



**St Dunstons
Review
April 1984**



From the Chairman

April. Even the most pessimistic (and there aren't many St. Dunstaners in that category) must judge that at last the winter is over. Perhaps some sharp, squally showers but in between there is now beginning to be some real warmth in the sun. Thoughts turn increasingly to getting out a bit more.

All around is new life: bulbs in their prime, buds on shrubs and trees swelling and bursting into blossom and fresh green foliage. Birds' nests are full of hungry young beaks and busy parents carrying ever more supplies. Gardeners gaze anxiously at the invasion of moss in their lawns and wish they had pricked and mown them last week. All those seeds to be sown before it is too late. And I nearly forgot the potatoes which, left in their dark winter storage, have already sprouted long, thin, useless shoots so that I must steady my nerve and ruthlessly snap them off to start again with sturdier replacements.

Everywhere, including St. Dunstan's, is "all go" and I am reminded of a nice (though ridiculous) little jingle told me years ago by a Canadian friend:

'De spring is sprung, de grass is riz –
I wonder where da boidies is?
Some say de boid is on de wing,
But dat's absoid – de wing is on de boid!

Have a Happy Easter.

Henry Leach

THIRD LONDON MARATHON

On Sunday, May 13th, Gerry Jones will be taking part in his third London Marathon. He will be one of a team of six running to raise money for the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead. All will sport the school's T shirt. Gerry will have excellent company as the others include three men from the Metropolitan Police Force: Bill Sutherland, well known by St. Dunstan's race walkers. Also Reg Denny, who guided Mike Tetley to the Mt. Everest base camp and Brian Boyce, another race walker. The other two members of the team are a lady mobility officer from the school, and Mike Brace, veteran of running, canoeing and skiing marathons. Good luck to them all.

It is hoped that many of our readers will write in to the Public Relations Department for a sponsorship form.

CONCERT SEATS RESERVED FOR THE BLIND

London's concert halls on the South Bank have made special provision for the blind. Two seats are reserved in the Royal Festival Hall for blind or partially sighted patrons attending concerts in the company of their guide dogs. This scheme also operates in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room. In the Queen Elizabeth Hall the seats are situated at the back of the rear stalls and in the Purcell Room at the rear of the auditorium. A map of the seating plans for each of these venues with the corresponding prices marked may be obtained by writing to: Box Office Manager, Royal Festival Hall, London.

CHESS CANCELLED

We are sorry to announce that the chess weekend (April 28-29) has been cancelled.

ROYAL ANTEDILUVIAN ORDER OF BUFFALOES

Would all St. Dunstan's brethren please send their names and addresses to Tom Page, 54 Regents Park Avenue, Morecambe, LA3 1AU, as he plans to send out the Quarterly Journal on tape.

Members of the R.A.O.B. intending to take part in the get-together at Ian Fraser House, from October 12th-15th, are asked to bring along their initiation parchment.

TALKING BOOKS CATALOGUE Nos. 4001-4500

The latest Talking Book catalogue which covers the titles 4001-4500 has now been sent to all Talking Book members. Any member who has not received the new catalogue should contact the Talking Book Service, Mount Pleasant, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 1RR or Tel: 01 903 6666. The catalogue now lists the newest 500 titles rather than 1000 so that readers will know about the latest titles earlier.

D-DAY LANDINGS

The editor of the *Review* would be interested to hear from any St. Dunstaners who took part in the D-Day landings, or in the campaign which followed shortly after that, and who would be willing to be interviewed. If you would like to take part in his research, please contact the editor at the Public Relations Department, H.Q.

St Dunstons Review

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Cover Picture:
Don Planner, winner of St. Dunstan's downhill ski race.
(See article on centre pages).



Group Captain Lewis presents the G3 MOW trophy to Peter Jones.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY AGM — 2-4 March 1984

by Ray Hazan

A good but slightly sad year for the Society, culminated with its AGM on Saturday, March 3rd at Ian Fraser House. As usual, the committee met on the Friday evening, and they were delighted to have sitting in with them the Society's new President, Sir Henry Leach. As he was unable to be present on the following day, he took the opportunity to meet as many members as possible. This was much appreciated.

The committee's sad task, the following morning, was to report to the 19 members present, that due to the building works about to start, the shack would be closed down for the next 18 months or so. However, the equipment would be securely stored, and since the antennae were still operational, the June and September meetings would go ahead as scheduled in the Winter Garden. Once more, the severe weather had caused damage to the aerials, and the situation would be re-examined during the next 12 months. Finally, but most importantly, the committee, Chairman, Peter Jones, Secretary, Ted John, and members, Tom Hart, Bob Davis, and George Cole, were unanimously re-elected.

An excellent luncheon was provided by Red Ball Catering under the ever vigilant eye of Paul James. The Chairman welcomed guests including Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme, the guest speaker, representatives from the Royal Signals, Royal Naval and Sussex Amateur Radio Societies. Miss Elaine Howard of *Practical Wireless* magazine, a representative from HMS Cavalier, to be berthed permanently at the Brighton marina. Also represented were British Telecom and members of HQ and IFH staff. The G3 MOW trophy was presented to Peter Jones, who, the members considered, had done most for the Society over the preceding year.

To keep a group of St. Dunstaners awake after a large lunch, with wine, is no easy task. But the President of the R.A.F. Amateur Radio Society, Group Captain K.G. Lewis, C.Eng., R.A.F. succeeded. He gave two talks in one. The first, a most thoroughly researched history of the RAF Amateur Radio Society and the second about No. 1 Radio School at Locking, near Weston-super-Mare. Group Captain Lewis is Commandant of the School. It is here that

R.A.F. technicians learn all about electronics and the equipment needed to support a modern day R.A.F. It was here, in 1928, in a wooden hut, that the R.A.F. ARS was founded. At the end, plaques were exchanged by both societies.

New members

The remainder of the weekend resumed its regular pattern of radio contacts, exchanges of ideas, experiences, and hints. This is regarded as a most important part of the weekend. Anyone who is considering amateur radio, whether he has any pre-

vious knowledge or not, is cordially invited to attend. The more experienced members are only too willing to help and advise on how to get started. Why not come along, without obligation, as they say, to see if it is the sort of hobby that might interest you. If you enjoy a good chinwag, and like the idea of travelling without actually leaving your house, then amateur radio could fulfill your needs. The next meeting is on 22nd June. All those interested are advised to book in early via HQ. All members of the Society join in thanking Cmdr. Conway and all members of staff who contributed to the success of the weekend.

TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATED AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

by Ray Hazan

If ever you are in need of a mental exercise, try writing a simple, concise and understandable article, no pictures of course, on an item of modern technology. How much easier it is to give in occasionally and let the St. Dunstaners have hands-on experience and be able to talk to designer or user. Such an occasion took place at Ian Fraser House on Sunday, March 4th.

Over 30 people wandered around the three items on display. Peter Jones demonstrated the BBC Micro B computer, previously described in the January/February *Review*. Much interest is being shown in Peter's work from all over the country. On this occasion he was interviewed by Radio Sussex.

Also on display was the Versabrilite unit linked to a speech system. This has also been previously described. The manufacturers, TSI, are continually incorporating new features to make it more universally acceptable and up to date.

Braille Writer

The third item was brand new and drew a lot of attention. The Braille Writer, by Pathfinder of Herefordshire, was demonstrated by one of its designers, Mr. Lewis Woolfson. The unit measures 15 x 7 inches and slopes from the front at 1 inch thick to 3 inches at the back. At top centre are seven keys laid out in the Perkins format. Above these is one single function key. At the top

right is a roll of paper about 4 inches wide operated by an internal printer. The whole may be carried in an attaché case and weighs about two pounds. It operates from internal batteries which need charging only once a week if the internal printer is not used.

Text of up to 10,000 characters is fed in via the braille keys. It will accept both grade one and grade two braille. Internal retrieval is via a built in speech unit. Text can be read back totally, sentence by sentence, word by word, letter by letter. It can find specific words, thus be used as a telephone directory or appointments book. Text can be edited and dumped on an ordinary tape recorder, thus permitting the maintaining of files. A version with built-in cassette storage is planned, but at two hundred pounds extra. The text you have written can be either printed out on the 35 character line printer previously mentioned, or sent to an external printer or braille embosser. The unit is priced at £1770 and is exempt VAT.

Every few months sees a new device on the market. They have largely similar capabilities where information storage and retrieval and text editing are concerned. The potential purchaser must carefully consider requirement, capacity, reliability, portability and price. Please do not hesitate to contact Norman French or Ray Hazan at HQ. If they cannot answer your query, they will pass you on to someone who can.

Enjoying a Spanish Holiday

Norton Christal, of the Isle of Man, has written to impart some interesting information about his very successful recent holiday in Spain.

My wife and I have just returned from a month on the Costa del Sol, this time at the Angela Hotel in Fuengirola. Once again we had at least 20 days of bright warm sunshine out of the 28. The remaining eight days were still warm. The Angela was warm, comfortable and very friendly with dancing every night to an organ. The rooms were comfortably furnished with a radiator in the bathroom and bedroom. The water in the taps was always hot.

The Angela is a nine-storey hotel with three lifts and each storey has some rooms with a sunny balcony. It is as well to ask for a room with a balcony when booking, and I think it would pay when your booking is confirmed if you wrote to the manager and especially ask for a balcony, explaining that you are blind. The food is good, there is plenty of choice and the helpings are large. The hygiene throughout the hotel is excellent.

Fuengirola is a good centre for touring but you will find that most of the tours are covered by the local bus services, which are much cheaper, though of course you miss the running commentary given to you on a tour. Incidentally, train travel is cheaper than bus and it pays you to go to any of the three main stations - Malaga, Torremolinos or Fuengirola and purchase O.A.P.'s tickets costing 100 pesetas. To obtain this you have to produce your passport to show that you are over sixty. By producing this ticket, all fares on the local railway are half price. We used to catch a train for Arroyo de la Miel at Los Bolches, ten minutes walk from the hotel, and buy our tickets on the train. Out of six trips the guard never came near to collect our fares, except on the first one when he short changed us by 25 pesetas.

Talking of money, we have found that it is a good thing to buy some 1,000 peseta travellers cheques before leaving home, as whatever the exchange rate is at the time of cashing them, you still get the 1,000

pesetas. It is a chancy gamble, because recently the value of the peseta against the English pound seems to vary day by day. When we bought the notes the rate was 226 pesetas to the pound, but when we left it had dropped to 218.

Finally, if you want braille books to read either take them with you or arrange with the travel firm with whom you book to have the books sent to the hotel, having previously confirmed that they will send them out by their couriers. I say this feelingly, for St. Dunstan's sent some to me on December 14th, but they had still not arrived when we left on February 4th. However, when I asked for a replacement book, it was despatched at once, marked urgent, and arrived in four days. Incidentally, books or parcels sent by post are not delivered. Instead you receive a note from the Post Office telling you that there is a parcel awaiting collection and you have to produce this note when collecting it.

The main firms covering the hotel were Horizon, Thompsons and Cooks. Incidentally, we have always found it pays to book with the firm itself rather than through a travel agent.

The Review in Germany

St. Dunstan's George Cole, of Shoreham-by-Sea, sent copies of the *Review* to his friend and fellow amateur radio enthusiast Hans Fishbeck of Munich and received this reply:

'Thank you for your long and very interesting letter of 11th January, with the two copies out of your War Blind Book. Many thousand thanks. The two copies with you I did regard again and again and naturally I also showed them to my friends. Seeing you, Mrs. Birkeneder at once and spontaneous said: "Oh what a man, your friend George looks very good and so smart!" (I hope your dear wife will not become jealous Hi Hi Hi!!!) Many greetings from Irmengard - XYL and her husband Horst. Indeed, these are two UFB snaps of you and I must say my highest respect to observe the contingent of St. Dunstaners who marched past the Cenotaph in best discipline. What I admire is your cultivation of tradition. Your tradition, the great force of Great Britain - UFB! Again many thanks for the two copies.'

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



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

Alfred Henry Caton, of Harlow, joined St. Dunstan's on February 27th. He is married and his wife's name is Ena.

Mr. Caton, who is 86, served in the Royal Navy as a signalman during the First World War and continued to serve on a 12 year engagement. He suffered an injury to one eye in Turkey in 1919 and was discharged in 1920.

Harold Elliott, of Crewe, Cheshire, joined St. Dunstan's on February 8th. He is married and his wife's name is Doreen.

Mr. Elliott served in the 1st Battalion Queens Royal Regiment and was wounded in Burma.

Frederick James Hobbs, of Hove, joined St. Dunstan's on February 24th. He is a widower with five children.

Mr. Hobbs, who is 84, served in the Royal Engineers as a corporal during the First World War and lost his right eye at St. Quentin in France in March 1918.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Mr. Harry Leggo, Federal Secretary and Treasurer of St. Dunstan's (Australia), was honoured in the Australia Day Honours Lists, being made a Member of the Order of Australia, (A.M.).

