



**St Dunstans
Review**

June 1984



From the Chairman

On 6 June people from the World War II Allies and their (then) Opponents go to Normandy. So far as the Allies are concerned they will pay grateful tribute to the successful landings there 40 years ago. "D" Day – Operation OVERLORD.

Many of you St. Dunstaners were there and will recall all sorts of memories. The months of rigorous training. The massive concentrations of men – British, American and Canadian; of armour; of guns and ammunition. General Montgomery coming round everywhere. The rising tension as "D" Day approached. The awful anti-climax when bad weather caused a postponement. The laying of the MULBERRY Harbour and the PLUTO Pipeline. The embarkation. The queasiness of the crossing (despite those bloody little pills!) – in weather conditions still marginal. The whole Channel thick with ships and craft of every kind. The distant thunder of the naval guns bombarding. The comforting roar of our own aircraft overhead. The jerk as your Landing Craft hit the beach. The shudder as its ramp was lowered. The cold shock of the water into which you plunged, weapon held high. The soggy clamber up the beach. The hideous uncertainty of its mines. The shattering din of small arms fire from all sides. The advance – with its growing inspiration of confidence that YOU would make it after all. And – much later – a short, snatched sleep of exhaustion.

Now, as then, you will have one sensation surpassing all others: **pride** in a formidable job well done.

You are right to be proud. And we are all proud of you. **Thank you.**

Henry Leach

GERRY'S MARATHON

Gerry Jones completed his third London Marathon, on Sunday, May 13th, in the excellent time of 3hrs. 23 mins. He wore out two escorts, Roy Parfitt and Reg Denny, on his way to the finish. Gerry was running for the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, to help raise funds for their reconstruction appeal. His time may well be the fastest a blind runner has ever achieved in the London Marathon although this has yet to be confirmed.

RETIREMENT

Renee and George Adamson will be retiring at the end of July. Between them they will have completed nearly 90 years service to St. Dunstan's.

Some St. Dunstaners have indicated that they would like to contribute to a retirement gift and have asked that a collection be organised. Miss Cynthia Mosley has agreed to act as treasurer and contributions may be sent to her at headquarters. Please make cheques payable to St. Dunstan's.

HOME BREW MYSTERY

Hugh Nabney, of Belfast, has mislaid his recipe for home made beer. The recipe was given to him by our industrial visitor the late Mr. A.J. Parker some years ago and Hugh wonders if Mr. Parker gave it to any other St. Dunstaners. If you do have this recipe please write to Hugh Nabney c/o Public Relations Department at H.Q., he would be delighted to hear from you.

RNIB'S NEW CATALOGUE OF AIDS AND GAMES

The RNIB's completely revised and updated catalogue of over 500 aids and games for blind people is now available free in print and on tape from RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA (and shortly in braille and large print). A new price list effective from May 1st is also available in print, braille and on tape.

The Catalogue is the first new edition since 1978 and will be updated with annual supplements. New items listed in the Catalogue include games such as more balls with bells and the popular cube puzzle; relief maps of English regions; an imported braille writer; a rain alert and an improved liquid level indicator.

Any suggestions for new aids are welcomed by the RNIB. Ideas are considered by a Consumers' Sub-Committee of which all the members are visually handicapped. The RNIB's Technical Department makes or commissions prototypes for evaluation where the Committee considers an idea is worth following up.

COOKERY COURSES

The new training kitchen at Ian Fraser House is now open and there are vacancies between now and July 27th and again commencing September 3rd. We also now have a microwave oven. Anyone interested in a cookery course should contact Mrs. Wood at Ian Fraser House.

CORRECTION

The correct telephone number to contact the RNIB's new Talking Book line is 01-903 6668.

St Dunstons Review

No. 761

10p MONTHLY

JUNE 1984

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Cover Picture:

This photograph was taken when H.R.H. Prince Charles made a private visit to the home of our President, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell.



Harry Gosney draws the applause of his audience at Brighton.

REUNIONS

BRIGHTON

The first reunion of the 1984 season got under way on April 6th with 80 St. Dunstaners present. Add to this, their wives, and escorts, former and present members of staff, the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Jermy, and you have a sizeable gathering.

Presiding over this distinguished body was our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach accompanied by Lady Leach. His welcome to everybody was especially extended to the mayor, 'in whose fine town St. Dunstan's enjoys generous understanding and privileges. We are deeply grateful to you and your people; please keep it up! Grateful applause was given to Matron Goodwin, Commander Conway and Major Neve for their tireless work at our Brighton homes.

The Chairman continued, 'I am happy to report that St. Dunstan's is in good order. We are currently running at over 100 St. Dunstaners from World War One in this country, with more than 50 overseas. There are just under 800 in the UK from World War Two and later, with a further 430 overseas. In addition, we look after over 700 widows.'

The Chairman recalled how a torpedo school, HMS Vernon, had been moved to Rodean during the war. 'The girls had left, of course. But there were signs remaining of the former excellence. In each dormitory, beside an electric bell push, was a sign which read, "ring for a mistress".' He had formerly been housed in Marine Gate, in Brighton, but was subsequently moved into St. Dunstan's itself. 'This was in 1942. The main advantage was, that after a night on the tiles, you could "feel" your way up to bed along the handrails!'

Sir Henry went on to say how he welcomed the Brighton establishments being used as much as possible by everyone. The repairs and alterations would inevitably cause disruption and inconvenience. In the eventuality of overlapping in bookings, he proposed the only fair solution, that priority should be given to those living furthest away. He concluded with a toast to the Brighton reunion, coupled with thoughts of those who were unable to be 'with us today'. The Mayor, Councillor Jermy, then replied, 'You have alluded in the most generous terms to what little we do for your organisation in Brighton. I have made a

note and added what all my Headmasters used to put on my school reports, "must try harder".' He said he had felt the warmth of the atmosphere straight away, and had rarely seen such happy, smiling faces. Although it was not a time to be too serious, he was aware of the fact that had it not been for the sacrifice of people such as were present, then he would not be enjoying the liberty that was so taken for granted. 'On behalf of the town, may I say we are proud and happy to have you in our midst, and I can assure you, we will try harder!'

Mr. Harry Gosney replied on behalf of the St. Dunstaners. He first paid tribute to the strenuous years of office, and the success brought to St. Dunstan's by our former Chairman, Mr. Garnett-Orme. 'I am sure we wish he and his wife a successful, happy and healthy retirement.' He proposed a warm welcome to our new Chairman. He thanked Miss Lord and Miss Stewart, who had organised the occasion. 'It gives us a great opportunity of keeping up with our old comrades and friends, making new ones. I wish you all a healthy and happy year until our next reunion in 1985.'

LONDON

ST. DUNSTANERS' GIFTS TO MR. AND MRS. GARNETT-ORME

The London (Kent and Surrey) Reunion at the Russell Hotel on April 14th was very much a special occasion. The 41 St. Dunstaners who attended with their wives or escorts welcomed our Chairman Sir Henry Leach and Lady Mary Leach to their first London Reunion in office. They also welcomed Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme and Mrs. Katharine Garnett-Orme.

The banqueting room of the Russell was to be the scene of the presentation to our former Chairman and his wife of gifts from St. Dunstaners at home and abroad. After lunch Sir Henry welcomed St. Dunstaners and past members of the staff to the Reunion, 'And a special welcome to our particular guests Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme. I am sure I speak for us all in saying what a genuine pleasure it is to have you back with us again.

