Blagrave-Ellis's story of what happened to him at Ypres reminds me of a corresponding occurrence this time amongst the vineyards and olive-groves of Tuscany during the 2nd World War. During a platoon attack on a Jerry-held farmhouse one of my section-commanders, Fraser McDonald, got wounded by a Schmeisser bullet and retired from the fray. The Jerries gave in, a thunder-plowt eased up, the sun came out, and I came across Fraser sitting on a stone his arm in a sling and his face as yellow as a mepacrine tablet. "How are you feeling, Fraser," I said. His answer, couched in the accents of Speyside, was abstracted and melancholy. "Not very sociable, sir." The bullet had entered the right cheek, where there was a neat hole, passed down the interior of the neck, and come to rest under the left shoulder-blade, injuring nothing whatsoever of any importance, bone, nerve or artery, in the course of its passage. Fraser was back up the Line in a month, only a slight bump on his cheek, the mark of a surgeon's incision under the

scapula, as evidence of a wound in innumerable ways potentially mortal. Many years later I met Fraser, now managing the family farm up in the north, and asked him if his wound ever bothered him. Fraser touched his cheek. "I've just got to be careful," he said, "when I'm shaving." The Jerry bullet he preserves, along with other wartime souvenirs, in an old schumine box.

From Mrs. J.M. Davies, 7 Blacksmiths Road, Longwick, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Service wives have never gone down on record for services rendered in 'following the flag', and as an ex-service wife myself I thought it time to remedy this matter.

I am compiling an anthology and would be grateful if your readers could send me details of personal experiences, anecdotes, poems, letters, papers, photographs and documents from wives past and present, of all nationalities. Pre-war material would be particularly appreciated.

All submissions will be carefully handled and returned.

JIMMY ELLIS RETIRES

The current issue of *St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Review* announces the retirement of Jimmy Ellis from the post of Editor, to use his own (borrowed) words "In the words of Frank Sinatra, I now say this is my final curtain".

This brings to an end more than 40 years connection with St. Dunstan's journalism for it was in 1942 that, at Cape Town, the newly blinded Jimmy began writing articles for local newspapers. Soon he hit upon the idea of producing a monthly newsletter the *Tembani Times*, which recorded the activities of St. Dunstaners there.

Jimmy returned to England to work for St. Dunstan's Appeals Department giving talks but, after five years, returned to South Africa with his wife, Laura, to become Appeals Organiser for St. Dunstan's (South Africa).

In 1966 he became Public Relations Officer and Welfare Officer and many

visiting St. Dunstaners from the U.K. will remember his warm hospitality. Although he retired in 1978, he continued editing *St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Review* until now.

Knowing Jimmy we are sure his retirement will be a busy one and, come to think of it, we would not be surprised to see the occasional, welcome, Jimmy Ellis by-line in our own or the *(South Africa) Review* in the years to come.

PRAISE FOR THE GARDENING CLUB

Reg Newton spotted the following in the journal of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, written by Harry McDermott, Secretary of the Edinburgh and Lothians Branch: 'On 16th September we had as visitors at our Social Evening the St. Dunstan's Gardening Club. - The attendance was over a hundred. The stewardess of the Club said it was the best Social yet, and the St. Dunstan's people will be welcomed back at any time'.



TALKING MICRO COMPUTER

Peter Jones' hands on the keyboard. The braille gives the functions of the top row of lighter coloured keys.



Wherever you look today, in the field of business, you will find a computer lurking. We are filed on computer, we are billed by computer, we are entertained by computer, we communicate by computer; indeed, they are now part of our life from birth to death. Many blind people are determined not to be left behind.

Our St. Dunstan, Peter Jones of Sheffield, has always been interested in things electric and electronic. He has been involved with amateur radio from a very tender age. Four years ago he developed BROMA, an auditory device enabling blind people to read electrical meters. It seemed inevitable that he should interest himself in the field of computers. Thus, when the BBC announced their selection of the Acorn computer, and, more importantly, that it could include a built-in speech unit, Peter was inexorably hooked! Working on the principal that you never buy if you can borrow, in May this year Peter managed to persuade Acorn into loaning him a model, complete with voice.

One can normally describe a micro computer as looking like a typewriter with a small TV screen mounted on the top of it. The Acorn is no exception, apart from the fact that Peter does not use a screen. The output of the speech unit is simply a grille on the top side of the Acorn, and the keys

are a little larger than those of a conventional typewriter. The system is completed by a small, conventional cassette tape recorder.

In over-simplified terms, the function of a small computer is to store information, and carry out computations. Once information has been stored, a particular item can be speedily retrieved. Retrieval can be on VDU (visual display unit) in print, braille or voice. The programme, or software, which tells the computer what to do with the information, is stored, in this case, on an ordinary compact cassette. The package Peter obtained was worth £500.

The start proved to be a frustrating one. Twice, the computer arrived in the post damaged. But finally, in May, Peter was ready to start the evaluation. This was twofold; did the incorporation of a speech unit make the BBC Micro accessible to a blind person? Could a blind person make effective use of the system as an aid to daily living? The first problem was to get the voice to respond as each key was pressed. Programming is an exact science, and a misplaced space or comma can make the difference between success and failure.

Help by radio

Secondly, the voice had to read what appeared on the screen. All this depends on programming, and in this case, amateur radio played an important role. A call over the amateur wave bands, and Peter had volunteers at hand. Thus Peter can key in a name or any key word which he knows to be related to the information he is seeking, and the Micro will speak back whatever he has recorded under that heading. Read back is by voice, one letter at a time, which is useful when writing or memorising. So, for example, if he keys in 'Dunstan' it will read out, 'St. Dunstan's, 191 Old Marylebone Rd., etc.'. Similarly, he can instantly locate other radio amateurs by name or callsign, maintain a diary, keep a running bank statement and the distances and bearings of other towns from Sheffield (necessary for his radio work). Peter suggests further uses, such as keeping records of home made bottles of wine, reference numbers of electrical parts or other such items; indeed any use where details that you have previously recorded, are required instantly.



Peter gets advice over the air from a fellow radio ham. The cassette tape recorder to the right of the picture feeds the programme into the computer acting as the 'disc drive' found in more expensive systems.

The Micro can be linked to a printer, giving the facility of writing text, editing, and storing on permanent file. While the voice can be programmed to speak a limited number of words in their entirety, in this case, it cannot read your letter back in complete speech.

Peter has a programme that sends out morse letters at random, giving you the correct answer after a pause. There are facilities for creating electronic music, but the great composers need fear no competition just yet!

In a short space of time, Peter has proved the effectiveness of this relatively cheap system. Time will no doubt reveal other uses as the world of programming opens up. A more expensive memory storage (a disc drive) could, perhaps, enhance the voice capacity, but that was not the aim of this evaluation. It may not be too long before the computer becomes an aid to blind people as vital as the braille hand writing frame was at the turn of the century. If the computer enhances the capability and job prospects of blind people, can we afford to ignore it?



by Philip Wood

My adopted county, Cheshire, is noted for black-and-white houses, black-and-white cows, beautiful medieval churches, cheese, salt and, of course, for being the home of the world's finest motor car. To this impressive list there has been added, in recent years, the honour and distinction of staging a prestigious world championship.

For the village of Willaston near the ancient town of Nantwich is the venue of the annual World Worm Charming Championships – and try saying that after a couple of stiff whiskies. This uniquely important event takes place each May when tiny Willaston becomes the Mecca of worm-charmers from all corners of the civilised world.

To the very small minority who are not au fait with this noble art, some explanation is perhaps necessary, and I hope the cognoscenti will bear with me. The field of play is carefully marked out in squares measuring three metres by three metres – note, *metres* not *yards*, Willaston joined the Common Market along with the rest of us. Competitors draw lots for stations, as some of the more independent-minded worms may have a preference for one patch over another.

Good vibrations, or 'vibes' – that's the secret of success in worm-charming. It is a well-known scientific fact that if you vibrate the ground above a worm's home he will immediately rush to the surface to see what the fuss is about. Birds have known this for years. That thrush stamping about all over your back lawn is not, as you might suppose, trying to keep his feet warm. He is in fact vibrating for lunch. Like as not, some unsuspecting worm will pop his head out and, Bingo! – he is instantaneously transmogrified into 'Today's Special'.

Human worm-charmers use a garden fork plunged into the ground and vibrated like a tuning-fork and there is nothing in the rules to prevent a competitor supplementing this action with a mini Highland Fling if desired. Everyone is allowed two helpers, or 'ghillies', who grab the surfacing worms before they can go into reverse and put them into a jam-jar, or frypan or Crown Derby teapot or other suitable receptacle.

At the end of thirty minutes, time is called by the chief judge and counting begins, an agonising nail-biting wait for the competitors. The count is monitored by eagle-eyed stewards whose mathematics is often superior to the competitor's. When the officials are satisfied that the count is correct, the victor is announced and the trophy presented, amid rapturous applause. Commiserations and congratulations follow, the crowds disperse and leave Willaston to settle back to its calm rural lifestyle for another year.

It gives me no pleasure, however, to have to record that 'professionalism' – which is the sporting world euphemism for foul play and cheating – has cast its dark shadow over even this most noble art of sports. In recent years competitors have been caught using what the rules describe as 'an illegal substance', namely water. If water is sprinkled over the ground, the worms below think it is party time and nip up for a drink – to be immediately grabbed by the waiting ghillies. Instant disqualification follows discovery. On another occasion a competitor was caught red-handed with a worm in one hand and a pair of scissors in the other, doubling his tally. The worms didn't seem to mind terribly. The judges did. The culprit was immediately

disqualified and sent off. Rumour has it that he felt his disgrace so very keenly that he subsequently emigrated or joined the French Foreign Legion, I cannot remember which. There are not infrequent altercations when a worm decides to surface actually on the line dividing two stations. The field rings with cries of 'My worm I think Sir!' and 'Not on your flaming nelly, mate! He's definitely on *my* side!'. Fortunately the stewards are usually on hand to separate the protagonists before gore is spilled.

Just a couple of weeks ago, in this year's contest, one man was publicly accused of the heinous crime of digging up the quarry. In vain he protested that the large hole had been made by an opportunist mole seeking free refreshment. He was ordered off and will later appear before the disciplinary committee of the World Council of Worm Charmers.

You may be tempted to think that being a worm in Willaston can't be much fun. But before you rush out to buy your 'Save the Worm' tee-shirts or compose emotionally-charged letters to the RSPCW, let me set your minds at rest on one thing. The worms are not liberated until the birds have gone off to roost for the night.