Mr. Leggo served in the Australian Air Force during the War and failing eyesight as a result of that service forced him to retire in 1977 from his position as State Manager of H.C. Sleigh, Ltd. (Aust.). Since then he has devoted a great deal of his time to the Society of the Blind & Deaf in Tasmania, serving two terms as Acting Executive Director. He had been involved in the Guide Dog Movement for fifteen years.

Since becoming a member of St. Dunstan's in 1977 he quickly became involved, taking on his two posts with great energy and dedication.

American Laser Could Blind Soldiers Permanently

Nothing is new, even in the horrific field of modern warfare. Recently our attention was drawn to an article which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* in December 1983. It tells of the reported development of a laser by the American Army which permanently blinds enemy troops as far as a mile away. Called 'claw' the laser beam is portable and is capable of blinding both troops and optical sensors such as tank periscopes. However its performance is affected by rain and fog.

These words began an article which appeared in the *Review* in May 1924. 'We cull the following from a recent issue of the *Daily Graphic*:-

'An eminent scientist indicated to a representative of the *Daily Graphic* recently, the discovery of a ray of actinic light, which might be used with devastating effect on human life in the event of war!'

The article continued; 'It is not yet known at what range the ray will be effective, but certainly no eye would be safe from its influence at a distance of 1,000 yards.'

What seemed an interesting scientific development sixty years ago is now a frightening reality.

OBITUARY

We are sad to report the death of Colonel W.J. Shoolbred, Vice-President of the 'Not Forgotten Association', and a Member of St. Dunstan's.

Colonel Shoolbred became a director of the 'Not Forgotten' Association in 1963. After his retirement in 1981 he was appointed Vice-President. He always actively aided the work of the Association and took a great interest in it, spending as much time as possible visiting and talking to disabled ex-servicemen. He took an active part in the numerous occasions organised by the Association, many of which were attended by groups of St. Dunstaners.

He will be greatly missed.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 2760

Cop Killer

by Sjowall & Wahloo

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 11 hours

Malmö, Sweden. A woman waits at a bus stop. A car draws up and she gets in. They drive to a wooded area just outside the town, where the driver strangles her and conceals the body in marshy ground.

Martin Beck, chief of the Swedish National Homicide Squad, arrives in Malmö to investigate the disappearance of 38 year old Sigbrit Maart. Although at this point there is no body, Beck receives orders from his bumbling and incompetent boss to arrest her neighbour, Folke Brenkston, for her murder. Brenkston is a sex-killer who has served out his sentence.

The only other possible suspect is the woman's ex-husband, a violent and brutal man, but he does seem to have a watertight alibi. With great reluctance Beck arrests Brenkston.

Weeks later the woman's body is found and Beck and his team begin to build up a case – but against whom, if not Brenkston?

Sigbrit Maart led a quiet, not to say dull life, with no known male associates. Brenkston, in the circumstances, seems to be the prime, if not the only, suspect. But Martin Beck is by no means satisfied. . .

A sparkling 'whodunit' in which the interest never flags for a moment, with a fast-moving by-plot which gives the title to the book.

Cat. No. 3742

The Monterant Affair

By Richard Grayson

Read by David Sinclair

Reading Time 6½ hours

Paris in the late nineteenth century. The curtain comes down on a new production of 'La Dame aux Camélias' with the beautiful and celebrated Sophie Monterant in the lead. Within the hour she is dead, killed by a poisoned chocolate.

Inspector Gautier of the Paris Surêté finds her secret diary which reveals that she was very selective in her choice of men, granting her favours only to the rich and powerful, among them a General, a Gov-

ernment Minister and a Count. Would any of these distinguished men have cause to kill her?

Marcel Pelotti a professional criminal is arrested for the murder of a courtesan. During examination he also confesses to the killing of the actress. 'You can only guillotiner me once' he tells the Juge d'Instruction.

Gautier's boss, the Director, is delighted and relieved that the case has been solved so quickly – and without a breath of scandal in high places. But Gautier is not wholly satisfied that Pelotti is the real killer. He had no known motive. It was true he delivered the box of chocolates, almost certainly doctored them with cyanide. But supposing he were just the agent, acting for some other man – or woman? When arrested Pelotti had been carrying a very large sum of money for which he had no satisfactory explanation.

Gautier begins to probe and uncovers some surprising facts. But it is only when La Monterant's ex-maid is savagely attacked in the street that the pieces of the puzzle begin to fall into place. . .

A well constructed better than average 'whodunit' set against the background of the fashionable and bohemian Paris of the 1890's.

Cat. No. 4378

Fat Man on a Bicycle

By Tom Vernon

Read by Dennis Hawthorne

Reading Time 11 hours

Tom Vernon felt he needed a change from his desk-bound job at the BBC, so he decided to cycle to the Mediterranean. He had done no serious cycling for years and weighed in at nineteen stone.

One fine summer morning he waved goodbye to his wife and children in Muswell Hill and set forth on his brand new multi-geared upmarket bicycle. He wore a white T-shirt with his portrait and the legend 'Le gros type a velo' emblazoned on his ample chest.

Several weeks, innumerable empty bottles and stacks of well cleaned plates later he dipped a symbolic toe in the sea at Montpellier, while somebody broke a bottle of sparkling wine over his handlebars. He

had covered 866 miles. He weighed in at nineteen stone.

His journey was both pilgrimage and voyage of discovery. He travelled on minor roads and country lanes, avoiding the tourist traps. He poked around small country markets, toured a cider factory, visited chateaux and monasteries, talked French history and politics with the high born and the villager, looked in on places of special interest in out of the way corners. He describes the sounds and smells and sights of France with an ebullient wit and sparkling turn of phrase.

He takes us with him on a joyous bike-ride and there's plenty of laughter, good food and wine.

And he makes quite certain that we enjoy every single mile.

Cat. No. 2286

Child of Fire

By Aileen Quigley

Read by Carol Marsh

Reading Time 7 hours

This is a rags-to-riches, maidservant-to-great-lady tale, set in Restoration London. Lucy is sixteen and tavern wench at the Tabard in Southwark. Her parents died in the fire from which she was rescued as a child.

By a lucky chance she is taken into the service of the Lady Elizabeth, the sweet and gentle young bride of Thomas Armitage, a rich London merchant. Immediately the two girls become devoted friends, 'like Juno's swans, inseparable'.

The rest of the household consists of Rebecca the Armitage cousin (early in the book cast in the role of the villainess of the piece) and the moody handsome Piers, Thomas's younger brother.

