



**St Dunstans  
Review  
November 1984**

# From the Chairman

Last month I attempted a brief survey of how St. Dunstaners stood within our Family and concluded that their overriding needs lay in Caring and Flexibility. Let me now try to outline how I see this being achieved.

The basic, underlying spirit of Caring is unchanged by time. After all if the grenade went off when you had your head up the result is much the same in 1984 as it was in 1914. Initially, that is. But as the years pass technology improves, the scope of worthwhile employment changes and the St. Dunstaner gains experience in coping with his problems. Hence the need for Flexibility.

I believe it is important to guide a newly blinded person into something of a groove in which familiarity is developed and confidence built up. It starts with basic training and rehabilitation and expands in directions dependent on the extent and nature of the St. Dunstaner's disabilities – and on his will to overcome them. From time to time circumstances will make it desirable to change the direction of the groove. Patience is then necessary to ensure that this is done by gentle bends and not sharp corners or the St. Dunstaner may be caused to stumble and thereby hurt himself. Clearly the groove to be shaped for a young St. Dunstaner of 20 may be rather different to that followed for long years by an older St. Dunstaner of 75. Yet both are full members of the same Family. Then again there is today a much greater number of older St. Dunstaners as a result of two World Wars. But, God forbid, there might be a sudden influx tomorrow from Northern Ireland or, in a year or two, another Falklands-type war in which the casualties were not so light. I would emphasise that what we try to do to help one group of St. Dunstaners is never at the expense of another group.

All this leads us to the following broad, forward policy. We should retain our basic training and rehabilitation facilities and Instructional Staff against an unpredictable surge of new entries or a future war. Short of these eventualities, hobby and refresher training should be encouraged to utilise the establishment and keep it in trim. We should maintain our longstanding philosophy of rendering every assistance to new St. Dunstaners in enabling them to pursue normal activities to the maximum extent they are able. This may give rise to the need for new and different training equipment and techniques. The same goes for Hobby and Recreational activities. While keeping up the very substantial facilities we provide for older members we should be alert to the developing needs of much younger men.

Finally a word about our Real Estate. We should continue to help over housing and mortgages on the scale needed. Recently we moved the Headquarters into a much smaller, more compact and more cost-effective building next door; this should meet our requirements for many years. I see a continuing need for Pearson House, in broadly its present form, into the

next century. I believe the future of Ian Fraser House is equally clear, though perhaps in a more speculative way. I have already dealt with the need to maintain our training facilities (at IFH) and you know about the conversion, now in full swing, of the South Wing for holidays. This will take us through some years to come. Ultimately I foresee a likely requirement for St. Dunstaners and their wives to have a sort of 'flatlet' facility providing considerable independence but close to ready help if required for those couples who find it difficult to cope on their own, even in a bungalow. With little further modification the South Wing at Ian Fraser House could provide this, the occupants looking after themselves for (say) breakfast and tea – or more if they wish – but able to go down to the main dining room for lunch and supper.

I hope this brief sketch will renew your confidence in the future and give you a feeling of security that St. Dunstan's will continue to guard your interests so long as there are St. Dunstaners – regardless of age or circumstances.

*Henry Leach*

## EX-P.O.W. REUNION

The St. Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion will be held at Ian Fraser House over the weekend of February 15th to 17th, 1985. Details of the programme will shortly be sent to all ex-P.O.W.'s. All those requiring accommodation at I.F.H. please contact Mrs. T. Coyne at Headquarters.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Mr. Joe Humphrey, M.C.S.P., of Belfast, who has been invited by the Chairman of the Royal Naval Association to accept a position of Vice-President in the Belfast Branch of the Association.

## DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION

The Disabled Living Foundation is moving from 346 Kensington High Street, W14 8NS to new premises at 380/384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU in November/December 1984.

They apologise that they cannot give a precise date for the completion of their move, but arrangements have been made for telephone calls and mail to be attended to at either address as from 1st December. They hope you will bear with them during this difficult time.

Their new telephone number is 01-289 6111.

10p MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 1984

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## Cover Picture:

John Proctor seated upon Montreal, the horse Her Majesty the Queen has often ridden at the Trooping the Colour ceremony. (See Twenty-fifth Handless Reunion on page 20.)



Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre speaking before unveiling the memorial garden seat. Behind her are The Hon. Mrs. Jean McDonald, Robert and Charlotte McDonald and Dr. Neil McDonald.

## REGENT'S PARK MEMORIAL TO LORD FRASER

Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, Lord Fraser's sister, unveiled a garden seat in Regent's Park on October 11th as a memorial to Lord and Lady Fraser. Four generations of Lord Fraser's family were present among more than 70 people who gathered in the park for the modest ceremony.

The installation of the seat in the Rose Garden, Lord and Lady Fraser's favourite part of the park, marks the tenth year since Lord Fraser's death in 1974, and it recognises a wish he himself expressed. This was explained by Sir Henry Leach who read an extract from a speech Lord Fraser gave at Grosvenor House in 1972, 'If anybody thinks it worthwhile making a memorial for me, I would like it to be a garden seat in Queen Mary's garden in Regent's Park where so much of our history has been written and where I myself have lived most of my life, and which, if well-made and well-placed might live forever.'

Before unveiling the seat, which was covered by St. Dunstan's house flag, Mrs. Dacre said she would like to express the

thanks of her family to the Council of St. Dunstan's 'for arranging this perfect ceremony on a perfect day.' She continued, 'Regent's Park was the home of St. Dunstan's from the earliest days of 1915/16. In the early 20's St. Dunstan's moved to St. John's Lodge. My brother and his wife, Chips, lived there through all the difficulties of the early days.'

Mrs. Dacre referred to the experiments with wireless and with long-playing records that Lord Fraser carried out in sheds in the garden which still stand today, and which led, with the aid of Lord Nuffield, to the establishment of the Talking Book Service. She concluded: 'It is right to honour the great because it encourages others to follow and so, Mr. President, I hope that those who sit on this seat will enjoy rest and peace and goodwill and may they remember a young man, blinded at 18, who, with his wife at his side, became a national leader for all ex-servicemen and a world leader of the blind.'

Colonel Sir Michael Ansell presided over



Colonel Sir Michael Ansell and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach pose with St. Dunstaners as Blodwyn Simon and Bob Young try out the seat.

the occasion, supported by our Chairman accompanied by Lady Leach and nine members of our Council, Governors and Members. The Hon. Mrs. Jean McDonald, Lord Fraser's daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Neil McDonald, grandson and his children, Charlotte and Robert were also present.

An invited group of St. Dunstaners, representing the First and Second World Wars and those blinded since the wars, were: Miss Blodwyn Simon, Mr. Robert Young, Mr. Harry Wheeler, Mr. Tommy Gaygan, Mr. Jimmy Wright, Captain Ray Hazan and Mr. Alan Wortley. Representing St. Dunstaners widows were Mrs. J.L. Jensen and Mrs. I. Preston. Also present were members of St. Dunstan's staff, including Mrs. Pat O'Brien, who is blind and translated the inscription into braille and Mr. Norman French, who painstakingly 'wrote' the braille inscription in tiny rivets for the dots.

The inscription reads: In Memory of Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, Chairman of St. Dunstan's from 1921 to 1974, and of Lady Fraser.

Pat O'Brien checking the braille inscription.



# Arnhem — 40 Years After

## In the steps of my father

by Dr. S. J. Sosabowski

Anna and I arrived at Amsterdam Airport on Wednesday, September 19th to be met by Ines Smits, the charming wife of Dr. Jan Smits, who accepted us in their house for the second time in five years as their guests for the Battle of Arnhem celebrations. We arrived to take part in the solemn occasion and amongst other things to lay wreaths at the Polish Airborne Forces Memorial in Driel; one wreath on behalf of my family and the second which I was asked to lay by David Allsop, my great friend and Chairman of the Parachute Regimental Association, Wessex Branch, of which I am privileged to be a member.

After one hour's journey on a fast motorway we arrived at Velp, and the beautiful home of our hosts, warmly greeted by Jan and two of his children. Jan being a very active member of 'Lest We Forget', had returned home before us after greeting 27 ex-paratroopers from the First Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group. It was the first time after 40 years that the ex-soldiers had returned to Holland to visit the place of the battle. They had been invited and all travel and accommodation costs were paid by the generosity of the Dutch people. Until now the government of Warsaw had refused their requests to visit the place of battle.

On Thursday all veterans, both British and Polish, numbering about 1200, with regimental standards and colours, met at the ancient Gothic Church in Arnhem for the initial ceremony of welcome — this beautiful church restored to its previous splendour with infinite care by the citizens of Arnhem. Only the priceless stained glass windows have been replaced by plain glass. National Anthems were played which included British, Polish, American and Dutch. Speeches of welcome were given by the Mayor of Arnhem and replied by Major General Urquhart, former Commanding Officer of the British Airborne Division at the Battle, and Major Jan Lorys, the present Chairman of the Polish Airborne Forces Association, a body formed

from ex-soldiers of the First Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group, who were commanded at the Battle of Arnhem by my late father, S. Sosabowski C.B.E. (Hon.). Then followed two films on large video screens. The first taken by the Germans in black and white showed the complete destruction of the town and was followed immediately by pictures in colour of the same streets and buildings miraculously rebuilt, full of beauty and flowers. From the church we moved across the square to the Town Hall where we were welcomed by the Mayor and refreshed with glasses of sherry and savouries.

A certain number of pilgrims were invited to travel to Apeldoorn on Friday, at present the barracks of a special police force whose duties are to keep watch on the safety of H.M. the Dutch Queen and members of the Royal House, frontier guard duty and to render assistance to the civil police, especially in case of terrorism. They are known in Dutch as 'Konincjke Marechaussee'. During and after the battle this was the Airborne Forces Military Hospital and commanded by Colonel Surgeon Graeme Warrack, under German supervision. The brave surgeon, when his medical duties ended and his charges had escaped or were taken into captivity, hid himself in a small cupboard, was fed and assisted by the nursing staff where he survived three weeks. Then he escaped and, helped by Dutch people, following General Hackett, joined the British lines across enemy territory.

The aim of our gathering in the barracks was the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by the Colonel himself. The plaque is engraved in Dutch to show the young Dutch police part of the history of the barracks. We were greeted in the huge assembly room by the General, the Commanding Officer, colleagues and the Regimental Sergeant Major — a giant of a man who presented me with a braille copy of the celebration and nearly crushed my hand shaking it! They read at random the names of some invited guests. Amongst them I



*The memorial to Polish Airborne Forces at Driel.*

heard my name mentioned and to my great joy described as Sosabowski junior — nice to be junior at 67! The plaque was solemnly unveiled by the Colonel with suitable speeches and then we went back to the barracks for welcome refreshments.

That evening we went by car across the General Frost Bridge to Driel on the other side of the Rhine for the start of the Polish celebrations. In the church on the square which bears my late father's name, a solemn Polish Mass was celebrated and I estimated more than 200 veterans attending with many guests. To my great embarrassment I was asked to sit in the first pew with notable citizens of Driel, Burgermasters and the Baltussen family who were great friends of my father's, and Anna, my wife, tells me that the Polish Television filmed the proceedings. My friends in the old country will be pleased to see me on the screen. After the service we crossed the Square to the restaurant. The whole place was given over to us for the assembly. Refreshments were served. The guests

were welcomed by the Chairman. There were not only Polish ex-paratroopers but also British, and Dutch, the rest being from Europe, United States, Canada and Australia. People talked and exchanged memories.