A Letter From An Irish Mother to Her Son

Unable to stay for the final dinner of the Handless Reunion, Gwen Obern, living up to her reputation as a source of fun, asked Dr. Fletcher to read this in her absence!

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read very quickly. You will not know the house when you get home – we have just moved. Your father has had a lovely new job and has got 500 men under him – he's cutting the grass in the cemetery.

There was a modern washing machine in the new house when we moved in, but it has not been working too well; last week I put in 14 new shirts, pulled the chain, and I have not seen them since.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning, but I have not found out yet whether it is a boy or a girl, so I don't know

whether you are an aunty or an uncle.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whisky in the Dublin brewery. Some of his workmates dived in to try to save him but he fought them off bravely. He was cremated a few days later and it took them three days to put out the fire.

I went to the doctor's on Thursday and your father came with me. The doctor put a small glass tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for a minute. Your father offered to buy it from him.

It only rained twice last week – once for three days and then for four days. It was so windy on Monday that one of our chickens laid the same egg four times.

Up she comes

We had a letter from the undertaker saying if we did not pay the last payment for your grandmother's funeral in seven days, up she comes.

Your grandfather is still staying with us, he is 94 now. The first thing he does in the morning is to read the death column, and if his name isn't there he gets up. Last week he thought he had a hole in his heart, but it turned out to be a polo mint in his pyjama pocket.

Mike wants to buy a dog. He says if he gets a black and white one the licence will be cheaper.

Uncle Paddy has been given a suspended sentence; they have hanged him. Mike went to the doctor last week but when he came home he said the doctor was no good because all his patients were ill. He told Mike to take a hot glass of orange juice after a hot bath. He hasn't finished drinking the hot bath yet. The doctor told him that he suffers like his father from alcoholic constipation, which means that he can't pass a pub.

That's all for now from your loving mother.

P.S. I was going to send you five pounds but I had already sealed the envelope.

Game for a Laugh!

There must be many St. Dunstaners with funny stories to tell, real or imaginary. We would like to hear about your favourite and contributions are invited for an occasional series. Please send yours to the Editor at H.Q.



Dr. John O'Hara presents his 'This Is Your Life' script to Bob and Joan Osborne.



The portrait unveiled by Mr. Weisblatt at the conclusion of the presentation.

'THIS IS YOUR LIFE!'

Portrait is tribute to Bob Osborne

"Bob Osborne, This Is Your Life", this well-known form of words usually heard from the lips of Eamonn Andrews on television, was spoken on November 10th by Dr. John O'Hara at Butlin's Ocean Hotel at Saltdean.

The occasion was at the Brighton Club Entertainment Section's Annual Dinner and Dance and Dr. O'Hara, joined by St. Dunstaners and sighted helpers of the club, was paying tribute to Bob Osborne's contribution to the founding and running of the club. His wife Joan was also included in moving demonstration of appreciation for the services they have both rendered in the past and for the contribution they will undoubtedly make in the future.

The novel form of the presentation was the inspiration of Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre and the climax was the unveiling, by Mr. William Weisblatt, St. Dunstan's Secretary, of a photographic portrait of Bob wearing

the Chairman's chain which has been his for seven years.

Phyllis O'Kelly writes: Lord Abergavenny, our Patron, was unable to be with us but sent a Telemessage to Bob and Joan Osborne. Mrs. Dacre was superb as always and must be commended on her "This Is Your Life" presentation. It was grand to meet fellow St. Dunstaners who have been closely connected with Bob over the years and also the supporters from outside who have given so much of their time. Dr. John O'Hara, a worthy replacement for Eamonn Andrews, was in very good form and spirit introducing these many people. We do owe so much to Bob and Joan for all the hard work that they put in. After the speeches we were able to dance the rest of the evening. Butlins very kindly gave us prizes for our Raffle, and it was pleasing to know that Ettie Simpson was a winner of a holiday.

TRIBUTE Donald William Ferguson

by Roger Ferguson

St. Dunstaners who knew him will learn with sadness of the death of D.W. Ferguson. This tribute comes from his son, Roger.

It is sad to relate the death of D.W. or "Fergie" as he was often known, in October, 1983.

Born in Camberwell, London in June 1895, son of a Commercial Clerk, he was educated at St. Olaves Grammar School near Tower Bridge. At 16 years of age he left school with the equivalent of Matriculation and entered the Port of London Authority in a clerical capacity up to the commencement of the Great War of 1914-18. After six attempts to 'join-up' he was accepted as a Private in the 24th Battalion, The London Regiment, serving in the Battle of Loos and at Vimy Ridge. During life in the trenches he exercised his artistic skills in sending home sketches of life at the Front. In 1917 he was commissioned into the 20th Battalion, The London Regiment, returning to France. Later that year he was severely wounded, nearly losing a leg from gas gangrene. In 1919 he relinquished his commission due to war wounds, retaining the rank of Lieutenant.

Back to the land

After rehabilitation he took advantage of a Government Re-Training Scheme and the 'Back to The Land' movement, and for over two years gained experience on a poultry farm near Chippenham, Wiltshire. It was here that he met Nora Aylmore, the daughter of an Outfitter, whom he later married.

As a mature and married student he attended the Harper Adams Agricultural College 1922-23, qualifying with the National Diploma in Poultry Husbandry, with Honours.

Subsequently he was appointed County Poultry Instructor at "Oaklands", the Hertfordshire Farm Institute which had only recently been opened. He was on the staff from 1924 to 1936. From 1936 he worked for St. Dunstan's, initially running the Poultry Farm at Kings Langley in

Hertfordshire for two years, and subsequently as Poultry and Country Life Adviser with offices in those days in Regents Park, and working under the leadership of Sir Ian Fraser.

During the Second World War he continued his advisory work and visited St. Dunstaners on their poultry farms and smallholdings, as often as petrol rationing allowed, and later establishing a training farm to rehabilitate and train new St. Dunstaners in poultry keeping and smallholding. He was also responsible for settling them on smallholdings, and continuing with practical and technical advice.

Living at Watford he was able to attend the London office as well as supervise and teach at the Training Farm at South Mimms, Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Second War service

During the War he also served as a Private in the Home Guard and was seconded as Captain to the Watford Army Cadet Corps. After 33 years of very happy marriage he was sadly widowed in November 1954. He continued with St. Dunstan until his retirement in 1960.

After his retirement he lived at Reading, half-way between his two sons in Devon and Kent. Apart from visiting his family he happily engaged himself in his artistic interests, painting and drawing, and as an active member of the Reading Art Guild.

He died quietly and peacefully at the age of 88 years.

He is survived by his two sons, Roger, now Principal of the Bicton College of Agriculture, Devon, and Antony, Captain M.N. and Trinity House Pilot, Gravesend, Kent, and by five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He will be remembered with affection by family and friends as a modest, cheerful and friendly man, with that retained individuality and independence of spirit that was so distinctive. He did not want to be a burden to anyone, and was not, and was well content with his lot - so passes a very gentle gentleman, loved and respected by so many.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

THE WIND AND THE RAIN

Tinky the cat comes into the house wet just now, somewhere about 1 o'clock in the morning, nudges me, and I look out the back door to see how heavy the rain is. It drips from the gear-tree, plinks on the paraffin-tank, rustles on the lawn, yet I am protected from it by a good roof and warmed by the coal-stove indoors. In the roar of wind an owl hoots, to be answered by the woebegone, querulous wail of his mate.

It has not always been like this with regard to rain, and I now remembered an occasion in the hills, mist, boulders, night coming on and rain turning to sleet, when three of us got lost between Glen Doll and Braemar. There was nowhere to get out of that rain, to escape from the wind, and in the corries around, invisible in the gloom, stags bellowed. — At this point in my reflections Tinky nudges me again and reminds me that there is shelter and warmth here at Roseangle on a night that would be merciless on the slopes of Broad Cairn and Fafernne. I am not struggling now from boulder to boulder, my friends like two phantoms ahead, but stand warm and dry in my doorway. Here it was not the bellowing of stags in corries but a Bach toccata on the wireless, content not despair. So much for Jock's Road of old.

In the case of Findouran Lodge more recently, Dagrum rising above, two of us struggled to reach it in darkness and rain. We had not been there before, we were tired, wet to the skin, and we wondered, huddled now and again under a boulder, if this was the end. — Tinky nudges me again, the fridge whirrs, the grandfather ticks, and I realise that this wild night in Strathmartine is nothing to me but drips on the paraffin-tank and wind in the gear-tree outside.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE

A telephone has recently been developed to aid anyone who needs to summon help in an emergency. By pushing a button on a small hand held unit a radio signal is transmitted to an automatic telephone which then dials up to four different telephone numbers until someone answers. When they answer the phone, a message is automatically given to them requesting help for the user.

Telephone numbers are pre-programmed into the emergency phone by dialling them once into the memory. No further action is required by the user except in the case of an emergency. The lightweight, battery operated, hand held unit, has a strap for attaching to the users wrist or belt or can fit into a pocket.

The emergency telephone can also be used as a normal telephone and has a volume control to enable partially deaf people to increase the incoming speech level. Plus manual and automatic telephone dialling which stores and remembers an additional 26 telephone numbers with repeat last-number dial button.

The telephone costs £199, including VAT, postage and packing, and 12 months guarantee for parts and service. It is supplied by Callsaver, 3 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DX. Telephone: 01 278 5187.

ALAMEIN REUNION

The 41st Alamein Reunion was again held in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Four St. Dunstaners attended; Frank Brook, Albert Steer, Bill Chitty and Bill Arnold. The St. Dunstaners led the Parade with Albert Steer giving the eyes front command. It was a cold Sunday morning for the Parade. Blackpool isn't the best of places on a cold October morning to stand for an hour and a half!

Bill Arnold

Guest of Honour at St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society's meeting on March 5th will be Group Captain K.G. Lewis C. Eng, R.A.F., President of the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society.

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.

Frederick Herbert Divers, of Whitstable, joined St. Dunstan's on December 16th. He is a widower with two adult sons.

Mr. Divers, who is 93 years of age, served in the 2nd Battalion The Buffs from 1909 to 1919 in India, France, Salonika and Malta. He was wounded at Ypres in 1915 suffering blindness in one eye.

Charles Wilcock Hanson, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, joined St. Dunstan's on December 13th.

Mr. Hanson served in the First World War with three regiments: the Yorkshire Regiment, Durham Light Infantry and South Staffs Regiment. Mr. Hanson is married.