Lucy's fiery temper and too-ready tongue get her into all kinds of scrapes and on more than one occasion she only just escapes being tossed back into the gutter. But after many vicissitudes, a whole series of misunderstandings and a narrow escape from what seemed certain death, our heroine finds true happiness and the love of a good man in the end – but we knew she would, really.

A heart rending story of true love having a very bumpy ride, set against the background of the Great Plague and Fire of London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mrs. Margaret Bingham, Macclesfield, Cheshire

Macclesfield Society for the Blind hold a bulb competition annually and a cup is presented to the winner, to be held for 12 months. This year my hyacinths were judged the best and I was presented with the cup. As my flat is centrally-heated I have nowhere to start the bulbs off, so I have them in my refrigerator for about 10 weeks.

From: Mr. Sydney Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine, by Dundee

Separate visits to my home recently, buried as this is in the countryside north of Dundee, from Terry Bullingham and Alec Morton, two new St. Dunstaners, reminds me of an occasion in 1970 when a large vehicle drew up outside Roseangle. Two people got out of it and announcing themselves as Robert and Joyce Pringle, brought inside with them a load of rump steak and a bottle of whisky. They were the first St. Dunstaners we ever entertained. Next day, rapid arrangements having been made, we set forth over a hill-track, Robert having Joyce to keep him right, myself the daughter of a friend. We spent the night in a barn, came back over another hill-track and ended the day, I remember, at two or three in the morning debating capital punishment over the last of the whisky.

Things were less dramatic with Terry and Alec, a matter of chatting round the fire, but we look forward to seeing them in the future, them and their wives, for while Terry means to set up a business in Dundee, Alec looks forward to growing old gracefully not far from his native Fife. For the two of them are settling in Dundee. Increasing age being what it is, I doubt if a second visit from Robert and Joyce would result in what it did 13 or 14 years ago.



More snow expected — grit your teeth

by Ray Hazan

'One man's snow is another man's holiday.' It was with a certain feeling of guilt that one heard of the terrible winter storms that struck the north of England and Scotland. Guilt, because it meant there would be snow in the Alps, and at least one party of St. Dunstaners would be happy. Or would they? For this year, we were going to forsake our usual Snow Queen in the Bavarian Alps, and try the French Alps instead. A decision partly forced on us, by being let down by our usual travel agents. As it turned out, it was a cloud that gave us silver skiing.

La Plagne 1800 — no, not a special insurance policy for blind skiers, but a purpose-built resort in the Tarentaise mountains of south east France. The resort is made up of six villages, their outlook being more functional than aesthetic. The buildings house hotel rooms, chalets, self-catering apartments, shops, discos, cafes, saunas, indeed, all the paraphernalia which make up a holiday resort; but for sand, read snow.

La Plagne is the highest resort in Europe. The brochure boasts of 185 kilometres of ski runs, ranging from a height of 6000 ft to a glacier, which can be skied on throughout the summer, at just over 10,000 ft. The complex was so vast that it took 3 days to find the best runs, the least crowded, the sunniest, etc. You could have skied all day without doing the same run twice.

There is nothing more guaranteed than sun, snow, fresh air, and the excitement of

anticipation to revive flagging spirits. The UK party had coached in from Geneva without any problem. But our guides from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and 94 Locating Regiment, The Royal Artillery, had become enmeshed in the French lorry drivers' strike. It was one battered trilby hat which saved the day. Gerry Jones had the brilliant idea of hanging it outside our apartment block. It was recognised by the ever observant, and our close friend, Gunner Olly Allport, and so, at 4.30 in the morning, our party was complete.

I cannot pay tribute enough to our guides. After 2 days of frustrating driving, and only a few hours rest, they were on the slopes by late morning. But you expect that of the champion BAOR team! Their leader, Captain Andy Wardrop, a cross-country skier who has seen the light, looked after Don Planner. Andy took to guiding as though he had been doing it all his life. On his first day, he took Don down a black run, black being the highest grade. Lance Bombardier Peter Zamudio is now a friend of three years standing. Initially, he coached Bill Shea, the eldest of our party; but these Royal Marines are made of stern stuff! Thereafter, he took Alan Wortley from the glacier at 3250 metres down to 1100 metres. To hear Olly and Gerry together is like listening to a well oiled (a term used with care!) ski machine. The description of the slope beforehand, calm, unhurried instructions to turn, occasionally ending in a wail and helpless laughter. I was guided

by 18 year old Gunner Andrew Graham. This was only his second season. How often have St. Dunstaners felt a nervously trembling arm help them across a road? But Andy was always by my side, his strong confident voice reassuring and encouraging. A remarkable experience.

WOII Tony Turner from 3 Royal Anglian, was a little surprised when he saw the standard of skiing. But experience and ability soon told, and he was soon guiding Bill like a veteran. Gerry's son, Nathan, of 40 Royal Marine Commando, is no newcomer to our party. He is an able, helpful and most useful guide. I cannot help but remark that several of us have now had experience of both civilian and service guides. Their own ability, their experience of dealing with people, their confidence and devotion make the servicemen uniquely fitted for this role. Add to this their sense of fun and helpfulness off the slope, and you have created a bond of confidence, understanding and comradeship which is very rare. We hope most sincerely that this liaison may continue into the future.

I cannot leave the subject of guides without saying thank you to Richard and Rachel Wortley, and to Jane Boyd, daughter of Bill Shea, except for the time she tried to take her father down the Kamikazi run!

Another group of people to whom we were greatly indebted, were those who

managed and ran the ski lifts. The former gave our guides free passes, which at £44 a time is quite a saving. I should mention here that this was thanks largely to an intercession by our French sister organisation for the war blinded. Merci beaucoup. The lift management also gave us permission to go to the front of all queues, which, as you will see, was a tremendous help.

The lifts at La Plagne are a story unto themselves. They are long, and go at a cracking pace. The 6 man gondola is easy — once you get to it! With skis in one hand, guide in the other, there are steps to be mounted and descended, 2 escalators, a gangway which doubles backwards and forwards on itself, a turnstile, and there is the gondola making its inexorable way along the platform. Skis have to be loaded on an outside rack, passengers embarked and the door locked — all on the move. Suddenly, there is a rattling, a shaking from side to side, and forward motion, just like on a helter skelter. The car shoots down the ramp, hooks onto the main cable, and you are away to the top of the mountain, with only the occasional stomach turning lurch as you go over a pylon.

Another exciting experience to be gained is on the button lifts. For the past several years we have been used to T bars. On these, your guide can talk you around any dodgy patches. The button consists of a

Alan Wortley following close behind his guide, Lance Bombardier Peter Zamudio.