A big assembly took place on Saturday morning in front of the Town Hall of veterans, regimental colours and standards, military bands, hundreds of red berets, military uniforms and, of course, the processional marshals. We marched from the Square to Airborne Square, where wreaths were laid at the Memorial. This was followed by an official reception at the House of Province. Major General Urquhart, on behalf of all members of the British First Airborne Division and the First Polish Parachute Brigade Group, presented the sword of tribute in commemoration of the courage of the people of Gelderland.

The afternoon was spent in General Sosabowski Square. On arriving I met my son, Stan, who is a scientist and at present is working in Holland. He brought his wife



Stan and Anna Sosabowski at Driel.

and my two grandchildren, his mother-in-law and my other grandson – a university student aged 19. By only mentioning his surname, he and his tribe were immediately led by the police to the reserved seats. My seat in the front row with General Urquhart on my left, I think General Frost, and then the Dutch General, the Commanding Officer of the District, attached to NATO, and many other dignitaries. Before the beginning of the ceremony David Allsop came over to shake my hand and give me encouragement.

The old-fashioned Mass in Latin was celebrated by the Archbishop of Utrecht. After it ended there were short speeches by Major Lorys and others, and in between, Dutch children from primary schools dressed in Polish national costume sang beautiful Polish songs. Then came the laying of wreaths. When my turn came Anna and I moved towards the monument followed immediately by Michael, my grandson who carried the very heavy wreath and passed it smartly to us when we came in front of the Monument. The wreath was laid and we prayed in silence for the fallen and returned to our seats. Quarter of an hour later, this time assisted only by my grandson Michael, I laid a wreath of red poppies on

behalf of the Parachute Regimental Association. A very moving ceremony spoilt by a heavy downpour of rain.

Sunday at Oosterbeek was the climax of the whole Pilgrimage. The Airborne Forces Cemetery is surrounded by a tall fence. The security was extremely tight. There were mounted military police with foot patrols at the entrance and everyone had to identify themselves and present cards. All handbags were examined and only veterans and their families were allowed to pass into the cemetery. The citizens of Oosterbeek were unable to take part – not even to stand outside the gates. A very tall stone cross stood at the top of a vast oblong well-manicured lawn and on either side of this were even rows of fallen soldiers' graves. Facing the cross on the other side were seats for royalty and representatives of the government and foreign ambassadors. Behind this and on each side of the oblong were seats for veterans. Behind the cross were the regimental colours and standards and the whole place was surrounded by British and Dutch paratroopers. On the right-hand side was an altar and pulpit.

#### Enter the Queen

Then enter the Dutch Queen Beatrix with Prince Claus followed by Charles, Prince of Wales, in the uniform of Colonel in Chief of the Parachute Regiment, members of the Dutch Government and other distinguished guests. Four national anthems were played by the Band of the Dutch Air Force and Divine Service started. It was a beautiful service conducted by the Reverend E. L. Phillips, chaplain at the Battle. The lesson was read by General Urquhart and the chaplain preached a very moving sermon. The service ended with the laying of wreaths and the band played Chopin's Funeral March. At the beginning of the ceremony thousands of Dutch children had approached the graves and each one placed a posy of wild flowers on a grave and turned towards the centre and stood throughout the whole ceremony.

Queen Beatrix placed the first wreath and was followed by Prince Charles then in turn by General Urquhart for the British Army and Major Lorys for the Polish Armed Forces, and then members of the government, Ambassadors and other distinguished guests. The buglers of the Parachute Regiment played the Last Post and

Reveille. After the Blessing and the National Anthems the official ceremony came to an end.

The royal guests walked about amongst the veterans. Prince Charles talked to leaders of different groups and walked freely amongst the crowds. I can hear the voice saying 'Make way for the royal guests'. I can also hear not far from me a very English voice shouting 'Charles, Charles look this way'. This is how his subjects address their future monarch. They want to take his picture. The royal guests slowly walked out.

On Monday we returned home exhausted both physically and mentally but full of beautiful memories.

#### Ray Sheriff, who also participated in the Pilgrimage, writes:

My wife, Betty and I were accommodated in a small but comfortable pension guest house in the centre of Oosterbeek.

On Sunday 23rd the cemetery was thronged to capacity, I would estimate 3,000 of numerous nationalities – greater than any previous anniversary, no doubt due to the fact that British and Dutch Royalty were present. However I feel sure, without exception, that all people who have witnessed this particular ceremony will agree that the most moving and emotional moment is when the Dutch schoolchildren, at a given signal, lay a bunch of flowers on the grave nearest them. It is then explained to the children by a Dutch Reverend, what it is all about and the reasons why they have been requested to lay their simple bunches of flowers.

In the mid 60's I had the great pleasure of meeting General Sosabowski during a presentation to H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Unfortunately, we missed meeting up with Dr. Stan this year. It would appear we were both hunting each other but with the very vast crowds this proved out of the question.

My personal highlights occurred in the meeting of two characters who helped me after I had lost my sight. The first was a Glider Pilot, Lieut. Mike Dauncey, he was wounded in the head and face finally resulting in the loss of one eye. We were taken prisoner and despatched to a German barracks in Apeldoorn, and from there, sent to



Dutch children with their flowers by the graves.

an Eye Hospital in Utrecht. Mike, though pretty rough himself, looked after me like a Dutch uncle, always at hand when help was needed. The local Resistance Group made contact with the British prisoners through a Dutch nursing sister. Suddenly the Germans moved us to a general hospital at which juncture Mike decided to escape, he apologised that at that stage I was not fit enough to join him, but that the Resistance would help at a later date. So, one night Mike disappeared. The Resistance helped him to reach the Rhine and across to freedom. The next day I was carted off to Germany. Mike asked me during our recent meeting if he could reclaim his flying smock which he had given me on the night of his escape. I honestly have no recollection of this gesture. Reckon the German guard must have shipped it. Mike received the D.S.O. for his brave actions in Arnhem. He soldiered on and made Brigadier.

To make a perfect end to our super meal we were told that a Dutchman was looking for us. The Dutchman turned out to be one of the leading members of the Resistance chaps of the Utrecht Group, who had helped Mike to freedom, and knew more about me than I knew myself. His name is Lawrence De Vreeze. He spent a couple of days with Betty and I, joining us for some of the activities.

Finally, Betty was able to meet one or two of my long-standing Dutch friends. I don't think I want to attend Arnhem activities again, 40 years seems to be quite sufficient, enough is enough.



# DAEDALUS CAMP 1984

by Ted Brown

Camp has begun, the sun streams down and a warm feeling flows through us all and a glorious week of fun and friendship to which we look forward to. After settling into a familiar cabin with good friends we get together after supper to hear from Elspeth the plans for the week and with whom of our friends we are to share it. Many old friends and new ones to be initiated into the mysteries of camp life. A volunteer requested to write the account for the *Review* – who shoved my arm in the air, it can't have gone up of its own volition! No matter I am committed!

The Chiefs' Mess in the evening resounded to cheerful laughter and excited greetings as Chiefs, PO's, helpers and dogs all foregather with St Dunstaners for their news of the past year.

Saturday morning with a heat mist over the airfield and some 16 walkers leashed to their dogs raring to go for the start of their two mile walk round the airfield. Sadly for the first time for many many years Bill Harris was not there either to start the race or even to have done the handicapping, but Bill Reed did a noble job of the handicapping based on Bill Harris' records and results came true to form with the following results:

Dennis Deacon Veterans' Cup  
Stan Tutton  
Bridget Talbot Novice cup  
Terry Bullingham

## Fastest Loser

Trevor Tatchell

## Handicap result:

1st Mansel Lewis

2nd Arthur Carter

3rd Joe Kibbler

The full results of St. Dunstan's Camp 2 mile walk and times were as follows:—

Name	Actual Time	Allow-ance	Handi-cap	Position
Mansel Lewis	27.39	9.45	17.54	1
Arthur Carter	23.02	3.00	20.02	2
Joe Kibbler	27.18	7.00	20.18	3
Terry Bullingham	25.41	5.00	20.41	4
Micky Burns	26.28	5.00	21.28	5
Tom Whitley	27.05	5.20	21.45	6
Trevor Tatchell	22.32	0.30	22.02	7
Jimmy Wright	24.10	1.45	22.25	8
Charlie Hague	25.31	3.00	22.31	9
Stan Tutton	23.02	scratch	23.02	10
Brian Lang	31.14	8.00	23.14	11
Ted Brown	26.33	3.15	23.18	12
Charles Stafford	25.44	1.50	23.54	13
Charlie McConaghy	25.06	1.00	24.06	14
Mick Sheehan	40.44	15.00	25.44	15
Bill Shea	36.20	9.00	27.20	16
Charlie Mantle	43.35	15.00	28.35	17

After a cuppa to retrieve the flagging soul, those more inclined to take to the air than their feet made their way to the gliding hanger to take to the air in gliders and feel the thrill of being lifted off and sailing in the thermals and peace over the Solent.

In the afternoon bowling enthusiasts went off to practise for their matches later in the week, others snoozed in the sun,

swam in the sea and glided again in the brilliant blue skies. In the evening the F/CPO Mess put on a splendid social evening when a convivial time was greatly enjoyed.

Sunday morning and an extra half hour in bed after our late night and then our United Church service in the United Presbyterian Church as All Saints was being redecorated. A superb service taken by the Rev. David Huie and the Rev. Roger Devonshire. An innovation this year when Charles Stafford read the first lesson and Elspeth Grant the second, while since we were still not too far from the anniversary of 'D' Day, the Captain – Captain Roger Moylan Jones – read Churchill's speech to Parliament announcing the start of the final assault on Europe on the 6th June 1944, while later Commander Maddox read the Naval Prayer. The singing as usual was magnificent and nearly raised the roof off the Church.

Afterwards we were entertained on the lovely green lawns in front of the Ward Room by the Captain, Commander and Officers in glorious sunshine.

Another afternoon of sport and pleasure. The Bowmen took off for Gosport to test their skills against those of the Gosport Bowmen and the air resounded with the zing of arrows flying towards the gold, blue, red and black of the targets. A wonderful afternoon was concluded by the ladies of the Gosport Bowmen providing a delicious homemade tea before presenting the medals to the winners:

## Totally Blind

1st Charlie McConaghy

2nd Harry Walden

3rd Dannie McGoohan

## Semi-Sighted

1st George Allen

2nd George Hudson

3rd Jerry Lynch

## Novices

1st Mick Sheehan

2nd Trevor Tatchell

3rd Joe Kibbler

The Gosport Bowmen's Shields were won by Charlie McConaghy for the Totally Blind and George Allen for the Semi-Sighted.

Meanwhile the bowlers were enjoying themselves at the Bowling Green at Rowner. The evening was spent most pleasantly at a social arranged by the Petty Officers' Mess with an excellent group to play for dancing.

Monday morning dawned fair and warm and just right for our trips on the Solent either to fish or cruise but first we spruced ourselves up and posed with loud cries of 'cheese' for our photograph for posterity. At Cowes the cruisers were warmly greeted by the Chairman at the British Legion and some spent a happy time on the beaches, some on the town and all sailors returned pleasantly tired from their cruise and the fishermen happy with good catches. Ernie Cookson with the largest fish catch of the week with a 7 lb sting ray but for the two days fishing George Allen got the largest total catch with 18 lb 1 oz.

In the evening the Chief's Mess CPO Budgie Rogers had arranged an excellent concert with the help of his fellow CPO's in Yeovil. He had raised money from a sponsored billiards match. Jimmy Quinn was an excellent comedian and Shep Whooley with guitar and a bass player played and joked for us and, as well, most generously gave his services free. A thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thank you Budgie.