Norman Walton, of London, joined St. Dunstan's on November 15th, 1983. Mr. Walton enlisted in the army in 1948 but an early operation resulted in serious deterioration of his sight and he was discharged in 1949. He has been an economics teacher in London for many years. He and his wife Greta have one adult daughter.

POOR MAN'S TAPE INDEXING

A gentleman from Bombay recently wrote to the BBC's In Touch programme with a suggestion which could help blind people whose tape machines do not have cue and review or tone indexing facilities. When Mr. Jal Korkhao reads books and other material on to tape for the blind, he has a metronome ticking in the background. He sets it fast or slow for alternate chapters, articles, etc. to help the listener who does not wish to hear the whole of one section through before skipping to the next. Mr. Korkhao explains it is not always easy to tell from the context, after running a tape fast forward, whether you have reached the next chapter or not.

TRIBUTE Malcolm Bryce

The Queensland Blinded Soldiers Association, affiliated with St. Dunstan's Australia, have sent the following obituary as a tribute to their esteemed member Malcolm Bryce, who died on November 1st, 1982 in Brisbane.

Thomas Malcolm Bryce enlisted on October 20th, 1939 as a Private with the 2/3rd Field Ambulance, eventually being promoted to commissioned rank. He served in the siege of Tobruk, in Syria and at El Alamein. He was a life member of the Rats of Tobruk Association. After returning to Australia he served in New Guinea. In 1944 he was discharged practically blind and in 1950 his sight failed him completely.

Thomas went to St. Dunstan's for rehabilitation and trained at the Royal National Institute for the Blind's School as a Physiotherapist. In 1955 he worked at the Social Security Rehabilitation Centre, Brisbane until his retirement 21 years later.

Inspired by the training he received at St. Dunstan's, Thomas founded the Training and Placement Centre for the Blind in Brisbane in 1963 and was President for many years. The Government of Queensland appointed him a member of the Advisory Committee for the Blind on which he served until his death.

BE SEEN! BE SAFE

There are many reflective products on the market at the moment. Here is one which has been brought to our attention: Reflectoribbon is a simple device designed to make it easier to be seen by motorists and avoid a potential accident. In polyester with a reflective stripe down the centre, the ribbon reflects car headlights from 300 metres which means that pedestrians, in particular the blind, can be seen more quickly. The ribbon is washable, dry cleanable and can be sewn or glued to all kinds of surfaces. It is available in eight colours and three widths from haberdashery departments, retailing at approximately 94p to £1.52 per metre depending on width.

Ray Hazan

All Hands on Deck — Bracing Stations

by Ken Walker

When you take your first look at the 145ft Brigantine *Soren Larsen* you are either mildly interested as you were as a child or you feel an instant urge to get behind that man-sized wheel and feel the sea lifting all 146 tons of her solid timbers through the water.



Ken Walker at the helm of the *Soren Larsen*. Mary is doing watch on the compass.

The *Soren Larsen*. Photo: Jubilee Sailing Trust, C. Rudd.



There are no passengers on this ship, something made quite clear to you all at the briefing — it is not a picnic, it takes every one of 32 souls whether in wheel chairs or blind to sail her, keep normal sea going watches, keep her clean and all food prepared and cooked.

Outwardly the *Soren Larsen* is a fine, well-designed timber ship, built in 1949 to run the timber trade routes of the Baltic, now privately owned, converted and chartered by the Jubilee Sailing Trust until the purpose-built *Lord Nelson* is ready with all the necessary aids and comfort to take disabled to sea for an experience they will never forget.

With my wife, Mary, I 'signed on' for 10 days in September to sail to St. Malo, the Channel Islands and the Brittany Coast, being one of nine disabled, three in wheel chairs, the others paralysed in various ways but all able to contribute to the everyday running of the ship. Nobody was 'excused duties' in any way, this was to be understood before you sailed.

Among our 'disabled' crew were: Rita, paralysed from the waist and so unbelievably cheerful, who runs a company of 30 Girl Guides in Somerset; she would not be left out of anything, was hauled up the mast to grease the tackle, always on deck in the worst weather. Connie, whose idea of fun was to be in the centre of a circle of young people in her wheel chair, swinging to hot music or being carried like a doll by Danny, a young 6' 2" member of the crew. When Mary tried to help Connie with her Mess duty serving the plates of bacon and egg the cook said, "Connie came on board to do her stint and she will not be helped by anyone". Simon spastic but mobile with crutches never shirked his duties, drenched to the skin, seasick and still cheerful — in fact we never saw him anything else but happy.

The wheelchairs can be attached to a central track running around the deck enabling that crew member to reach any

part of the rigging where it is attached to the belaying pins at the gunwales, in fact all the deck duties can be carried out from this position including swabbing down, polishing brass, making loose ropes tidy and of course doing watch at the helm.

An electric lift takes the wheel chairs below, easily operated by their owners, to a level mess deck with seating for 24, complete with baths, showers, normal domestic washing machines and driers, large sinks for washing clothes, electric irons and the latest bathroom aids for the disabled. It is heated by night storage heaters and the water is very hot at all times.

The powerful 240 h.p. diesel engine is in the expert hands of a permanent engineer and getting out into Southampton Water presented no problems at all and very quickly jibs and mainsails were up. Leaving the Needles it was soon obvious the weather was freshening and a crossing to the French coast that day and through the following night was out. By then few of us cared as we were nearly all very seasick. The bucket full of potatoes to go with the roast that Mary had previously scraped, when cooked with the roast pork, went sailing across the galley floor together with what sounded like 'hundreds' of plates. Never before had she scraped so many potatoes and then not to eat even one! The inevitable happened, a night in Poole Harbour was chosen and we all recovered.

Weather forecast

That night Mary and I were on the starboard watch from 4-8 a.m. getting the weather forecast at 06.30 hrs. and not liking it one little bit, feeling jolly cold as well. With a square rigger you have to obey the whims of the wind and do a lot more sailing with the wind than into it so to speak, so along the coast to Weymouth Bay was decided upon and only just in time, for up alongside the quay was the sail training ship *Royalist* together with united services yachts who had run for shelter. To be tied up for two days is nobody's idea of a sailing holiday, the only consolation was a collection of £150 each day made by opening the ship to the public, but on the debit side a reception to be given by the French at St. Malo quickly fading.

On the 5th day a brilliant blue sky, and a decision by the owner and sailmaster to try for Cherbourg in a quick dash, which is



Mary and Ken with four fellow members of the 'After Starboard' watch with Rita in her wheelchair.

Rita forsakes her wheelchair for a bosun's chair to work on the main mast.



exactly what it was! Every stitch of canvas was hauled up those masts with orders coming from the sail masters so fast the *Soren Larsen* resembled the *Winston Churchill*. Every crew member was in safety harness and wheel chairs were lashed down if necessary. The lee deck was awash and the rigging was whining with stress, the sail master gave his hat another tug and the ship loved the romp. It was the finest bit of sailing I had experienced for years. The *Soren Larsen* carries no weather helm and with Mary on the compass, as I have limited vision, it was no problem to keep a steady course.

Cherbourg had seen the best of the lovely summer and offered compensation in a climb to Napoleon's, and later Hitler's, fort at Roule with its sinister memories and hundreds of feet below the *Soren Larsen* with all her yards trim and lashed riding at anchor in the roads. Another reception to be given by the Governor of Jersey had to be cancelled, it was now impossible to sail

through the Islands to include this function and back to Southampton in the time available so open the bar and cheer up.

The weather and fate having done its damndest to soak everyone to the skin it decided to gloat by providing the largest moon, the loveliest night sky and the most perfect run back across the Channel anyone could wish for. Mary and I were on the midnight to 4 a.m. watch and then up again for mess duty at 7 a.m. with St. Catherine's light on the port bow. Leaving the Nab Tower behind out came the oil skins again and after Calshot the sail master said we would come up the Solent under sail all 'navy fashion'. Wheel chairs and barefeet didn't touch the deck – the order was 'all hands on deck' and I mean all hands. To tack a square rigged ship five times in that distance with a crew of disabled people, the yards coming round together and sails filling again, must have been lovely to watch – but then how many of us believe it's possible to take disabled people to sea at all.

Jubilee Sailing Trust 1984 Soren Larsen Voyages

Inclusive Dates	All in Fee	Terminal Port(s) (Remarks)	19 – 28 July (Thur-Sat)	350 Falmouth/Plymouth to Southampton (Passage Cruise)
	£		30 Jul – 5 Aug (Mon-Sun)	245 Southampton
16 – 19 Apr (Mon-Thur)	75	Southampton (Work up in Solent)	6 – 12 Aug (Mon-Sun)	245 Southampton
20 – 26 Apr (Fri-Thur)	210	Southampton (Easter Cruise)	13 – 22 Aug (Mon-Wed)	350 Southampton
28 Apr – 7 May (Sat-Mon)	250	Southampton (May Day Bank Hol)	24 – 30 Aug (Fri-Thur)	245 Southampton (August Bank Holiday)
8 – 13 May (Tue-Sun)	150	Southampton	31 – 6 Sep (Fri-Thur)	245 Southampton
14 – 20 May (Mon-Sun)	175	Southampton	7 – 9 Sept (Fri-Sun)	105 Southampton
22 – 31 May (Tue-Thur)	250	Southampton (Spring Bank Hol)	17 – 23 Sept (Mon-Wed)	210 Southampton
8 – 14 June (Fri-Thur)	200	Soton to Falmouth/Plymouth (Passage Cruise)	24 Sep – 3 Oct (Mon-Wed)	285 Southampton
18 – 24 June (Mon-Sun)	200	Swansea/Milford Haven to Liverpool (Passage Cruise)	5 – 7 Oct (Fri-Sun)	75 Southampton
25 June – 4 July (Mon-Wed)	285	Liverpool	8 – 14 Oct (Mon-Sun)	175 Southampton
6 – 8 July (Fri-Sun)	105	Liverpool		
9 – 15 July (Mon-Sun)	245	Liverpool to Swansea/Milford Haven (Passage Cruise)		

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 2738

A History of Regent Street

by Hermione Hobhouse

Read by Alvar Lidell

Reading Time 5 hours

In October 1810 the Department of Woods and Forests commissioned two schemes for the construction of a broad and elegant thoroughfare from Marylebone Park to Westminster. Eventually the work was entrusted to John Nash.

This was not surprising. Apart from his undoubted talents, Nash was also very much in favour with the Royal Family (he did some work on the newly acquired Buckingham House for the King). There were those, however, who suggested that Mrs. Nash was also very much in favour – with the Prince Regent.