More Snow Expected — *continued*

pole with a disc the size of a breakfast plate at the end. The disc fits between the legs and it tows you along. And you are absolutely on your own. Were it not for the kindness of the operators who slowed the lifts down when they saw our yellow warning bibs, we would have shot off at 68 mph. Then comes the sheer unpredictability of the whole thing. Your knees pump up and down like pistons as each ski adopts a life of its own in the rutted tracks. Sometimes a large hole will snatch the ski off your boot! Sometimes the pole onto which you are clinging for dear life seems to lie parallel, and just a few inches above the ground, at others you are climbing vertically. Most alarming is when you find yourself overtaking the pole on a downward slope, and worst of all, when the pole disappears to one side at a bend! If the button has not been able to throw you off before now, it has two final surprises in store. As you near the release point, the lift seems to gather speed, and the ground slopes down. You therefore shoot off like a cork from a pop-gun! The other problem is when your guide travels behind you and the release point is over a blind hill. For further details about this experience, write to Bill Shea!

Finally, there were the two-man chair lifts. This is a relatively easy operation. You simply stand with skis on until the forward edge of the chair clouts you suddenly and painfully behind the knee. The force of the blow will cause you to stagger back in agony, and, with luck, you should find yourself seated. I have to come clean and admit there is a hint of exaggeration in there, as once again, the attendants were most helpful.

But even so modest a form of transport can have its perils. Sian Wortley's ski stick became entangled in the chair just as it was time to get off. Neither had she taken her hand out of the wrist strap. As the chair rose into the air, so did she, and a horrified Joan saw her daughter dangling 10 ft. in the air from a tiny wrist jutting 'twixt anorak and glove, ready to embark on the return journey downhill! Again, we thank the ever vigilant lift attendants.

We know why the French lorry drivers chose that week to take action. It was the Parisian holiday week, and all 35,000 beds in the resort were occupied. At some lifts, queues were 30 to 45 minutes long. But

thanks to the brainwave and boldness of Jennie Hazan, who had a word with the Tourist Office, we were allowed officially to jump all queues. This made a great difference to the rest of the week. The slopes were ideal for our needs; long, reasonably wide, smooth and with a perfect snow covering, which made a lovely crunching sound when walked upon. Although the air temperature never rose above freezing, there was sufficient sun to sit outside for lunch — an enormous hunk of fresh, french bread, slices of salami sausage and pickles. A meal for a king! Everyone did an enormous amount of skiing, a record being 8 hrs. with one half hour break. From the skiing point of view, the most successful trip yet, and only one bruised knee into the bargain.

But where we gained on the skiing, we lost a little on our usual standard of après-ski. Although our individual apartments were lavishly furnished down to a dishwasher, and were all located in the same block, nevertheless, the party was split up. Nor were there many eating houses in Plagne 1800. Another record was broken, the earliest night to bed!

'Thank you' dinner

However, a closely knit group of people will enjoy a party anywhere, and our by now traditional thank you dinner to our guides proved no exception. This year, we chose a fondue party. Small pieces of steak are skewered onto long, thin forks which are then lowered into a pan of oil bubbling away merrily in the centre of the table. It was the most hazardous of the week's experiences! With the meal came various sauces to dip the meat into, french bread, chips, wine, ice-cream and coffee. Our thanks to Peter for safely ferrying the party in the mini-bus.

The meal was a forerunner to a glorious party which followed back at the apartment. Songs were sung, congas danced, spot prizes won — laughter and good fellowship to cement an already well proven bond. For the second time, the guides hit their beds at 4.30 a.m. But all were out on the slopes again the following morning, sooner or later.

On the afternoon of our last day, a cold and cloudy one, we held our races. There were only 3 gates to negotiate, but the enthusiasm, and encouragement of the many interested onlookers made it feel like

the Olympics. The standard was much higher this year, so credit to competitor and guide especially. The trophy, a large and very loud alpine cow-bell, was won by Don Planner. I have to report that the guides made their usual pig's ear of the course when brought down it blindfolded. They will need a lot more practice! We learnt that evening that Jonathan and Giles Hazan obtained their 2-star awards.

Once again, we are indebted to Lt. Col. I. Fowler, Royal Artillery, Lt. Col. C. Groves, 3 Royal Anglian, and St. Dunstan's, without whose help and blessing this trip would not be possible. We thank the agents, Ski-3V. We thank Andy, Tony, Peter, Olly, Andrew

and Nathan, not just for their expertise on the slopes, but their patience, willingness and good humour off the slopes as well. Indeed, we thank all sighted members of the party for their help and good humour.

The sighted may remember, as Jennie does, the day she skied at the top of the mountain. All around, the white capped summits bearing their lonely vigil. Not a single person in sight. Below an unending view into the valley across untouched snow fields. A peace and solitude in total contrast to every day. For the blind, a bond of friendship and sense of achievement and exhilaration. After going up the button lift, the rest seems like child's play!



Bill and his wife, Alice, with three actresses from the Tenko series.

F.E.P.O.W. Memories by Bill Griffiths

I was privileged recently to be a guest of the Imperial War Museum, London, at the official publication ceremony of 'The Burma Siam Railway, The Secret Diary of Dr. Robert Hardie 1942-1945'. The diary was written secretly by Dr. Hardie during his three and a half years as a Japanese P.O.W.

Several ex-Japanese P.O.W.'s who had known Dr. Hardie whilst working on the infamous railway, and had been featured in the book, were also guests. In addition to some reminiscing of those dark and difficult bygone days, there was a happier and interesting aspect, meeting and chatting to three charming actresses who played the part of women prisoners of the Japanese in the television series entitled 'Tenko'. All three actresses said they had felt greatly honoured to play the part of those women

prisoners, were proud to have got to know them and hoped that in some small way their performances would perpetuate the memory of the women who died and those who still suffer as a consequence of their captivity. I was quite amused when one of the actresses told me that she was really a far nicer person than the lady she portrayed in the series.

Guests included: The National President of the Royal British Legion, General Sir Patrick Howard Dobson, Group Captain Sir Leonard Cheshire, The National President of the Far East ex P.O.W. Association, Mr. H.L. Payne, National Welfare Advisor and Mr. P.S. Cairns, Far East ex P.O.W. Association.

The series 'Tenko' is to be repeated in the spring.



Mrs. Dacre, President, addresses the guests at dinner.

Ex-P.O.W. Weekend 1984

by Tom Hart

Once again, from all corners of Great Britain, a large number of ex-prisoners of war, with their wives and friends, invaded Ian Fraser House for the happiest reunion that I have ever attended. Indeed it seemed that all those who attended had the same thought.