'At another Reunion last week the Mayor of Brighton made a highly significant remark,' went on Sir Henry. 'He said, "I have lunched and dined with many groups

of various people: economists, politicians, industrialists, all sorts of business people, charities, the media, sportsmen, but the cheerful, smiling faces of your St. Dunstaners beat them all.'" He spoke those words from the heart and I should like to endorse them and add my personal admiration to all of you here today. Your resolute determination to keep going despite disabilities and advancing years are an inspiration to those more fortunate. Well done.'

Saying he was glad to be able to report in the presence of his predecessor that he believed St. Dunstan's to be continuing in good order, Sir Henry gave his audience some information on the numbers of St. Dunstaners and widows in the care of the organisation. He concluded with a reference to his own connections with Kent and Surrey. He was a prep school boy at Broadstairs in Kent and a year ago, 'I became a Governor of Cranleigh School, in Surrey. I leave you to guess which situation carried the greatest pleasure - and I bet you get it wrong!'

Sir Henry proposed the toast of the Kent and Surrey Reunion and introduced St. Dunstaner Ernie Russell. Saying he apologised for trespassing from Yorkshire at this Reunion Mr. Russell welcomed Sir Henry and Lady Leach. He thanked the staff of St. Dunstan's for their work and referred particularly to the difficulties they encountered during the recent transport strikes in London.

Then he turned to, 'the most important item on the agenda.' This is a most pleasing duty for me to make the presentation to our retiring Chairman, Mr Garnett-Orme. As many of you will be aware, he has served us for 25 years on the Council. During his period of office he has written his own chapter in the story of St. Dunstan's.'

Mr. Russell said the hallmark of Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme's success was their modesty and their unfailing caring qualities. 'They have adopted us as their family and they have extended the so called St. Dunstan's spirit into the spirit of St. Dunstan's. Mr. Garnett-Orme had seen St. Dunstaners through the change, for the majority, from employment to retirement and among the activities and societies he had encouraged was the successful annual gathering of the association of ex-prisoners of war. 'This is one thing again that he had kept to himself; that he also was associated



Ernie Russell makes the presentation.

with the boys and Sir Mike Ansell as a prisoner of war.'

Presenting a chronometer in a mahogany case to Mr. Garnett-Orme, Ernie Russell said that it had been suitably inscribed, 'Because whatever I say is inadequate to convey what we really feel about Mr. and Mrs. Garnett-Orme.' He read out the inscription: 'Presented to Ion and Katharine Garnett-Orme with the affection and gratitude of St. Dunstaners and their families for their 25 years of service and friendship, 1983.' Mr. Russell continued, 'To you sir, may this timepiece be a constant reminder of all you have done in the service of St. Dunstaners.'

After this Ernie Russell presented a cut glass ice bowl engraved with St. Dunstan's badge and two matching tumblers to Mrs. Garnett-Orme.

Mr. Garnett-Orme said, 'Katharine and I are thrilled and delighted with these two marvellous presents which St. Dunstaners and their families have given us. One is a chronometer and that has the most kind inscription inside and we owe the thoughts on this to a small committee who kindly came all the way to London with their wives to find out what we would like. They were Ernie Russell and Rose, Ted John and Beryl and Mike Tetley and Thelma. The inscription on this chronometer is something that means a very great deal to us.'

He said it was a surprise to receive a second present, 'which is cut, crystal glass, a large ice-bowl and two glasses and the really splendid thing about it is a beautifully engraved St. Dunstan's badge and that is an absolutely wonderful present for us.

'The chronometer is in a beautifully made mahogany box with brass bound corners and it is about five inches by four by three and it is quite heavy. When you open the lid you have this inscription which you have heard and on the other side are my initials. It is something which I think is the most accurate time piece made now and it is something I have always longed for. This will be kept on my desk at Cheriton Cottage and whenever I look at the time I will think of you all and all our happy friendships and we hope that any of you who are in our neighbourhood will come and inspect it for yourselves. We just can't thank you all enough. God Bless you all.'

Mr. Garnett-Orme sat down to warm applause and, as Sir Henry Leach put it, that concluded the formal part of the proceedings. Once again the female statues which support the ornate ceiling of the ballroom gazed down upon an animated scene as guests danced to the music of the resident band, and old friends met again to exchange their news and memories, until tea brought this most successful reunion to a close.

IPSWICH

Twenty St. Dunstaners attended the reunion held at the Moat House Hotel on May 3rd. In his address, the Chairman said, 'Nowadays, nearly every month, you hear on radio and television, of a takeover bid by some big outfit trying to swallow another, not so big outfit. Usually, it comes off. The result is a bigger thing still. There are those who claim that "Big is beautiful". There are others who believe the opposite. Our reunion here at Ipswich is probably the smallest of our regional reunions. Your Chairman continues to believe that "small is beautiful". Certainly a small reunion like this is a highly personal affair; and all the better for it.'

After relating a story involving a sea cadet from HMS Ganges, located near Ipswich, the Chairman went on to give numbers of St. Dunstaners, both in the UK and world wide. He ended by congratulating those who were able to be present, and coupled a toast to the Ipswich reunion with thoughts of those who were unable to be present.

Friendly East Anglians

Mr. W. Saxby, replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He told a story to try and help people understand East Anglians, 'people who were helpful, always ready to be friendly, but who didn't go ahead of themselves, or into other folks' affairs.' He went on to expand the theme of the help St. Dunstaners received; 'not forced on us, but just as much as we need.' Help was particularly vital in providing leisure activities during retirement years.

'St. Dunstan's has been entrusted by the nation to provide for those who lost their sight during the war. We in St. Dunstan's can look back over the years and say they have justified the trust given to them. We can repay some of that help by contributing to our local society. I am quite sure we give encouragement to those we meet.'

Mr. Saxby hoped the Chairman would still be there to lead us into the 21st century, and concluded by asking him to convey the thanks of all to the Council, staff and all friends of St. Dunstan's.

The afternoon proceeded in the usual manner with a raffle organised by Miss Newbold and tea.

BIRMINGHAM

'As goodly a bunch of forty or so St. Dunstaners as I have ever seen, not forgetting their escorts' gathered at the Albany Hotel, for their reunion on Saturday, 5th May. That verdict was Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan's as he welcomed them on behalf of the Council.

Saying that it was the first time he and his wife had been to a reunion in Birmingham, Air Vice-Marshal Colahan said, 'We have been to quite a few reunions since I joined the Council six years ago and we treasure the memories of the occasions we have been to.

'People sometimes ask me, "Where is St. Dunstan's?" I usually start by saying, "Well, our headquarters is in London and we have Ian Fraser House and Pearson House in Brighton." But the real answer, which I go on to explain if there's time, is that St. Dunstan's is first and foremost a matter of spirit and of inspiration.'

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan looked back over St. Dunstan's history and the great contributions made by Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser and Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, he went on: 'For those of you who have not met him, I can assure you that Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, our fourth Chairman, has already shown that he is in the same mould as his predecessors and I can promise you that you will continue to receive the same support whenever necessary in the years ahead that you have always been able to rely on in the past.'

Tribute to wives

The Air Vice-Marshal paid tribute to the wives of St. Dunstaners, who, he said, 'I believe very sincerely are the true heroines of the St. Dunstan's story. Time will not permit me to name everyone but I'm going to single out Mr. Whittington, of Loughborough, for a special welcome. He's attending his first reunion. A special welcome, too, to Mrs. Maynard who is the only lady St. Dunstaner present, also Mr. Bowan, from Shrewsbury, who is the only St. Dunstaner attending from the First World War.'