It was a huge project. No less than 250 slum houses and small businesses were swept away, causing serious disruption of trade and great hardship to the dispossessed. One draper, however, saw great possibilities in the new street, and Mr. Swan and his nephew, Mr. Edgar, opened the first draper's in Regent Street. Others quickly followed suit, among them Peter Robinson and a Mr. Arthur Liberty (there is still a Liberty in the family firm).

The street was not quite so up-market in its early days. Among its traders was a man who was in the business of supplying performing fleas...!

This is indeed a comprehensive history of Regent Street from its inception, through its many changes and innovations to the present day. Personally, however, I found it overloaded with small details which could be of very little interest to the general reader.

A bit of a curate's egg, really.

Cat. No. 1719

The Irish R.M. Complete

by E.O. Somerville & Martin Ross

Read by Robin Holmes

Reading Time 23½ hours

In 1928 Major Sinclair-Yates is appointed Resident Magistrate for a district in rural West of Ireland. He discovers that his 'foine house' is the best in the neighbourhood

only because it is slightly less damp and has fewer holes in the roof than the others. Arranging to have the necessary repairs carried out is no problem – getting them done is a very different matter.

His landlord is Mr. 'Flurry' Knox, a man of many parts (some slightly questionable), a great judge of horseflesh, 'a gentleman among stableboys and a stableboy among gentlemen'. The R.M. finds himself drawn, willy-nilly, into many of Flurry's more outrageous schemes, some of which come perilously close to breaking the law he is there to uphold.

The book is crammed with happenings and events which could only occur in Ireland. Like the story of the woman travelling on the local train with her caged canary. The bird escapes and flies through the open window to freedom. The owner promptly pulls the communication cord, the train stops and the lady and the guard scour the surrounding countryside for the runaway. The rest of the passengers, in no way put out by the delay, take a lively interest in the proceedings and make bets among themselves on the outcome of the hunt...

The book contains thirty-four stories about the idiosyncracies, the deviousness and the downright daftness of the enchanting inhabitants of that part of 'the land of saints and poets' – and very few of the former figure too largely in it!

The Chronosonar Acoustic Watch

Now available from: Chronosonar U.K., 25 Prospect Road, St. Albans, Herts. Tel: 0727 63373.

This is a precision made, battery driven Swiss wrist watch. Read out is by acoustic bleeps; treble bleep for the hour, double for every 5 minutes, and single for each minute. 3 buttons around the edge control time and alarm settings. The latter can be set to the nearest minute. Batteries are expected to last between 18–24 months, and the watch is guaranteed for 2 years. It comes in silver with either an expanding metal, or leather strap. Price £55, inc. VAT. The bleeps are not particularly loud, and read out is slow. A useful time-piece for those on outdoor pursuits.



The cast of the Pearson House staff concert in a 'sing-along' on December 20th.

'Anything you can do I can do better' — Rex Debley and Mary Morris.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT BRIGHTON



Most of the cast of the Christmas Eve Concert at Ian Fraser House.

Carol singers entering the lounge.

Photos: John Barrow and David Castleton

Our photographs show scenes from the Christmas concerts at Pearson House and Ian Fraser House. The shows, produced by staff members, were great successes enjoyed to the full by their audiences, but they were only part of two full programmes for the festive season at our Houses in Brighton.

At Ian Fraser House the Big Band Sound began the Christmas season on December 18th. There were carols by the Rottingdean Cubs and Scouts on the Wednesday before Christmas and another band concert, this time by the Royal Engineers Association (Brighton) on Friday.

The Christmas Day carol service in the chapel was shared by visitors from Pearson House. Boxing Day dancing, visits to two pantomimes and a Grand New Year's Ball were other highlights of the I.F.H. programme.

At Pearson House a Festival of Carols opened the programme on the 18th with the Fane Family, who also sang at I.F.H. later. Visiting entertainers on the 22nd were the Salvation Army Young People's Band and St. George's Church Choir. On Christmas afternoon St. Dunstaner Bill Jack presented his Hi-fi Concert.

Mary Firth, Olwyn Jenkins and Tom Murray in a Little Red Riding Hood sketch.



Above: Andy Winter's spirited rendering of 'cabaret'.

Left: Melody Pimouri . . . sings 'Lily Marlene'.





Ray Hazan's braille, print and spoken output systems. In the left foreground is the Versabraille and behind it the Votrax Type 'N' Talk unit with its loudspeaker. Ray is typing on the Olympia ESW 103 which also acts as a printer.

Words that Walk and Talk

by Ray Hazan

It was the long held dream of Lord Fraser "to make the printed word talk". Sadly, he died as his dream was made reality by the Kurzweil Reading Machine (*Review*, October 1979), and other synthesised speech units which are so commonplace nine years after his death. It was with Lord Fraser's words in mind that St. Dunstan's embarked upon an evaluation of an office system that theoretically would give a blind person independence, enhanced productivity and speedy access to information.

General description

In simple terms, the system about to be described stores information in braille, converts print to braille, or braille to print, and makes braille or print, which you have written, talk. The system below is just one of many which achieve the same end. At the heart of the operation is the Versabraille.

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The Versabraille is manufactured by Telesensory Systems Inc. of Palo Alto, California. The current price is just over \$4600. The unit measures about 14" by 12" by 6", and weighs 10 lbs. It is highly portable running on mains or rechargeable batteries. The unit has four principal functions:

(a) **Storage and retrieval of information.** Braille is written into the unit on a Perkins format keyboard. The unit can store the equivalent of 400 pages of braille, a page being 1000 characters. A single word can be retrieved in about 20 seconds. Thus the Versabraille can be used as a telephone and address book, diary, notes on patients or clients, running bank statement, agendas (notes can be taken relatively silently during a meeting), plus a host of general information or notes such as amateur radio call signs, and record and cassette collections, etc.

(b) **Word processing function.** As you write on Versabraille, the text appears on a 20 cell display panel. The braille is very legible. Two keys will display either the next or previous 20 cells, it is not a running display. Thus you can read as slow or as fast as you wish. The word processing function enables the user to go back over what he has written to correct spelling, change words, insert or delete words, sentences, paragraphs, or whole pages. If you delete, then the gap is automatically closed, you do not have to rewrite all the following text. Conversely, when inserting, the following text is 'pushed back'. It therefore gives the user great scope to write and rewrite speeches, letters or articles.

(c) **A computer terminal.** Versabraille can be linked to a computer, interpreting the information which normally appears in print on a visual display unit into braille. Thus a blind person has equal access to a vast quantity of computerised information.

(d) **Audio tape recorder.** The unit acts as a variable speed recorder with a braille revolution counter on the display panel. In addition, braille 'place marks' can be recorded on the tape. These 'marks' can be subsequently retrieved very quickly, the unit returned to the audio mode and your tape is thereby set to the exact place required.

(e) **Linking Versabraille to other equipment.** Standing alone, the Versabraille can only be used for functions 'a' and 'd'. Its use is greatly enhanced when connected to other equipment, especially in the word processing function.

Printer

An Olympia ESW 103 was purchased. This functions both as a daisy wheel typewriter and printer. The daisy wheel is about 3" in diameter and contains 96 spokes. At the end of each spoke is a character. The wheel is set at right angles to the paper. It rotates back and forth at great speed, and a hammer taps the end of the spoke against the paper. It will print out at 17-20 characters per second. As a printer, it also writes from right to left, thus saving much time and wear. The wheels are easily changed for differing print styles.

One function, common to most modern typewriters, is the self correct feature. If you type a mistake, one key will cause the daisy wheel to backspace; remembering the last

character printed, it retypes that character, but on a strip of 'cellotape' instead of the ribbon. This causes the character to be lifted off the page, leaving a clean space. This is an enormous time saver! Other facilities include harder printing for carbon copying, and pitch control, i.e. the number of letters per inch can be determined.

Speech is provided by the American made Votrax Type 'N' talk unit. This measures 8" by 5" by 2". It has 3 controls: on/off, volume and pitch. It costs £275, and requires an ordinary 8 ohm speaker. This unit can be connected to most computers or electronic devices and produce speech. As usual, it takes 30 minutes to get used to the American, male voice. In this case, however, one is either reading back one's own writing, or listening to information which you are expecting, hence a more full understanding.

It should be emphasised that synthetic speech gives you a quick reading, or an indication of how one's English flows. It does not enable the user to pick up spelling errors, unless phonetically obvious. There are several speech units on, or about to come on the market, one of which will speak English, and not American!

Connecting the equipment

All the above units are linked by a 25 pin connecting cable. One is generally told in a casual way to "consult the manual". Then, a quiet word with the agent, and you find that only 4 pins need actually be connected. However, it is vital that they are correctly matched. This means rewiring plugs, or the purchase of adaptable connectors.

How the system works

The use of the Versabraille for information storage and retrieval has already been described. 99 per cent independence in writing letters or articles can be achieved as follows: text can be written into the Versabraille, either on its keyboard, or via the printer (in the latter case, paper is not required, one is simply using the keyboard.) Grade 1 braille is used in this case. Since, in both cases, the braille appears as you write, you can correct as you go along, or find your place immediately should you be interrupted for any reason. The text can then be checked and edited on the Versabraille, passing it through the speech unit before or after this process. When you are finally satisfied with your text, it is

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transmitted from the Versabaille onto the printer for your print version. The Versabaille is programmed to pump out so many characters per line, and lines per page, to suit your size of paper. After a print out you can go back to the Versabaille, alter dates, addresses, etc. and print the same letter again. Your letters are then stored on the cassette for future referral or use.

Advantages

- (a) Virtual total independence.
- (b) An enormous amount of data can be stored on cassette, avoiding great piles of braille paper.
- (c) Fast retrieval of data (frequently faster than a sighted person).
- (d) Voice output for rapid scanning of text.
- (e) Neat, well typed correspondence.
- (f) High productivity levels attainable.
- (g) Versatility of Versabaille unit.
- (h) Quick updating of information.
- (i) Comparatively simple operation of all units.

Disadvantages

- (a) You must be a braille user.
- (b) The printer has no audible or mechanical end of ribbon warning. Thus the blind person cannot be 100 per cent independent. He will always have to consult a sighted person to confirm there is printing on the page.
- (c) Even modern technology is prone to breakdown! One must have some back up in reserve.
- (d) Inability to check punctuation and spelling by voice.