A very good get together took place on Friday night, with dancing of all sorts. This was held in the annexe where a bar was laid on. During the evening we had one or two songs from Billy Griffiths and his dear wife Alice, and a very good rendering of Frank Sinatra by one of our southern F.E.P.O.W.'s, who represents us on the National Committee. The buffet set out for us was fit for a Mayor's banquet and may I, on behalf of everyone there, say thanks for a brilliant turnout. Time always flies when you are enjoying yourselves and the evening sadly came to an end but boy, what a night, and yet more to come over the weekend.

After breakfast on Saturday, a meeting was held with a very good attendance, including a great number of wives. This took place in the Winter Garden and was presided over by our dear President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre. Quite a number of items were discussed and a welcome cup of coffee served. The meeting ended with everybody looking forward to the evening but not before paying their dues. I think most

people relaxed a little after lunch, ready for the evening's activities.

Everyone assembled in the staff dining room at half past seven for sherry and to meet any late arrivals. Then everyone was greeted by the Chairman and his charming wife and we all went into dinner. There were gasps of amazement as each party entered the Winter Garden, as it was a picture that most of our ladies and guests will never forget. The flower arrangements and tables were really magnificent and warrant a special mention and congratulations.

Our guests of honour were the Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach G.C.B. and his wife Lady Leach and our guest speaker, Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman G.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C. Other guests included, from H.Q., Mr. William Weisblatt and Mr. David Castleton. Also Mrs. Dacre and Miss Stenning, together with members of staff from Ian Fraser House, Commander Conway, Major Neve and Mrs. Pugh.

After a wonderful dinner, served with aplomb and alacrity (and I enjoyed that as well ha ha!), with wine there for those who needed refilling again and again, it came to the spot in the evening when a lot of people said: 'I hope the speeches are not going to be too long'. They were not. The Chairman stood up and said after about five minutes, 'that's 38 minutes gone' and the next two

minutes brought a spontaneous round of applause for the shortest speech we have sat through. Then came the evader, Sir Alasdair, who told us of one of his escapes which was on the back of a motor bike, not on a pillion seat but on the mudguard, it sounded very funny while the tale was being told but you could feel the burning each time they went over the rocks and rough ground, which seemed to be plentiful. Then he told us of the great work which was being done for the ex-R.A.F. and the holiday homes they have for them overseas, also the vast sums of money required for their running. His wit and repartee was the best we have heard at any dinner. He would top the bill at any function. Well done Sir.

After all the speeches, a presentation was made to Mrs. Ann Pugh, on behalf of all those present, for all the entertainment she had put on for us, not only for that weekend but for all the years she had been in the entertainment office. Thank you very much Ann and God bless you.

Most of the P.O.W.'s were together again on Sunday morning at a special church service taken in the chapel at Ian Fraser House, with members and friends from Pearson House. The lesson was read by Terry Bullingham in braille.

Everyone went their different ways after lunch, some snoozing, others walking,

while many sat in the lounge catching up with the latest news and gossip. The weekend was rounded off by a rousing evening of music which was supplied by the band of the Royal Engineers and was as varied as the company that had been together all weekend. Sad to say that was the end of a wonderful couple of days.

Now comes the hardest part of all. That is to show our thanks and gratitude for all the many amenities that were made available to us during the whole weekend. On behalf of you all, I would like to thank Mr. Weisblatt and Headquarters for all the help they gave to us. Also a great big thanks to Commander Conway, Major Neve and all their staff for their splendid help. The transport section did a tremendous job toing and froing during the day and evening, well done fellows. Many thanks also to Tom and Betty for coping with us all in the dining room, especially with the extra drinks in the morning and afternoon. Thanks to Paul and Billy and his band of workers for the marvellous buffet and the delicious dinner and wines and the service that made it a perfect weekend.

No I haven't forgotten anyone yet, here it is...

Last but not least, may I thank the Committee for all the hard work they must have put in during the year which must in the end help tremendously towards the wonderful weekend. From us all, thank you very much.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman with Mr. and Mrs. David Taylor.



D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope that all is going well with you both in the house and greenhouse. As I write these notes the weather is certainly on the cold side with plenty of frost but no doubt you will have got the seeds and bulbs going for outdoor use. Those spring bulbs that I set in pots did better than for years with plenty of colour and scent in the house. I will be putting them straight out of the pots into the garden where they can stay and recover to give a show over years to come, apart from the hyacinth which will not come to much even in the future, though you may see one small flower. One can look upon hyacinths as indoor bulbs for one season, despite being expensive. Those of you who belong to garden clubs and get prizes for the plants that you show, let us know so that we can put your name in the *Review*.

Vegetables

Get all the beds ready for planting items grown earlier from seed, in frames or greenhouse, as many items such as brussel sprouts, cabbage, lettuce, etc. can be planted in their maturing beds. Remember to sprinkle some of the soil insect killer when planting and also add some calomel dust or make a paste. Birds can be a nuisance to these young plants, so some cotton stretched on sticks or plastic netting will give protection.

Seedlings of carrots, beet, onions, parsnips, etc. can be thinned out to get good size and more of these seeds can be sown to get a later crop. Set more broad beans to give a late crop and these will germinate very rapidly and make good growth. Peas can also be sown to give a carry on crop to cover the earlies. It would be wise to sprinkle the soil with a bird deterrent to stop them digging the seed up and carrying it along to their youngsters. Get French and runner beans started into growth in the greenhouse or frames in a good sunny spot, but give cover at night as frosts may come along even at this time of the year.

If you have not planted the main crop of potatoes, such as 'King Edward' or 'Majestic', get them in before the end of the month. Remember not to have too many shoots and rub some of them off leaving

only about three per tuber. Weeds always grow rapidly now, so use the hoe between the rows of the growing crops and if there is greenfly or other pests about spray at once. Put some slug and snail bait down at first signs of their presence.

Fruit

Remember that no new trees should be planted now and if you want to have fresh ones leave till the early autumn. Stop all pruning but some spraying can be carried out with a summer wash to destroy any midge or sucker. Where you have black currants which show some big bud on shoots, spray the whole bush with a lime sulphur mix or one of the modern sprays which are advertised to deal with 'big bud'. Those fruit trees against warm walls could do with a dose of manure or compost round their roots plus a good watering. This moisture will be kept over a long period since the compost or manure is there.

