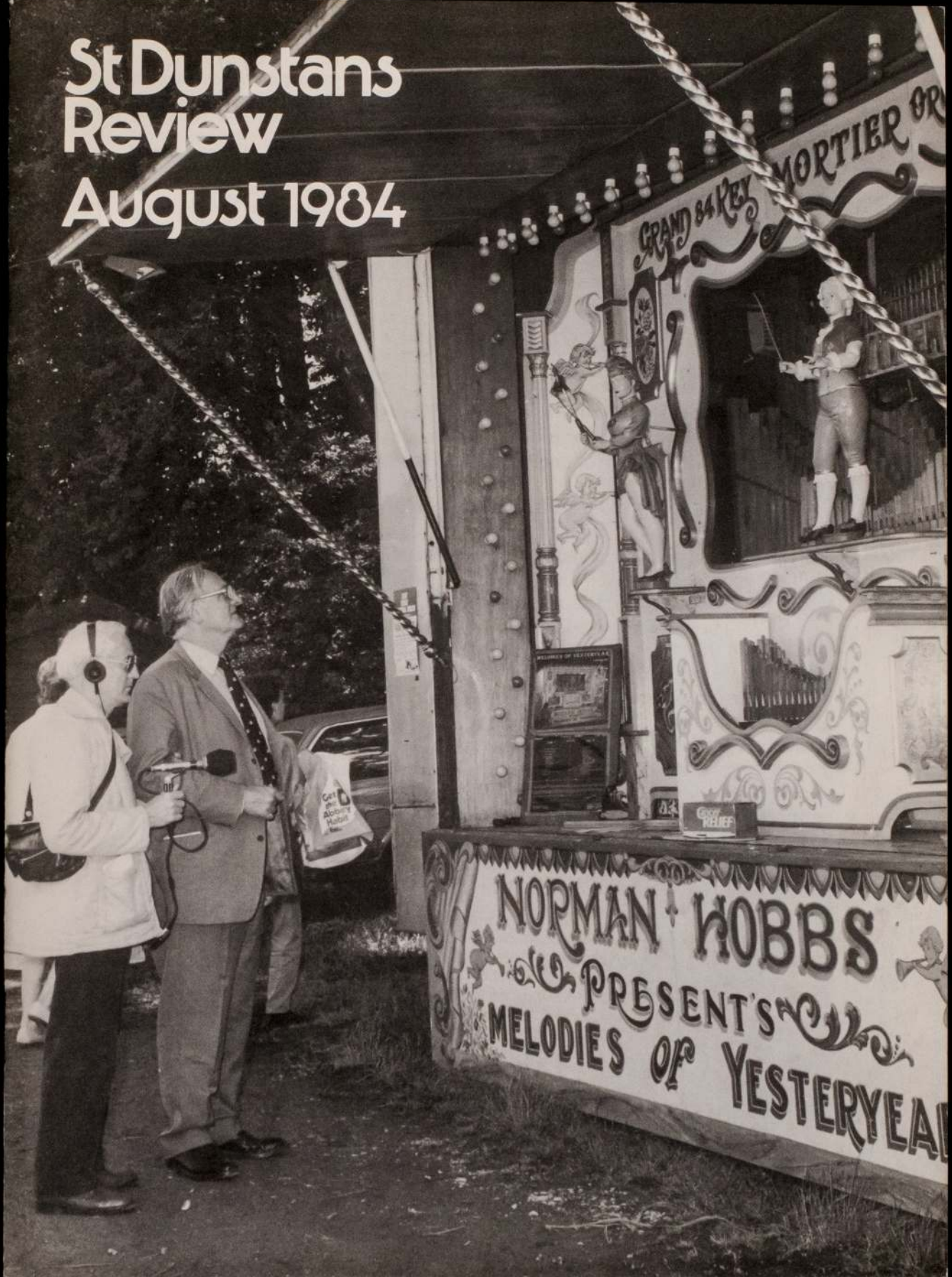


St Dunstons Review

August 1984





From the Chairman

In the middle of last month my wife and I flew to Banak in the far north of Norway. The purpose of our journey was to unveil a plaque commemorating the Battle of North Cape in 1943 (of which more elsewhere in this *Review*).

North Cape is the most northerly tip of Europe. It is bleak, rocky and surrounded by a great deal of nothing. Thin grassy bogs alternate with craggy mountains; there is lots of grey stone. More than half the horizon is an unending vista of sea – blue and placid when the sun is shining and the wind is quiet, at other times lashed into a grey and white fury by the unrelenting gales. Overhead, for four months in the summer the sky is light throughout the whole 24 hours and the sun shines brightly at midnight. For the remaining months it is permanently dark.

Being almost alone in such a big, empty place (some have called it the End of the World) makes one feel very small. And makes one think.

My thoughts turned away from the Battle and towards my St. Dunstaners, for whom it is dark *all* the year round. The weather at North Cape changes violently and very quickly. Even as I was walking, the sky clouded over, the wind blew up harshly from the sea, the cloud came down and heavy rain lashed the rocks. I felt rather sad.

But then I thought, this won't do, it's all wrong. St. Dunstan's is not founded on the principle of 'give it all up, it's too hard'. Quite the reverse. More like 'the difficult is done at once, the impossible takes a little longer'. At that moment there came a break in the clouds, the rain stopped, the wind eased and there was a gleam of sunshine. I felt rather proud.

Henry Leach

COMMANDANT FAWCETT

We are deeply sorry to report the death, on July 10th, of Lawrence Fawcett, M.B.E. St. Dunstaners will remember with affection his 33 years as Commandant, first of West House – now Pearson House – and, later, both our Houses in Brighton. A full tribute to 'Comm', as he was known to St. Dunstaners and staff, will appear in our next issue. We extend deep sympathy to his family.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Lawrence Fawcett will be held in the Chapel at Ian Fraser House on Thursday, September 6th at 11.30 a.m. Accommodation is limited and those wishing to attend should apply to Commander Conway at Ian Fraser House.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

The move into St. Dunstan's new headquarters building is planned for Saturday, August 11th, so that all departments will be functioning in their new offices on Monday, August 13th.

The new building is next door to the old one and our telephone number remains the same. However, the move takes us into a different postal area and our full address will then be:

**St. Dunstan's
P.O. Box 4XB
12-14 Harcourt Street
London W1A 4XB**

Our unchanged telephone number will still be 01-723 5021.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 1984

We will be allocated a number of tickets for both the afternoon and the evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 10th.

Any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending is invited to apply to Mrs. Coyne at Headquarters before September 14th for two tickets per St. Dunstaner; please indicate preference for the afternoon or evening performance. Should it be necessary, a ballot for these tickets will be held.

A St. Dunstaner who is allocated tickets will be assisted with cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London should it be necessary.

HELP REMEMBER THE NEW POST CODE

Can you suggest a sentence which will help readers remember the new HQ post code? For example, the Post Office originally gave us W1H 2BS – 'when one has two blind servicemen'. Remember, our new code is W1A 4XB. Suggestions to the Editor as soon as possible, please.

TOILETS FOR THE DIS- ABLED

The National Key Scheme may prove helpful for many St. Dunstaners: for an initial payment of £2.00 you receive a key which opens any toilet provided for the disabled. The key, shaped like a clock key, is easily distinguishable and is available together with a list of all the places where there are toilets for the disabled from all local authorities, or simply write enclosing your deposit and a self addressed envelope to: Access For All, 1 Curzon St., Birmingham, B4 7XG. The £2.00 deposit is returnable when you want to give up your key.

St Dunstons Review

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AUGUST 1984

CONTENTS

New Headquarters	3
Festival of Remembrance	3
Queen's Message	4
P.O.W. Concert	4
Amateur Radio	4
Letters	6
Fraser Group	7
Mobility Conference	8
Skiers Meet the Queen	9
Return to Normandy	10
Tape Recording Week	12
Battle of North Cape	14
Reunions	16
Hockham Fen	18
Archery	20



Cover Picture: Roy David with Arthur Neve at the South of England Show Ardingly. Photo: John Barrow.

H.M. THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday, our Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, sent a message of congratulations on behalf of St. Dunstaners throughout the world.

Mr. John Haslam, Assistant Press Officer to H.M. The Queen, replied on her behalf with these words:

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your kind message, sent on behalf of St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world on the occasion of the Anniversary of Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

As Patron, The Queen received this message with great pleasure and sends her warmest good wishes to all concerned with St. Dunstan's for a happy and successful year.

RADIO HAM WEEKEND

by Alf Lockhart SWL

Saturday, June 23rd was the date of our summer meeting - I regret to say that the number of members attending was very low indeed. This was due no doubt to the fact that June is a favoured holiday month and some members were on holiday elsewhere. Our guest speaker was Captain Jack Cooper G3 DPS.

We were all sorry to hear that Bob Davis was in Pearson House, convalescing after a serious operation. Despite his need for rest and quiet he made a great and gallant effort and persuaded the doctor to allow him to attend the meeting. This the doctor finally agreed to adding the proviso that he must return to Pearson House before midnight. (I wonder if his wheel-chair would have turned into a pumpkin if he had stayed past the magic hour?)

The Society is very grateful to Bob who immediately set up his tape recording equipment in order to do his usual first class job of recording the meeting. Well done Bob and many thanks. St. Dunstan's A.R.S. sends its best wishes and hopes for a complete and speedy recovery.

Another member, Tom Hart, had a slight mishap in that he was put on the wrong bus at a changeover en route and finished up back where he started. He rang Ted John at

Annual Reunion Concert for Ex-Prisoners of War

All Ex-Prisoners of War are kindly invited to attend the 9th Annual Reunion Concert being held in Fairfield Halls, Croydon at 7.45 p.m. on Friday 26th October. The event begins with the Parade of Association Standards, and will be followed by the Reunion Dance which takes place in the Arnhem Gallery, concluding with "Auld Lang Syne" at 12.30 a.m. There are five bars and cafeteria service is available. For booking and travel information please contact Mr. F.E. Walter BEM, 48 Essendene Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5PA. Prices are the same as last year.