Conclusions

Some people may consider the cost of the system at around £5000 excessive. There are cheaper units on the market since this equipment first appeared. However, bearing in mind the versatility of the system, the level of productivity attainable, time saved, and the need for a reader only as opposed to a full time secretary, the amount is not excessive. The Versabaille worked for 18 months without a fault. So far this year (1983) there have been 4 breakdowns, but it has always been repaired within a week. Here is a system which permits the holding of, and access



Checking what he has typed by means of the braille display on the Versabaille Ray can also listen to what he has written through the Type 'N' Talk — but this may not show up a spelling mistake.

to, large amounts of data, which, in turn, can be quickly updated and retrieved. Above all, one is very independent.

The future

Words are now walking, and, if you are prepared and able to spend £23,000 (current cost of a Kurzweil Reading Machine), they will talk to you as well. In an ideal future world, every blind person will have his or her own portable reading machine. The typewriter which takes dictation is about 10 years away. Though on the market today is a voice input system which permits you to 'talk' to a computer, and for it to either talk back to you or print out.

St. Dunstan's is doing its best to keep up with developments — the pace is fast and furious. Technology, at a price, will enhance the lives of many. But they will simply be continuing the traditions started by previous generations of blind people.

P.O.W. Reunion

Would all those wishing to attend the P.O.W. Reunion on 18th February at Ian Fraser House, please submit their names to Mrs. Coyne at H.Q. as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.

Tom Hart



An early final at Eldon Grove.



Billy Collins with the new cup.

The Billy Collins Cup by Ray Hazan

It is not everyone who has a football cup named after them. To achieve this in Liverpool is to add laurels to the honour. To Billy Collins, it will bring back memories of 23 years of service not just to the game, but the service he also rendered to thousands of young men. It was really his involvement in the Scout movement which started it all.

Bill served with the Royal Army Service Corps and was injured on the retreat from Dunkirk, though not seriously enough to become a St. Dunstaner at the time. On demob, he helped to foster the Scout movement in the depressed dockland area of Liverpool. It was in this same area, soon after the end of the war, that Lord Derby opened the Eldon Grove asphalt playing field. 'I saw that it was football that the lads were really interested in. So I approached the Education Committee for permission to organise an 11-a-side football competition for the Scouts. I did it for them, really, but it grew and grew, until in about 1949, we had about 100 teams. The playground is in the shape of a quadrangle, surrounded by 3-storey high landings. The final was just like Wembley, the pitch surrounded by thousands of spectators.'

In 1957 the Education Committee provided floodlighting at a cost of £365. Then, in 1969, the playground was threatened with closure due to the building of the Mersey Tunnel, and Billy ended his

involvement with football and went back to Scouting.

In fact, the playground was saved, and a modern 5-a-side competition was taken up, supported by local councillors, and organised by the police. This year it was decided to present an annual cup, and Billy was asked if they could name it after him. His sister Lily presented the cup this year as Billy was in hospital for a serious operation. But he has been asked to present it in future.

Billy recalls the help of many well known players at the time: Bill Shankly, Jimmy Melia, Larry Carberry and Billy Bingham, to name but a few. Of how, as a referee, he had to carry sticking plasters in his pockets, to mend knees cut and grazed on the asphalt. Of one of the conditions of entry, a promise not to set off the glass covered fire alarms which existed in the streets in those days. The competition had a beneficial effect. On checking the age of two obvious brothers, being told by both that they were 13. 'And how can that be?' asked Bill. 'Well, sir, my brother's 3 months older than me!' Those and many of the other youngsters are now grown men, with families of their own. They will often stop and have a word with Billy in the street.

Billy has obviously performed an invaluable service. At 65 he has a teamfull of memories to keep him warm, plus the satisfaction of a job well rendered.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you had a good Christmas and perhaps you had a few tools as presents to replace some that are coming to the end of their useful life. I was in need of a sprayer, since the other one was not repairable and was given one by my wife.

Plenty of seed catalogues have come along and there are some new items I will try. A good germination and growth to maturity will be very cheap compared to those advertised in the magazines and for sale in nurseries and garden shops. Try and grow all your bedding plants from seed at an early period where you have a greenhouse and heat, or outdoors in early spring in a warm sunny spot or trays in frames.

Vegetables

Get all the old beds clear of refuse and leaves and take them to the compost heap especially the sprouts which are coming to the end of their useful life. Don't forget to sprinkle some activator on the new additions to heap in order to get things broken down properly. Put a good dose of lime at the rate of 4ozs per square yard on the areas where the brassicas are to be grown and a little less over the other places.

Where you have some early peas and beans some earthing up will protect them from those hard frosts. Some more peas and broad beans can be sown for a follow on crop before the main one is sown in spring. Ensure that you have all the stakes for these peas and beans in a good state and if you're a bit short get them ordered at once.

Those of you in the South with warm gardens can sow some lettuce every so often to give you a succession for the rest of the year. Get early potatoes in boxes and place them in plenty of light in the shed so that they can sprout well and quickly but if there are to be heavy frosts cover them with some newspaper as a protection.

Many seeds can be sown outdoors towards the end of February in warm spots but I think that those of you in the North should wait till March unless a start is made

in the greenhouse or frames for transplanting well grown seedlings later on. It would be better for all of you to hold back if the winter conditions hang on for a long time.

Fruit

Apples, pears, plums and damsons should be pruned during these two months but keep off the trees when the weather is really bad. Paint some 'Arbrex' seal on the large branches which are cut away to stop any disease getting in. Lime wash on the stems of really old trees will stop the increase of mildew and take off the old bark which is coming away. Don't plant any new trees or bushes but get the places ready by deep digging and adding some manure or compost at the bottom of the pits. New strawberry beds can be set out in February but don't do it if the weather is still severe with frost or snow.

Shrubs and Trees

All deciduous shrubs can be pruned except those which are just about on the verge of flowering and most items can be planted. Suckers from roses and lilacs should be taken off either by pulling away or cutting away from close to the main plant well down in the soil. Many hedges of beech, hawthorne and privet can be pruned fairly hard to give good tight growth during the season. It might also be a good idea to put some compost or manure at root level to boost them up.

Lawns

Remember that the grass will be showing signs of growth towards the end of February so get the mower in for a service and sharpening. In addition get some fertiliser cum weedkiller on hand, as there is often a rush to get them in during early spring.

Flowers

Give all the beds a good fork over when they are on the dry side and no frost or

snow about. A top dressing of manure or compost will be of great benefit to the perennials, shrubs and trees which are planted. In hard conditions it might be a good idea to get the soil over the roots of items such as paeonies to protect against frost.

Be careful when forking over where you have planted crocuses since they have a shallow root system and if moved out of place letting flower buds show it is easy for the birds to pick them out. I had this trouble in late autumn and early winter, so had to put some netting and cotton to keep them off despite soaking the soil with a bird deterrent. This solution may be a good thing when the yellow crocus is showing colour, as the birds seem to like this colour way above the others.

Roses will need attention towards the end of February and mini pruning by cutting away the stems and shoots which have been damaged by the winter gales. Some Roses can be planted but I think that this is a bit early for you in the Midlands and North. The main effort should be left to March and April which is the usual time that the growers send them along. However a start can be made to get the beds ready by digging over and putting down some manure or compost.

Get all the borders in good order by forking over and making a good fine top soil for the planting and sowing of the annuals later on. A sprinkling of a good all purpose fertiliser would give everything a good boost. Hoe regularly to keep those weeds which are starting their growth and take out the large and consign to the compost heap. Ensure that you have your sweet pea bed in good order and dug over deeply with an addition of manure. Get all the stakes and netting in place or ready to put in position later on.

Greenhouse

Try and not make the floor too moist at this period of the new season as many items,

even those growing well are better off with a drier atmosphere. Water the growing items such as calceolaria, cineraria, azalea, cyclamen and bulbous items which are showing signs of buds such as hyacinth, crocus, daffodil etc. Don't overdo the water and keep them on the dry side if anything. Do give them a liquid feed every so often.

Start by the end of February to get geraniums, fuchsias and dahlias into growth in order to have some good cuttings which will probably be better than the present plants. Achimenes, begonias and gloxinias can also be started by knocking out of their present containers and re-potting in new compost or even put into peat, so as to get them going and then transplanting to pots when they have grown well.

Many seeds for bedding plants can be started at the end of February if you want an early show but do have plenty of containers for pricking on seedlings when they can be handled. There is tendency at this time of the year for some of the insect pests to emerge with vigour when you have plenty of heat around and diseases like mildew as one has more moisture about. Put some extra smokes down at night but as I always say give plenty of ventilation in the morning before going in to start the jobs. Open ventilators wide on sunny days but shut them early in the afternoon to get the benefit of the remaining heat for the night.

House Plants

Most items will need to be kept in a warm room but move them to the centre of the room when you are going to bed and the heating is going to be cut out. Keep all those flowering bulbs or those showing signs of bulbs, in good light close to the windows but not near the heat. See that the pots are on the inside of the curtains when you draw them at night. The same can be said of African violets and cyclamen which need lots of light but not too much heat. All items need to be watered regularly and fed every so often.

"NOT FORGOTTEN" CHRISTMAS PARTY

The "Not Forgotten" Christmas Party took place on December 30th at the Royal Riding School. It was attended by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent. Alfred Lockhart, of Dagenham, was there to present her with a bouquet and he writes:

"When I presented the bouquet, the Duchess asked a few questions mainly about my war service and a few personal details. She then spoke of St. Dunstan's and recalled her visit to Ian Fraser House in 1978. The Duchess spoke very favourably of St. Dunstan's in general, and Ian Fraser House in particular. She asked if I ever visited Ian Fraser House and I was able to tell her that I frequently made use of the House and always enjoyed my time there.

Of course meeting The Duchess of Kent was the highlight of the day for me but the "Not Forgotten" Association provided a first class entertainment with Tommy Steele, Roy Castle, Iris Williams and others. All in all it was a most satisfying and enjoyable day'.

90th BIRTHDAY

Our retired Welfare Visitor Hester Pease, of Knaresborough, was 90 years old on December 28th 1983.

Miss Pease joined the staff of St. Dunstan's on March 1st 1931 and on May 1st 1942 went to South Africa to become Matron at Tembani. Upon her return to this country Miss Pease became a Welfare Visitor and retired on December 31st 1953.

Arthur Simpson of Doncaster, who was at Tembani, has sent the following tribute: "Many congratulations Hester on your 90th birthday. I am sure that all St. Dunstaners who passed through Tembani, South Africa in the war years, would like to join me in sending you our best wishes and thanks for your kindness and understanding during the time you looked after us there".