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan also mentioned 'old friends', Ted and Iris Miller and their skilful model making. He closed



Mrs. Colahan presents Mr. Whittington with the first prize.

expressing thanks to the hotel staff and saying, 'I hope you are all planning to take advantage of the facilities now being constructed in Ian Fraser House to enable husbands and wives to stay there together' – judging by the applause there were many in the audience with that intention.

Frank Cross rose to reply: 'Just before I left home today I was listening to *St. Dunstan's Review* cassette for May and to the Chairman's message regarding all our many activities. I can't remember them all but they included archery, bowls, bridge and canoeing. It brought to mind a story I was told by Jimmy Dunne, an ex-Wolverhampton Wanderers player. He told it me, I am pleased to say without embarrassment – so many people tell you a story about blindness and say, "Do you mind if I tell you this?"'

Mr. Cross then told the story of a coach driver with a party of blind lads who was surprised to find his passengers playing cards and admired their use of braille. When they came to a village green the coach stopped and the driver suggested his passengers might like to stretch their legs. He was further amazed when they asked if they could kick a ball about. 'How on earth do you play football,' he said. 'Oh, we have a ball with tassles on and a bell inside,' they explained. The coach driver went for some refreshment. When he came back, the vil-

lage green was totally deserted. Worried, he sought around and ended up at the village police station. 'Yes, sir,' said the sergeant, 'I've got them in the cells.' 'But these are smart lads,' said the driver, 'What could they possibly have done?' 'Well,' said the sergeant, 'If you think it's smart to kick a couple of Morris dancers round the village green, I don't.'

'That's a silly story,' said Mr. Cross, 'but it has a serious moral. None of us, we blind, can do a lot without the help of our sighted wives, friends and escorts and I told that story to underline what Air Vice-Marshal Colahan was saying. I think these annual reunions, at least in part, are for the purpose of we St. Dunstaners to meet with a member of St. Dunstan's Council and members of St. Dunstan's staff to say thank you to them. Not just to discuss our problems, although that's what we can do, but to say thank you. That's what I want you to do now. I want you to rise with me and drink a toast to the Chairman, members of the Council and members of St. Dunstan's staff. The toast is St. Dunstan's.'

With speeches over, there was a great deal more talking as old friends met each other once again. There was dancing through the afternoon until tea and the prize draw. A popular winner was Mr. Whittington who took the first prize at his first reunion.

COUNCILLOR DON PLANNER

Among the local election results on polling day May 3rd was one which, probably, was not mentioned by the TV and radio election night specials but earns a headline in the *Review*.

Our St. Dunstaner Don Planner, standing for the Alliance, was returned for Kemsley Ward in the Swale Borough Council. He polled 327 votes against the Labour candidate's 179 with the Conservative third with 79 – of an electorate of 1,003.

In his five week campaign, Don, who was the only candidate living in the village of Kemsley, managed to call personally on everyone of 632 households. He attributes his success to the fact that as a local resident he was known to be concerned with local problems.

His first Council meeting was scheduled for only two days after the election – his reaction to becoming Councillor Planner? 'I'm pleased and honoured. There are many problems and I know I've got to start at the bottom.'

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL HONOUR

Mr. J.R. Smith, a security officer at London Airport, was awarded the B.E.M. in the last Honours List.

For many years Mr. Smith has acted as an honorary welfare officer of the London branch of the Coldstream Guards Association, in addition to much good work for children in hospitals. It is Mr. Smith who helps keep St. Dunstaners in step at the Armistice Parade.

AS I SEE THINGS

by Eric Ward Rowe

In the May issue, after approval by the Management, I put forward the suggestion of a new society to be known as The Fraser Group. For many years I had attentively listened to St. Dunstaners who felt that material things were well provided but their intellectual process was given no outlet to progress. I sensed an inner feeling of mental frustration.

So knowing that the real inspiration of the growth of St. Dunstan's was from the leadership of our great champion Lord Fraser, I thought that as this year sees the

tenth anniversary of his sad and sudden death, this was the time to try and recapture some of his inspiration and bring together those St. Dunstaners who had skills, aspirations, ideas and secret ambitions. I thought this was an appropriate time to amalgamate all these talents and provide a forum from which we could develop a forward looking achievement covering all branches of interest.

Since my suggestion appeared in the *May Review* my home telephone has been non-stop. I have been surprised when told of the various avenues St. Dunstaners had taken to satisfy mental frustration. It seemed to be the general opinion that for some reason or other they had not found the scope to use their talents and slowly their mental attention had drifted away from this frustration into other fields, not in the blind world, but covering all sorts of projects and this convinced me more than ever that The Fraser Group, as an internal organisation of St. Dunstan's, was a true necessity. Someone said, 'at last the doors have been opened to let in some fresh air.' That about summed up the general attitude of those who phoned me.

I must now point out that at the time of writing this the *May Review* has really only been in the hands of readers for a few days so I have to report that I have about fifty enquiries so some hard work will have to be done to answer all the questions. I have made a special visit to London to meet the press closing date, so I shall be waiting for another two weeks before I call an inaugural meeting. It is a pity these technical obstacles are with us but we must give St. Dunstaners time to digest so I ask you all to really think hard and take up this opportunity.

My home address is, 'Fraser House', 55 Rockville Avenue, Cleveleys, Nr. Blackpool. So within two weeks of St. Dunstaners receiving the June issue I shall be forming a small holding committee. There is so much that each of us can give to each other, there is so much we can learn from each other, and there is an abundance of talent, wise experience among we St. Dunstaners so let's grasp this opportunity to make our family not only more outward looking but with a satisfaction that we are one envied group who have disabled people who have felt their desires satisfied. I look forward to hearing from you.



Dr. Linda Allenby with Marjorie Ball.

Easter Bonnets

This year Dr. Linda Allenby kindly consented to judge the Easter Bonnets and what beautiful bonnets they were! Impossible to mention each one but the following were really super:

Most inventive:-

Cyril Eighteen – 'Torville and Dean', two skaters on top of his bonnet;
 Les Copeland – 'Olympic Games 1984', sporting the flags of every nation;
 Stan Grimsey – The ultimate in daises, or did he just need a haircut?

Prettiest:-

Thelma Meredith – 'Symphony in Blue', chiffon and sequins;
 Marjorie Ball – An old fashioned bonnet festooned with Spring flowers;
 Elsie Aldred – Just like the 'Gainsborough Lady' with feathers, flowers, ribbons and bows.

Funniest:-

Ernie Russell – 'Tutti Fruitti', oranges and lemons galore;
 Elmer Richards – 'Carnation Street', a witty creation with hand-made flowers;
 Ernie Carpenter – Sporting a delightful 'Spring Bonnet';
 Robert Nobbs – 'Old Tyme Hussar'.

Congratulations to all concerned, not forgetting the staff who put so much work into making the evening such a colourful success and very nice to see such a talented contingent from Pearson House.

Commander Conway.

CHILDREN'S TOYMAKER

Like many of our St. Dunstaners, Fred Baugh, of Stafford, enjoys making wooden children's toys. He has a special interest in the Walton Stafford Playgroup which is attended by his grandsons, Daniel and Matthew. They are seen here with Mrs. Room, their playgroup leader, playing with some of the toys that Fred has kindly donated to the group. Last year, a sale of more toys donated by Fred raised £50 towards the playgroup's Christmas party. Fred has also made toys for the children's ward at Stafford General Hospital.



READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 235

The Berlin Memorandum

By Adam Hall

Read by David Broomfield

Reading Time 7½ hours

Berlin 1962. Quiller, British Agent, is preparing to leave for home. He is contacted by his 'control' and in consequence takes on the most dangerous assignment of his career.