The National Association of Ex-Prisoners of War are also holding their first Annual General Meeting in the Maple Room, Fairfield Halls, Croydon at 6 p.m. on Friday 26th October. All Ex-Prisoners of War are welcome to attend.

Ian Fraser House and gave the following message:

The journey I started in Kent
To finish in Brighton I meant
I'm sorry to say
I went the wrong way
So instead of arriving, I've went.

Hard luck Tom, it's a thing we can all sympathise with, I suspect that many of us are only too familiar with similar experiences.

We were able to set up the transmitters, using a G5RV for the HF bands. The results were adequate, although not ideal. The two metre rig posed a problem in that the aerial had been rendered useless by the corrosive action of the salt air in Brighton.

The problem was resolved by Jim Padley. He phoned round his local contacts and managed to borrow a 5/8" whip aerial from Alf Lee, who as you know is an honorary member of St. Dunstan's A.R.S. Many thanks Alf, the fact that we were able to use the two metre rig, enabled Bob Davis to make his maiden broadcast from G8 STD.

The matter of aerials and their deterioration due to the corrosive properties of the salt air is a matter that will need urgent discussion at the next meeting. Therefore, all members are asked to give some

thought to the matter and to offer some suggestions at the next meeting.

Saturday afternoon we were treated to a very fine talk on '40 Years in Amateur Radio', by Captain Jack Cooper G3 DPS. His anecdotes and experiences cover a very wide range, both telegraphic and geographic. His call sign on Brunei was so rare, he being the first true radio ham and only the third licence holder that the island had at that time. His QSL's were answered by 'I don't believe you', by his contacts, mostly on the West Coast of America. This despite the fact that a radio ham journal in the States had published an article stating that



NEW EQUIPMENT FOR TEACHING MOON

Alec Purves, of Winterbourne, Bristol, is probably best known among St. Dunstan's community as a weaver of great skill. He is also a part-time teacher of braille and moon on a purely voluntary basis.

He has devised his own teaching aid for moon, a set of 35 four inch square plastic tiles made to his design by a local sign manufacturer. 'I have letter shapes in black on white on one side and the moon symbols in red on white on the other. The symbols are about ten times ordinary size', he said. 'The moon primer suggests "cards" made of wood but I reckon the plastic is better, easier to feel, probably cheaper and easier to keep clean'

his call-sign was genuine and authentic.

We were kept interested and entertained with such anecdotes and we sincerely thank Captain Jack Cooper G3 DPS for sharing with us some of the experiences of his varied and interesting career.

Members and would be members, indeed anybody who thinks that they could become interested in short wave listening or becoming a licensed radio ham are reminded that the next meeting will be held on September 22nd. All bookings are to be made through Mrs. T. Coyne at Headquarters. Please note the new address on page 3, effective from August 13th.

There are 35 symbols, the 26 letters, brackets, question-mark, exclamation, CH, TH, WH and so on. Alec says he finds the choice of colours helpful to those with slight vision. 'I leave these tiles with the person and they can feel them. In a couple of weeks they know the code. They start reading grade two moon. They can read a book because in a grade two book the contractions used are listed at the beginning.'

Alec is primarily a teacher of braille, 'I've no pupil at present because my last braille pupil is now devouring braille books. When I started he was really feeling defeated by blindness. He now feels he can do anything. He can read and he has taken up hand weaving as a hobby!'

Alec, who was a captain commanding a troop of Royal Horse Artillery, lost his sight as a result of a head injury suffered while playing rugby for his unit. He is eager to continue his voluntary teaching work just as soon as a new pupil comes along who wants to find his way back to the world of literature through braille.

Game for a laugh

The Piece That Passeth All Understanding

The following passage is taken from the rule book of one of our leading building societies:-

'In relation to a resolution passed means a resolution effective as a special resolution under and for the purposes of the Statutes and in relation to a resolution to be passed means a resolution which will be effective if passed as a special resolution but not otherwise.'

..So now you know!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr. J. Gilbert, Wimborne, Dorset

I was absolutely flabbergasted when I started to read the article by Syd Scroggie in the June edition of the *Review*. I find it very difficult to believe that someone could be so dogmatic concerning something about which he obviously knows very little, if anything at all.

The Bible is the inspired word of God, and is essentially a book full of spiritual truths. Often practical and everyday happenings are related and they are to be taken at their face value, but for the best part one should ask God by his Spirit to reveal the hidden spiritual truths.

Syd Scroggie is quite correct when he states that the Bible was written by men, but he forgets that these men were writing down events they had actually witnessed first hand, and were doing so under the direct inspiration of God. It seems strange to me that people readily accept historical books as 'gospel truth', yet cannot believe the best documented book ever written, and this really is the 'Gospel', which literally means good news.

If I may be permitted, because I love Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, I would like to simply put right the utterly wrong interpretations Mr. Scroggie has put on the few parts of the Old and New Testament that he has commented on.

1. The 'acknowledged myth' Mr. Scroggie mentions (acknowledged by whom other than himself?), disposes of the fact that a God who created every star in the heavens is surely able to place one in a position from which it can guide the seeker after truth.
2. 'No magi ever visited the infant Christ!' How can he possibly make such a dogmatic statement - was he there at the time?

He says 'recently the heavens were filled. . .', he obviously does not know that at least two years had passed between the birth of Christ (when the angels appeared to the shepherds), and the time the magi visited the stable. Another blatant misconception on his part, and if he had actually read the story he would have seen it, is that the Bible NEVER mentions angels or

heavenly hosts doing any singing, the word actually says 'praising God and saying', obviously not singing!

Also the significance of the gifts brought to the infant Christ were prophetic in the concept of the story: for instance the gold signified the kingship of Christ as God's son, and the myrrh looked forward to his death on the cross for us, since this was used in embalming bodies.

3. Actually Mr. Scroggie, in your account of the swine story, wrong again! Jesus did not cast out 'a' demon, he cast out a whole lot of them. That is why the man possessed was called 'Legion', because of the large number of demons in him. Thank you though for admitting that Jesus actually did manage to 'conjure out' the demon. You probably do not know that the keeping of pigs by Jews was expressly prohibited under their law, so the Gaderenes were pushing their luck in using these animals as their means of livelihood.

4. 'God, we are told, put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant with Abraham.' Once again, wrong again. You are right though when you say He did no such thing - the rainbow was a sign to Noah and his family - poor Abraham was not even born at that time! It was probably the first time a rainbow had been seen in any part of the world, so that in itself must mean something. As for striking goatherds with awe, there simply were no goatherds or indeed any other folk alive when the rainbow appeared - all the earth had been covered with very deep water and all the inhabitants had perished. Only Noah and his sons and their wives were left.

5. You seem to have no answer to the Red Sea episode, but still cast doubt on it - very negative.

The same comment applies to the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, it seems that if you cannot think of some sort of 'explanation' you simply ignore it.

6. The final, and I might say the most absurd, offering you make is about the manna with which God fed the children of Israel during their wanderings in the desert

wilderness. How on earth can 'snow' appear every morning except the Sabbath, and be EATEN (not drunk) in sufficient quantity to sustain them for year after year? The Bible is accurate enough to mean food when it says food and to say snow if it means snow. Besides, the question of the all important water need is answered in that same account, God provided water for them on numerous occasions.

One is entitled to one's opinions of the Bible, and I would be the first to uphold that, but to express them in such a way as to literally call people like myself fools, because we DO believe every single word, I think that is not at all worthy of you Mr. Scroggie.

From Janet L. Cruse, Newcastle on Tyne

I feel very strongly about Mr. Scroggie's last article. Does he realise he is questioning the Almighty God who made heaven and earth? God's word says these things happened, then they did. God does not have to depend on man for ideas and reasoning. Also too, the rainbow was a promise made by God to Noah after the flood, Genesis ch.9, v.12-27. It has been proved that the flood happened.

Reading Luke ch.8, v.26-40, it was the demons in the mad man that asked to enter the swine, and Jesus suffered it to be so. Verse 35 shows what Jesus Christ can do with a broken life. Verse 37 tells of the fear of the Gadarenes and those round about them, telling Jesus to depart. Later Jesus went back and was received gladly. No doubt through the witness of the mad man made whole by Jesus. Miracles happen every day through the power of God.

From Joyce Briant, Brighton

To all St. Dunstaners. Better late than never to announce my presence in the world of the senior citizens and to say a very big thank you for the lovely retirement presents I received when I left Ian Fraser House, the portable T.V. will give me many hours of pleasure and the suitcase on wheels will be a boon during my sagging moments while travelling.

I would like also to say thank you for being such terrific people to work for and I shall remember you always. I hope to see you again from time to time so take care and be happy.

From F. Wooller, Hon. Sec/Treasurer, Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Western Australia

The members of St. Dunstan's Western Australia have asked me to convey to you their thanks for the interest and togetherness that the *St. Dunstan's Review* brings to them, some of the items that appear from time to time they have not known about, only by receiving the magazine have they been able to gain this information, also the holiday trips taken by members of St. Dunstan's have caught their imagination and at times brought back vivid memories. Please keep up the good work.

As I See Things

by Eric Ward Rowe

FRASER GROUP MEETING

Invitations have now gone out to those who expressed interest in the Fraser Group, details of which have been featured in the past three issues, but for the interest of St. Dunstaners generally, the inaugural meeting to legally form the Fraser Group will be at the Victory (Services) Club, 63 Seymour Street, Hyde Park, London W2.