OBITUARY

The following obituary was sent in by Mrs. Grace J. Hollins of Devon:

Miss G.R. Morgan, daughter of the late Lieutenant General R.H. Morgan C.B.E., passed away on October 12th, 1983, in

Palma, Majorca. Miss Morgan was a V.A.D. for some years at St. John's Lodge until its closure. She had a keen sense of humour and was very popular. She also helped cox on the lake in Regents Park as well as at the annual Regatta at Putney. Whilst living with her sister Dorothy in Majorca she held several very successful exhibitions of her art and her pictures went all over the world. The *Review* kept her in touch with St. Dunstan's, though only those of the First World War will remember her.

She leaves two sisters and many friends, among whom she will be greatly missed.

Sports News

BOWLING ROUND UP 1983.

by Jock Carnochan, Sports Organiser

At the time of going to print we are in the final stages of the Indoor Championships with 28 bowlers taking part.

Throughout 1983 the St. Dunstan's National Bowls Club has taken part in five National tournaments and in each case winning more than fifty per cent of the competitions, but the most outstanding achievement of the year must be the records set by P. Stubbs and E. Brown, records which can only be equalled, both of whom have won every National competition in their respective sight categories, our congratulations to Percy and Ted. I feel sure they must go on to be selected for any 1984 International events. I would like to remind all St. Dunstaners who are interested in Bowls that it is not necessary to belong to any particular club to take part in the St. Dunstan's organised competitions, i.e. March Handicap, Indoor Championships, July Outdoor Tournament or the November Indoor Individual Championships. However if you wish to take part in the National tournaments it is necessary to be affiliated to the (E.N.A.V.H.B.) English National Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers by either becoming an individual member, or by becoming a member of the St. Dunstan's National Bowls Club, in the long run it is more beneficial to belong to a club.

Finally we must express our thanks to those people who quite voluntarily give of their services each year to help to enable us all to enjoy the competitions that are organised, namely, our staunch umpires,



Johnnie Cope was among the winners in 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Bridge, Mrs. P. Stubbs, and to our untiring raffle ticket saleswoman Mrs. D. Hodgson who by her efforts has helped to increase the funds of the club, not forgetting those who generously donate the prizes, and finally to all the wives and helpers on the green thankyou for helping to make all our tournaments so successful.

Here is wishing you all an equally successful year in 1984.

1983 Prize Card

Sir Douglas Morris Shield – T.B. Triples

Winners: J. Cope, A. Miller, W. Allen.

Percy Acton Shield – P.S. Triples

Winners: A. Robinson, T. Whitley, E. Brown.

Paul Lightfoot Cup (SAS) – T.B. Pairs

Winners: W. Allen, E. Richards

Runners Up: J. Cope, J. Prior

Wilf Knight Cup – P.S. Pairs

Winners: R. Freer, T. Whitley

Runners Up: A. Robinson, G. Bunting

A.D. Lloyds Cup – T.B. Singles

Winner: P. Stubbs

Runner Up: R. Osborne

Third: J. Padley

Garnett-Orme Cup – P.S. Singles

Winner: A. Robinson

Runner Up: E. Brown

Third: R. Forshaw

Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl – (P.S. Year)

Winner: E. Brown

Bowls Handicap

As you all know my Handicap takes place during March 26th to April 6th, your support in 1983 was tremendous, I hope you will honour me with the same in 1984. Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Monty Golding

AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL EVENTS LIST

The Welsh Moutaineering Expedition should read: **Sept 14th-18th**

HELP THE ORGANISER – May I remind St. Dunstaners who wish to take part in any of the annual events to please in addition to booking your accommodation through HQ also write to the organiser of the event and advise him of your intention to take part giving as much notice as possible.

J. Carnochan

SWIMMING POOL ALLOCATIONS COMMENCING 1984.

Monday-Friday

AM. 1030-1215 St. Dunstaners Only.

PM. 1400-1715* St. Dunstaners and off duty Staff, plus St. Dunstaners' families and two guests per family.

Saturday-Sunday

AM. 1000-1100 St. Dunstaners' children and Staff children beginners only class.

1115-1215* St. Dunstaners and Staff adult beginners only class.

PM. 1400-1530 Staff families plus two guests per family.

PM. 1545-1715* St. Dunstaners' families plus two guests per family.

NOTES

1. The Saturday and Sunday beginners periods are designed for teaching those people who are learning to swim. When the pupil has passed the one length proficiency test, they may then attend the normal allocations as laid down. In the event of there being no beginners the period will be allocated to a free swim for St. Dunstaners only and this will be announced over the public address system from the Lounge Desk.
2. The term children means up to the age of sixteen.

Sports News – continued

- No free swimming is to take place during an Instructional period.
- All users of the pool are advised not to take valuables to the pool. St. Dunstaners should either lock them up in their room, or deposit with Lounge Desk.
- St. Dunstaners activity groups, i.e. Bridge Week-end, Radio Ham etc. who, because of their involvement, are not able to use the pool during normal times may organise an early morning swim by contacting Sports Organiser giving as much notice as possible.
- Local St. Dunstaners who use the pool regularly are advised to ring 37811 and check that the pool is operational, this may avoid an unnecessary journey.
- It is the responsibility of St. Dunstaners and Staff to ensure that their guests are signed in at the Hall Porters in order to maintain internal security. Guests are confined to the pool precincts and pool lounge only.
- * Indicates periods that Special Associate and Honorary members of the St. Dunstan's Brighton Sports and Social Club may attend.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB Annual General Meeting

The Brighton Club held their 8th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 30th, at Ian Fraser House. The Committee for the forthcoming year was elected, with Mr. Robert Osborne as the Chairman.

In her presidential address Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre spoke of the high respect and esteem with which members of the Club are held locally and indeed throughout the counties they visit. This is due to their dignified bearing and their skill in games and sport. She emphasised the need for St. Dunstaners to hold office as chairmen of the various activities with sighted persons there only to support them. Thus the club is a St. Dunstan's Club and managed by St. Dunstaners.

Although a number of our members have unhappily died, membership holds up well. A few have not yet enclosed their subscription and I am hoping that they will do so when they read this report.

Mary Stenning, Honorary Secretary

CHRISTMAS DANCE AND PARTY

The presentation of the trophies and prizes for the individual competitions by Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Morgan at the Christmas Dance on December 10th, made a pleasant evening a very happy occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Morgan were met by Harry Preedy and his wife, and escorted to the Annexe by Mrs. Dacre and Commander Conway and his wife. We were joined by friends from the Royal British Legion, and it was without doubt a very happy and successful evening. Once again our thanks to Bob and Joan Osborne for all the work put in by them. As from the A.G.M. on November 30th, Bob Cunningham ably assisted by his wife Pat, will be responsible for running the entertainment section. After the buffet interval, the raffle prizes were presented by Mrs. Delmar Morgan. We offer thanks to the men in the band, also the bar. The evening ended around midnight with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

On Wednesday, December 14th, we held the Christmas Party for Club members, this was attended by approximately 50 friends. Everyone enjoyed the meal and appreciation was shown to Joan Osborne with the presentation of a case to keep club papers tidy.

BRIGHTON CLUB Bowling Section

On Friday, November 25th, we had a very enjoyable match with Kingsway, Hove Bowling Club, captained by Len Bridge, who is always a great help to St. Dunstan's bowlers at all times.

A first-time match was arranged on Saturday December 3rd with Brighton Royal British Legion Bowling Club. This was a very friendly introductory match and was certainly enjoyed by all. We look forward to regular meetings.

On December 9th we played host to our friends from Guildford Bowling Club. It was a happy occasion and honours were even!

CLUB NEWS *Continued*

We were pleased to welcome Ted and Rae Brown who were visiting Ian Fraser House and Ted was made Captain for the day. We look forward to a return visit to Guildford during the Summer.

On December 10th at the Brighton Club's Christmas Dance, Bob Osborne was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Delmar-Morgan with the Quadling Cup being the winner of the Outdoor Bowling Competition. Harry Preedy and 'Dusty' Miller finished second and third respectively and were awarded trophies.

Thank you ladies for your help in supplying refreshments on all the above occasions.

A. Miller

BRIDGE 1983 Captain's Report

To begin I would like, on behalf of all members of the National Bridge Club, to pass our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Joyce Pellington on the death of her husband Ike.

As I mentioned in my report last year our numbers are slowly decreasing and one or two of our newer members are still experiencing difficulty in obtaining games while staying at Ian Fraser House. I would like to stress again that if some experienced players do not play with our newcomers the depletion will be accelerated. Please remember we all had to begin at one time and without the help of the then experienced players some of us would not have made it.

Our representative team of four in the London Business House League who were promoted last season finished in a rather creditable halfway position on completion of their programme. Unfortunately, owing to my own illness during last season only one of the two teams in the East Sussex league completed their programme. However, in the Sussex teams of eight we finished joint fourth out of seventeen teams and though we did not have to play all of the other sixteen teams the result was calculated on victory points. I would like to thank all who participated. I would also like to congratulate all winners of Trophies here at the Congress and also the long running Trophies competed for in London – Brighton.

In the three way competitions held in May, the result was a win by the Provinces followed by Brighton and London. Congratulations to Vi Delaney and her team.

Our annual trip to Harrogate was as usual a complete success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all members who attended. Our grateful thanks go to all who helped us. A special thanks to Ian Dickson who organised our end of the trip, also Norman Smith and Stan Medcraft. Thank you also to Cedric Cockcroft who organised the Harrogate end of the week's activities, he did a marvellous job.

In conclusion I would like to thank Geof Connell and all the markers on their brilliant organisation of the running of our Congress, without him and them our Congress would not be possible.

A special thank you to Mrs. Anne Pugh and Mrs. Enid Otton on their hard work leading up to the Congress.

Finally, we thank Commander Conway and all members of Staff for looking after us so well.

W.G. Phillips

Christmas Bridge Drive

On Sunday December 4th the Brighton Club Christmas Bridge Drive was held. This gave the St. Dunstan's members the opportunity of thanking their sighted members for all the help and assistance they had received from them during the past year. This was well voiced by our retiring Captain Bill Phillips. In turn Bob Evans thanked Bill for the work that he had put in as Captain during the past years.

The afternoon was a happy and relaxed event with a splendid Christmas tea and the winners were as follows:

1st Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Paccitti	2,620
2nd Mr. Evans & Mrs. Barker	2,230
3rd Mr. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	1,370
4th Miss Stenning & Mrs. Clements	1,280

There was also a prize for the first Slam called and made. This went to Mr. and Mrs. Pacitti, congratulations.