It appears that there are a lot of very nasty Nazis, some in high places, who are busy preparing to take over the world. The organisation is called, rather predictably, Phoenix. Quiller's job is to track down the leaders and put a stop to the fun and games once and for all. Then, enter Inga Lindt, mysterious and beautiful. The question is – just whose side is she on? . . .

Nothing new so far you might think. In fact, it sounds very old hat indeed. But, to be fair, this is far removed from your common-or-garden spy thriller. The characterisation is very good, the action moves at a crisp pace, and the prose is greatly superior to most books in this genre.

In fact, quite a good read.

Cat. No. 3449

The Consultant

By John McNeil

Read by Garard Green

Reading Time 11½ hours

Waterman's is an old-established London bank whose sophisticated computer system is considered virtually fraud proof. But the directors are disturbed by a report of a multi-million dollar swindle at a U.S. bank. They decide to call in an expert to test the system for any possible weaknesses.

Chris Webb is a talented young computer consultant and he tackles the job with energy and enthusiasm. At first his investigations reveal nothing untoward, but then he stumbles on the 'computer fraud of the century', a brilliantly conceived operation which involves creaming off relatively small sums from the accounts of the bank's wealthier customers and transferring the money into modest accounts all over the country.

The genius behind the fraud is Allery,

chief computer programmer at the data centre. Believing, quite wrongly, that Webb is on to him he deposits £9,000 into his account as a kind of blackmail. Webb decides that Allery will have to go and he is killed by the 'accidental' collapse of scaffolding near the data centre.

The way is now clear for Webb to gather in Allery's ill gotten gains – but there is one apparently insoluble problem left; he will have to forge the signature 'V.P. Smith', Allery's nom-de-guerre, and there seems no way in which he can get his hands on the original . . .

An engaging book with good character drawing.

Cat. No. 4504

December Flowers

By Judy Allen

Read by Carol Marsh

Reading Time 7½ hours

Etta, aged forty-five and recently widowed, goes to stay with an aunt she has never met. She discovers that Aunt M is eighty five, silent, bedridden and apparently senile. She is looked after by the dour and uncompromising Mrs. Cullen. One day Etta quarrels with her about the meagre diet of 'slops' being fed to the old lady and the housekeeper leaves in a huff.

Aunt M has a son, Arthur, who together with his sour-faced, genteel wife, pays a weekly duty call on his mother. They are furious at Mrs. Cullen's departure, blaming Etta, but have no choice but to let her take over the care of Aunt M.

By loving care, commonsense and the right food, she works miracles with the old lady's recovery. She even earns the grudging approval of Arthur and his appalling wife.

Inevitably, since she is old and frail, Aunt M dies peacefully in her sleep. Arthur and wife arrive post haste in a towering rage and virtually accuse Etta of bringing about her aunt's death. She is astounded at this unwarranted attack – until she learns that the old lady had altered her Will, leaving everything to her . . .

A well written, well constructed and very interesting book – and something of an object lesson on the care of the aged!



Looking Back to Operation Overlord

Article: Sue Doherty and David Castleton
 Photos: Imperial War Museum, Sue Doherty

An invasion to mark an invasion will take place on June 6th this year as thousands travel to the Normandy beaches where the Queen will join with Heads of State, old soldiers and many too young to remember the war, in tribute to those who took part in the D Day landings. As the Royal Yacht Britannia glides across the Channel how many will recall at first hand the awe inspiring sight of the wartime invasion fleet as it sailed towards uncertainty? Much history has been and will be written about this operation but what was it like for the soldiers who waded ashore? We talked to some St. Dunstaners who fought in the Battle of Normandy, each has his own particular recollections.

An infantryman, Fred Bentley was among the first British troops to cross the Channel and vividly remembers the build

up to D Day in the South of England. He was with the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, 50th Northumberland Division. Over two months prior to the invasion he was posted to an American camp between Romsey and Southampton. There were a few bonuses from the Americans. 'I received more generous rations – especially of bacon and also fruit juice which was unknown in the British Army.

'We knew we were the chosen few,' says Fred who realised at the beginning of May, 'something was up – the whole atmosphere of the camp changed. We were closely guarded and told that anyone who tried to leave the camp for any reason would be shot. I was given 50 rounds for my rifle and 2 Bren mags instead of the usual 5 training rounds. The same day we were all given 200 French francs, then we knew it

was France we were going to.' That night Fred was told to spend his money. 'We went mad in the Naafi. I thought "I'm not going to die with this in my pocket. I'll drink myself to death"!'.

The next day he travelled to the dock area in a covered lorry and embarked. After a delay, due to bad weather, in very cramped conditions as the ships had not been designed to live in, Fred's ship set sail. At about four in the morning he went on deck and was amazed at the sight before him. 'I've never seen anything like it in all my life, as far as you could see nothing but boats and boats. They looked like stepping stones as if you could have walked across the Channel from boat to boat.' He remembers his own excitement was not shared by all. 'I was a single bloke and more buoyant than my married mates.

'At the beach-head the ship didn't get in far enough at first and the first man down the ramp disappeared under the water.' Eventually the ship moved closer. Fred reckons his landing 'was not too difficult'. Once on the beaches the invasion stopped for a minute as he shouted 'Anybody want a cigarette?' and produced some from a tin he had covered with insulating tape to keep them dry. His company pushed forward 15 miles in five days to breach the Atlantic Wall.

While Fred landed with the Infantry, in another craft tank man Alfred Williams of the Essex Yeomanry, was waiting to go ashore: 'We had loaded our tanks on the



Fred Bentley.

L.C.T. (Landing Craft, Tank) 619, I even remember the number. The tanks were all waterproofed so that when you went under the water they still kept dry. – At first light all the landing craft were firing every gun. You've never heard anything like it in your life.'

The first to go ashore from 619 was an officer, 'He was wounded as the front of the L.C.T. opened and hit a mine. – The first tank went in too deep water and we could feel the ship grating over it as we went in further.





British tanks going ashore across the pontoon roadway.

I was a driver operator. When the front of our tank hit the water, the water came in. I had a hole in my Mae West so I had to stand up – I kept my head above the water but machine gun bullets were hitting the tank like hailstones. The first day we only went in about 100 yards. It was bitter fighting. They bombed those Germans with hundreds of Lancasters and they were still there.'

During the campaign Fred Bentley volunteered for more than his fair share of fighting patrols. One day five or six weeks after the landings he was taken back to the beaches to a sort of 'holiday camp'. He spent three nights enjoying sheer luxury: 'There was beer and cigarettes and you could sleep. We played "housie, housie" and you could swim.' When Fred returned to the line he was asked to lead another fighting patrol against a well guarded Spandau. He was hit by a grenade and for him the fighting was over.

Alfred Williams was wounded at Annacy, just before the Falaise Gap: 'We'd been in action all day. I thought it was safe to get out and I got my tea ration and walked across to my mate's tank – something hit

me a hell of a wallop in the forehead – I think it must have been a sniper.'

Lieutenant Colonel Noel Cowley, of the 24th Lancers, 7th Armoured Brigade, was a military commander of one of the landing ships. He recalls the accuracy of the huge planning operation, and how 'every vehicle had its space marked on the plan.' He had mixed feelings as he prepared to go ashore on Sword beach. 'It was a strange sort of feeling being in a landing ship approaching the enemy shore and wondering what reception we were going to get. Once the doors opened and you went off the ramp there was no going back – you didn't think of looking over your shoulder, you just went.'

Lieutenant Colonel Cowley was in command of a 'swimming tank'. A pneumatic screen allowed the tank to float while two propellers drove it. The tanks put off the landing craft about half a mile from the beach and 'swam' ashore.