For the convenience of those travelling in, the reception will be from 11.30 a.m. Lunch will be served in our own private room from 12.30 till 2.00 p.m. where certain St. Dunstaners who had been close to Lord Fraser will pay tribute to the wonderful work he did on our behalf.

At 2.00 p.m. in an adjacent private room the actual business of forming the group will take place. Wives and widows will have full status as members and will take part. To make it perfectly clear the date is Tuesday, October 9th. All travelling expenses will be paid by St. Dunstan's and each couple, wife or escort will be able to draw from St. Dunstan's £20.00 for additional expenses.

After six months of hard work I have tried to convey the feeling and spirit of what the Fraser Group represents and I have no hesitation in saying that thinking St. Dunstaners have expressed their appreciation that this kind of group is necessary because it is only when blind people are freely mixing with other blind people that we can learn from each other.

Any one who wants further particulars write to me at Fraser House, 55 Rockville Avenue, Cleveleys, near Blackpool.

Nashville, Tennessee, 1984

by Walter Thornton

The international conference of the newly formed Association for the Rehabilitation and Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired, held towards the end of June in Nashville, Tennessee, was unique in several respects. The attendance of 816 made it the largest conference of its kind ever held. It was the first conference to be organised by the Alliance of the American Association of Workers for the Blind and the Association of Educators of the Visually Handicapped. It was a bringing together of almost all the remaining originators of the system of orientation and mobility training, based on the use of the long cane, which resulted in the creation of the mobility instructor profession. St. Dunstaners will doubtless be surprised to learn that, in the United States, a post-graduate course leading to a Master's degree, is necessary to qualify to be a mobility instructor of the blind.

C. Warren Bledsoe was there to receive an award to mark his lifetime of service to blind people, particularly in the development of mobility training. It was Warren Bledsoe, who, towards the end of the Second World War, at Valley Forge Hospital, Pennsylvania, was required by the American Army authorities to develop, along with his pre-war colleague from the Maryland School for the Blind, Dick Hoover, a system of independent mobility which would satisfy the demands of the war-blinded veterans who wanted a more independent system than that provided by the lady escorts, who had been introduced on the pattern of St. Dunstan's. Russ Williams was there. He had been chief of the Blind Rehabilitation Unit at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Hines, Illinois, during the post-war period when the long cane system could have disappeared, but then he raised it to the level of a system which could be adopted as the basis of a university course. It was he who entertained the late Douglas Lloyds, former Secretary of St. Dunstan's, when the latter made a visit of inspection of mobility training, described in the 1964 October issue of the *St. Dunstan's Review*, a visit which led to my own training at Hines Hospital and the University at Kalamazoo.

Dean George Mallinson, head of the Graduate School at the University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, and Don Blasch, head of the Department of Blind Rehabilitation there, were also at the Nashville conference.

I had the privilege of featuring in the conference programme, sharing in a presentation with Professor Stan Suterko on 'The History, Proliferation, and Future, of the Orientation and Mobility Instructor Profession'. Stan Suterko was my instructor at Western Michigan University in 1965, when I went at Lord Fraser's request, to assess the potential value of long cane training for our St. Dunstaners. Two months after my return, we collaborated during the month of August on the course which he conducted at Ovingdean, giving long cane training to some St. Dunstaners. The following year, the University of Western Michigan released him for twelve months to help us set up the Midlands Mobility Centre, on the campus of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. (B.R.I.B.) Three years later, in premises provided jointly by the B.R.I.B. and St. Dunstan's, this became the National Mobility Centre, when the R.N.I.B. joined the consortium. It is worth mentioning that the centre in Birmingham has to date trained 362 mobility instructors, of whom 82 are from 29 countries, and most of the rest are still working as mobility instructors, scattered about the U.K.

Professor Suterko's outstanding qualities have been recognised by the American Association of Workers for the Blind honouring him with two of its highest awards. We have worked together in the U.K. and on three courses organised in Europe by the American Foundation for the Overseas Blind, introducing the long cane to 14 countries. I was also able briefly to support work which he was doing in 1970, when he was setting up mobility instructor training at the Guide Dog Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

In completing the international picture which we presented, Professor Suterko referred to the mobility instructor training which he established in Poland, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

I was able to refer to my role in establish-

ing the mobility instructor profession in the U.K., and introducing the long cane to Egypt and South Africa.

As with all conferences, a lot of the benefit resulted from the individual exchange of ideas, and the contacts which one was able to establish or renew. Two developments which I found of particular interest were a prototype of an orienteer's Braille compass, and the Western Michigan University's travelling mobility unit, a converted motor home. The latter has proved eminently successful in bringing services to blind people who had not previously been reached. It was interesting, to learn of developments of dog training, to enable them to help spastics and deaf people.

No visit to Nashville would be complete without a visit to Opryland. There was just

time for half a day there, to enjoy particularly some of the musical attractions of this incredible amusement park; to take in a tour, with verbal commentary, on its open railway; to marvel at the size and facilities of the Opryland Hotel; and to learn from the younger members attending the conference of the variety of rides, and to gather from the soaked clothing of some of them that one could be unlucky in one's seat location on the Water Ride.

It was a great privilege to be involved in this first ever large occasion, and highly gratifying to find that the contribution of the Birmingham centre, towards the world-wide development of the orientation and mobility instructor profession, with all its benefits to blind people, should be so warmly regarded and recognised.

Skiers Meet The Queen

by Ray Hazan

On May 23rd, Her Majesty The Queen visited the Royal Regiment of Artillery based in West Germany. She is Captain General of the Gunners. A sports field complex saw amassed the largest concentration of British fire power ever. 1800 men representing 14 Regiments drove past the Queen in 400 tracked vehicles. These were all either command post vehicles, or self-propelled guns (i.e. mounted on a tracked chassis) ranging from the 105 mm Abbot to the 175 mm Howitzer capable of projecting a shell over 35 kilometres.

I leave to the reader's imagination, on the command "start up", the pall of dense black carbon monoxide from 400 exhausts, the whine and scream of the engines as they drove their heavy loads, and the squeal of tracks over their guiding wheels. Even more tangible, unfortunately, was the sea of mud to be negotiated by us mere footed mortals, after their passing! With a professional precision that only the British Services can muster, the guns were driven from the parade ground to line an avenue. A mere foot separated the vehicles; their towering barrels were raised skywards to form an archway through which the Queen was driven. It was a most impressive parade - the hard-earned tradition of the Gunners mingling with the technology and fire power of a modern artillery.

After the parade and lunch, the Queen visited the Regimental display stands. The name of 94 Locating Regiment should be familiar to all readers of the *Review* for the past three years. The theme of their display was their success in the BAOR skiing championships over the past ten years, and their involvement with the St. Dunstan's skiing party. Bill and Joan Shea, Ray and Jennie Hazan were kindly invited to take their places on the stand together with their winning team, an enormous mound of trophies, and two dummies dressed in Regimental downhill and cross-country ski dress. The Queen expressed pleasant surprise that the blind were able to ski, and we explained how we were guided. We were greatly happy when the Master Gunner also came up to us and 'hoped that we would continue to ski with them'; an invitation which needs no repetition!

Our remaining time in north-east Germany was spent visiting the delights of the town of Celle, from museum to marketplace and castle to cafe. We are most grateful to 94 for their invitation. It gave us the opportunity to meet for the first time, Lt. Col. Fowler and others who have organised our trips, and especially, to renew our friendship with Andy, Simon, Olly and Jock, who have been so good to us in the past. Auf wiedersehen till March!

Return to Normandy

Jerry Lynch talks to David Castleton

On June 6th thousands of ex-servicemen from Britain, Canada, U.S.A. and European countries, who formed part of the Normandy invasion force, returned to the beaches and the battlefields inland for the fortieth anniversary of D-Day. Among them was our St. Dunstan's Jerry Lynch.

We met soon afterwards at Ian Fraser House and he told me about his impressions on his return for the first time to Sword Beach where he landed with the 9th Battalion, Cameronians Scottish Rifles. He said his second trip was more enjoyable than the first! – 'No hassle'. In fact his first plans to travel with his local Royal British Legion from Selsey fell through when the party was cancelled due to lack of support.

He was put in touch with Major Tony Holt, of Battlefield Tours, who runs regular tours of historic battlefields. 'It was marvellous: first class hotels, free admission to all museums and a place in the Bayeux Cemetery for the main ceremony.'

An occasion

Although he had never felt the need to go back before, he said he thought the fortieth anniversary seemed an occasion, 'Like going to the Cenotaph, a little appreciation, a little thought for those who didn't come back'.

Major Holt's group visited the beaches and the cemeteries on the Tuesday, the day before the main ceremonies, a sensible plan as, after a certain hour on Wednesday, June 6th, all roads were closed.

In the Bayeux Cemetery, just behind where Jerry and his party were standing, was a Polish contingent with their standard bearers, 'All the British standard bearers had been put on parade. Tony Holt knew a Czech officer with the Poles and he pointed them out to the officer in charge who came and spoke to the Polish chaps. Then Wins-

ton Churchill, Junior came over and the Polish standard bearers were included in the ceremony. I thought this was a nice gesture and well-warranted.

'Most places were taken up between twelve and one o'clock. We got there just after one. Prior to the Queen's arrival we had a picnic lunch brought from the hotel. The Queen arrived by helicopter alongside the cemetery and visited the Memorial, where she greeted President Mitterand. They walked up to the Cross of Sacrifice where the service took place.

Prayers

'We sang "O God our help in ages past", said a few prayers, including "Our Father". Just for once in your life you like to give a thought back – you're thankful.'