Tuesday: Sports Day, always a highlight and eagerly awaited, found three teams of highly tuned-up sportsmen ready to vie with each other for the team prize with the shot, javelin, discus, medicine ball and sling ball being tossed around like ping pongs in a most Olympic manner under the watchful eye of PO PTI Terry Godfrey. The winning team was Tuttons Terriers with 13 points, 2nd was Sheehan Superstars with 12 points and Stubbs Stormtroopers with 11 points, a very closely contested result.

The winning team were:—

Stan Tutton (Captain)

Bill Shea

George Allen

Shirley Blackmore

Trevor Tatchell

Ted Brown

Terry Bullingham

Jack Pryor

The prize for the Best Beginner went to Jack Pryor with 51 points. The prize for the Doubly Handicapped went to Percy Stubbs with 13 points.



Arthur Carter throwing the medicine ball.

Penalty kick for the Totally Blind went to Johnny Cope with 5 goals in 17 seconds.

Penalty kicks for the semi-sighted went to George Hudson with 5 goals in 17 seconds. The Victor Ludorum for the semi-sighted went to Trevor Tatchell with 56 points.

Tuesday evening has now been established as our evening to visit HMS *Collingwood* where we are entertained right royally by the Chiefs in the Fleet Chiefs' Mess to an excellent disco of old time tunes.

During the evening Cabin 12 – Johnny Cope, Arthur Carter, Trevor Tatchell and Alan Mitchell and other friends organised a raffle for camp funds and raised the splendid sum of £152.50. Also during the evening the Mess President F/CPO Phil Pinnock presented a cheque for £630 to Jimmy Wright for his appeal for the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead. A magnificent effort on the part of the Mess members and their wives. Part of the money – £176 was raised personally by David Kemp by a sponsored bicycle ride, good pedalling David – the cheque was accepted by Bill Clarke, Appeals Secretary for the School.

Wednesday was almost a repeat of Monday with fishing and sailing trips on the Solent but this time on an almost glassy sea. Meanwhile the bowlers continued their matches under the ideal conditions. During the afternoon there was the Captain's walk, a marathon of some 15 miles when about 12 to 16 stalwarts including the Commander and Captain headed a walk of the surrounds of Lee, Stubbington, Hillhead etc., doing their best to drink the pubs en route quite dry. Paddy and John Wood refreshed the party on their pleasant patio with sandwiches and, refuelled, they all set off again finally finishing on the lawns of the Ross House for tea and sticky buns (a well known naval cricketer was caught out by a St. Dunstaner from a high ball falling out of a tree – this will take some living down on his part). This story may be apocryphal having been heard third hand!!

Later after supper starting from the PO's Mess the brave started out on Tomo's mystery car drive and though no one actually failed to return from the 'outback' this year there were some lost clues and tardy latecomers and the 'booby prize' for the last

home went to Slinger Wood and was a 'Book of Excuses' which he might well need to explain his lengthy trip! The Riley Trophy for the navigator with the most points went to Mickie Burns in spite of the 15 stitches in his nose where he met some bannisters where he thought no bannisters should be. His driver was the Boss, Lieut. John Clare and his writer Wendy Webb the charming wife of our popular First Trainer Spyda Webb.

Thursday always a day to which to look forward though sadly it means we are getting to the end of the week. This year it was to be an especially exciting day as it was to be crowned with a celebratory dinner in honour of our 40th camp at *Daedalus* to be followed by our usual prize giving.

Lunch-time found parties going off to visit HMS *Collingwood* again for lunch and another party visiting HMS *Invincible*, both parties returning in excellent form as a witness to the good time they had had. Then a great sprucing up in time for dinner which was to be held in a transformed PO's Mess dining room.

#### Guests of Honour

Our guests of honour were our new Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach and Lady Leach paying their first visit to camp and among our other guests were many who had helped to entertain and care for campers over the years. There were past Field Gun trainers and crew members, representatives from the Rowner Bowling Club, Lee British Legion, The Gosport Bowmen, the British Hovercraft Corporation, who had once more that morning arranged a cruise in a hovercraft on the Solent, as well as many local friends and we sat down to dinner 150 strong. Following Grace, said by ex-first trainer Robert Farnham, a superb five course dinner was presented for our enjoyment with appropriate wines and it was altogether a very splendid occasion. CPO Budgie Rodgers acted as Toast Master. Our Chairman made an excellent and amusing speech and told how happy he and his wife were to be with this camp for the first time and hoped that they would be able to enjoy many others. He was followed by Elspeth Grant who welcomed all our friends and gave a brief resumé of the history of the camp and how Avis Spurway's inspiration, determination and dedication to blind ex-servicemen to

say nothing of her persuasive charm had enabled an invitation to be wormed out of the then Captain of *Daedalus* 40 years ago to culminate in this 40th anniversary dinner and a lasting friendship between St. Dunstaners and the Field Gun Crew and the many members of the ships company of *Daedalus*.

#### First War Speaker

Tim Kirk then spoke as a first war member of St. Dunstan's and thanked the Captain, Commander, Officers, Ships Company and Gun Crew for all their hospitality and kindness and care through the years remarking that although just about to be 86 he travelled each year from Canada to come to camp. Jimmy Wright as representative on the 2nd war St. Dunstaners thanked the Mess President for their special hospitality and in particular the President, PO Mick Doherty, and Mess Members of the Petty Officers' Mess both for their comfortable accommodation and for the immense amount of work they had done to make such a success of the dinner and especially must be remembered the civilian catering staff who had not only worked so very hard but had also given their services free.

Mrs Spurway then spoke and thanked everyone for making the camps such a success, not forgetting all those good friends who are no longer with us. Ben Mills, Bill Harris, Dennis Deacon, Bridget Talbot and Lawrie Fawcett and many others. Also Dr. and Mrs. Parkes to whom a telegram of good wishes had been sent from the dinner. Not forgetting those still soldiering on – Diana Hoare, Maisie Streets, as well as our late treasurer Sheila McLeod who had given such wonderful service keeping us on the straight and narrow for over 30 years.

As there were so many speakers the length of the speeches was brief enough to be listened to in comfort and enjoyment. PO Dave Whymark – The Buffer – replied on behalf of the PO's Mess and CPO Clive Webb completed the speeches.

Then it was time for prize giving and Captain Moylan Jones went up to the stage where there was a wonderful display of trophies and medals and with PO/PTI Terry Godfrey announcing the winners Captain Moylan Jones presented the trophies to much acclaim, CPO Budgie Rodgers



At the final dinner, Capt. Moylan Jones presents the Veteran's Walking Cup to Stan Tutton. With Stan is Peter Westbrook, his 'dog'.

announced the Bowls results and the Ben Mills Pairs Cups were won by Robert Forshaw and Jerry Lynch and the singles by George Hudson. I would like to thank personally, on behalf of the bowlers, CPO Budgie Rodgers for all his organisation and hard work getting the bowling tournament 'on the greens'. Also the 'dogs' who helped on the greens in the competition who I'm sure enjoyed playing both with and against us.

Altogether it was a day to be remembered for a long time.

Friday came all too soon and there were goodbyes to be said, friends to be visited, packing to be done, last minute shopping to be collected and in the morning a splendid visit to the 'D' Day Museum in Southsea, a well worth while expedition which could have been twice as long as there was so much there and it brought back many vivid memories of 40 years ago.

Sadly the evening had to come and with it our farewell dance in the F/FCO Mess – a lively and cheerful evening with many

friends from Lee and around. A really magnificent raffle organised by Tomo Thompson with prizes of great worth donated by so many kind friends and St. Dunstaners raised the marvellous sum of £352.

Dancing continued to the smallish hours – though perhaps not so small as of yore!

By 8.30 a.m. next morning fond good-byes had been said, cries of 'see you next year', 'don't forget to write', 'you can be my dog again' and 'Have fun in Copenhagen'. With reference to 'have fun in Copenhagen', both gun crews were practising on grass for the Copenhagen run, which was the reason why we had a surfeit of 'dogs' this year. When they were not on duty with us they were doing their normal gun training. So good luck boys and many thanks to you all.

Then coaches rolled away and we dreamed on the journey home thinking of the good times we had amongst good friends and true, and thinking 'must remember to book in time for 1985'.

Ted Brown

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's



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

**Frederick John King**, of Colindale, joined St. Dunstan's on September 13th.

Mr. King, who is 80 years of age, enlisted as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1941 and was posted to the Far East. He was taken prisoner in Singapore and was in camps in Malaya and Japan and during transportation to Japan his ship was torpedoed and sunk.

He is married with one adult son.

**Sydney George Latcham**, of Bath, joined St. Dunstan's on September 10th.

Mr. Latcham is 88 years of age and a widower. He was the victim of serious injuries whilst on active service as a Private with the Somerset Light Infantry during the First World War.

**Robert James Oakes**, of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, joined St. Dunstan's on September 3rd.

Mr. Oakes, who enlisted in September 1940, served as Gunner in the Royal Artillery. He is married and his wife's name is Marjorie.

**Leonard Sanders**, of Louth, joined St. Dunstan's on September 10th.

Mr. Sanders served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946, first in Coastal Defence and then in Europe, and was wounded in 1944.

He is married.

**Leonard Wilkes**, of Nottingham, joined St. Dunstan's on September 20th.

Mr. Wilkes served as a Private in the King's Own Royal and South Lancs. Regiments and was wounded on the Somme and then again in 1918. He is a widower with a grown up son.

## 1985 CRUISER SAILING COURSES FOR THE BLIND

The 11th Annual Cruiser Sailing Courses for the Blind organised by the RYA Seaman's Foundation will be run from the Solent and Plymouth from Sunday June 30th until Saturday July 6th. Three concurrent courses, for 12 students each, will be held at beginners and advanced levels (from the Warsash Sailing Club, Hants) and a French Cruise from Plymouth and Lymington. Cost to students will be £60 approximately per head.

Application forms are available from the Sports and Recreation Officer, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, Tel. 01-388 1266. These forms should be returned completed by January 14th 1985.

## NEW POSTAL CODE MEMORY BANK

We print below some of the suggested mnemonics for HQ's post-code. We leave readers to choose the one that suits them. A further selection will appear next month.

Will One Assist For Ex-Service Blind

*John Loach, Dudley*

When One Accepts Four Xmas Brandies

When One Accepts Four Excellent Beers

When One Adopts Four Xmas Babies

*Alan Reynolds, Shrewsbury*

When One Arranges Four Xmas Boxes

*Mrs. Dorothy Reynolds, Shrewsbury*

Watney's No. One Ale For Excellent Brew

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Miller, Leamington Spa*

With One Answer For Ex-Beneficiaries (or Ex-Blind)

*Walter Thornton, Birmingham*

When I Ask For Extra Beer

*W. Marsh, Hartlepool*

Would One Ask For Xmas Box

*Fred Ripley, London*

A Babe's Dozen is the Key

For the Numbers of the new St. D

And I will surely need some funds

When I acquire Four 'X' Buns.

*Randall Williams, London*

Will I Adopt Four Cross Babies?

*Mrs. E. Hatter, Thornton Heath, Surrey*

While I Ate Four Cross Buns

*David Chesterman, London*

Welcome! Instant Aid For Ex-Service Blind

*Stanley Grimsey, Brighton*





Eric Foster, Bob Lloyd and Harry Foster intent on Linda Williams' explanation of laser therapy.

## A Splendid Physiotherapy Conference

by Mike Tetley

Bill Shea, who has been the Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee for the last three years, and Norman French jointly organised a splendid physiotherapy conference at IFH which was attended by 24 St. Dunstaners and their wives. Our number seems to be rapidly reducing. This year alone we remembered six of our colleagues who had passed on. They were Calder, Campkin, Davies, Horsfield, Kelly and Spence. This reduction in our number was reflected at the conference. When nominations were called for to replace Charles Campkin who was on the committee until his death, Eric Foster proposed a resolution to reduce the size of our committee, which was carried, and Charles' place was not filled.