Our thanks go to Maurice Douse and Robert Goodlad for their organising and running of our competitions throughout the past year and to Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre and her helpers for their arrangements with the refreshments. Thanks to the staff at I.F.H. for their support and co operation.

Jim Padley, Captain



NATIONAL BRIDGE CONGRESS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Bill Phillips, Captain of the National Bridge Club, thanked everybody concerned for their efforts in making the Congress such a success. I must stress, in particular, how thankful we were to Geoff and Roland for their patience and guidance with all players and markers, to Commander Conway and staff for their help and service, to Mrs. Pugh, who arranged all the markers for each session, without whose help no progress can be made.

It was pleasant to meet Enid and Nora. As Nora moved from table to table it was good to see the spirited reception she received. Many of us have known Nora and her late husband, Alf, for many years, and we were pleased to see her so cheerful and in apparent good health.

I noted that the results were well spread out over all the players and this is good for the Club.



Mrs. Nora Field with Harry Meleson and Jim Padley, winners of the Alf Field Memorial Cup.

The results were as follows:

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Pairs

Mike Tybinski and Bob Fullard

Alf Field Memorial Cup

Harry Meleson and Jim Padley

Lord Fraser Individual Cup

Ron Freer

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup for Teams of Four

Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, George Hudson and Joseph Majchrowicz.

Paul Nuyens Shield for Teams of Four

Mike Tybinski, Bob Fullard, Reg Goding and Ralph Pacitti

Drummer Downs Cup

Joe Huk and Wally Lethbridge

Individual Cup—London

Wally Lethbridge

Individual Cup—Brighton

Bill Phillips

Bill Allen

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE FIXTURES 1984

February 12th Pairs 18th Individuals

March 11th Pairs 17th Individuals

April 1st Easter Bridge Drive 8th Pairs

14th Individuals 29th Horsham (away)

May 5/6th Three Way Competition

13th Pairs 19th Individuals

June 9th London Masters 10th Pairs

19th Individuals

July 1st Pairs 7/8th Warminster W/E

16th Individuals

August 5th Summer Bridge Drive

September 2nd Pairs 8th Harrogate (out)

5th Harrogate (Return) 22nd Individuals

October 7th Pairs 13th Individuals

November 23/26th Congress

December 9th Christmas Bridge Drive

15th London Christmas Drive

Jim Padley

FAMILY NEWS

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:



Jayne Booth and Gary Stevenson after their marriage at Poole Registry Office on November 12th. Jayne is the daughter of Mrs. Honoria Peggy Booth, widow of Peter Booth, of Dorset.

Nicholas Knight, son of Mrs. Sylvia Knight, widow of Mr. William Knight of York, on his marriage to Carol Simms on October 8th, 1983.

Robert Paine, the grandson of Mr. Kenneth Ward and his wife Elizabeth, of Chandlers Ford, on his marriage to Janet Taylor on October 1st.

Mr. Denis 'Tuffy' Tufnell and his wife, June, who were married on December 15th at St. Mary's Church, Shipton-Oliffe.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Beattie, of Knutsford, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Rachel Frances, born on October 22nd to their son John and his wife Mary.

Mrs. Evelyn Black, of Cramlington, widow of Mr. John Black, who is pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter,

Naomi Lorraine, born on September 13th to her daughter Christine and her husband John Swan.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bradshaw, of Porthcawl, who are happy to announce the birth of a grandson, Andrew William John, born on October 30th to their daughter Lyn and her husband Tim Meehan.

Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Davies, of Purley, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Nicola Margaret, born to their daughter Elizabeth and her husband Michael Harvie on October 11th.

Mr. Arthur Edmunds, of Wednesbury, who is delighted to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Alexis Caroline Sandy, born on October 23rd to his daughter Andrea and her husband Michael Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. William Faulkner, of Sutton Coldfield, who are pleased to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Tessa Marie, born on June 14th to their daughter Pat and her husband Mike.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Higgs, of Binfield, who are delighted to announce the birth of a grandson, Philip Andrew, to their son Edwin and his wife Anne, on November 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lowe, of Stubbington, who are happy to announce the safe arrival of another grandson, Andrew Ryan, born on October 5th to their son Geoffrey and his wife Nicola.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Phillips, of Steyning, who are proud and happy to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Hannah Mary, born on November 16th to their daughter Prudence and her husband John Crowley.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Fitzgerald, of Newcastle, who are delighted to announce the arrival of a great grandson, Christopher Brown, born to their grand-daughter Carol and her husband on November 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ralphson, of Bolton, who are pleased to announce the birth of another great grandchild, Kelly Louise, born on November 16th to their daughter Sharon and her husband John Merrills.



SIXTY FIVE HAPPY YEARS

The Mayor and Mayoress of Merton, Councillor Frank Meakings and his wife, Florence, called on our St. Dunstaner Harry Wheeler and his wife, Ethel, on December 7th.

They called to congratulate the Wheelers on their 65th wedding anniversary. Harry and Ethel also had their daughter Joan and her husband Gregory, with them on this important day as well as their friends and neighbours.

Harry, who is 88, served in two World Wars and has given long service to the Royal British Legion Wimbledon Branch for which he received the Gold Badge in 1973. Ethel who is just a year younger, received a certificate in recognition of "her devoted exemplary service" to the same Branch in 1974.

In adding the *Review's* congratulations, we wish the Wheelers more happy years together.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Collingwood, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on January 1st.

Mr. Malcom Jarman and his wife Violet, of Wellington, on the occasion of their Ruby

Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on September 30th, 1983.

Mr. Hugh Macrae and his wife Charlotte, of Saltdean, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 23rd, 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Perry, of Grimsby, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on December 27th.

Mr. Albert Serdet and his wife, Elizabeth, of Staines, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 4th, 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wheeler, of Wembley, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meleson, of Wembley, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Simpson, of Mount Albert, Auckland, New Zealand, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 18th, 1983.

Family News – continued

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Rowland, of London SW2, who celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary on Christmas Day.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Contratulations to:

Mr. Mike Tybinski who has become a Bridge County Master. 2,500 points are required to become a County Master and Mr. Tybinski scored a total of 2,504. Points are allocated to those who achieve certain placings in selected bridge events.

Yvette, daughter of *'Gerry' and Kathleen Brereton*, of East Molesey, who has passed her final examinations and is now a qualified S.R.N.

CORRECTION

The information published about the late *Sydney Roberts* military service in the October issue was incorrect. Mr. Roberts enlisted in March, 1916, in the West Kent Yeomanry and after six weeks of training was transferred to 10th Battalion Royal West Kent. We apologise for this error.

In Memory

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

C.W. Aldridge, 12th London Regiment
Cyril William Aldridge, of Lancing passed away in Worthing General Hospital on December 22nd. He was aged 84 and had been a St. Dunstaner for ten years.

Mr. Aldridge served with the 12th London Regiment and was gassed in 1916. He was discharged in 1918. On his retirement from the Lighting Department of Hampstead Council he moved first to Harlow and then to Lancing. He was keen on gardening and greatly enjoyed his visits to Brighton and the Warminster Camp until ill health overtook him. Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 1982.

He leaves a widow, Florence.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

The four sons and parents of Mrs. Molly Barrett, of Southampton, who passed away on December 23rd, aged 49. She was the widow of our St. Dunstaner, *'Reg' Barrett* who died only eight months ago.

Kenneth Chubb, of Oxford, whose brother passed away at his home in North Devon on September 9th. He was 58.

Mr. Alan Emerson, of Clacton-on-Sea, who mourns the sudden death of his son-in-law, Peter Fowler, who died in September aged 54.

Mr. James 'Jim' Legge, of Bristol, on the sudden recent death of his brother John, in Elgin.

The family and friends of Mrs. Henrietta Smith, widow of *John Smith*, of Reading. Mrs. Smith died on December 19th.

Rosemary Watson-Brown of Seddlescombe, widow of *Matthew Watson-Brown*, whose brother-in-law passed away on November 16th.

Mr. Arthur Whittington, of Leicestershire, who mourns the death of his wife, Lucy, on December 26th.

In Memory – continued

Ireland to live, proving a highly efficient operator with the United Kingdom Optical Company in Lurgan, until ill health forced him to retire in 1960.

In earlier years Mr. Beckett had many hobbies. He kept a large number of racing pigeons, was very interested in woodwork and a keen walker, sometimes up to 10 miles a day when he had his guide dog.

A. David, Royal Navy

Arthur David of St. Athan, Glamorgan, passed away at this home on December 18th. He was 70 years old.

Mr. David worked on the land after leaving school and then, in 1929 joined the Merchant Navy. He transferred to the Royal Navy in 1935. His eye sight was damaged while on aircraft spotting duties in the Mediterranean in 1940 and he was discharged from the Service in March 1941. Upon returning to civilian life Mr. David took employment with the Central Electricity Generating Board at Aberthaw power station but after some years his lungs became affected by asbestos dust and he became increasingly disabled. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in April 1972 and was obliged to retire from his work one month later.

Mr. David faced his declining health with great courage, being nursed devotedly by his wife with every support from their daughter Eileen and, until he went to work abroad, his son Mervyn who lived nearby. Mr. David's eldest son lives in Australia and it was an occasion of great joy when he was able to return home to visit his family some months ago.

H. Davis, Royal Air Force

Harry Davis, of Stratford-on-Avon, passed away at his home after a short illness on December 18th. He was 69 years old.

Mr. Davis served with the R.A.F. from July 1940 and was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese in Java in 1942. His period in captivity resulted in his loss of sight and other ailments which were to trouble him throughout his life. He became a St. Dunstanian in May 1946 and, having chosen physiotherapy as a career, Mr. Davis took up an appointment at the Stratford-on-Avon Hospital in June 1950. He remained there for the next 27 years, combining this work with a successful private practice. He was held in the highest esteem by his professional colleagues and in due time became Head of the Physiotherapy Department at the hospital, a position he held until his retirement in 1977.

Mr. Davis also represented St. Dunstan's overseas. In 1956 and again in 1959 he was one of our delegates at the International Physical Therapy Congresses in New York and Paris. He served too as a member of the St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee for a

number of years. He was Chairman of the Committee from 1973 to 1975 and regularly attended our Physiotherapy Conferences.

He leaves a widow, Pat, and two sons, Nicholas and Martin.

T.C. Dodd, Royal Navy

Tony Collier Dodd D.S.M. of Lee-on-Solent passed away suddenly at home on December 20th. He was 63 years old and had been a St. Dunstanian since 1978.