After the service the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned to the entrance with President Mitterand and then walked slowly back talking to people on the way, Jerry said, 'She passed within about two feet and said Hello to me. She spent quite a period of that twenty minutes talking to some of the war widows. Prince Philip walked up the other side. There was plenty of hilarity over on that side!'

On the way back from Bayeux, at the request of two members, Major Holt's group stopped at a small cemetery at Bronay. 'While we were there a lady came out from a local house and asked the whole coach load of us, with another coach load, to come in. She provided enough glasses for drinks all round and served some very nice biscuits. To finish off our thanks we all sang the "Marseillaise", this put the final cap on the trip.'

Jerry was able to experience the visits to museums thanks to Major Holt, 'Tony was with me most of the time and he gave me wonderful descriptions. The Bayeux



Jerry with American veterans.

Museum must have more than a hundred different uniforms on display. It was all there, guns, vehicles – when they were repairing roads they used to use beat-up tanks to help fill up shell-holes. The French dug one up and it's now on display outside the museum in very good condition.

'Bayeux was the first town to be liberated', said Jerry, 'I went through Caen. It was shattered when I first was there. It's a very nice town now. On Pegasus Bridge I shook hands with Major John Howard, who took the bridge with his glider force. It was a fantastic achievement – you wonder at the courage. Some of them were only 18 or 19.'

'I was 19 when I went over. I was 20 in August and I was hit on September 9th. We were inland in Normandy. I never knew what hit me. Then I was out for a fortnight and didn't know anything at all.'

Amongst all those thousands Jerry bumped into John Cowan, whose recollections of Operation Overlord we published in June, 'We had a five minute chat when we met at one of the cemeteries. The person helping me when Tony wasn't available, her name was June, told me she had a friend at St. Dunstan's called Charlie. It was Charlie Hancock and she is still in touch

with Gladys!'

Jerry was full of praise for Battlefield Tours. 'If anyone is interested they couldn't find a better or more well-researched tour. It is a family business and very well organised.' He also thanked St. Dunstan's for their help, 'It was well worth the re-visit', he concluded, 'It was a very moving occasion'.

Joan Cashmore's Broadcast

Not all those who wished to pay tribute to the men who took part in the D-Day landings attended the official celebrations. Some preferred solitude, like Mrs. Joan Cashmore, widow of the late John Cashmore, who visited the beaches prior to the official ceremony.

Joan, of Northfield, Birmingham, visited the Normandy beaches on May 30th. In an interview with Richard Whitmore for BBC TV she said, 'My husband was blinded in Normandy and I had him for 35 years. I was very lucky to have him for 35 years because his wounds were so near to the brain.' She said she felt very moved to be actually seeing the area where her husband had fought, 'so that we may live'.



Barbara Bell, Tom Page and Roy David recording the restaurant organ at Chichester.

TAPE RECORDING WEEK by Jim Padley

The first week in June saw members of the Tape Recording Club assembling at Ian Fraser House with their selection of cassette tape recorders.

The week started with a morning visit to the Mechanical Music Collection at Chichester. The museum, being established in a redundant Church, really shows off the acoustical qualities of the instruments, which ranged from Musical Boxes, Polyphons, Barrel Organs and Pianolas right up to a full blooded restaurant organ of the 30's. A real feast of nostalgic tunes and memories. The sunny afternoon saw us on a walk-about with the many species of ducks and geese at the Wild Fowl Trust at Arundel, again offering us a choice of sounds, and quacks, for recording.

Tuesday was taken up with a pleasant day trip to Dieppe and while on board the *Senlac* we were invited to visit the Bridge and Radio Room where we were given a most interesting and informative description of all that goes on by the Captain and Radio Officer.

On Wednesday we were invited to attend the D-Day Anniversary Service of the Royal British Legion at Newhaven Fort, which was a very moving experience, especially when from the top of the fort a piper played the Lament and a trumpeter sounded the Last Post.

Alan Mitchell, Walter Bramley and Tom Page.



Gordon Smith examines the perforated paper strip which operates a re-built fairground organ at Chichester.

We had another interesting day on Thursday which was a visit to Aylesford Priory, which is sited by the River Medway on the old Pilgrims Way. The Friars made us very welcome not only giving us a guided tour of the chapels and grounds but also kindly allowing us to record the Community Mass which we attended.

Our last day, Friday, was spent at the South of England Show at Ardingly, the day on which our Patron Her Majesty the Queen attended. The day was not long enough to visit all the attractions, there were so many exhibitions and stands to walk around. There were plenty of sounds to record from the prize livestock and commentaries of the horse shows to the rousing sounds of the Central Band of the R.A.F., the NatWest Bank Band and a Steam Organ playing some modern tunes as well as the good old marches. What a coincidence, starting and finishing with mechanical music a most enjoyable week of good sounds and good fellowship.

Our thanks go to Harold and Winnie Smith for the work they did in arranging such a varied and interesting programme of events and to Major Neve coupled with the staff of Ian Fraser House for their co-operation. Thanks also to the other Harold Smith who came to play the organ for our entertainment on Friday evening and last but certainly not least to our wives and escorts for always being there to keep us on the right track.

Another examination by touch as Elsie Aldred feels the carving of one of the ornate figures decorating the fairground organ.



THE BATTLE OF NORTH CAPE

Extract from remarks by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at Banak, Norway.

On December 26th, 1943, some 150 miles north of where we are standing today, the Battle of North Cape was fought. It was fought in conditions of considerable uncertainty, in the blackness of an Arctic night, in high seas and gale force winds, in bitter cold.

From her forward operating base in Alten Fjord the German Battlecruiser *Scharnhorst* posed a major threat to our convoys carrying essential war supplies to Russia. But her 'hit-and-run' tactics made her difficult to catch. On this occasion two convoys were being run through the area: one full, bound for Murmansk; and one empty, returning to England. Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, Commander in Chief of the British Home Fleet, calculated that this would provide sufficient bait to tempt *Scharnhorst* to put to sea. Under his meticulous planning a powerful force of Cruisers and Destroyers was escorting the convoys, while a second force – led by him in his flagship *Duke of York* (where I was a 14" Turret Officer) – provided distant support from further

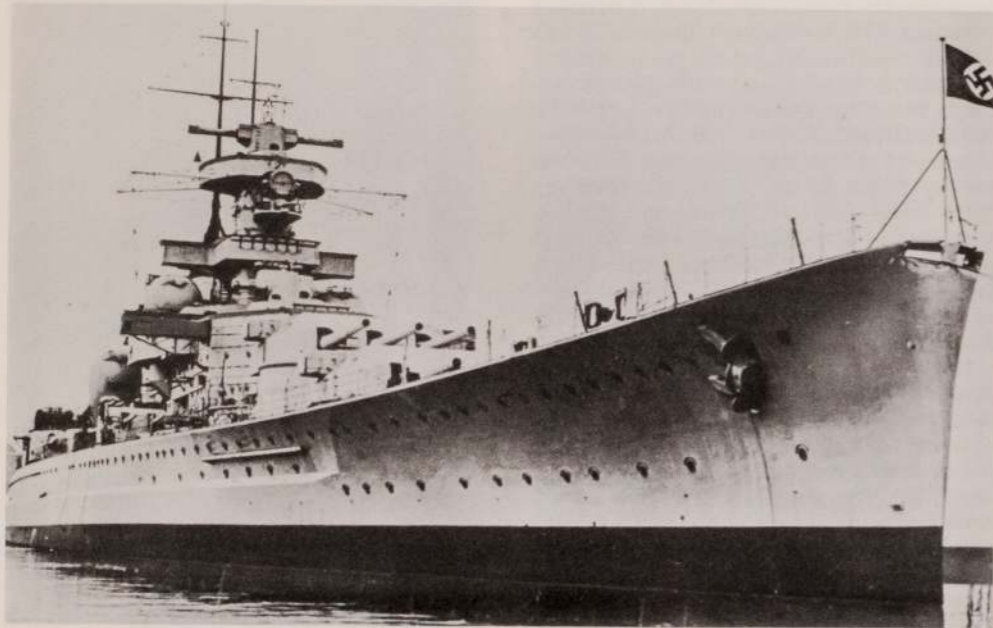
south. The Destroyer Escort of that second force included His Majesty's Norwegian ship *Stord* commanded by Lieutenant Commander Skule Storheill. As a young Lieutenant I had several times received him on board the Flagship. It is a particular pleasure to me that Vice Admiral Storheill is with us today.

Two doubts were uppermost in everyone's mind as we battered our way north in appalling weather. Would we ever get warm again? And would the enemy come out so that we could have a crack at him? Both were soon to be resolved.

Twice the *Scharnhorst* attacked the convoys but each time she was driven off, finally turning south at high speed. This took her straight towards *Duke of York* and the Commander in Chief.

Then came the first radar (then called RDF) contact. The effect in *Duke of York* was electrifying. In an instant cold, fatigue and seasickness were banished as all hands concentrated on the action which was now imminent. In accordance with Admiral

The *Scharnhorst*.



Sir Henry with Vice Admiral Storheill.

Fraser's carefully thought-out plan, the range was closed to six miles before fire was opened. *Scharnhorst* was taken by surprise and in the light of the starshell her turrets were seen to be still fore-and-aft.

Duke of York's fire was heavy and accurate and a number of hits were observed. But the *Scharnhorst* turned away, increased to full speed and steadily outpaced us into the night. The range became too great for effective shooting and eventually fire was checked. I cannot adequately describe the frustration of this moment. To have come so close to what we confidently expected to be a famous victory, only to have it snatched from our grasp at the last minute.

Suddenly the range steadied, then started to close again. A single vital hit in *Scharnhorst's* machinery had reduced her speed. This gave the Destroyers the chance they needed to close and attack with torpedoes. Twin attacks were pressed home with great gallantry and a number of hits obtained. *Duke of York*, too, closed right in, pounding the target with her 14" and secondary armament until it was reduced to a blazing wreck.