Following the P.A.C. regulations Bill Shea stepped down as Chairman as he had completed three years in office and Des Coupe was elected as the new Chairman.

The conference weekend started as usual with a buffet and bar in the Annexe. This

magnificent idea was proposed by Joe Humphrey six years ago and has now become tradition. St. Dunstan's physiotherapists bring their wives to the Annexe and this friendly atmosphere is a good start to the conference. Paul James provided a delicious buffet and St. Dunstaners brought their own drinks.

Following the A.G.M. there were three splendid lectures. Christopher Haynes, superintendent physiotherapist at the Derby Royal Infirmary, described the history of the 'Back School' which was first started in Sweden, developed in the United States, and now refined for his own use in Derby. He produced statistics that the number of days lost to industry due to back pain between 1972 and 1982 had doubled. His message was that of 'Total Back Care' and that the only way to deal with the epidemic proportions was to start a campaign of prevention. He foresaw physiotherapists entering schools to teach children between 8 and 11 how to look after

their bodies and their back in particular. In the past, excessive training in gymnastics had resulted in the fact that those who had taken part in a great deal were four times as likely to have a painful back in later life than those who were moderate in their approach. At his hospital he had managed to include an osteopath in his team and he also stated that he found the hydrotherapy pool most useful. It was obvious from the large number of St. Dunstan's physio's swimming that they knew of the advantage of a heated swimming pool, so full use was made of the one at IFH, some swimming more than a mile. We listened to a part of a tape slide programme which was sold to back sufferers in the States for 300 dollars.

### Talking Books

After lunch Don Roskilly, Technical Director, Sound Recording for the R.N.I.B. brought us up to date with the current options open to the library:

- 1 To continue using the Clarke & Smith talking book.
- 2 To replace it with the four-track compact cassette as used by the American Printing House and hopefully by being in line with America to gain access to their talking books. (Copyright laws in America and England are still not compatible and have so far, barred free interchange of titles.)
- 3 To use a standard compact cassette.
- 4 To use a disc read by a laser.

The disadvantage of the present talking book is that it is internationally incompatible with material stored in other national libraries. The A.P.H. system is relatively expensive to provide both recording and play-back equipment, though it saves tapes. The standard compact cassette has the great advantage that the equipment for recording and play-back is commercially available, but the disadvantage is that it uses more tapes. Finally the disc read by laser was at first thought to be most attractive as the discs are not easily destroyed, but when the final cost was assessed in producing not only the disc but the recording and play-back equipment, it appeared much less attractive. At present it looks as if the standard compact cassette is the most suitable.

Barbara Bell and Eric Foster complained to Mr. Roskilly that it often took too long from the time they returned a book until they received a replacement. Roskilly made

an interesting point: one way to speed up the system was to return the first volume of a book as soon as it was read, unless you wanted to read it again, for in this way wheels are sooner set in motion for your new book and delay is reduced. There had been some difficulty in using the computer that controlled the books. The programmer may have fed the wrong material in, which results in the old maxim, 'garbage in, garbage out'.

The final item on the programme was a lecture demonstration on laser therapy now being used by some St. Dunstaners. This laser is purely regenerative, non destructive, no side effects and no possibility of an overdose. There are other lasers used by surgeons which are of a higher frequency and can be used to vaporise the skin, to remove tattoos. Then the tattoo is only replaced by a scar . . . which is the more acceptable? The laser used to remove a birthmark is amplified blue and green light. The energy is only absorbed when it is played on a red surface, here the energy destroys the blood vessels that are near the surface and so removes the birthmark. The physiotherapy laser can produce an analgesic effect on tennis elbow in three minutes and there is no sensation during application. In the same way that grass absorbs the energy of the sun's rays and uses it in photosynthesis, so damaged cells can absorb the energy at a particular frequency directly from the laser to repair themselves without having to wait for the nutrients from the blood to reach them. This is somewhat like photosynthesis.

### New President

In the evening the new President of the Physiotherapists' Association, Sir Henry Leach, was warmly welcomed by Bill Shea, and it was a pleasure to have Victor Hazan, the father of Ray Hazan, as our guest of honour because he has contributed to the welfare of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists by reading 'Physiotherapy Extracts' on to tape for distribution to us. Afterwards, there was a dance and a cash bar. We would like to thank all St. Dunstan's staff and friends for their contribution to a really splendid conference, and particularly to Norman French for his contribution and for his help to all physiotherapists throughout the year.



St. Dunstaner Dorothy Martin with her husband, who is also blind, at the Roundstone Garden Centre with escort, Ernie Elliot. Photo - John Barrow.

## GARDENER'S DOUBLE WEEK September 1984

by Fred Barratt

Problems like putting a quart into a pint pot presented no obstacle to St. Dunstan's Gardeners' Committee - when deciding how to accommodate their numbers of 70 plus, membership and escorts, into IFH's reduced accommodation, they simply divided members by two and kept their fingers crossed. It worked out well, with little signs of the hard work going on behind the scenes, in arranging two identical weeks for the club. I feel sure there must be a saintly person within our group who has a hot line with the elements.

On our first day it poured down with rain. Happily, our programme was designed for a day indoors at IFH. First the opening meeting where members stood for a few moments in respect for the recent passing of club members; Commandant Fawcett and Tom Eales were included in the respects.

The club's aims and the week's programme were revealed in detail. Monday afternoon our Vice President, Mr. J. Moore, gave a very interesting talk on autumn in the garden, giving special attention to organic and inorganic fertilisers, and their uses. Monday evening the club was out seeking revenge on the Peacehaven Gardeners, who last March beat us in a gardening quizz at Peacehaven. The quizz, brain-child of Mrs. Margaret Bingham, was arranged by our committee and others who supplied the questions and answers. St. Dunstan's thrashed Peacehaven executive committee 26-20. Back came Peacehaven for the second week, this time more determined and greater in numbers. It took everything our club had to hold them at bay. The ferocity of the battle is shown in the result given by Mrs. Nora Moore from Peacehaven, who kept score. Peacehaven:

24, St. Dunstan's 24½. Well done St. Dunstan's Gardeners, but beware Peacehaven will be back.

The Tuesday and Thursday of both weeks were the same although the programmes were reversed. Tuesday it rained hard as we set off to the Glasshouse Research Centre at Littlehampton. First a talk on the work being done there, then a tour through the glasshouses where tomatoes were grown in water, flower beds were being hoodwinked into thinking a day had passed in just a couple of hours, and we were told of a wasp we could buy to cut down pest interference in our greenhouses, and of another insect that would devour the red spider, then mushroom growing from A to Z - a very beneficial morning! Then *The Swan* in Arundel for lunch, just the thing before launching ourselves into a visit to an English vineyard to sample its products. Then back to IFH to spend a restful evening.

### Wakehurst Park

Wednesday morning we were free to do some shopping, but after lunch we were off to Wakehurst Park, with its countless trees. Jeff, who took us around, made it all so real, describing trees and shrubs from all over the world... One amusing item that could be looked on as an omen were two great towering trees fairly close together - three had been planted just after the war and were named Winston Churchill, President Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin. Two were thriving but the one named Stalin died. Then back to IFH for another experiment. A social evening among ourselves and to extend our contacts we invited a few officers of the Portslade R.B.L. to join us. Dick Hall and his wife Bett soon got things going by tickling the ebonies. With Dick Hall on the piano, the singing and dancing made the evening a real success.

Thursday of the first week we set off to Kew Gardens where a short tour had been arranged. So much to enjoy - insect and small animal-eating plants that stopped one speaking for days (no comments), jungle-hot greenhouses with mammoth plants and foliage. After the tour a delightful lunch and time to browse in the shop. Then back to IFH for tea and preparation for our main social evening. Mrs. Dacre graced us with her presence on the first week with her companion, Mary, whom I respectfully

call the 'Shadow'. Mrs. Dacre did not seem to approve of my gavel I used for calling order (a partially empty ¼-bottle of Captain Morgan Rum). She thought a more suitable instrument should be used. Unfortunately Squadron Leader Andrew from the Scottish National Institution for the War-Blinded in Linburn, who was to be our guest, had to turn back due to reasons of a tragic nature at his home base. Regardless, the Thursday evening social went off with a wow as we were specially pleased to have Mrs. Simon Conway with us and our friend Jeff from Wakehurst Place, with his wife.

### Raffle Success

Then the raffle, a great success, by Reg Newton. He collected more than he did last year, within the limits laid down by law. The raffle took place one week later than the date printed on the ticket due to the decision to hold two weeks. The raffle could not take place until all reasonable steps had been taken to get all tickets sold. The club thanks all who sold raffle tickets and donated prizes, that were to say the least, numerous.

### Closing Meeting

Before going to Roundstone Nurseries the closing meeting was held. Fred Barratt, the Chairman, told the meeting that he had dropped his plans to visit Holland in 1985 due to the high cost, and had ventured on another gardening week in May 1985 when he proposed to take the club to Porthcawl in South Wales. He asked all members interested to supply him with an envelope and name and address of person and escort wanting to go on the Porthcawl trip. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith told the club that they had information on a private trip to Holland which would take a party from Brighton by coach and after a stay of several days in Holland would bring them back to the starting point for a sum of £120 per person. I believe that Harold has his required number to fill the coach. Anyone wanting to inquire into the Holland trip can contact Harold Smith at his home address or by sending a letter addressed to him c/o St. Dunstan's.

In closing I hope to send a copy of some of our quizz questions to the *Review*, to find out if other St. Dunstaners' gardening knowledge exceeds that of our club.



The reunion party at the Tower of London.

## Twenty-fifth Handless Reunion

by Peggie Brett

First, a word of regret for the unavoidable absence of our two deaf-blind friends, Wally Thomas and Ron Ellis with their wives, owing to ill health. Also for Joan and Freddie Higgs and Winnie Edwards. We hope they will all share some of our enjoyment now – if only in print.

Our Silver Anniversary Reunion was celebrated in style! From various parts of the country we gathered at the Waldorf Hotel, London, on Thursday September 20th. After a great unpacking and welcome cup of tea, we left at 5.30 p.m. for the Mansion House, by kind invitation of the present Lord Mayor of London, (surprisingly, a lady) Dame Mary Donaldson. Sadly, we did not meet her in person as she had been whisked abroad to show the flag on our behalf, but she was ably represented by the Ex-Lord Mayor of London, Sir Edward Howard.

The magnificence of the various apartments took our breath away, and Sir Edward conveyed much of it to our 'boys'.

We wives somehow managed to juggle with two sherry glasses and a handbag while admiring the sparkling chandeliers above our heads! The visit ended with the presentation of an oak coffee table, with a few well chosen words by Billy Griffiths. The table was one of five made for us by Tommy McKay, each being suitably inscribed for its recipient. Sir Edward assured us that this would become the property of the current Lord Mayor upon her return.

After such splendour, dinner at our hotel with Sir Henry Leach and Lady Leach felt quite a family affair. Sir Henry made a very good speech, and the two of them were warmly welcomed.

Next morning – shock! 7.30 a.m. breakfast, followed by departure to the Tower of London! Would we fall to the headman's axe? But no – our guided tour, accompanied by the Resident Governor, included the Crown Jewels, but ended with nothing more fearsome than a delicious cup of cof-

fee! Londoner, Tommy Gaygan then presented the Governor with a table after an appropriate speech of thanks. It seemed that one or two of Elizabeth Dacre's ancestors had lost their heads in the Tower, and later Billy Griffiths remarked that possibly they were attending a celestial Headless Reunion! The rest of Friday was free until we met for dinner and 'Do your own Thing'. By now we were tired but happy, and remained rooted to the dinner table, across which were swopped increasingly bawdy stories till early-to-bed time.