'We landed in the afternoon. I do remember passing one of the landing ships which had gone in on the high tide. At low tide it was seen to be on top of a Sherman tank that hadn't made it.'

It was during fighting at a French village called Saint Pierre that Lieutenant Colonel Cowley was wounded. 'A shell landed on the back of the tank and a piece of shrapnel went through my steel helmet. The tank was knocked out and so was I.'

Ted Miller was with the Royal Engineers, 19th Field Company. Later in the Campaign he was wounded in Holland, in an explosion while clearing mines at St. Philip's land. Several events remain vividly etched in his memory.

'On the crossing the thing that stands out most in my memory was a flotilla of M.T.B.'s (motor torpedo boats) which went past at speed creating a white wake in the sea, oil black after the storms, and the noise – rather thrilling really.'

Once on land Ted was concerned with clearing away mines and repairing and building roads and bridges. Another job was to set up mobile water purification plants. 'The thing that amazed you was the way everything had been measured out before the invasion. Everything had been worked out.'

'I remember another evening we sat on a bank watching the R.A.F. bomb Caen. They came in a steady stream and the ack ack opened up and gradually dwindled until there was about one gun firing but the dust drifted right across the Caen plain out to sea, just like a smoke screen.'

Horse drawn transport

'In the area around Rouen what amazed me was the amount of horse drawn carts and transport the Germans had. You never realised they still relied quite so much on horse drawn vehicles. In the fields you'd come across 50 to 100 horses, all had been shot, lying on their backs with their legs in the air.'

John Cowan is one of those who will be 'invading' Normandy for a second time this month. In 1944 he was with the 1st Battalion, Royal Norfolk as part of the 3rd British Infantry Division and, at the age of 20, took part in the landings on Sword beach. He had volunteered on his 18th birthday and says his whole military career was spent working up to D Day.

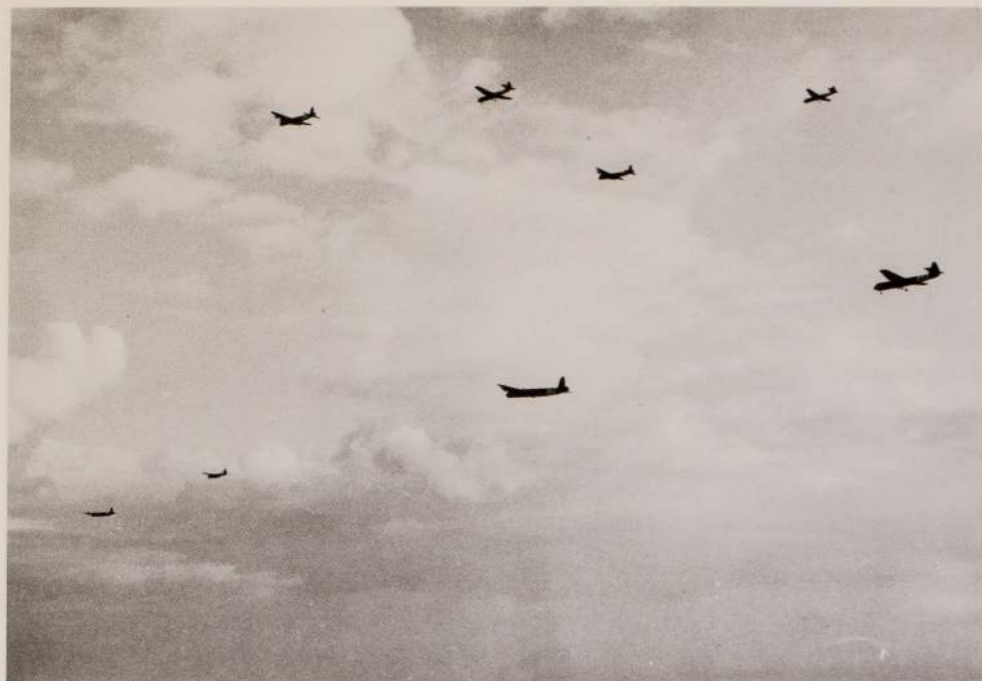
John was not too worried about the initial landing, 'The boys had gone ahead of us, we knew we could get ashore.' On landing he recalls, 'a helluva noise' and seeing his



Ted and Iris Miller.

Young John Cowan in uniform.





Part of the airborne armada approaching the French coast.

first dead and wounded. The beaches were planted with schumines. 'The infantry's worst enemy were the schumines, as soon as you stepped on them you'd lose a leg. You could only find them by pushing the bayonets into the ground sideways, if you hit the top it would explode.'

After landing he made his way to a collection point and was taken by lorry to join the Norfolks out in the line, 'During the battle you were lucky to get any sleep. Just get down where you were in a slit trench while your number two kept observation. You might be on an observation post way ahead of your unit to listen out for the German patrols. If you heard anything you crawled back as quickly as possible. The worst was a fighting patrol night. It was a chancy business in the dark. The Germans might move and then you didn't know where to fire or who you were firing at.'

Thirst was a major discomfort for men fighting in the summer in a dry, dusty atmosphere. John remembers, 'It was nice to see the battalion water cart come round and fill your bottles.' He also recalls the difficulty of fighting in the Normandy orchards against the snipers, 'You had to really search for them, crawling along.

'The one thing you always hoped you'd come out alive or get a cushy wound – one that would send you back to Blighty. There was always fear – as time went on you had to get hardened to it. You saw so much death and destruction you had to say to hell with it and get on with it.'

There were few occasions to relax and, in a strange country, these were filled with new experiences. John recalls how the troops had their first taste of Calvados, a speciality in Normandy: 'We soon learnt a lesson on that one. You should only drink a tiny glass – we started drinking from the bottle. At night we'd borrow a "38" set platoon radio and try to get some Glen Miller, Benny Goodman or Tommy Dorsey. Sometimes we were lucky.'

John was wounded in Germany, three weeks before the end of the war. 'I just didn't last out. I'd had a good run.'

John Cowan is looking forward to returning to the scene of the landings. 'I shouldn't think the villages have changed. I think I'll be able to trace where I fought. I am really looking forward to it. Remember the dead but remember the future. The boys who are lying there got their packet but there's always tomorrow as we used to say.'

The Edwin Dickinson World Wide Literary Competition – 1984

St. Dunstaners are invited to take part in this annual, world wide competition conducted by the Queensland Society of Blind Citizens, for the blind and partially blind.

There are three categories of entries: Adult Short Story (Max. 1000 words), Adult Essay (Max. 1000 words) and Adult Original Poem. Each category carries a first prize of 100 Australian dollars and a second prize of 25 Australian dollars. There are also several categories for children aged sixteen years and under.

Conditions of entry:

1. All Competitors must be of amateur status.
2. All entries must be original.
3. No entry form is required. Entries in all categories must be in English and should preferably be typed, using one side of the paper only, but may also be submitted in braille. Taped entries cannot be accepted.
4. Competitors must use non-de-plume,

and entries must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing full name and address, category and title of entry.

5. Category and nom-de-plume must be clearly shown on each entry. All entries become the property of the Society and will not be returned unless specially requested. Please indicate when submitting entries if entries are to be returned.
6. Adjudicator's Awards are final.
7. If fewer than five entries are received for any category, no Second Prize will be awarded in that category.

The closing date of the competition is November 30th, 1984. (Mailing envelopes must be postmarked by that date). There is no entry fee.