The end was horrible. A fine ship smashed to a shambles. Men could be seen leaping overboard to escape the raging inferno, only to die minutes later in the icy seas. *Scharnhorst*, one of the most beautiful warships ever built, was sunk. She had fought bravely to the end against impos-

sible odds. Out of her ship's Company of nearly 1800, 36 survivors were picked up; one was a Petty Officer, none were officers.

Our feelings at the time? Almost a blankness of shock at what had been done. Some relief that it had gone the way it had. Little exultation – the closing scenes were too grim for that and the remoteness of actions at sea precludes hate between sailors. Pride in achievement. And a great weariness – it had been a long day's night.

All that was more than 40 years ago. Why do we seek to remember it now?

We remember it in tribute to Admiral Fraser, the brilliant victor who was such a human, kindly person. Seldom does it happen to one man to design the ultimate in weaponry of his day and subsequently display it successfully in a Fleet Action.

We remember it in tribute to the other Flag and Commanding Officers, and their ship's companies – including the vanquished – who fought so well. We remember it for its historical interest as the last big gun action at sea.

We remember it as a reminder of the importance of the sea and of this Northern Flank of the Free World – and of the wholly disproportionate effort needed by the defender to counter a ruthless attacker.

And finally we remember it in tribute to those who lost their lives and in the hope that deterrence will, through NATO, continue to be effective and that another major war will be prevented.

REUNIONS

BRISTOL

A bright and sunny day welcomed the 44 St. Dunstaners to the Eurocrest Hotel on Saturday, June 23rd. Sir Richard Pease, member of Council, accompanied by Lady Pease, was in attendance.

Sir Richard particularly welcomed those attending their very first reunion: Mr. Henderson of St. Austell, Mr. Cox of Bristol, Mr. Lewis of St. Clears, Carmarthen. He said that the contract for the alterations at Ian Fraser House had been signed, and that the work was expected to be completed early next year. Sir Richard explained that the old Headquarters building in Marylebone Road was becoming 'old and worn out', and that the outer fabric was beginning to cause high maintenance costs. The move next door was a good one for St. Dunstan's. Sir Richard concluded by giving the latest number of St. Dunstaners and drew a warm applause for the three First World War St. Dunstaners present.

The response was given by Mr. Perfect who thanked Sir Richard for his kind words and for taking the time to share the reunion with those present. 'We would like him to know that we greatly appreciate the time and talent, which, as an eminent banker, he has given to St. Dunstan's. Our thanks to you, a measure of thanks to all staff, and members of council, who have worked so hard on our behalf. St. Dunstan's has been established for over 70 years. Many distinguished people, many ordinary people, people with great character, enthusiasm and energy have spent their time over those 70 years in forming the character and nature of the St. Dunstan's we know today. Our thanks to all those who have made their contributions.' He made special mention of Miss Newbold and Miss Meyer, who 'have been so kind and generous to us over the years.' Mr. Perfect finished by thanking the hotel management and staff for the excellent meal and the courtesy they extended to all. Mrs. Ash presented a bouquet to Lady Pease, and a most successful reunion continued with a warmth of friendship matched only by the weather.



Domenic Donnarumma at the piano.

SOUTHAMPTON

Sir Henry and Lady Leach were almost on their home ground when on June 23rd they attended the Reunion at Southampton, not far from where they live near Winchester.

Sir Henry welcomed 26 St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts to the Polygon Hotel saying he and his wife were particularly glad to come to this reunion partly because it was so near home and partly because Southampton was, perhaps, the finest port in the South, 'it has very old and very strong connections with the sea and those who use it. Having spent over 46 years in the Royal Navy I'm quite interested!'

Saying that Southampton is mainly concerned with the Merchant Navy, Sir Henry deplored the 'unfortunate and unwise' reduction of our Merchant Fleet. 'Its position today is very serious and getting worse. Yet without good merchant ships of the right sort and sufficient numbers we could never have won the Falklands War – or any other war overseas. This should be a matter of national concern.'

Sir Henry told his audience that no less than 50 merchant ships were taken up from trade and modified for their war tasks as tankers, troopships, hospital ships, aircraft ferries, support ships, repair ships, dispatch vessels and so on.



Sir Henry with James Cooper.

He detailed some of the work that this entailed: fitting of helicopter flight pads, flight decks and hangars, self-defence weapons, fresh water making plants, additional fuel tanks, increased accommodation, workshop facilities and much else. 'The majority of this work was done in the Naval Dockyards with the Ships' Engineers providing vital assistance. It was a stupendous combined effort. In most cases it was completed in about 72 hours, initial and final work often being done underway at sea.

'In Gibraltar', he went on, 'the SS *Uganda* came straight off a Mediterranean cruise. In two and a half days she was fitted with helicopter pad, operating theatres, casualty gangways, extensive internal and external additional lighting and was painted overall with the required Geneva insignia of a Hospital Ship as well as providing accommodation for 300 casualties and medical personnel covering all specialities.

'In Rosyth five Deep Sea Trawlers, some still with fish in their holds, were converted into minesweepers. In Devonport – in various ships – 1,000 extra bunks were made and installed and 600 tons of structural steel were used in conversions involving 130,000 metres of welding.'

Sir Henry said he hardly needed to add that throughout the Falklands War the per-

formance of our Merchant Fleet, 'was such as to make the Royal Navy deeply grateful and the Merchant Navy rightly proud. Now, two years later, it is easy to forget and to assume that in any future crisis it will again all come right on the day. It won't – unless we make it so.' Finally Sir Henry returned to the St. Dunstan's family, saying that it was in good shape. He mentioned the present numbers of St. Dunstaners and referred particularly to our widows, some 700 'who increasingly receive care, attention and positive financial help.'

Tommy Bice welcomed Sir Henry and Lady Mary Leach to the reunion, 'I was sitting next to Sir Henry at lunch and he has amazed me with what he has been talking about. I thought it was only the buckshees who spoke that way but I see in the higher echelons they know what we get up to!'

He thanked Sir Henry for his speech and mentioned the presence of Mr. Wills, Mrs. Lyall, Mrs. Sheila McLeod and members of the staff, particularly Mrs. Jackson, 'I would like to thank her very much for putting on this wonderful reunion and for becoming part of our families, coming in full of sympathy and help.

'As Sir Henry said, St. Dunstan's is a family, I always think back to Treasure Island with Pew tapping his way into the Admiral Benbow. I often think well, if St. Dunstan's hadn't been there what would have happened to us?'

He recalled arriving at Church Stretton and asking if he could go out for a drink, I saw Miss Morris. "Certainly", she said. One of the V.A.D.'s came over and gave me a stick. I started tapping like old Pew down the road. All of a sudden a voice shouted out, "Don't do that, wave it in front of you". That was the beginning of my instruction on how to be really competently blind. I must say that, in my opinion, St. Dunstan's has led the world in the main thing for the blind and that is to give them confidence and independence.'

Tommy concluded by thanking the management and staff of the hotel and paying tribute to St. Dunstaners' wives, 'One thing makes St. Dunstan's a family. They keep us smartly dressed, they feed us and keep us happy. The toast is, the staff of St. Dunstan's and especially our wives.'

The afternoon continued with entertainment from Domenic Donnarumma, a pianist of professional standard, until tea-time and the prize draw.

Hockham Fen, Norfolk

by Ron Smith – Part 2

THOMPSON WATER

It is early June 1983, and we are visiting the Waterings at Thompson, a new reserve of the NNT. Imagine us at 3 a.m. in the little car park there, surrounded by tall trees. It is a beautiful morning, still dark. A house martin begins to sing first, soon joined by a quacking mallard. By half past three there is greater activity from the woodland and we hear a snipe drumming while a cockerel calls from some cottage garden. Now the Ministry of Defence takes a hand. It is reveille for the Royal Regiment of Artillery – heavy crumps overlaid with a rattle of lighter shots. That will get the soldiers out of bed but I prefer the birdsong.

By four thirty, most songsters are taking part in that wall of sound known as the dawn chorus but singing is hungry work and the noise eventually fades as the birds seek food. A heron flaps slowly overhead, long legs stretched out behind him. What will be on his menu, fish, fowl or frogs? We hear the harsh cries of jays. Will these secretive members of the crow family feast on eggs or fledglings this morning?

Two days later we are back again. Nature has taken a hand, giving us an overnight thunderstorm. There are still heavy clouds and a gusty wind which will make recording difficult but we want to visit the pingoes. We are met by a blast of birdsong. Prominent are chiffchaff, blackcap, chaffinch, wood warblers and willow warblers.

Around the car park are mature beeches and oaks, sycamores, the fragrant bird cherry and broom in bloom. Rowans and alders here still provide autumn food for the birds. We make for the common and have to cross a plank bridge which is chicken feed after the one at Hockham Fen. The ground is boggy in places and Mavis finds gipsywort, a waterside plant like a nettle with white flowers. We are walking through open 'carr'. Willows and alders abound, ideal for blackcaps and wrens. Timid moorhens creep behind tussocks of sedge. A small pingo resembles a pink flower bed, so thick is the growth of water violet in it. We walk single file on the narrow path, dodging mud, wild rose thorns and low branches. This is a classic case of duck or

grouse! We also have to avoid trampling anything precious as Mavis notices orchids in the wet grass.

We reach the edge of a bigger pingo – one of those saucer shaped, thick-rimmed depressions formed in the Ice Age. The shallow water is hidden by brilliant green duckweed. Watercress grows here and the rim is purplish with the young shoots of water mint, providing one more scent. A large, cleared pingo is home to a family of Canada geese. Reeds at one end hold the remains of their nest. The geese wait watchfully on the far side. The black and white parents at front and rear with five fawn goslings between them. Small silvery fish leap and plop.