Saturday morning brought us as always by coach, to the Archbishop of Westminster's house where, to our joy the front door was opened by Cardinal Basil Hume himself! This charming Catholic, beloved on TV by all denominations, chatted freely to us in turn over welcome coffee served by three friendly nuns. In due course His Eminence received a table from John Proctor, who was able to express what we all felt. Beside John stood a radiantly restored Dr. John O'Hara, with Mrs. O'Hara nearby. The visit

ended with the Cardinal bestowing his Blessing as we gathered to receive it. Incidentally, Dr. O'Hara delighted His Eminence's very human heart with the promise of a ticket to the Cup Final!

That afternoon, a short rest, then high tea, and off to London Palladium! 'Singing in the Rain' is booked a year ahead, but somehow tickets were given to us by Tommy Steele and Producer Harold Fielding. The show was very spectacular for those of us with sight, and resoundingly audible to all! Afterwards Tommy Steele came round to greet our party in the empty stalls, and David Bell drew chuckles from him with a taste of Highland humour followed by the presentation of (you've guessed?) a table to Tommy, and a wrought-iron plant-stand for Mr. Fielding. Tommy, obviously pleased, wished us well, departing backstage, his table, upside down, riding upon his familiar mop of hair! Snacks at the Waldorf relaxed us after another wonderful day of sharp contrasts.

On Sunday morning we attended Matins

His Eminence Cardinal Hume chats with Audrey and Tommy Gaygan.





Tommy Steele expresses his thanks for the table presented to him by David Bell after the show.

Gwen Obern at the Memorial to Lord Fraser.



at the Chapel Royal, Tower of London. The singing by a choir of professional singers was superb, but, given a familiar hymn, our party ran them a close second! Next came drinks in the Yeoman Warders' Club. The welcome was warm, the beer cold, and our own Air Vice-Marshal Colahan gave an excellent speech before handing a St. Dunstan's shield over to add to hundreds of Regimental ones on the club walls.

After lunch at the hotel we were driven to Westminster Abbey, to be met by the Dean of Westminster and conducted to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale's memorial – deservedly to be found in the 'Cloister of the Heroes'. It is the only one in the Abbey to bear a braille transcript below the printed tribute. Passing tourists paused as our little group gathered round the handsome profile in bronze, and the Dean led us in the Lord's Prayer. Then a poppy wreath was laid with due reverence by Dickie Brett, guided by Elizabeth Dacre, sister of Lord Fraser.

#### With the Chelsea Pensioners

That Sunday evening was spent in a totally different setting, to wit, the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. First came the presentation by Gwen Obern of our last table to the Chairman of the In-Pensioners' Club. He decided with some relish that it could accommodate the Governor's hat, which he always left on the bar when paying the club a weekly visit, and where it was a confounded nuisance! From then formality ended. We joined the in-pensioners in a free-for-all sing-song, and it was not long before a much kissed Gwen Obern was on stage, a pensioner's cap set on her head at a jaunty angle, as she joined the owner in a haphazard duet! Billy and Alice, not to be outdone, soon joined her, and caused roars of laughter as Alice tried to sing with Billy, and Gwennie elbowed her way between them! Billy having shaken off the 'girls', then brought the house down with 'The Sergeant Major on Parade,' followed by a good selection of solos by various pensioners. What with drinks and snacks 'on the club' time to go came too soon; sly hugs and kisses were exchanged with us 'girls' and 'Bless 'em all' we sang, and meant it!

Early Monday morning we drove in great excitement to Buckingham Palace. This was a special honour for Ted and Iris Miller

whose beautiful home-made farmyard, given by them to Mrs. Dacre last year, had been graciously accepted for the royal nursery by HRH Princess Diana. Ted and Iris handed it over to a member of the Princess's household and were accompanied by Mrs. Dacre, Mr. Weisblatt, Miss Mosley, and our constant 'shadow', David Castleton (with camera!). The rest of us, split into separate groups, went on a fascinating tour of the Royal Mews. The coachmen, who made it all live for the 'boys' had removed rope barriers, thus allowing them to contact all coaches – particularly the famous Golden Coach, weighing four tons! Careful rehearsals were necessary when it was last used for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral. It takes eight horses to pull it, and 25 yards to stop at a given spot! Our radiantly smiling sovereign felt distinctly queasy on her journey, with the rocking and jolting of the coach, we were told.

John Proctor had asked to have a horse saddled for him to mount, but our group arrived at the Mounting Block first. One of the famous Windsor Greys waited patiently. 'Any gentleman want to ride Montreal?' our coachman guide, John asked. After a moment's thought all our four agreed. Dickie, Tommy, Billy and David were in turn hoisted into the mile-high saddle ('Look Mum, no hands!') – they clung with knees, and as each took a turn round the cobbled yard a great smile of joy, as wide as Montreal's back, spread across their faces! One small favour I had promised our hotel waitress – a blob of royal horse manure for her garden! 'Just a joke,' I told John. 'I will arrange for it but you will be sitting alone in your coach,' he told me. I saw what he meant when he finally handed me a double thick plastic sack half full of the stuff! Back at the Waldorf it spent the night in our private bathroom after I had extracted the promised 'blob' for Maura; now it is in our garden shed, and should be right royally rotted by next spring!

That afternoon technical discussions for the husbands, and shopping for the wives. Present at the men's meeting were Mr. Weisblatt, Mr. Dufton, Norman French, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Wills, Miss Lord, Miss Mosley, David Castleton, and Mr. Conway – representing I.F.H.

That evening came our last dinner party, the Guest of Honour being Major General



At the Palace Iris and Ted Miller present their farmyard to the Assistant Private Secretary to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Mr. David Roycroft.

Vocal triangle: Gwen Obern comes between Alice and Bill Griffiths as they entertain at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.





Peggie and Dick Brett, with David Bell, pose with their guide alongside the famous Golden Coach in the Royal Mews.

Sir Jeremy Moore, K.C.B., Royal Marines (Commando Forces) who made an interesting and at times humorous speech, covering many of his Falkland experiences. Also present was the Principal Director of Music, R.A.F., with his charming wife. Dr. Fletcher treated us to the amusing little speech we have come to expect from him, after which Gwen gave a hand-painted silk head square in 'Her Colours' to Elizabeth Dacre, 'with all our love,' for only the latter could repay the trouble she had taken to arrange such a wonderful programme for us! Our thanks also go to Mr. Wills for transport and hotel accommodation, to Miss Mosley, and David Castleton (hoping he didn't run out of films!) Mention must be made of our two Irish waitresses, mother and daughter, Maura and Donna, who had served us so willingly. On receiving our 'Thank you envelope' they gave a bell to Mrs. Dacre, to save her ringing her glass for silence! Maura also dedicated one of her poems to us all. Mrs. Dacre tried hard to find each man a service to perform, so how did Wally Lethbridge and Joseph Loska slip through her fingers? Could she have run out of tables?

Departures next morning, but one last touch awaited our Brighton party at Victoria. Two trolleys of cases were more than even Peter Wiltshire, our gem of an orderly, could push. 'I'll find a porter!' exclaimed 83 year old Elizabeth Dacre, by now reduced to black velvet bedroom slippers! She vanished into the crowd, soon to reappear brandishing a pound note to encourage a reluctant West Indian. 'I couldn't find a porter, but I've got a girl with a broom!', said Mrs. D. Quickly we followed the two trolleys to Platform 19 and boarded our reserved compartment. On the platform Elizabeth proffered the warmly crumpled pound note. The girl's large eyes, set in a small black face, were raised to our handless blind men, then, hands together as in prayer the words came, 'Give it to God.' As we pulled out of Victoria we mentally placed a small coloured train-sweeper between Cardinal Hume and the Dean of Westminster, for we had been thrice blessed. Next day, that same crumpled note was placed in the offertory box of St. Margaret's, Rottingdean, by a deeply touched Elizabeth Dacre.

## THE DAY WAR BROKE OUT by John Booth

'The Day War Broke Out', written by John Booth, is a series of short stories set in his home county of Yorkshire, recalling some of his youthful, humorous and sometimes dangerous adventures in a world turned upside down by the tragedy of war. The outbreak in 1939 meant little to the youngsters of the village until the advent of a series of hair-raising experiences – a runaway fire engine, a sinking fire-boat, a burning Halifax bomber, a close encounter with death on a fire-escape, not to mention the offer of a ring-side seat for the forthcoming invasion of Europe. Les Davison, whose drawings illustrate many of the characters and incidents, manages to capture both the spirit of the times and the excitement of the episodes.

The book is dedicated to the memory of our late St. Dunstan Roy Haslam, with a foreword by Stan Richards and an introduction on behalf of St. Dunstan's by Jimmy Wright O.B.E., D.F.C. It costs £2.95, the profits of which John Booth has kindly donated to St. Dunstan's, and is available from either Cambridge House Books, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3BY (plus post/packing 50p singles, multiples 30p) or directly from St. Dunstan's at Headquarters.

The following poem from Andy McHugh, a resident in Cawood village, should further inspire the interest of all readers:

### THE CAWOOD LAUNCH

There's a quiet little village called  
Cawood,  
Least it was till old Boothy arrived  
It's been forty years since, ay, the second  
world war  
That this village has seen so much life

He's written a book 'bout his childhood  
Entitled 'THE DAY WAR BROKE OUT'  
And he's brought it t' village to launch it  
And give copies to folks it's about

The proceeds are all going to charity  
Which makes a nice change, and it's kind  
Particularly as the folks that'll profit  
Are heroes from past that are blind

Each one gave his all for our freedom  
And the things that we all hold so dear  
So when you buy a book  
Then you're helping pay back  
The debt that we've all owed for years



## BOB COUPLAND WALKS FOR CHARITY

Mr. Robert Coupland of Headlands Drive, Hessle, was one of the 48 walkers who took part in the 'Whitby Wobble' – a 25-mile sponsored walk from Ravenscar to Whitby for North Ferriby Royal British Legion. A keen walker with the East Yorkshire Senior Citizens, he was accompanied by his regular 'guide', Mr. Jack Featherstone. Between them they raised £180 for the Poppy Day Appeal Fund. Quite a feat! Well done.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DEREK SOMERVILLE

A bronze bust of the late Derek Somerville, son of Edna and the late Alan 'Kiwi' Somerville, of Auckland, New Zealand, was unveiled at Easter by the President of the Whangamata Surf Club.

Before his death, Derek had received a bronze medal from the Royal Humane Society, for a rescue in mountainous surf.

Many tributes were paid to Derek by the Club members and a trust fund was set up to encourage the younger members.

# Open Shoot Weekend Success

by Phil Duffee

Photos: John Barrow

At our AGM in February, the archers present accepted a proposal from Norman Perry that we should organise an open shoot and invite all visually disabled archers to join us at IFH over the August weekend. The arrangements were left in the hands of Norman and Phil Duffee.

An entry form was designed and copied, the shoot was advertised in the *New Beacon*, a magazine for those interested in blind welfare and education, and I sat back and waited for requests for entry forms. I received enquiries from the Royal Normal School in Hereford and Worcester College and other schools, but no entries. Finally I had five firm individual bookings from as far afield as Wales, Maidenhead and Worthing. Unfortunately one of our five had to drop out. Nevertheless it was a start, we could now make it work.