All entries should be sent to: The Secretary, The Queensland Society of Blind Citizens, 247 Vulture Street, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD. 4101., AUSTRALIA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From C.F. Lascelles, New South Wales, Australia

On reading through your journal Jan/Feb '84, I came across an article where a blind person can obtain a taxi, receiving an allowance of 10% off his or her taxi fare. Here in New South Wales, we have a scheme where you receive a form from your doctor filled in regarding your disability and you receive a booklet of coupons which enables you to travel anywhere, such as to your club with your wife or a friend, for half fare.

We also have another scheme going called recreational allowance. This is \$53 a month, to be used for going anywhere by taxi and you get this from the War Veterans Department, Sydney, if you can't walk too far.

From P. Batty-Smith, Sumlock-Calcomp Ltd., Park Hall Trading Estate, 40 Martell Road, London, SE21 8EE. Tel: 01-761 3966

As a Sharp wholesale dealer we are aware of the demand there has been for talking clocks, and of the difficulty institutions serving the blind, such as yourselves, have been having in obtaining them.

Unfortunately, Sharp UK, are no longer importing this equipment, although it is at present unclear whether Sharp Japan have discontinued their manufacture. Certainly there are, to our best belief, none of these Sharp machines left in this country.

We have been fortunate enough, however, to obtain a small supply of the Casio TA-1000 Talking Clock/Calculator and these we can supply at £41.00 post, packing and VAT inclusive. If you are interested yourselves, or know of any other persons who might be interested, then I would welcome hearing from you.

From Mr. L. Hunt, Marton, New Zealand

I am enjoying my retirement as I am now able to do the things I have put off for years. My main hobby is gardening and I get real pleasure from growing my own vegetables. My sport is indoor bowls and with my wife as my guide, I have had some success in the New Zealand championships for the blind and partially sighted. I was successful in winning The Champion of Champions singles and, with a totally blind man, won the champion pairs.



Paul and Thelma Francia drink a toast with Charlie Pratt, Les Bennett and Colonel Desmond Ellis.

Research led to Reunion

When Paul Francia decided to begin some research into the army unit he served with during the Second World War he did not realise he was sowing the seeds of a reunion of old comrades.

He began two years ago with the nominal roll of 'D' Company, Middlesex Regiment obtained from Roy Bishop, who was platoon sergeant back in 1944. Later Paul was able to obtain a complete roll from the Company Commander, Colonel Desmond Ellis, and proceeded to try and trace as many members as possible.

On Saturday, May 12th, 45 members of 'D' Company gathered at the Victory Ex-Services Club in London for a reunion lunch. For the first time for forty years they were together again to recall the incidents of the Battle of Normandy in which they had all fought.

On show was a commemorative plaque which Paul and his wife, Thelma, had arranged to be made by a sculptor friend. It showed the 4.2" mortar as used by the Company in action through Normandy, Belgium, Holland – where Paul Francia was wounded – and into Germany.

As Paul says, 'The family unit is the platoon, thirty strong. They are the men you eat and sleep alongside. They are the men who will pick you up if you are unlucky, whose kit you will help to pack up if they are unlucky.'

Ninety Not Out

Mr. Jack Benham had a very special celebration at Ian Fraser House to mark his 90th birthday on April 29th. Mr. Benham, a keen swimmer, takes to the pool at Ian Fraser House several times a week and it was his swimming pals who got together a surprise celebration for his birthday. Asked how he felt at 90, Mr. Benham replied, 'I'm about as fit as a man of fifty!' Mr. Benham also celebrated at home in Hove with his wife and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Benham at the Brighton Reunion.



A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

What Was Manna Anyway?

He would be a fool who dismissed the Bible as a tissue of irrelevant fantasy, a fool also who did not detect in it many instances of occurrences innocently misinterpreted in the interests of religion. With the best will in the world a star can't guide people to a stable, stars are too far away from earth for such precise navigation. Where the birth of Jesus is concerned it's more likely some comet noted with awe by Palestinians of old was pressed into service to add colour to what is an acknowledged myth.

No magi ever visited the infant Christ. Recently, according to the story, the heavens had been filled with the multitude of the heavenly host, singing and praising God, I can't think of a better description of a display of northern lights, a phenomenon rare enough in those latitudes to have excited the public imagination and consequently to have become entangled with the gospel writer's account of the nativity.

A fantasy of a different sort emerges in the story of the Gadarine swine, which rushed down the slope and drowned themselves in the lake, it is supposed because Jesus conjured an evil spirit out of a madman, directing it into a herd of pigs grazing nearby. In the first place, as Margaret, my wife points out, can you imagine Jesus doing any such thing, destroying the local economy as a side effect of a demonstration of his healing powers. What really happened was this, Jesus certainly cured the madman, we've no reason to doubt that, but as for the pigs, they come from a different story altogether, which got mixed up with the other in the inaccurate way of such things. These pigs had got into a field of rye, the rye had ergot on it and the effect

of the pigs eating the ergot would be for them to have headed in a frenzy of pain for the nearest water. This once happened in our time in a French village, with humans as the victims, when bread got inadvertently made with ergot on it, to be eaten by the village in general. The mystery of the Marie Celeste, ergot in its ships biscuits, yields to a similar solution.

To return to the fictitious magi. The gold, frankincense and myrrh supposedly presented to Jesus in his manger were not so much in the way of gifts but a symbol of surrender in which one world view, now outdated, gives way to another more consonant with the actual relationship of man with his environment. Here magic gives way to Christianity, predeterminism to free will, for what were the three items concerned, now seen by a trio of soothsaying astrologers as useless, but the standard tools of the magician's trade. God, we are told, put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his covenant with Abraham, but he did nothing of the kind. It was simply sunlight refracted by rain, a phenomenon so unusual in arid terrain as to strike nomadic goat-herds with understandable awe, as at some Divine intervention in the usual order of things.

I don't know about the Red Sea parting, if ever it did, of the pillar of smoke by day and the pillar of fire by night, which allegedly guided Israelis where God wanted them to go, but as for manna, that's pretty easy to explain. What you need in the desert is not food but water, and this white stuff from heaven was nothing more or less than a freak fall of snow. Man not God wrote the Bible, we must look for errors in it, but at the same time it is an ore rich in gold.

OBITUARY

We were sorry to learn of the death of Reginald Bonham who will be warmly remembered by St. Dunstan's chess players.

Mr. Bonham, for forty years mathematics master at Worcester College, was a championship chess player and gave much time to encouraging and teaching St. Dunstan's players. He attended many of the tournaments at Ian Fraser House and maintained that chess was not a game in which blind people needed special consideration for their handicap. He once said, 'You've got to persevere with it – like marriage!'

He was made an M.B.E. in 1970.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I only hope that we have nice sunny weather with occasional showers to keep all the flowers and vegetables going well and a real fine setting of fruit. Lawns should be looking well now and there should be a fine show of colour for all the hard work one has put in.

The holiday period is on the way and I should try and get a neighbour or one of your family to do the garden if you are away.

As I write these notes the weather is wonderful with hot sun and I am able to get on with planting out. Being so dry I have an idea that the hose will be needed even for the lawn but I am waiting a while to see how the weed killer is working as I may even have to put down a further dose.

Check all parts of the garden for greenfly which will be on the rampage at this time of the year and get the sprayer out if there is any sign of the pests. There are many items on the market to do the job, many of which make it safe to eat vegetables only a day or so after use.

Vegetables

Hoe regularly and give plenty of water in dry periods. Thin out the main crops of beetroot, carrots and onions. Early cauliflowers will come along better if you give them a dose of liquid manure every so often and when the heads are showing bend leaves over to shade them. Give lettuces plenty of water to help them to mature rapidly and stop them going to seed.