Then the frogs speak up. Besides our native frog there are two alien species in this country and these interbreed. I may be recording a hybrid but I think it is the brown marsh frog making these long, loud croaks. They float on the surface, limbs outstretched. Their cheeks blow up with each croak, the skin stretched to transparency like bubblegum. Beside the water Mavis finds a tiny, rare fern called adder's tongue. All this was once owned by Lord Walsingham but has been purchased by the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust.

In 1982 I met George Jessup, the water bailiff. By 1983 he had retired, so I visited him at his cottage. I asked him about his work at Thompson Water.

'I had a happy nine years,' he said. 'I met a lot of friends from all parts. There was a group from Essex, would arrive Friday night and sleep at the hut. They went back to Essex as happy as though the water was theirs. Yes, the hut was big enough to sleep in. There were six chairs until the army borrowed them. There are thirty-four acres of open water, a hundred with the reed beds. They used to cut the reeds. There's still a thatcher here. He cut them this year to thatch his own bungalow. There's a lot of thatched cottages in Thompson and more in Merton.'

I asked about the fish. 'Some would come miles to catch a little fish. It used to cost

them a pound a day but it went up to two pounds. There are a lot of pike. Big ones. One young chap caught one that weighed twenty two pounds. He sold it to a game dealer for four pounds. That stuffed one up in the estate office weighed twenty-nine pounds. Edible fish? They were eels, mostly.'

I wanted to know if George could tell of any funny experiences. 'One Sunday morning a woman fell in and she hadn't got any dry pants so I went home and asked the wife if she'd got any spare pants. She gave me some black ones and I took them to this woman but she never returned them. Lord Walsingham had the money but I had the sport!'

READING TIME

by Philip Wood

Cat. No. 3877

The Elizabethan Deliverance

By Arthur Bryant

Read by John Richmond

Reading Time 11 hours

The book covers the first 30 years of Elizabeth's reign culminating in the defeat of the Armada. In 1558 she inherited a kingdom virtually bankrupt, a rag-tag untrained army, a nation half starved, full of self doubt, an England torn by religious strife in the aftermath of the terrible Smithfield fires.

By 1588 the country was united and prosperous, free of religious persecution, self confident and, both militarily and economically, a power to be reckoned with. The queen was an enlightened innovator. Wages were inflation-proofed, a seven-year apprenticeship was introduced and the Elizabethan Poor Law was used as the basis for relief from want for the following 347 years.

She gave England its most precious gift, almost a quarter of a century of peace, while the rest of Europe was destroying itself in bloody and indecisive conflict. Her sea adventurers laid the foundation stone of England's greatness as a maritime and trading power. . .

I found this book absolutely fascinating. Sir Arthur Bryant has the happy knack of being able to pass on to his readers his own lively enthusiasm for history.

We are at Thompson Water in the late evening. Mosquitoes are out in clouds. Numbers of warblers are singing in the reed beds. I am surprised by the sharp calls of a pair of common terns. These are seabirds, not often to be found by fresh water. Flies buzz in the microphone. Blackcap and songthrush are obliging. So are some crows, a willow warbler and a turtle dove. It is a fine, still evening with no wind to spoil the recording. . .

My thanks to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable expedition; Mr. Campbell and Ben, the Earl family, George Jessup and my escort-cum-assistant, Mavis Coates.

Cat. No. 4322

Some Desperate Glory

By Edward Campion Vaughan

Read by Patrick Romer

Reading Time 11½ hours

At the age of nineteen the author was commissioned into the Warwickshire Regiment and sent to the Western Front, eager for the great adventure. The book is a meticulously kept diary covering events during the first eight months of 1917.

In graphic detail and with devastating frankness he describes the horrors, the bloodshed, the brutality and the futility of the Great War.

I found his laconic matter-of-fact style quite electric. It conveys a horrifying picture of trench warfare, with its almost unbelievable mass slaughter, far more vividly than any amount of high flown hyperbole could possibly do. He says that 'the village was strictly out of bounds to all ranks, there were about two thousand unburied dead lying around the place'.

Vaughan came through unscathed, one of only fifteen survivors of his original group of ninety. He died tragically in 1931 in hospital as a result of a doctor administering the wrong drug.

Like others of his kind he went to war with Palgrave in his pocket and took as the title of his book a quotation from a poem *Dulce et decorum est* by his favourite poet Wilfred Owen.



Stan Sosabowski.

Fred Galway.



Summer Shoot

We started the week with a very enjoyable match against other disabled persons at a fine ground on the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight Bowmen entertained with an enjoyable homemade tea at the end of the shoot.

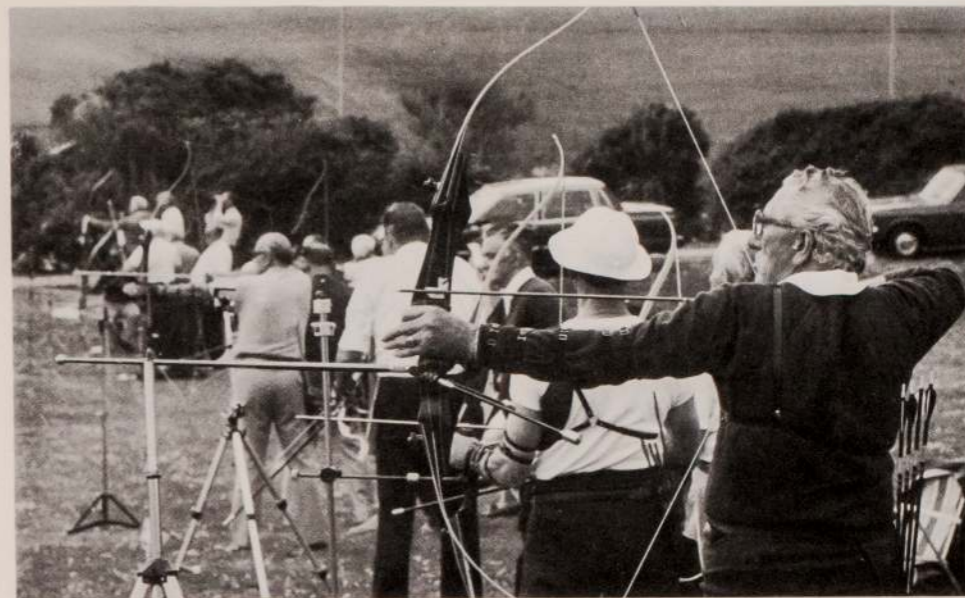
St. Dunstan's Archery Club came third but we had enjoyed the shoot. The club presented one of St. Dunstan's shields to the host club as a memento of our visit and as a 'thank you' for the fine way they organised everything for our pleasure.

The day was fine and sunny so we enjoyed the ferry trips and we stopped on the way home for a meal at 'The Plough and Sail' at Arundel which was a pleasant end to a full and satisfying day.

But the weather was kind to us all the rest of the week, cool for the first four days but warm and sunny on Friday and Saturday.

All the archers present improved their shooting as the week passed and some fine scores were made.

The week ended with a three cornered match against Greenways (the staff team of St. Dunstan's) and Cuckfield Bowmen. Greenways won the match on handicap which gave their morale a great boost. Many six gold ends were shot during the



George Allen.

day and John Barrow photographed for posterity the proud archers at the target.

The presentation of the prizes brought many surprises. Mrs. Austin, Laurie's wife, gave the prizes to the winners during the buffet on Saturday night. Mrs. Dacre's Trophy was presented at a separate buffet supper at her house on Wednesday.

Our thanks must go to all the helpers, Laurie Austin, Ted Bradford, Phil Varden, and many others who gave so much time to make the days run smoothly. Everyone enjoyed the shooting and not a few took away trophies to prove it.

I was not able to share in the tournaments this year as I had pupils to teach but I was able to get some practice in each day when my teaching hours were over.

Phil Duffee

COMPETITION RESULTS

Spurway Trophy

- Totally Blind*
1. Norman Perry
 2. Tom Bice
 3. Fred Galway

Partially Sighted

1. Curly Wagstaff
2. George Hudson
3. George Allen

Dacre Trophy

- Totally Blind*
1. Charles McConaghy
 2. Eric Bradshaw
 3. Stan Sosabowski

Partially Sighted

1. Ted Paris
2. Curly Wagstaff
3. Jerry Lynch

Royal Insurance Trophy

- Totally Blind*
1. Norman Perry
 2. Eric Bradshaw
 3. Charles McConaghy

Partially Sighted

1. Ted Paris
2. Joe Prendergast
3. Jerry Lynch

Tributes to the late Bill Harris

One of St. Dunstan's staunchest helpers and friends, Bill Harris, died in hospital at Croydon on June 19th.

Bill Harris was a successful race walker with the London Tramways Walking Club. He took part in every London to Brighton Walk between 1927 and 1937 and was a ten mile record holder. He was a Centurion, one who has walked 100 miles inside 24 hours.

It was he, with Mrs. Avis Spurway who encouraged race walking among St. Dunstaners, and he was always ready to give time to coaching, adjudicating our events and preparing handicaps for competitors. He was also well-known to St. Dunstaners at the Naval Camp at H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent. With Harry Wheeler, our St. Dunstaner, he would entertain with old songs popular with servicemen of both wars. Their repertoire was recorded on to compact cassette with the late Peter Spencer, another camper, at the piano.