*The shooting line at St. Dunstan's first open archery tournament.*



The Open Shoot was set for September 1st, a Saturday, but our own archers had arrived during the week for the competitions beforehand. In all there were 10 of us, homegrown. We began on Thursday with the Holiday Shoot on handicap and some fine scores were achieved despite a strong cross wind that was inclined to push the arrows to the left of the target. After four dozen at 30 yards and two dozen at 20 yards the results were as follows:

P.S. 1 J. Lynch  
2 E. Paris  
3 P. Duffee

Highest unrewarded score – J. Prendergast

Friday should have been a coaching day but nine of the archers decided that they would sharpen up best if they all put a £1 in the kitty and shot a proper round on handicap. The competition was fierce, with



*On target: sighted markers checking the scores after a dozen arrows had been shot by their bowmen.*

friendly barracking going on continually but eventually the results turned out to be this:

1 E. Paris £4  
2 N. Perry £3  
3 A. Wagstaff £2

Three highly satisfied archers!

Now Saturday dawned and we assembled on the field early to meet our guests and their escorts and helpers. Sighters were to be at 11.15 a.m. so there was time to get to know our opponents, Peter Charman and Rita Carden from Worthing, Francis Tanser from Maidstone and Roger Rees-Evans from Port Talbot in Wales.

Positions were drawn for, as is usual at an Open Shoot, and the shooting line looked like a kicked-over anthill as everyone fitted up bows, stands, supports and other gear with the aid of a host of volunteers and staff. At 11 a.m. it was miraculously in order and we were ready to come under starters, or in our case, Judge's orders. John Grout was our judge for the day. He explained the handicapping system and what we were going to do, and introduced our Field Captain, who is responsible for the safe conduct of the shoot, Phil Varden. Present were other members of Cuckfield Bowmen to help us out not least of which was Margaret Grout, John's wife, who was our Lady Paramount or Shoot Patron. Laurie Austin was in his usual position of chief gunlayer as he made sure everyone was lined up on the target

correctly and that all the equipment was in good order for the shoot, and what would we do without him?

At 11.15 a.m. we were off. Four dozen at 40 yards, three dozen at 30 yards, a St. Nicholas round. Our visitors did well considering that they do not have the opportunities to shoot in competition as our archers do. By lunchtime we had shot the four dozen and retired to the Dining Hall for our meal, the whole lot – about 30 of us.

2.00 p.m. saw us back on the field and after targets were moved, we once more made it look like Agincourt all over again as arrows rained into the best scoring zones. All the archers were shooting better than they usually do. The wind had dropped a little since morning and the sun shone out bravely but then it probably felt quite safe from our missiles. It was a good day for a shoot.

We broke off before the final dozen to have tea and biscuits on the field and there was a lot of talking and laughing as we mingled on the grass near the bushes at the bottom of the drive. All were saying how much they were enjoying it and could we do it again and this was before the shoot was finished and the results worked out! Then back to the lists.

When the final whistle blew and the last end of arrows were scored it was time to pack the gear away and go over to the Annexe where a buffet had been laid on for us all between 5.00 and 7.00 p.m. This was

where the prizes would be given and toasts drunk. Our Lady Paramount presented the prizes and our club chairman, Joe Prendergast gave our thanks to all who had so kindly helped us, pointing out that John and Margaret Grout had given up the first day of their holiday to be present with us and that immediately after the buffet they would be driving north to start their vacation.

The shoot being an 'open' one had two sets of prizes, one for the highest actual scores in the T.B. and P.S. groups, and handicap prizes for the combined groups. There was also a Lady Paramount's Prize, which she designates as to the basis on which it is to be won. In this case, Margaret had proposed that it should be awarded to the archer who shot nearest to his handicap.

After the prize-giving the talk flowed back and forth but the consensus was that everyone had enjoyed it enormously, that St. Dunstan's should be congratulated for allowing it to be shot at Ovingdean, that the club should be congratulated for hosting it and 'Please can we do it again next year over the Bank Holiday weekend so that we

can have two days of competition not just one!' The latter we hope to do.

The club's thanks must go to Norman and Phil for organising the event, to St. Dunstan's staff for the food arrangements and all the other things they did for us, to Cuckfield Bowmen, Roger, the Taylor girls, et al who looked after us on the field, to Laurie Austin, Phil Varden, John and Margaret Grout for contributing so much to the success of the day, and last but not least our thanks to all the archers, and outside supporters who came with them, who joined with us in a fine day's shooting.

#### Results

Open Scores. P.S. 1 J. Prendergast  
2 P. Duffee  
3 A. Wagstaff  
T.B. 1 S. Jones  
2 F. Galway  
3 R. Rees-Evans  
Handicap Scores. 1 F. Galway  
2 N. Perry  
3 P. Duffee  
Highest Unrewarded. G. Allen  
Lady Paramount's Prize. P. Charman

## Archery at Broadlands

by Phil Duffee

Photos: Mac Smith

A demonstration team of seven archers plus supporting cast of wives, escorts and coaches joined the queue trying to get into Broadlands, the Hampshire home of the Earl Mountbatten, for the start of the Country Landowners Association's famous Game Fair on Thursday, July 26th. The day was hot and very sunny and thirsts were rising inside the throats of the coach's occupants to match the heat outside.

After some hiccups we arrived inside the very pleasant grounds of Broadlands. The Archery demonstration area was, very fittingly, close to the large ring where Falconry, another medieval sport, was demonstrated. On one side of our area was a 'Have a Go' section, very well run by the Hampshire archers, where the public could try their hand at shooting a 'proper bow and arrow at a proper target.' The demonstration section had sight targets set up and, when we were not demonstrating, was used for junior archery competitions. Just

outside our arena was a *Strongbow* cider stand so thirsts were slaked.

Our seven were Fred Galway, Sid Jones, George Allen, Jerry Lynch, Walford Davies, Joe Prendergast and Phil Duffee. We had tried to represent our three categories of St. Dunstaners with regard to visual handicap and certainly the public was made aware of the difficulties to be overcome in order to shoot as we do by a very good running commentary provided by the Hampshire archers, scripted by Ted Bradford.

It must be admitted that our shooting on the first day left a little to be desired. This was mostly due to the long time we had spent in the queue trying to get into the Fair grounds. We had left our hotel at 10.30 a.m. to travel a mere five miles and arrived in the grounds at 1.30 p.m., beginning our demonstration at 2.00 p.m. Friday was a different story, thanks to some excellent staff work by our Chairman and Mr. Hughes-Onslow. We were whisked along



A rest between shots for Phil Duffee, Walford Davies and Sid Jones.

the outside of the queue of cars from one policeman to another and then in through a gate specially opened for us. This time we were there by 11.00 a.m. We drew huge crowds as we settled down and found the target and then the centre of the target. Some really good shooting was put on by the 'hot seven', hot in more ways than one, the temperature soared and we stood or sat for more than two hours in the blazing sun, without shade.

Our supporters were rallying too: the Mrs. Lynch, Galway, Duffee, Austin, Bickley and Bradford, spotting for us and keeping us well supplied with drinks to keep us going. Ted Bradford and Laurie Austin, commending, cajoling, commiserating, coached us continually throughout our double sessions on Friday and Saturday, to the delight of the onlookers. Brian and Roger helped out wherever they were needed during our three days hard but enjoyable work.

During the brief time we had off some of us were able to have a look round the Game Fair. There were Fly-casting competitions and demonstrations on the River Test that ran through the grounds. A lovely clear chalk stream, the river is quite famous in

trout-fishing circles and it was good to see so many people enjoying the sights on its banks. In another part of the spacious grounds gun-dogs were being put through their paces in a national competition. In the rows of tented shops people were thronging to buy or drool over shotguns, rods, country clothing, crafts and a host of other goodies that would make one reach for the cheque book. Thousands of people shared in these delights daily and all the St. Dunstan's team and helpers were glad to be part of it. Some of us managed to join those going round the house and found it delightful. It is a gracious, friendly, lived-in home rather than a mansion and is well worth a visit. All in all the Game Fair was most impressive.

On Saturday we had a surprise waiting for us when we arrived. A Cup had been presented by Bulmers, the makers of *Strongbow* cider, to be shot for by the team on a handicap basis. In accordance with the usual arrangements on such occasions a handicap was worked out on the first dozen and then, with some fine scoring, we all buckled to, giving the spectators something to watch. The Trophy was finally won by George Allen. At our get-together in the evening we all toasted his victory by drink-



At the Broadlands demonstration, George Allen lets fly at the target.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From Mr. M. J. Glen, 57 Allnuts Road, Epping, Essex, CM16 7BE**

I am at present researching the Battles of Gaza which took place in 1917. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who was present at any of the three battles.

Alternatively, if any relatives or friends of those who took part could give me any information, this would also be greatly appreciated.

All letters will be answered, and postage paid.

**From Prof. L. Kay, Christchurch, New Zealand**

I was very interested to read in the July issue about the three blind runners in the London Marathon.

Recently I visited Japan and saw video films taken by one of the TV stations on both sighted and blind marathons. It was impressive showing many involved. Of particular interest was the sighted marathon in which a blind youth was running untethered to a sighted runner as is customary. He was instead wearing a Sonicguide and using this to track and pass sighted runners in front of him. His only real problem was winning. On passing the

ing champagne from it. The champagne had kindly been donated by the Manager of the Trust House Forte Hotel where the majority of us were staying most comfortably.

Everyone associated with our efforts felt that our three days had been a great success. We all said that we would like to do it again, and this feeling seems to have been echoed by our Chairman and Mr. Hughes-Onslow, the latter having been in charge of the archery arrangements.

All the team and helpers would like to thank all those who made it possible for us to give such a good account of ourselves on behalf of St. Dunstan's. These include those mentioned above and especially Mr. Weisblatt who was responsible for our travel and hotel arrangements – we were very comfortable and well looked after during our long weekend, and we all look forward to doing it again, next year perhaps?

leader he lost his 'guide'.

In the race for blind persons two ran untethered. Again this young man failed to win because the sighted guides were seen to help the blind leaders race harder. The competition was good – the atmosphere great and the enthusiasm from the school teaching the Sonicguide exceptionally high.

The same boy – along with others has been trained in Sonicguide use for sports activity. He rides a cycle in the grounds and is able to slalom between poles on the cycle – we felt it a remarkable feat (my wife and I were special guests). The boy is totally blind.

I did design the aid (although this is perhaps now forgotten) and hoped young people may benefit. We have now seen this in a number of places where imaginative training in sonic spatial perception is given.

**From Capt. K. Revis, Oxford**

Jo and I took a short trip to the two major cities of the Soviet Union, Leningrad and Moscow in that order, and were greatly impressed by the spaciousness of them both. We saw the things that most people see, the wonderful Hermitage, the Summer

**Letters — continued**

Palace at Pushkin, and of course the Opera in Leningrad, but also wandered about Peter the Great's well planned and beautiful city, quite freely, using the Metro and counting the stops to arrive back as near to our hotel as possible. In the capital too we saw the expected marvels: the Kremlin, Lenin's tomb and the spectacular Moscow State Circus.

Eric Boulter had written to Boris Zimin, President of the All Russia Society of the Blind and both he and I had very welcoming letters of reply. However during our time in Moscow he was away but his deputy Alexandre Azarof, sent a car for us and we had quite a rollicking afternoon with him, speaking through his charming secretary, Marina, and exchanging greetings from the R.N.I.B., St. Dunstan's and the National Mobility Centre in Birmingham.

One thing we found is that Aeroflot Flights and the eight hour and three minute train journey (with a restaurant car) between the two great cities were absolutely bang on time and we came away feeling that the visit had been so worthwhile. We

did have an impression of rather unsmiling people but so polite. And of course the human likeness and vastness of the statuary, and enormously long escalators.