Pick your peas regularly as they ripen. Ensure that the runner beans have plenty of support. I have often found that it is a good idea to tie in the first shoots to make them climb quicker. Sow lettuces and radishes regularly. Even some peas and various types of beans can be sown for later cropping.

Some fertiliser in the shape of Growmore granules will give all the plants a boost. Spray with an insecticide at the first sign of pests. Slugs and snails are always having a go at the lower green leaves so sprinkle some pellets. Broad beans, when they are in flower and just starting to set their pods,

are attacked by black fly at the top of the plant. I would nip this part and I think it will stop any further attacks.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly but cut down the number of cuttings in very dry weather. At this time when all is dry it might be a good thing to get the sprinkler going (unless there is a ban in your area). Liquid fertilisers plus some weed killers can be used but wait till there is a bit of moisture in the soil.

Fruits

Prune off any thin superfluous growths on tree fruits and it might even be a good idea to thin out the centre of the tree. Over vigorous growth on young trees should be cut back. Where you have very heavily laden fruit on some branches, it might be a good idea to use some kind of prop or the branch may break away from the main stem, especially when you have strong winds.

All surplus or thin raspberry canes should be pulled out to ensure a good crop. Strawberries must have plenty of water and any runners not needed for next year should be cut away. Spray at once where there is an attack of insects and do it in the evening when the sun is down or scorching may result.

Flowers

Complete all the bedding out of the half hardy annuals and late sown hardy annuals. Where you want a late flowering show, sow annuals on a warm seed bed, they will germinate rapidly if kept moist. Begonias, both fibrous and rooted, can be planted outside in their flowering positions. Don't forget to give them a good soaking after you have put them in place. Sweet peas will be growing well and early types giving plenty of flowers. Should they be tending to fall away from their supports tie in at once. Pick the blossoms at once to stop podding taking place. Give plenty of water and some doses of liquid manure at root level. Outdoor carnations which will be growing tall and a bit leggy should be tied in to stakes.

To get really good flowers limit the number of buds per stem.

Tall growing dahlias will need staking especially in exposed and seaside areas and the same goes for delphiniums. Gladioli will be bursting through the soil, so set stakes in position and tie in when they are tallish so as to stop them bending over, getting out of shape and even snapping off.

Roses will be starting to show off their potential glory, so tend them well. Give a liquid feed every so often or put down one of the special rose fertilisers sprinkled round the roots at the base of the stem. Cut away or pull out those shoots emerging from the soil near the bush. Certain varieties of roses seem to be immune to black spot but others always seem to have this trouble each year no matter what is done. However, it can be kept under control by picking off all affected leaves and burning them, then spray with bordeaux mixture or one of the fungicides on the market. To get really quality size blooms, pinch out some of the buds on the flower stem. Also cut off all dead flowers.

Greenhouse

Try and keep the atmosphere fairly moist by damping down the floor when there are very hot sunny spells. Keep all the windows open during the day and some ventilation at night. There is always an increase in the insect population in the summer, so put in smokes regularly. These I find work much better than using a spray as there is a tendency for some plants to dislike having their leaves and flowers wet. Keep the plants well shaded from full sun by using a shadent painted on the outer panes of glass. It can easily be cleaned off at the end of the season by using a dry duster on a dry day.

All plants should be well watered plus a feed every so often. Some items may be so root bound that they need to be put in larger containers. Tomatoes will be growing very strongly, so tie into their supports regularly. Pick fruit as it ripens and it might be a good thing to spray the trusses of flowers to get a good set. Feed regularly with liquid fertilisers. Pick out all side shoots and some of the bottom leaves.

Game For A Laugh

A famous cricketer met a medium at a party. 'Tell me,' he said 'do they play cricket on the Other Side?' 'I'm afraid I don't know,' she told him, 'but I'll make some enquiries. Give me a call on Tuesday.' He did. 'I've got some good news and some bad news' the medium told him. 'The good news is, yes they have several first-class cricket teams on the Other Side.'

'Splendid!' said the cricketer, 'and the bad news?'

'You go in first wicket down a week on Wednesday!' she said.

P. Wood.

Bert Wood writes: 'Sir Henry's feather verse sparked my poetic Piscean mind to action and the following nonsense is the result!'

Wings stretch, feathers shake,
Throats are cleared, time to awake,
The time is now for chorus at dawn,
Why! Sing so early in the morn,
Keep it down now, not so loud,
Stuff your beaks with cotton cloud,
Put me not in such a tis,
And wake me up when the sun has ris.

Blackbird whistles, shouts his call
Inviting Bridget to the ball,
Sparrows cheep and chirp to say,
Nothing much, not much to say,
But Finch you fool you touch my heart,
Your song is high up in my chart,
And as I doze on pillow named his,
Keep it down lads, till sun has ris.

Great longtailed, Blue Tits, everyone
Swingalong and join the fun,
Caw! said the crow in mild surprise,
But Barney Owl just closed his eyes,
Wake me up when moon is bright,
Good day sport, too right.

We welcome all contributions to the Review. These should be sent to the Editor, Public Relations Department at H.Q.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Amateur Radio Society will take place on June 23rd. Captain Jack Cooper G3DPS has very kindly agreed to come along and talk on 'Forty Years in Amateur Radio'.

Please book through Mrs. Coyne at H.Q.

NATIONAL BRIDGE – May 5th & 6th

We had another successful Bridge Tournament at Ian Fraser House, this was due to the efforts of Maurice Douse and Mr. Goodlad who ran the competition very efficiently. There was a reversal of previous years' form, Brighton being the winners with London runners up. 'Never mind, Vi, don't feel too shattered.'

Commander S. Conway presented the

cup to the winning team also gifts to Maurice Douse and Mr. Goodlad.

We expressed our thanks to Mrs. Pugh who was once again responsible for making all the arrangements.

The prize winners in the drive were:

1 M. Tybinski & Mr. Goodlad	2,000
2 J. Huk & Dr. Jane Goodlad	1,600
3 G. Hudson & J. Carney	1,380
4 R. Fullard & Miss C. Sturdy	1,110

W. Allen

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Bridge

Pairs – April 8th

R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	62.5
B. Phillips & Dr. Goodlad	58.3
A. Ward & Mr. Douse	55.0
W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	52.5
Mr. & Mrs. Paccitti	46.7
G. Hudson & J. Huk	46.7
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	45.8
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Stenning	32.5

Individuals – April 14th

W. Lethbridge	65.0
B. Phillips	55.0
R. Paccitti	55.0
Mrs. Paccitti	55.0
Mrs. Barker	55.0
J. Majchrowicz	45.0
J. Huk	45.0
R. Fullard	25.0

Bowling Section

On Friday April 13th – unlucky for some – we played host to Old Woking Bowling Club. This concluded our bowling fixtures for the winter indoor season. Unfortunately, our Captain, Bob Osborne, was unable to be present as his wife Joan was ill. You are greatly missed Joan and all members of the Bowling Club wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you in the near future.

Mrs. Dacre, our President, warmly welcomed our visitors from Old Woking and Harry Preedy who was non-playing Captain for the day, recalled that this fixture first took place over 30 years ago, and in that time many friendships had been made

between the two teams. The new carpet, however, did not help the visitors, as many of their early shots ended up in the ditch and they were being urged to keep them there! St. Dunstan's team must have reserved their best form for this match as in the end they finished clear-cut winners. Well done lads – hard luck Old Woking!

Many thanks to Commander Conway and his staff for arranging and providing a hot meal for our visitors which was greatly appreciated by them and helped to make the afternoon an outstanding success.