A Requiem Mass for Bill was held at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Purley on July 4th. St. Dunstaners attending were David Bell, Harry Wheeler, Jimmy Wright and Bob Young. David Castleton, P.R.O., escorted Harry Wheeler and represented St. Dunstan's and Bill Reed escorted Bob Young and represented the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew. From the world of racewalking were Messrs. Goswell, Hadley, Mitchell and Neilson, past presidents and centurions, and representatives of the Surrey Walking Club.

St. Dunstaner, Jimmy Wright, has sent us this tribute:

Sixty one years on

The year was 1957, my first experience of the St. Dunstan's Camp Week at HMS Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent. When I awoke on the Tuesday morning I was puzzled to find a pair of shorts and a singlet on the bed.

'What's all this about Jock?' I asked Chief Petty Officer Scott.

'You'll need those this morning for the Walking Race around the perimeter track of the airfield', he replied.

'You're joking', I said, 'I've never done anything like that before' having only ever



1972: Bill Harris receives a silver tankard from St. Dunstaners marking 50 years sporting service.

played cricket and tennis in my youth, and occasionally swung the odd golf club.

'Your name's on the list, now's your big chance to learn', Jock barked.

Protestations seemed to fall on stony ground, and in any case, Bob Young, then 58 years old, piped up, 'If I can do it so can you!'

Silly old fool I thought, he must be mad!

The long and short of it was that, egged on, and no doubt given a few pushes by my escort, Jock Scott, I finished the course and was equally surprised and proud to end up the first recipient of the Bridget Talbot Novice's Cup.

There was no turning back after that first experience of Race Walking, with Bob Young and Mickie Burns, as well as other St. Dunstan's Walkers, prodding me to take part in more races; soon I found myself a member of the St. Dunstan's Race Walking Club. Members of the Metropolitan Police Race Walking Club acted as our escorts, under the supervision of Bill Harris. I regard myself very much as a newcomer to the sport of Race Walking, as I believe Bill Harris introduced this particular sport to Avis Spurway's calendar of sports activities, soon after the First World War.

Under Bill's leadership, St. Dunstaners have been encouraged to pioneer this sport over the years, and it is small wonder that Her Majesty the Queen honoured Bill Harris in 1973, with the MBE, for his outstanding devotion to the blind world encouraging St. Dunstaners to participate in Walking Races. Bill's own prowess at Road Walking prompted the National Organisers of the Associa-

tion to appoint Bill an official judge, and he was often called upon to adjudicate at major events both in the UK, as well as at the Commonwealth Games. Bill was very proud of his special Commonwealth Games Judge's blazer.

I am sure I am only one of many St. Dunstaners whose lives have been enriched under Bill's leadership through participating in Walking Races; thus broadening our friendship with other St. Dunstaners, as well as with members of the Metropolitan Police Road Walking Association and Avis Spurway's faithful team of helpers.

We mourn the loss of a man who devoted a lifetime to athletics, and someone whom we held in great esteem for his rigid adherence to the rules of the game, but who at the same time commanded our respect for his fair judgement on all occasions.

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.

John Jackson, of Chorley, joined St. Dunstan's on May 21st.

He is a single man who lives with his parents. Mr. Jackson lost his sight in an explosion at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Chorley where he was employed and is at present undertaking training at Ian Fraser House.

Dennis George Morris, of Ashted, joined St. Dunstan's on 26th June.

Lieutenant-Commander Morris is 61 years of age and was commissioned in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in February 1942. He served in the Special Branch until July 1946 and in the Sea Cadet Corps until relinquishing his commission in August 1966.

Harry Wilson, of Burnley, joined St. Dunstan's on 25th May.

Mr. Wilson served as a Private in the Pioneer Corps during the 2nd World War and was a Prisoner of War in Germany and Poland. He is married, with a grown-up family.



Jack Shard and George Shed.

Reunion of a Lifetime

As he set out for a month's holiday in Benidorm little did George Shed know that even before he left the airport he would have a remarkable reunion with someone he had not seen for 39 years.

George and his wife Rose, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, were getting on to the invalid bus at Gatwick, ready to join their plane, when George was instantly recognised by Jack Shard, the soldier who had rescued him from an Italian minefield in 1945.

'It was amazing', said George. 'My wife and I were just sitting down when Jack recognised me and said "I picked you up when you were wounded".'

George and Jack had last met when both were members of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment fighting near the River Po, in Italy. George had been blown up by a mine and it was only the swift action of Jack and his comrades that saved his life.

Now, so many years later, not only were they travelling on the same plane but they had booked to stay at the same hotel in Benidorm.

So began a holiday which was to be full of shared memories. 'He reminded me of all the things I'd forgotten. I remember being blown up but not much after that', says George.

For George it was a holiday of a lifetime and the two men will certainly be keeping in touch.

WARTIME GUN INSPIRES MEMORIAL

Granville Waterworth and his wife Elma, of Coventry, made a nostalgic trip to Holland in April. Together with others from Granville's wartime regiment, the 49th Reconnaissance Regiment, they had been invited to take part in the unveiling of an old regimental gun to commemorate the liberation of the village of Loenen and those who died fighting for it.

During the war a gun from one of the regiment's armoured cars was buried by the inhabitants of the village, in order to hide it from the Germans. It remained hidden for over forty years. When it was finally dug up, two years ago, the villagers decided to make it a permanent memorial and invited the regiment who had liberated them, on April 16th, 1945, to take part in the unveiling ceremony.

The gun was mounted on permanent display in the village square and on Saturday, April 14th, the ceremony took place, attended by 49 men and wives from the 49th 'Recce' Regiment. 'After playing the Last Post and a minute's silence I was escorted to the rostrum by a girl scout and I gave the Royal British Legion's address. This was quite a moving occasion and very well received', said Granville.

Earlier that day they had all taken part in a procession around the village riding in a variety of wartime vehicles lent especially for the occasion, which included an assortment of jeeps, a Harley Davidson, and a Dodge ambulance. 'The villagers all turned out cheering and waving', said Elma.

The British visitors spent five days as guests of the villagers. This reunion of wartime allies was so successful that the Dutch have invited the regiment back in five year's time. Granville is looking forward to it.

HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS

Ex-Hong Kong Volunteers, who do not at present receive an allowance from the Secretary of State for Social Services in Hong Kong, may be able to qualify for one now, owing to the introduction of new legislation. If you think you may be entitled to such an allowance, write to: Secretary of State for Social Services, Government Secretariat, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.



Granville Waterworth speaking at Loenen.

HIJACK!

Dr. Harold Ball has recently returned from a dream holiday which could easily have turned into a nightmare when his plane was hijacked on the return flight.

Dr. Ball is something of a globe-trotter. Two years ago he visited Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Japan but his dream was to return to China where he had spent two years working as a medical missionary in the 1920's.

So in March this year, accompanied by Mrs. Christine Ford, he went 'to have another look' at the country he had visited so many years ago. He spent three weeks travelling around, during which time he paid a visit to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, which both left a lasting impression, Peking, Siam, and Shanghai where he had married when he was working in China, and Hong Kong - in all an experience that he found absolutely fascinating. He says he was especially pleased to 'try a bit of my Chinese again'.

One hour into the return flight Dr. Ball's plane made an unscheduled landing and it became apparent that there was a hijacker on board. He claimed to be carrying explosives and there was a nerve wracking wait for the passengers while negotiations took place between the hijacker and officials. The terrorist finally gave himself up and Dr. Ball and Mrs. Ford, together with the other passengers, spent the night at an hotel before continuing on their return journey.

Dr. Ball says of the experience 'It was nothing', and is already planning his next trip, a Mediterranean cruise.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you have all had good holidays and fine weather. May I also wish that you had someone with green fingers who looked after the garden while you were away. Nevertheless one always finds a few things not carried out to your own standard, so you will have some things to keep you busy. I have the same problems, especially in very hot dry conditions.

Get all the house plants back in their normal positions if you have asked friends to take them to their own homes or, like us, to have the plants placed in the bath on towels and given a good soaking. Catalogues will probably be on the door mat for the new season's bulbs and seeds, so I should get in orders at once in case some items are in short supply and out of stock when your orders arrive.

Vegetables

Get all those beds which have completed cropping cleaned up and forked over to make it easy to get the heavy digging done later in the season. Keep the hoe going between the rows of items still growing, to keep the weeds at bay and open the soil up so that rain will get well down in the soil. Main crop potatoes which are ripening and haulms dying off can be harvested, and it is a good idea to leave potatoes on the top of the soil to dry off a bit before storing.

Give plenty of water and liquid feed to ridge cucumbers, marrows and outdoor tomatoes. Pick the fruit as it ripens and only hope that you have picked off the growing point. Any onions which are ripening can be harvested, plus runner beans in order to have nice soft beans which are easy to use in the kitchen and the freezer. Pinch out the top of the runners when they get to the top of the canes or strings. Late cabbages can be planted out in the area where the onions were lifted. Lettuce and radish can be sown for a late salad crop.

Fruit

All the apples, plums and damsons will be showing the quality of their crop. Where there are too many it might be a good idea

to thin them out in order to get good size. Some of the early varieties will be ripening well now so it would be a good idea to harvest, as they are ones that keep very well. Check over last year's grease bands, destroy the insects attracted and if there is a heavy infestation set some new bands. It is also a good time to buy in some new fruit trees. Some late summer pruning can be done, especially those long thin growths which protrude from the top and sides of the trees. Where you have wall fruit give it some protection as it ripens. Birds can be a nuisance so a light covering of plastic netting will be of great help. Cherries should be ripe now so harvest at once since here again the birds like to have their fill. Cut away all the fruit canes from raspberries and loganberries, leaving a few young ones in each stool for next season. Stop all shoots on the gooseberries and thin them out. Prune away all side shoots on currants. Clear up the strawberry bed especially the straw which was used to keep the berries clean and cut away all unwanted runners. New beds can be set down.