Tony Dodd enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1935 and served in submarines. He was wounded at Dunkirk but returned to active service until 1943 when his ship was sunk in the Mediterranean. A P.O.W. first in Italy and then in Germany at Marlag und Milag Nord, he made eight attempts to escape and was finally successful, arriving home on VE day. In an attempt to stop him tunnelling his captors broke the bones of his right hand in a vice, but Tony was left handed.

He continued to sail after the war when he had his own boat and was a keen ocean racer. Following the amputation of his legs he crewed for his son and when his sight failed a sonic compass was devised for him. St. Dunstanians will remember him on board the film, 'To Live Again'. In 1979 he was awarded the Robert Redfern Memorial Trophy.

He leaves a widow, Dorothy, and a son, Anthony.

T.E. Gaiger, Royal Navy

Timothy Edward Gaiger, affectionately known as 'Tim', passed away on December 23rd in Pearson House. Formerly of Devizes, Mr. Gaiger became resident at Pearson House in 1978. He was 76 years of age and a widower, his wife May having passed away in 1971.

Following six years service as a Chief Steward in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, Mr. Gaiger was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1948 and undertook a period of training in braille and typewriting.

Until 1968, when he had to retire on health grounds, our St. Dunstanian was employed in the offices of the family business – an old-established building firm in Devizes. Following the death of his wife, he was lovingly cared for by his sister who unfortunately passed away in 1976 and within two years he felt it prudent to become a permanent resident in Brighton.

Mr. Gaiger will be long remembered by Matron Goodwin and her staff as well as many fellow St. Dunstanians at Pearson House.

R. Holmes, Royal Irish Fusiliers

Robert Holmes of Templepatrick, N. Ireland, passed away in hospital on December 19th. He was 61 years of age and had been a St. Dunstanian since 1945 following the loss of both eyes when

In Memory – continued

he was wounded by a grenade whilst on active service with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Italy during the Second World War.

On admission to St. Dunstan's, Mr. Holmes undertook a period of training in braille, typewriting and upholstery and although adept at this trade and satisfactorily employed in London, his roots were in Northern Ireland and he returned there in 1948 after being re-trained for telephony. For 33 years our St. Dunstanian was a very efficient operator and highly valued employee of Anderson and McAuley but had to retire on health grounds in 1982.

Mr. Holmes was a very keen gardener for most of his life and derived much pleasure from his talking books, reading braille and listening to the radio. He was also a regular visitor at Ian Fraser House where he will be greatly missed by many fellow St. Dunstanians.

He leaves a widow, Maureen.

J.J. Jiggle, Royal Army Service Corps

John James Jiggle of Great Barford, Bedfordshire, passed away on November 4th at the age of 86.

Mr. Jiggle served as a Private in the R.A.S.C. from 1916 to 1919 and lost one eye in battle at Arras in 1917. Following his discharge from the army he was employed as an agricultural worker until he took his retirement at the age of 70. It was with the failure of his remaining sight that Mr. Jiggle became a St. Dunstanian in April 1979. His wife had died earlier that year but he was able to share a home with his son and daughter-in-law and their family and he enjoyed a number of holidays with us at Brighton.

He leaves a son, John, and daughter-in-law Dorothy.

J. Jones, 2nd Welsh Fusiliers

John Jones, affectionately known as 'Taffy', passed away in Pearson House on January 5th. He would have been 85 years of age in April and had been resident in our Home since 1974.

Mr. Jones enlisted as a Private in the 2nd Welsh Fusiliers at the onset of the First World War, and was wounded in March 1918 whilst on active service and admitted to St. Dunstan's later that year when he was 19.

After a period of training, Mr. Jones opened his own shop in Lydd, trading in hardware and carrying out some boot repairing as well as obtaining orders locally for his mats. For some time, he successfully bred bulldogs but in 1930 moved to new premises in Faversham where he continued his retail trade in addition to a lending library. After 25 years as a shopkeeper, Mr. Jones retired in 1947.

He leaves a widow May living in Saltdean. 'Taffy' Jones will be long remembered by Matron Goodwin and her staff as well as many fellow St. Dunstanians.

W. Marley, 19th Division Royal Field Artillery
William Marley, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, passed away on December 17th, six days before his 91st birthday. He had been a St. Dunstanian since 1973.

During the First World War, Mr. Marley served as a Gunner with the 19th Division Royal Field Artillery. He enlisted in 1914 and was discharged at the end of the war following the loss of one eye in an explosion whilst on active service in Germany. Before enlistment Mr. Marley had been a miner and had many interesting stories to relate of the days when they were paid twelve old shillings for a twelve hour shift.

Our St. Dunstanian, affectionately known as 'Gunner', was a well-known local figure having lived in the area for most of his life. Until comparatively recently he was involved with many local activities, and enjoyed listening to music of all kinds, his talking books and particularly the *Review*.

His wife Lily passed away in 1977. From that time he lived with his daughter Mrs. Gladys Smith who cared for him devotedly. He also leaves a son William, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

E.T. Mercer, Royal Air Force

Edward Threlfall Mercer of Cleveleys, Blackpool, passed away on December 1st. He was 77 years old.

Mr. Mercer served in the rank of A.C.2 in the R.A.F. from 1941 to 1945. He was taken prisoner of war in Java in 1942 and it was the privation suffered during his captivity which caused his loss of sight. Upon his return to civilian life he became the proprietor of an ironmongery business which he ran until taking his retirement in 1964. It was with the further failure of his vision that he became a St. Dunstanian in 1974. Although he lost his wife two years later, Mr. Mercer was able to manage at home on his own with competence and he enjoyed gardening as a hobby.

He leaves an only son Ian.

T.D. Milligan, 1st Irish Guards

Thomas Desmond Milligan, known affectionately as Tommy, passed away in Pearson House on December 21. He had been resident there since 1970 and was 87 years of age. Mr. Milligan was unmarried.

Just before the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, he enlisted as a Private in the 1st Irish Guards and in December 1914 was the victim of a bullet through the head which made him completely blind at the age of 18. Mr. Milligan was therefore one of the first members of St. Dunstan's, being admitted in February 1915.

Tommy Milligan was part of St. Dunstan's history and many readers will recall the March 1976 issue of our *Review* the front cover of which showed him as a handsome

In Memory – continued

young man leading the dance at St. Dunstan's Regents Park with a V.A.D. in 1915. In that issue our Editor reported on a long interview he had with our St. Dunstaner under the heading 'As I Remember' in which Mr. Milligan described his first meeting with Sir Arthur Pearson and the many famous visitors, including George V and Lord Kitchener, who came to see St. Dunstaners training at Regents Park. He had a splendid career which took him into the military hospitals of the First War as a masseur, into France and Germany learning those languages to make himself a translator for commercial firms, into a British P.O.W. camp in the Second World War where he used his German linguistic skill to teach braille to blinded German prisoners and to Church Stretton where he taught braille shorthand to St. Dunstaners.

There is no doubt that he will long be remembered by Matron Goodwin and her staff.

J. Mulligan, Royal Air Force

John Mulligan, of Aberdeen, passed away on December 19th at the age of 70.

Mr. Mulligan served in the rank of LAC in the R.A.F. from 1940, was wounded in 1942 and discharged from the service in 1945. He became a St. Dunstaner in January 1971 at which time he and his wife were living in Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh. As there was no suitable employment for him in the area, Mr. Mulligan was unable to continue with a career in engineering but after a short period of training with us, he took up cane-work as a hobby occupation at home, combining this with his great love of gardening, growing many of his plants in his own greenhouse. He came regularly each year to one of the London Reunions and also enjoyed many holidays at Ian Fraser House. He suffered the loss of his wife early in 1982 and in the Spring of this year he moved to Aberdeen to be near his married daughter and her family but sadly he became seriously ill in October.

He leaves three children Anne, Barry and John.

R. Pope, Royal Navy

Robert Pope, formerly of Sutton, passed away on November 14th, at Pearson House. He was 71 years of age.

Mr. Pope served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy during the Second World War having enlisted in 1940. In 1942 his ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine and he was wounded by shrapnel and imprisoned on Sumatra. In 1944 whilst being transferred to Singapore his ship was torpedoed by the Allies although he was rescued by other ships in the convoy. Mr. Pope remained a Far East Prisoner of War until the end of the War during which time he suffered severe deprivation and malnutrition.

He was a St. Dunstaner from 1946 to 1950 at which time he regained a certain measure of

sight. However, this ultimately failed and he was readmitted to membership in 1978 following a serious illness and went direct to Pearson House, where he bore his disabilities with great courage and will long be remembered by Matron Goodwin and all the staff.

In civilian life, Mr. Pope was an insurance accounts clerk with a firm of Lloyds Underwriters and following a period of training in braille, typewriting and handicrafts on admission to St. Dunstan's, secretary and receptionist of a sports club until 1978.

Mr. Pope leaves two sisters.

H. Smith, 2/5 West Riding Regiment

Harry Smith formerly of Huddersfield, passed away at Pearson House on December 23rd. He was 87 years old.

Mr. Smith served from 1917 with the 2/5 West Riding Regiment and was wounded at Mory in April 1917. He suffered the loss of his eye sight and injuries to one hand and became a St. Dunstaner in June that year. He trained as a boot repairer and followed this career successfully until 1935 when ill health forced him to give it up.

After the death of his wife in 1973 Mr. Smith continued to live alone until his health began to deteriorate further and in 1978 he became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

He leaves an only son Wilfred.

P. Spencer, Royal Artillery

Peter Ralph Spencer passed away on December 2nd at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. He was 60 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner for 39 years.

Mr. Spencer enlisted in 1942. He served with the Royal Artillery and was blinded by a mine explosion in Normandy in 1944. He trained as a physiotherapist and worked for a short time at Lincoln before moving to the West Country where he held an appointment at the Royal Hospital, Weston-Super-Mare for many years before devoting himself entirely to private practice.

A keen sportsman, he was one of eighty competitors at the First International Sports Meeting for Blind People held in Vienna in 1973. He came fourth in his age group which included civilian as well as war blinded, and continued to compete in swimming events for his Sports Club with marked success. Many will also remember he helped to form the 'Music Makers' and, with Harry Wheeler and Bill Harris made a popular recording of Army songs from the Boer and two World Wars.

Six of the Rugby Team who came to Mr. Spencer for treatment acted as pall bearers. He will be greatly missed by his many friends, patients and colleagues both in and outside St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow, Ruth, and a daughter Rosemary.