**George and Irene Adamson write:**

Dear St. Dunstaners

We have been completely overwhelmed by the fantastic generosity of St. Dunstaners towards our retirement gift. A magnificent cheque has been presented to us, and it is difficult to find adequate words to express our sincere thanks.

We have purchased a large original landscape oil painting, two Dralon velvet covered bedroom chairs, and we are having custom made a Mahogany cabinet for our lounge.

Every time we look at these lovely gifts we will be reminded of the good wishes and generosity of you all.

We have enjoyed the camaraderie and good will which existed between you and us over our 91 years of working for you all, and we will miss this. We hope to see you again from time to time, and a very big thank you to you all.

*Representing St. Dunstaners, Ray Hazan presents a cheque, as their retirement gift, to Irene and George Adamson when they visited HQ recently.*





## HARROGATE NATIONAL BRIDGE WEEK

by G. W. Hudson

Due to three late cancellations only a party of 11 bridge players and four helpers visited Harrogate this year, the helpers being Ian Dickson, Norman Smith, Stan Medcraft, and Vi Delaney's sister, Rene Bushell.

We commenced our week on the Saturday evening with a visit to the Harrogate Bridge club to play for the St. Dunstan's Cup, and this was a very enjoyable evening though, hard as we tried, the cup was won by one of the Harrogate Bridge Club teams. On the Sunday evening we went to the Spa Hotel at Ripon to play against the Ripon Club and though we lost by a narrow margin we spent a very pleasant evening amongst our guests in the hotel's luxurious lounge.

Monday evening we were at the Harrogate Civil Service Club where we were once again treated very generously and though we suffered another defeat our spirit was not dampened. Tuesday lunchtime we were invited to the Royal Corps of Signals barracks in Harrogate for sandwiches and drinks, by the kind permission of the Commanding Officer. A very pleasant couple of hours was spent eating, drinking, and chatting to the officers, N.C.O.'s and the young apprentices. Tuesday evening saw us again at the Harrogate Bridge Club, this time to take part in an E.B.U. simultaneous pairs competition in aid of various charities. Following the competition we were supplied with copies of all the hands played with comments on the possible outcomes. Apart from Fred Dickerson we did not appear to have done very well at this competition, though we had an enlightened and enjoyable evening.

Wednesday was a busy day for us, for in the afternoon we went to the Bradford Bridge Club where again we were well entertained and during the break supplied with sandwiches and cakes which were very welcome. Then to put the icing on the cake so to speak we obtained our first win of the week. In the evening we were lavishly entertained by the *Boffins* at the I.C.I. Harrogate, and at the halfway stage we were some 3000 points ahead, were we going to register another win? Alas, we could not maintain our momentum and finally had to concede defeat. On the Thursday evening

we went to the Oakdale Golf Club where we met many old friends including Norman Green who over many years has been a staunch friend and help to St. Dunstan's bridge players at Harrogate. The bridge match was very close at the halfway stage but eventually we managed to record our second win of the week.

Our annual visit to the *Drovers* took place on Friday and with all the invited guests we sat down to lunch at 1.30 p.m. the meal was excellent for which the Chef is to be congratulated and also Mike Hosity (Les) and his staff for their service and friendliness. Bill Phillips made the speech on behalf of St. Dunstan's, welcoming the guests, this was replied to by the principal guest Mr. Cedric Cockroft. Following lunch, some arranged to play bridge whilst others decided to prop the bar up until it was time to leave. The *Drovers* is situated near Bishop Thornton, just north of Harrogate, and is highly recommended to any St. Dunstaner who happens to be in that area. In the evening St. Dunstan's 'At Home' bridge drive was held at the Civil Service Club by the kind permission of their committee, and this event is a way of showing our appreciation to all the people whom we had played against during the week. They are cordially invited to participate either with their own partner or with a St. Dunstaner but only the guests can receive one of the extremely good prizes which are provided by the courtesy of St. Dunstan's. Following the bridge drive refreshments were supplied and this was followed by a dance.

Saturday and time to go home after another marvellous week, we said our goodbyes to the management and staff of the Dirlton Hotel and also to Cedric for organising the itinerary for the week and taking charge of several of the competitions, he also made up our team by partnering Bill Phillips most of the week. Many thanks to our helpers and all our friends in Harrogate.

### Bill Allen writes:

I must thank Ian Dickson who organised the entire week, never a blemish, Norman Smith for his cheery commie approach and my morning cup of tea, and Stan Medcraft

who catered for our racing fraternity, a task not relished by many. I wonder why? Thanks also to Cedric who took command of all functions, with his rhetoric and joviality which seemed to infect the entire company.

On Sunday even though we were 3000 points up, we still managed to lose by over 2000 points – I will not dwell on that. On Tuesday evening the bridge was very keen and I must congratulate Fred Dickerson and his partner on finishing top of N.S. The Bradford match on Wednesday has always been one of our highlights – I have been going there for 15 years and never succeeded in winning... but wait for it, we did, and by a large margin too. On Thursday night at the *Drovers* Hotel Bill Phillips made an address with his usual gusto, he promised not to be too long – he wasn't. No further comment. Cedric replied, on behalf of our guests and the Harrogate Bridge Club, with a speech full of charm and wit – maybe to keep my full attention, but being a little stupid I still haven't worked out the ending. I will close by once again thanking Cedric. I most certainly envy his wit.

### An historic day for Jack Kerfoot

Jack Kerfoot, of Clayton-le-Woods, near Chorley, went on a sporting weekend trip to Scotland to play with the first International Visually Handicapped Golf team in a two day tournament held at Auchenharvie Golf Club, Ayrshire. He was the only man from Lancashire selected to represent England in the match against Scotland.

On the first day, just a few minutes into the first round, he made history and scored a hole-in-one! Mr. Kerfoot, who first began losing his sight in 1943 after suffering terrible conditions in prisoner of war camps in Japan and now totally blind, had achieved what every sighted golfer only dreams of: 'When I hit the hole-in-one the whole place erupted. So many people shook my hand that my knuckles were sore and I could hardly hold a club next day.'

The game ended in a draw, 4½-4½, but Mr. Kerfoot's achievement won't be forgotten for a long time. 'Our hosts in Scotland were fantastic,' he said. 'The members of the Club acted as Guides for both teams and gave us a weekend to remember. Their hospitality was absolutely wonderful, I



don't think my wife nor myself have ever had such a wonderful weekend. We received so many invitations to spend weekends with the members of the Golf Club that if we took advantage of them it would take years to fit them all in'. And he left with plenty of awards too, 'I won a prize for the lowest net score in the foursomes and a shield and a club tie for my hole-in-one.'

He has since appeared in several write-ups – in the *Chorley Guardian*, the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald* and in the *Lancashire Evening Post*. And the Golf Club are now hoping to get Jack's name in the Guinness Book of Records. It's quite a tough achievement to live up to, so we hope there'll be lots more to come!

## D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

Winter is starting to show itself now, so if you haven't got all those frost shy items out of its clutches already, do get on with it now and put in sheds or greenhouses. Plenty of the catalogues will be around now so order at once for the items you want, especially the newer ones or you may find that they are out of stock and may have to wait another 12 months.

This is the time of the year for clearing all the beds, especially on the vegetable patch, and get the place dug over so that frosts can break down the soil, particularly in heavy clay areas. The soil will then be easier for sowing the seed. It is also a good time to get all paths put in order or even set new ones. Tidy the whole garden and greenhouse if you are not using it from now on, so that you have everything ready to make a good start in 1985.

### Vegetables

Dig over all empty beds and spread some manure or compost plus lime, giving an extra dose to areas where you are to grow the cabbage family in order to cut down any club root which may be in the soil. All root crops that are still in their beds should be lifted. Where you have kept some potatoes for seed go over them carefully, in case some have gone rotten. The same goes for carrots, beet and any other root crops which you have put in storage to last over winter and early spring.

Take off those lower leaves on sprouts which are tending to turn yellow and if you have some rather tall plants it might be a good thing to stake them up. For some early crops of peas and broad beans next year, sow now in a warmish position. Compared with normal sowings, these beans are often immune to Black Fly.

### Fruit

Planting of new fruit trees can be carried out provided there is no real winter weather about. Carry on pruning all trees, cutting

away all those thin growths at the top. Try and keep the centres of trees open by cutting out interlacing branches. This will allow plenty of air to circulate all the way inside. Paint a fungicide on the cut places where there is a thick branch. Even Yellow Sulphur will be suitable.

Don't forget the placing of grease bands on the main trunk some 18" above soil level to stop pests climbing up and laying their eggs in the buds and young branches. Give strawberries and other soft fruit a good boost for the new season by spreading manure round the roots. See that the support canes for raspberries and loganberries are in good condition, otherwise replace with new ones. Make sure the wires and/or strings are alright.

### Houseplants

Remember that these plants will need less water and feed. See that they have a good source of light during the day but move to the centre of the room at night where it will be warmer, but not up against radiators. Some of the flowering plants will need careful attention and don't get moisture on the leaves or you may have trouble with them rotting and falling off. Pick off all dead flowers, especially from the cyclamen and african violet.

### Lawns

There is little one can do here except for keeping all the leaves off. Where you have rather heavy soils and water tends to collect after heavy rain, give the whole lawn a spiking with a fork to give it some source of drainage.

### Flowers

Get all borders tidied up and forked over well, especially round those perennials. Other empty areas which will be used for your summer annuals next year should be dug over well so that frosts can get at it and break it down to give a good tilth in the

spring and early summer for either sowing seed or planting items raised under frames or in the greenhouse.

A heap of spring flowering items such as anemones and tulips plus the daffodil family, which you may have forgotten to set in their places earlier, primulas, wallflowers, pansies, violets, sweet williams etc., can be set in their flowering spots but try and set the primulas in a shady, moist position. This is the last time to get those dahlias and gladioli out for a show next year or the frosts will kill the tubers off. Some of you in the south may be able to let them stay but I would advise a good covering of peat or compost as some protection.

New perennials such as delphinium, lupin, pyrethrum and many others can be planted in their places at the back of borders. Water them in and cover with some compost or peat to keep the severe weather out of the roots. Compost will also give them a boost in spring, as they start growing. Trees and shrubs can also be planted and get in some stakes against strong winds since the roots will not have taken a good grip in the soil yet.

### Greenhouse

Keep the moisture down in the pots of growing plants, watering only when they have dried out. Take off any dead leaves and shoots as soon as possible. Give as much ventilation as you can on fine sunny days from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. It would be a good thing to get the heater going for the night as temperatures generally fall rapidly as soon as the sun goes down. Unless you have some special items a temperature of about 45F will be alright.

One can still put in some bulbs for early spring colour in pots but keep them at the coolest part of the greenhouse or in the shed or garage if it is frost free. They can be brought back when there is good growth on the bulbs. Some lily-of-the-valley roots can be potted up for some scented flowers to take into the house in the New Year. Cyclamen will be growing well so take them nearest to the heat for early flowers. Remember that they will need to be near the light. A smoke against pests and diseases would be a good idea in case they come along unexpectedly. Keep the glass clean so as to get the maximum sun at this time of the year which is so essential for growing plants.

## News from Far Afield

Noel and Norma Alton, from Victoria, Australia, write:

Our garden is usually the best around here, and is the envy of most people including visitors. We have the advantage of being on a peninsula jutting out from a large peninsula. We rarely get frost, perhaps once in ten years, and our warmest days are tempered with a sea breeze. The water supply is good and plentiful. I am enclosing a snap of some of my pumpkins. The largest weighed 49 lbs and my largest tomato weighed 1 lb 9 ozs. However, the largest pumpkin at the local show weighed 65 lbs so I have set myself a target to beat.