Lawns

Set the blades of the mower at a lower level now as the grass will be growing much quicker and brought to hand better, and the whole area will look so much better. The box must be put on and if there is only a small area, the cuttings can be put in the bin. However, if it is a pretty large lawn, consign the mowings to the compost and spread evenly. A dose of fertiliser cum weed killer should be spread with the watering can to make sure that you don't get it onto the flower borders and kill off some shrubs and perennials. Tidy up the edges by using clippers regularly. If you happen to have a small roller, take it over the lawn and it will do a power of good.

Flowers

Get all the borders ready for the new season of planting out of the hardy and half hardy annuals next month. Where you have raised these plants from seed under glass, try and get them hardened off in frames or open warm border, but do get them under cover if there is a forecast of frost or very windy conditions. Where you have no greenhouse, but a frame, get the seeds in boxes and make sure that you get

the tops on plus an extra covering of plastic sheeting or glass over each box.

See that all those perennials are growing well and fork round. Use a hoe to keep the soil open and keep the weeds down, with the larger ones taken out by hand and consigned to the rubbish bin or compost heap. Most of the spring bulbs will have finished flowering by now but don't take them out, leave the leaves to grow on for a while so that sustenance can get into the bulbs for next years colour. It is quite a good thing to tie back the leaves of the daffodils or use some rubber bands. Hardy annuals can be sown where they are to flower but do label the area with the name of the seeds. Those of dwarf growth should be placed in the front and taller ones towards the back.

Get the sweet peas tied to their canes or netting as they will be growing very quickly and can be easily broken down by winds. Some liquid or powdered fertiliser can be spread round the root areas. Aphids and other pests such as slugs and snails will be on the rampage now, so give the plants a spray and put down deterrents. Cover the baits with some slate or flat piece of stone where your dog may like getting on to the beds.

Greenhouse

Keep some heat on during the night when frosts may be about, especially if there are still some seeds germinating a bit late, plus others growing to a good size in boxes for putting out in the garden later on. Get those seedlings as close to the glass as possible and pinch out the top of those which are tending to grow tall and you will get some bushy plants.

More water will be needed as the sun increases in strength and it would be a good thing to get the shading in the shape of white liquid painted on the outside. Give plenty of ventilation but shut in the early evening. Check up those tuberous items in trays and, if growing well, can be transferred to pots in a good potting mixture. Cuttings from fuchsias and geraniums can still be taken from last years plants and they should come on very quickly. Dry off the cyclamen gradually and place in cool conditions to be ready for starting off again in late summer or early autumn.

Tomatoes will be growing well in their permanent quarters of large pots, grow bags or border soil. Get the stakes in position by the main shoot and tie in regularly to this cane. Nip out all those side shoots

apart from the flower trusses regularly. A fine spray of water will help to make a good set. When the fruit is getting a fair size, give liquid feeds of fertiliser. All kinds of insects and disease will be on the rampage, so use combined smokes every so often, starting them in the evening and close all the ventilators. Do remember to open them all up, plus doors in the morning for a time before starting to work inside again. Keep the place clear of all dead leaves and other rubbish.

SPEAK YOUR OWN WEIGHT?

RNIB's Consumers' Sub-Committee would like to know if there is a need for talking scales and how much blind people would be prepared to pay for them. They have already adapted a set of electronic kitchen scales which would cost around £110 if produced in quantity with a possible concessionary price of £80.

At present they have not found any electronic bathroom scales suitable for adaption to speech output. Talking bathroom scales are available from the American Foundation for the Blind, with a readout in pounds, at a cost of about £65, but with freight and handling charges would cost a UK purchaser about £100. If interested you should contact John FitzGerald, Technical Department, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Tel: 01 388 1266.

THE BIT TALKMAN — RADIO/CASSETTE

Everything you could want in a radio/cassette player. The unit weighs just under 1 lb., and measures 5 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. Playback is via lightweight stereo headphones. It is powered by two HP7 batteries.

Features include: FM stereo radio and a compact cassette recorder that plays both American format (4 track 15/16ths i.p.s) and standard 2 track 1 7/8ths i.p.s. Controls include: Variable speed, cue and review, pause, external microphone and tone indexer. You can record in stereo off the radio. The price is £155. A registered blind person is exempt VAT.

For further details, orders and VAT exemption form, please contact: John Tillisch Esq., Sensory Information Systems, 10 Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, London W4. Tel: 01 994 6647.

BAKING DAY with British Gas

For any budding cooks British Gas has devised a 'Baking Day' cassette specifically for blind cooks. It gives instructions for baking wholemeal bread, shortcrust pastry, tuna and egg turnovers, fruit bran loaf, victoria sponge cake and peanut cookies. The cassette is designed to be used while you are actually cooking. The instructions are divided up into stages. A bell sounds at the end of each stage so that you can turn off the cassette, follow the set of instructions and then turn back on again to listen to the next stage. British Gas suggest that you keep the cassette in a plastic bag while cooking to help prevent it from becoming covered in pastry, etc.

Pam Durie, head of the cookery department at Ian Fraser House, has listened to the cassette and recommends it even though she has a few reservations. For

example she says that the tuna and egg turnovers are a little fiddly and prefers to use cup measurements rather than weighing scales. The cassette has been added to the cassette library No. SD32.

Don't forget the other ways in which you can obtain help from British Gas. A free safety check on all appliances and installations is available to anyone who is disabled or over 65 and lives alone. A network of Home Service Advisers can be contacted through your local gas board and will come to your home to advise on the safety of gas appliances and the aids available, such as brailled cooker and central heating clock, free of charge. Remember that it is possible to agree on a personal password with your local Gas Board in order to check the identity of any caller claiming to be from the Gas Board.

CLUB NEWS

MIDLAND

Our February meeting was held on Sunday, February 12th, and was well attended.

David Taylor was escorted by his fiance and was presented with a small wedding present from the club. We also promised to be at the wedding ceremony on the following Tuesday.

Several games in our domino competition were played off. At half past four we sat down to an excellent tea, with all home made cakes, for which we thanked the ladies. Over tea we discussed our forthcoming outing to Rhyl on May 20th. It was decided that we would leave from outside the club rooms at half past nine in the morning, to give us plenty of time in Rhyl. There are a few seats still left should any St. Dunstan and escort care to join us on the trip. The fare is £2.50 for each adult, children 12 years and under travel free. For further details contact our Chairman Joe Kibbler, Tel: 021 544 7484 or Eddie Hordyniec, Tel: 021 554 9186 or Doug Faulkner, Tel: 021 351 4725.

Our April meeting will be a Bring and Buy Sale to be held at the Birmingham United Services Club, Broad Street, Birmingham, on Sunday, April 12th.