Finally, many thanks to our wives and escorts for working so hard during the winter season by preparing and serving such delicious teas and not forgetting the washing-up afterwards. Three cheers for the ladies – or should it be free beers for the ladies! Thank you girls!

A. Miller

MIDLAND

Our April meeting was held on Sunday April 8th and was well attended. We held our Bring and Buy Sale which was a great success, with help from our friends.

While the ladies were busy with the sale, the St. Dunstaners played off one or two of their singles domino matches. An excellent tea was put on again for us, with home made cakes, etc.

During tea we talked about our forthcoming outing to Rhyl and made a final list for the seats. We also discussed ideas for a pantomime outing for next year.

After tea we thanked the ladies in our usual way. The meeting broke up at 6.30pm with all members looking forward to the Birmingham Reunion on May 5th and our next meeting on Sunday May 13th.

E. Hordyniec

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Francesca, youngest daughter of Mrs. Audrey Lee, widow of our St. Dunstaner *John Lee*, of Pudsey, on her marriage to Anthony Clayton on Saturday May 5th.

Martin McCrorie, of Bangor, on his marriage to Karen Rostron on April 21st. The marriage took place in England but Martin and his wife will be setting up home in Belfast, where our St. Dunstaner has recently commenced working as a telephonist with the Police Authority.

Melvyn, son of *Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roebuck*, of Withington, Manchester, on his marriage to Carol Cheatham on May 26th at St. Margaret's Church, Burnage.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Clare Nolan, widow of *Mr. John Nolan*, of Acton, on the birth of another grandson, Stephen Andrew, born on April 3rd to her son, David, and his wife, Linda.

Mr. and Mrs. William Vickery, of Plymouth, on the birth of their fourth grandchild, John James, born on March 28th to their son, Roger, and his wife, Eileen.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John Lilley, of Canterbury, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on May 9th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Richard and Norma Dufton who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 14th. Mr. Dufton is a member of St. Dunstan's Council, and our adviser on research. He was formerly Director of Research.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. Frances Craddock, wife of St. Dunstaner *Mr. Reg Craddock*, of Warrington, whose mother passed away in April at the age of 84.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Louisa, grand-daughter of *John and Audrey Perfect*, of Yealmpton, near Plymouth. Although she is only ten years old Louisa has passed the Royal College of Music's Grade two cello exam with distinction.

John Christal, son of *Mr. Norton Christal*, of Castletown, Isle of Man, who has recently been appointed Headmaster of Ramsey Grammar School.

In Memory

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

N. Allison, Royal Army Service Corps

Norman Allison, of Leeds, passed away on April 6th, at the age of 78. He had been ill for six months.

Prior to the last war Mr. Allison was an Army Reservist and then from 1939 he served as a driver in the R.A.S.C. until his discharge in September 1945. His sight became defective following an injury during service and then failed further after the war but he did not become a St. Dunstaner until 1978 by which time he was retired. In civilian life Mr. Allison worked as a chauffeur and a grocer and in retirement he was a keen walker and music lover.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Norma Oldfield and Mrs. Valerie Keane.

H. Elliott, 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment

Harold Elliott, of Crewe, passed away suddenly at his home on April 28th. He was 62 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner for only a few months.

Mr. Elliott served as a corporal in the 1st Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment from 1941. He was wounded in Burma in 1944 and suffered shell shock which made him partially paralysed. Over the years Mr. Elliott's health deteriorated and he was confined to a wheelchair but faced his disabilities with great courage. He was extremely fond of birds and animals and enjoyed listening to the radio.

He leaves a widow, Doreen.

J. Jolly, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment

James Jolly passed away peacefully at Pearson House on April 23rd, aged 67. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1942.

In Memory – continued

Mr. Jolly enlisted in 1940 and served with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in Crete and Libya. He attained the rank of corporal and was due for promotion when he was wounded and taken prisoner at the end of 1941, having been totally blinded and suffering serious injury to his right arm. He was repatriated from Italy in 1943 and trained as a telephonist at Church Stretton, becoming one of our most efficient and capable operators. He worked for some years for ICI in Sheffield and then for fifteen years with Barclays Bank in London.

Mr. Jolly suffered a premature stroke and due to his ill health became a permanent resident, first at Northgate and then at Pearson House. 'Jim' will be greatly missed by Matron, past and present members of staff and his fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves a widow, Annie, and a daughter, Jean.

J. Jones, Royal Artillery

Joseph Jones, of Ledbury, passed away in hospital on April 28th after several years of ill health. He was 76 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1979.

Mr Jones served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War. He had enlisted as a regular in 1927. He was a Far East prisoner of war when, whilst on enforced labour in a Japanese coalmine, he was injured in an explosion. Mr. Jones was discharged from the forces in 1948.

Our St. Dunstaner and his wife, Emily, celebrated their Golden Wedding in January 1982 when a dinner party was held at a local hotel for relatives and friends.

He leaves a widow, Emily, and son, Roy.

S. Leggett, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Samuel Leggett passed away suddenly at his home on April 6th, at the age of 72.

Mr. Leggett had served as a private in the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment from 1939 to 1945 and was a prisoner of war for five years. His sight was damaged as a result of an explosion but nevertheless on his discharge from the army he was employed as a fitter's mate with the electricity department of the Belfast Corporation for twenty years.

He retired in 1972 and, with the failure of his remaining vision, became a St. Dunstaner in July 1973. Mr. Leggett took some training at Ian Fraser House in braille, typing and handicrafts. At home in Bangor he continued to practise his skills at the local Day Centre and also took up bowling at which he showed a considerable prowess.

He leaves a widow, Elizabeth, two sons and a daughter.

F.C. Smith, 21st London Regiment

Frederick Charles Smith, of Bexhill-on-Sea, passed away in hospital on April 9th, following an operation. He was 91 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1966.

Mr. Smith served as a corporal in the 21st London Regiment throughout the First World War. In 1916 he received a shrapnel wound in one eye but his sight was not seriously affected until 1964.

Mr. Smith and his wife, Emily, celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1968 but, sadly, Mrs. Smith passed away in 1972. Until comparatively recently, our St. Dunstaner was able to cope in his own home with the devoted assistance of his daughters, Mrs. Burr and Mrs. Walker. In his leisure hours, he enjoyed gardening in earlier years and listening to music. In civilian life, Mr. Smith had been a Civil Servant with the Ministry of Pensions for many years.

He leaves two daughters.

D.H. Upcott, Royal Air Force

Douglas Havelock Upcott, of Carshalton Beeches, passed away at Pearson House on April 17th. He was 72 years old. Although his general health had given cause for concern for some time, he died suddenly but peacefully in our Home.

Squadron Leader Upcott was a chartered accountant, and until comparatively recently, chairman of a confirming house in the City.

Throughout the Second World War he served as an equipment officer in the Royal Air Force with the rank of squadron leader. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's three years ago.

In his leisure hours, our St. Dunstaner was a keen bridge and chess player, participating in many of the events at Ian Fraser House. He also greatly enjoyed attending our Reunions with his wife, affectionately known as Peggy.

He leaves a widow, Peggy, a son and two daughters.

W.V. Veness, 2nd Battalion, Sussex Regiment

William Victor Veness passed away at Pearson House on April 6th, aged 73. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945.

Mr. Veness was a regular soldier. He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion the Sussex Regiment in 1929 and was discharged in 1946 after being a P.O.W. in Germany from 1940-1945. He trained in industry on his admission to St. Dunstan's and worked until 1969 when he took early retirement on medical grounds. His first wife died in 1966 and after the death of his second wife in 1974 he became a permanent resident at our Home. He will be sadly missed by Matron, the staff and fellow residents.

He leaves two sons.