Lawns

Despite the fact that it is coming to the end of the grass growing season by the end of September, you must keep the mower going, though not as often as in the height of summer. Give the lawn a good raking over in September, then brush with a stiff broom. Where you are thinking of putting down a new lawn, get the site and soil in good condition for sowing seed end of August or early September.

Flowers

Give the borders a good cleaning up by using the hoe regularly and using a hand fork to get up the deep rooted weeds such as the dandelion, thistle, etc. Bind weed is a pest and even if you get most of the roots out, there will be a small bit left to grow again. I find that the newish weed killer called Tumbleweed is very effective by spraying on the leaves or better still to paint on the leaves so that you don't get the spray

Gardening Notes – continued

on other plants, as it is deadly to all other items as well. Cut away those shoots on the perennials which have passed their flowering period, split up the roots and use the outside pieces for new plants in the coming season, discarding the central portion.

In September dig up all the gladioli corms and keep them in boxes of peat or dry sand for next season. The same can be said of begonia and dahlia tubers. Give them all a dusting with sulphur in case there is a bit of disease hanging about on broken stems or damaged tubers.

Where you have some good regal pelargoniums and geraniums which you want to have for next year, take some cuttings now and when they are rooted pot into single pots. Remember to cut clean from the parent plant and dip in a hormone rooting powder. Should you not be too happy about taking cuttings, dig up the main plants and put in fairly large pots, water in and then gradually reduce watering to a trickle. Bulbs of all kinds can be potted now and also planted outside in their flowering positions. Put the crocus in the front and daffodils and tulips further back and it might be a good idea to label them all in case you dig them up when tidying the border.

Greenhouse

Even here there is a tendency for the bulbs and tubers to be coming to the end of their summer glory but keep up the water and occasional feed so that they can be built up for next year. By the end of September gradually dry them off as the leaves will be dying away. Keep them in their pots till the Spring when you start them off again in clean pots and new compost. The plants I have talked of are begonias, gloxinias, achimenes and any other gesneriads which have rhizomes or tubers. Cuttings of regal pelargoniums and geraniums can be taken rather than keeping the main plants which always seem to take up a whole lot of room.

Bring in any cyclamen or azaleas which were put in a warm shady spot in the garden. Re-pot in clean containers and in fresh compost. Give a good dose of water but don't overdo this until they are really growing well. Winter and Spring flowering bulbs such as hyacinth, crocus, daffodil, tulip and

narcissus can be started but keep them in a cool spot in the dark until there is really good growth. Give a good watering but they may not need any more until they are flowering. Keep all the winter and spring flowering plants such as calceolaria, cineraria and primulas going well with a fair amount of water and regular feeds. Seeds of schizanthus can be sown with little or no heat and grow very quickly to give a really fine show in pots.

Don't forget that the ventilators will probably have to be shut at night as there may be frosts in the north. Take all the shading off the windows by using a dry duster on a good dry day. Make sure that the heating system is in good order and ready for use when the cold weather appears. Keep the moisture down and certainly don't wet the floors. As usual it is a good thing to set some smokes alight to keep insects and diseases away.

ADDITIONS TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

- G21. C90. Votrax voice synthesiser, appraisal.
G22. C90. ESSO, story of oil.
R67. C90. Ragchew No. 16 for March '84.
SD34. C90. National Tape Magazine feature on IFH.
SD35. C90. Gardener Magazine for April '84.

Please note that the requisite number of blank tapes should be sent to the PR Dept. to obtain any copies from the library.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Entertainment Section

We have almost completed the indoor tournaments, and now look forward to a dance in the Annexe on September 15th when the bowling prizes will be presented. A trip to the Congress Theatre at Eastbourne, with a meal, is planned for September 19th to hear the New Bachelors, with Leslie Crowther. Please come if you can. The Annual Dinner and Dance will be

held at Butlins, Saltdean, this year on November 8th and we do hope that this will be well supported.

It is to be hoped that Joan Osborne will be on the road to full recovery, we miss you, Bob and Joan, very much, and our good wishes go to Bob and Pat Cunningham for the arranging of the entertainments.

Please put your names forward for the next competitions.

Phyllis O'Kelly

Bridge

Pairs – July 1st

R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	60.00
G. Hudson & Mrs. King	58.00
R. Freer & Miss Stenning	57.00
W. Lethbridge & W. Allen	52.00
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	44.00
W. Phillips & Mr. Goodlad	44.00
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Sturdy	44.00
J. Padley & Mrs. Padley	41.00

Individuals – June 16th

W. Phillips	54.8
J. Padley	54.8
W. Lethbridge	54.8
J. Whitcombe	50.0
R. Pacitti	50.0
J. Majchrowicz	50.0
R. Evans	50.0
R. Fullard	35.8

Pairs – June 10th

A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller King	59.5
Miss Stenning & Mr. Goodlad	53.6
W. Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	50.0
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	47.7
J. Majchrowicz & Mrs. Barker	46.4
J. Padley & Mr. Douse	42.8

BOWLING

On Thursday, June 14th, we continued our Outdoor Bowling Season with a visit to Burgess Hill Bowling Club. It was a very sunny day and we were warmly welcomed by our hosts. The greens were in beautiful condition and we enjoyed a very good afternoon's bowling. Unfortunately, we were only second best on this occasion. Harry Preedy, our captain, thanked Burgess Hill on behalf of us all for a very enjoyable match.

On Monday, June 18th, we made our annual visit to Marine Gardens Bowling Club, Worthing. Once again we had another fine day and although depleted in numbers through illness, etc., we were able to muster enough members to form a team. On this occasion we were on top form and as this was a public park there were numerous spectators following the game and they were highly impressed by the skill of the St. Dunstaners.

On both these occasions the refreshments served to us were very enjoyable. Thank you Burgess Hill and Marine Gardens.

A. Miller

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Stephen Cleverly, eldest grandson of the late *Jim Delaney* and Mrs. Lucy Delaney on his marriage to Helen Pavey in Bridgewater on June 23rd.

Alan Shepherd, grandson of *Mr. Walter Viner*, of Bristol, on his marriage to Fenice Piltman on July 21st, at St. Mary's Church, Bristol.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Webber, of Goring-by-Sea, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 8th.

PEARL WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Roy Lavery and his wife, Daphne, of Minehead, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on June 28th.

CORRECTION

In the July issue we offered congratulations to Mr. Robinson on the birth of his first grandson. Unfortunately the name was incorrect. The baby is called Peter Phillip. We apologise for this error.

Family news – continued

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cotterill, of Walsall, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on June 27th.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Marcus Middleton, grandson of Mrs. Dorothy Jacobs and the late *Mr. Samuel Jacobs*, of Wallasey, Merseyside. Marcus (aged 16), gained top marks in his class for his initial training at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth, as well as a medal for swimming.

Martyn, son of Mrs. Ella White and the late *Mr. William White*, of Fordingbridge, for obtaining a degree in Electronics from the Open University.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. Frank Griffee, of Worthing (formerly of Rottingdean), whose wife, Ethel Kathleen, passed away on June 10th, at the age of 82.

Mr. Francis Nicholson, of Beeston, Nottinghamshire, who mourns the death of his wife, Lily, who passed away on June 22nd.

Mrs. Lucy Read, wife of *John Read*, of New Haw, whose brother passed away in June.

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.

L.D. Cadman, 30th Battalion, Black Watch

Leslie Dorian Cadman passed away at his home in South Kilvington, Yorkshire, on June 13th, aged 69. Although devotedly cared for by his wife, he had been failing in health for some time.

Mr. Cadman served as a Sergeant in the 30th Battalion, Black Watch, from May 1940, and was injured by a mine explosion in July 1942, losing the sight of both eyes. He was discharged and came to St. Dunstan's in December 1942 where he undertook a period of training in Braille, Typewriting and Rug-making, proving extremely able in all subjects.

Our St. Dunstaner's active mind and flair for invention showed itself throughout his life. In earlier years he had studied Spanish, German and woodwork, and in the early 60's he designed a type of hovercraft and several other inventions which demonstrated his engineering expertise. Around 1970 he concentrated on writing children's books and a full-length novel which the BBC were considering for adaptation as a television play.

He leaves a widow, Anne.

C. Crane, Machine Gun Corps

Cecil John Crane, of East Grinstead, passed away in hospital at East Grinstead on June 17th. He was 85 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1983.

Mr. Crane served in the Machine Gun Corps in the First World War and was gassed in 1918 when he also suffered severe burns. Although he had no sight in one eye from that time, he led a full and active life retiring only at the age of 70.

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

J. Smith, Royal Marines

James Smith, of Whitwick in Leicestershire, passed away at his home on 10th June, aged 59.

Mr. Smith served in the Royal Marines from October 1938 until he was discharged in 1945 with the onset of his blindness. In spite of this disability he was able to work for 21 years as a labourer with the Leicestershire Highways Authority, taking his retirement in 1977 when his remaining sight failed. He joined St. Dunstan's in July that year. In retirement his main interest was his garden and greenhouse which was always a great credit to him.

He leaves a widow, Freda, and their married daughter Jean, and her family.

W. Waller, Royal Artillery

William Henry Waller, of Hamstreet, near Ashford, Kent, passed away suddenly on June 19th, one day after his 75th birthday. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1973.

As a member of the Territorial Army, he was called up at the onset of the Second World War and served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery. In 1944 Mr. Waller suffered injuries to both his eyes and was discharged the following year.

Until 1971, when he retired, Mr. Waller was a power station employee. In 1974 when he moved to Kent from London, his main hobby was gardening and he was justly proud of his splendid vegetable crops.

In April 1975, Mr. Waller and his wife, Queenie, celebrated 40 years of happy marriage with a party in a local hall which was attended by many members of their close knit family.

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