E. Hordyniec

BRIGHTON

Bowling Section

We continued our winter indoor bowling season by entertaining Burgess Hill Bowling Club on January 13th. We had a very enjoyable afternoon and the standard of bowling was good. We look forward to visiting our guests for a return match on June 14th.

On February 10th Mrs. Dacre, President, welcomed the members of the Peacehaven and Telscombe Bowling Club. This was a first time meeting and our visitors were surprised at the skill of the St. Dunstan's bowlers and they expressed a wish for future meetings.

Thank you ladies for your help on the green and for providing such excellent refreshments.

A. Miller

Bridge

Pairs Results – Sunday, February 12th

W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	72.6
W. Phillips & Dr. Goodlad	53.6
R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	50.0
R. Fullard & Mrs. Macpherson	44.0
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	40.5
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Sturdy	39.3

Individuals – February 18th

Mrs. Barker	63.6
R. Fullard	61.4
R. Freer	54.5
J. Whitcombe	53.4
J. Majchrowicz	52.3
W. Phillips	51.1
R. Pacitti	48.9
P. McCormack	47.7
J. Padley	45.5
W. Burnett	44.3
W. Lethbridge	39.8
R. Goding	37.5

FAMILY NEWS

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Doris Duxbury, widow of *Thomas Duxbury* of Barrow-in-Furness, who is delighted to announce the arrival of her first grandchild, Michael Ronald, born on January 30th to her son, Ron, and his wife Patsy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Fensome, of Meriden, who are pleased to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Esme Jayne, born on February 24th to their son David and his wife Barbara.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perritt, of Devizes, who are happy to announce the arrival of their fourth great grandson, Matthew, born to their grand-daughter Jayne and her husband Steven.

Rev. Dennis Pettit, of Northampton, who is pleased and proud to announce the birth of his second great grandchild, Alistair, born to his grandson Anthony and his wife, Jane, on February 17th.

Mrs. Violet Taylor, widow of *John Taylor*, of West Worthing, who is delighted to announce the birth of her great grand-daughter, Michelle Louise, born on February 16th to her grandson, Martin, and his wife, Irene.

NATIONAL BRIDGE

Harrogate Bridge Week

The arrangements for the 1984 trip have been completed. The outward journey is planned for September 8th and return on the 15th.

I should like to point out that all players, if possible, should make their own partner arrangements by the end of June 1984. If not, please inform Mr. Dickson at H.Q. and he will try to arrange a partner for you.

W. Allen, Secretary

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Martyn Barrett and Roberta Horsburgh, who were married on March 3rd. Martyn is the eldest son of our late St. Dunstan, *Reginald S. Barrett* of Southampton and his wife, Molly, who died last September.

Kathryn, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jubb*, of Bromley, on her marriage to Michael Green. The marriage took place on February 4th at Bromley Registry Office.

Julie Catherine, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Joe Prendergast*, of Leyland, Lancs, on her marriage to Allan Greenhalgh on March 25th.

Pauline, daughter of *Mr. Frederick Smith*, of Bexhill on Sea, on her marriage to Mr. Alan Burr on February 25th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mead, of Kettering, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on January 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Ash, of Exeter who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on March 4th.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William Freeman, of Winnersh, Berks, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 12th.

FAMILY NEWS — *continued*

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. Ruby Benham, wife of St. Dunstaner 'Jack' Benham of Hove, whose sister passed away on February 19th after a long illness.

The family of Mrs. Nell Burran, widow of Mark Burran, of Saltdean, who passed away on February 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Clarke of Folkestone, on the deaths of Mrs. Clarke's two brothers who passed away last July and January respectively.

Mr. John Linton, of Southport, who mourns the death of his wife, Rachel, who passed away suddenly on March 2nd.

Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Moore, of Oxhey, whose wife Pat passed away on February 10th, aged 29.

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.

F. Chelin, Post Office Rifles

Frank Chelin, of Southend-on-Sea, passed away on February 23rd in hospital. He was 88 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for 10 years.

Mr. Chelin served in the Post Office Rifles as a rifleman throughout the First World War and was discharged from the army early in 1919 after having been the victim of a mustard gas attack which seriously affected his eyes. As a result, Mr. Chelin underwent several major eye operations during the years up to 1974, but his sight ultimately failed and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's.

Following his war service our St. Dunstaner worked for the G.P.O. for over 40 years. He was an ardent Spiritualist and for recreation enjoyed a daily walk.

Mr. Chelin was a widower. For the past fourteen years he lived happily with his good friends Mr. and Mrs. Langden. He will be greatly missed.

G.W. Dennis, Leicester Regiment

George William Dennis, of Enfield passed away in St. Thomas's Hospital, London on February 26th. He was 69 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1954.

Mr. Dennis enlisted in the Leicester Regiment in 1934 and served throughout the Second World War. He was wounded at Nijmegen in January 1945 when he lost an eye. On admission to St. Dunstan's he trained in telephony and he worked for British Rail for twenty three years before taking early retirement on health grounds in 1978. Sadly his health did not improve but he enjoyed his visits to Brighton and family holidays in the West Country. He will be sadly missed by the staff and his friends at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow, Alice, one son and one daughter.

T.R. Horsfield, 2nd Gurkha Rifles

Terence Ronald Horsfield of Bath passed away suddenly on March 7th, aged 62. He had been a St. Dunstaner for thirty-nine years.

Mr. Horsfield was born in India and enlisted in the 2nd Gurkha Rifles in 1940. He served in Europe, being wounded and taken prisoner at Monte Cassino early in 1944. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds and lost both eyes. As a result he was one of the POWs exchanged towards the end of the war, arriving back in England in 1945.

He was shortly afterwards admitted to St. Dunstan's and trained as a physiotherapist. He took up an appointment at St. Martin's Hospital, Coombe Park, Bath where he remained until his retirement last year. He had served on the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee and will be sadly missed by all his former colleagues.

He leaves a widow, Ann, two sons and two daughters.

E. Marr, East Lancashire Regiment

Ernest Marr passed away suddenly at his home on February 9th. He was 64 years of age and a widower.

Mr. Marr served as a private with the East Lancashire Regiment from March 1938 to December 1944. He was blinded by a gunshot wound in Normandy in August of that year and came to St. Dunstan's in July 1947. After a period of training, Mr. Marr took up industrial employment in March 1949 and this was to be his occupation until he left the Mullard Valve Company in July 1979. In retirement he enjoyed gardening and holidaying abroad.

Our sympathy goes to his devoted friend, Mrs. Kathleen Bottomley.