## Game for a laugh

### Schoolboy Howler

'Queen Elizabeth 1st was often worried by Mary, Queen of Scots hovering in the background.'

Phillip Wood



Don Planner working with a Central Office of Information Film Unit on a brief TV item, demonstrating how to help a blind person cross the road. Photo - C.O.I.

## Musicmakers Week 1984

by Ken Revis

A small but enthusiastic group of Musicmakers gathered at Ovingdean between September 19th and 24th for its fourth annual 'Week', and for the record the following were there: David Bell, Ernie Cookson (Chairman), Bob Forshaw, John Gale, Sid Jones, Jerry Lynch, Bill Miller, Alan Mitchell and Ken Revis (Secretary). Thanks to Sheila Morris a splendid week had been arranged for us and apart from the a.g.m. on the first Sunday, each morning was set aside for practice. On that Sunday too, we were entertained by the Brighton Saxophone Quartet during the evening in the lounge - brilliant, versatile and amusing they were too, on soprano, alto, tenor and baritone.

Our first outing was on Tuesday afternoon when we sat in lovely hot sunshine around the bandstand in Eastbourne listening to the Band of the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, a most impressive sound. After more practice on Wednesday, the South Coast Stomping Four visited I.F.H. and we were treated to some of the 'good old good ones' in the traditional jazz style on piano, trumpet, trombone and percussion. At this point I must mention that Ernie Took, our Monday evening dance band leader, took a week off from work to be with us full-time on piano, and of course we would have been lost without him. On Wednesday the Bob Pebble Big Band,

14-piece, gave us three hours of great precision and sparkling arrangements. The next evening we were all in great form when we took the whole band kit to the Railway Hotel in Portslade to support Billy Jones, our friend and brilliant blind pianist playing the electric piano. A super outing indeed.

Sadly Friday was our last day and it was our turn to invite our friends to the Annexe where Ernie took the whole load on piano. Ernie Cookson was on alto, John on trumpet, Bob on bass, Jerry on drums and K.R. took some of the vocals. Our all-week supporter Harry Leader was there of course, even wielding the brushes some of the time and we hope the some three dozen guests enjoyed our show and no doubt at all everyone enjoyed the splendid food and drink laid out by St. Dunstan's. It was such a pleasure to have David join us and to know that he is taking tuition to bring him back to his old Church Stretton skill on trombone. We did miss Joe Humphrey who had a heart operation that week, but I know from seeing him 11 days after the 'Op' that he is doing just fine.

One last thing - we exist on less than half a dozen instrumentalists and badly want other St. Dunstaner band-instrument players to join us, so please do come along next time. We finished the week as we always do, as happy as sandboys.

## KEN REVIS SEES LATEST BOMB DISPOSAL EQUIPMENT

Ken Revis was able to see all the latest bomb disposal equipment on July 7th when he and his wife, Jo, attended the official opening by the Deputy Under Secretary of State for the Army of the new T.A. Centre at Preston Barracks, Brighton. He has been involved with 583 E.O.D. Squadron Royal Engineers since its formation four years ago. In true bomb disposal style, the D.U.S.A., Brian Robson, set off a violent explosion which cut the tape at the main doors, after which the invited audience was conducted round the new part of the building with its drill hall and well-equipped lecture rooms. The afternoon finished with a strawberry tea in the officers' mess and the club which bears Ken's name. Ken says it is always a thrill to return to the building he knew so well during the war.

## SPACE PROBLEMS!

Pressure on space means that we have had to hold over: Norman Kershaw on S.A.S., Reading Time, Ham Radio Weekend, Welsh Weekend, and 'Blind Sailors at Falmouth' by Mike Tetley.

## CLUB NEWS

### BOWLING

#### Hastings and Lowestoft

The two last outdoor tournaments this year proved to be quite successful for our bowlers. We won three trophies at Hastings - the totally blind singles and pairs and the partially sighted singles - and at Lowestoft two runners-up. Readers of the *Review* who are not personally involved in bowling but still are interested in the achievement of other St. Dunstaners, would like to know that we had four bowlers chosen to play for England against Wales. Well done lads.

On behalf of all the bowlers and their escorts and wives, I should like to thank the Chairman and Mr. Conway for their help during the past year, and for supplying transport facilities to enable us to attend these tournaments.

M. Golding

## BRIGHTON

### Bowling

On the 22nd September we completed our Outdoor Bowling fixtures with a visit to the Old Woking Bowling Club. We were warmly welcomed by all our friends of the Club, especially by the ladies Mary, Eve and May who greeted the St. Dunstaners in the French style. Consequently, Jimmy Morrish spent much of the time singing 'I was never kissed before in this kind of way so kiss me once again'. The Bowling match was only of secondary importance and was played in a light-hearted fashion. Both Captains agreed that the result was a fair draw.

The ladies of the Club provided us with a very good tea which was enjoyed by us all.

As in the past, John, who plays the accordion entertained us whilst we were having refreshments - many thanks John for your kindness. Harry Preedy, Jimmy Morrish, Ted Brown and Joan Osborne displayed their singing talents and in future will be known by the Bowling Club as 'Three Hits and a Miss'!

Every St. Dunstaner and escort were given a raffle ticket and the amazing thing was that everyone won a prize, which is nothing short of a miracle! Needless to say we were all delighted with our gifts.

Following the Draw, dancing began in earnest and Harry Preedy amazed us all with his skill. He is certainly the Fred Astaire of St. Dunstan's Bowling Club - his partner was exhausted! He had her over his shoulder and under his arm etc., etc.!

Thank you our friends of Old Woking for giving us such a happy time and we certainly look forward to seeing you again at Ian Fraser House in the not too distant future.

A. Miller

### Bridge

Individuals - September 22nd.

J. Huk	61.4
J. Padley	58.0
Mrs. V. Delaney	54.5
R. Evans	54.5
P. McCormack	54.5
R. Fullard	51.1
R. Pacitti	51.1
W. Phillips	47.7
R. Freer	46.6
J. Whitcombe	45.5
W. Burnett	42.0
J. Majchrowicz	33.0

## CLUB NEWS *continued*

### Pairs – October 7th

A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	61.1
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	55.6
R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	54.8
W. Lethbridge & Mrs. Goodlad	54.0
J. Huk & W. Burnett	47.6
W. Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	46.8
G. Hudson & Miss Stenning	44.4
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Sturdy	35.7

### Pairs – Overall Result 1983/1984 Season

R. Evans	304.9
W. Lethbridge	302.2
A. Dodgson	277.4
W. Phillips	269.3
R. Pacitti	261.3
J. Majchrowicz	251.4
J. Padley	235.7
Eight others played in three rounds or less.	

## FAMILY NEWS

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Dr. Giles Victor Champion, eldest grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. V. Champion*, of Ewell, on his marriage to Vanessa Louise Jarvis on September 8th at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Harvington, Worcs.

Gerard, son of *Mr. and Mrs. Jim Conroy*, of Normanby, on his marriage to Diane Lillystone on September 22nd.

Amanda, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cotterill*, of Darlaston, who was married on September 22nd to Frank William Burton at the Central Methodist Chapel, Spring Head, Wednesbury.

Kathryn, only daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. John Inness*, of Batley, on her marriage to Peter Turner on Saturday September 29th.

Paul Richardson, son of the late *G. A. Richardson* and *Mrs. A. Richardson*, of Leyburn, on his marriage to Linda Childs at St. Mary's Church, Rodbourne Cheney, Wiltshire, on September 8th.

### Entertainment Section

A successful dance was held in the Annexe on September 15th, and we were joined by our friends the bowlers from Elmbridge, Surrey, and also Mrs. Dacre. The Sir Michael Ansell Trophies were presented by Commander Conway to:

- 1st Walford Davies
- 2nd Jimmy Morrish
- 3rd Elmer Richards

We would like to see more members taking an active part in the indoor competitions which have just begun. Do not forget the Annual Dinner and Dance on November 8th at Butlins, tickets from Joan Osborne or Bob Cunningham, and the Christmas Dance in the Annexe will be on Saturday December 8th.

*Phyllis O'Kelly*

Heather, daughter of *Mrs. Margaret Upcott* and the late *Squadron Leader Douglas Upcott*, of Carshalton, on her marriage to Clive Mountford at Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church on October 13th.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. Walter Bick* and his wife, *Sylvia Grace*, of Southam, Warwickshire, who celebrated two years of happy marriage on September 20th.

### PEARL WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. 'Ben' Temple*, of Petts Wood, nr. Orpington, who celebrated their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on October 2nd.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. Arthur 'Micky' Robinson* and his wife *Elizabeth*, of Patcham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 29th.

*Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carney*, of Bournemouth, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary on October 6th.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS — *continued*

*Mr. and Mrs. Alex Scott*, of Belfast, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 17th.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. William Johnston Beatty*, of Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh, on the birth of their third grandchild, Emma Louise, born on September 8th to their son Roland and his wife Caroline.

*Captain Shahri Beck* and his wife, *Laal*, of Acton, who are happy to announce the birth of their grandson, Niku, born on September 19th to their daughter, Shahin, and son-in-law, Paul Kastic.

*Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bradshaw*, of Northampton, on the birth of their grandson, Simon Andrew, born on September 27th to their daughter, Marion, and her husband Graeme Gooding. It is their first child.

*Mr. and Mrs. W. Charity*, of Willesden, on the birth of a grandson, Lee John, to their daughter Christine, and son-in-law John Redworth, on October 4th. This is their eighth grandchild.

*Mr. and Mrs. P. Duffee*, of Seaford, who are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Stacey Ann, born on September 17th to their daughter Kathy, and her husband in Australia.

*Mr. and Mrs. B. Jubb*, of Bromley, on the birth of their grandson, Kevin, born on August 28th to their daughter Katherine and her husband Michael Green.

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Miller*, of Leamington Spa, on the birth of another grandchild, David Huw Thomas, born on September 12th to their daughter Angela, and her husband Robert Good. The baby is a brother for Charles and Mark.

*Mr. R. G. Spencer*, of Croydon, on the birth of his grandson, John Dennis, born on August 8th to his daughter, Mary, and her husband John Nobes.

*Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood*, of Plymouth, who are delighted to announce the arrival of a grandson, Richard Ramsey Pitt, born to their daughter and son-in-law on June 13th.

### GREAT GRANDCHILD

*Mr. William Mabe*, of Cleveleys, on the birth of his first great grandchild, Leanne, a daughter born to Lorraine and Keith Mabe on July 25th.

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

David Perfect, son of *Mr. J. Perfect* of Yealmpton, who has been appointed Captain of HM Submarine *Osiris* in August, and is now on his way back to the Falklands to carry out several months service.

*Tom Taylor*, of Preston, who has been inducted as Chairman of the Leyland Fellowship of Churches, which is the Ecumenical Organisation for Leyland. He will hold this post for 12 months.

Stephen Ward M.Ed, son of *Mr. Bert Ward*, of Leeds, who has been made director of In-Service Training at Bath College of Higher Education, with the grade of Principal Lecturer.

### DEATHS

#### We offer sympathy to:

*Mr. 'Dickie' Brett*, of Saltdean, whose elder and only remaining brother, Jack, passed away on September 25th at the age of 79.

*Mr. and Mrs. J. Conroy*, of Middlesborough, who mourn the death of their brother-in-law, William Jaques, who passed away on August 25th.

*Mr. Colin Fraser*, of Hove, whose mother passed away in July, at the age of 81.

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Higgs*, of Binfield, who mourn the death of their grandson, Raymond, on August 20th, aged 17.

*Mr. 'Ken' Ward*, of Chandler's Ford, whose brother passed away recently in Basingstoke.

# In Memory

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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.

**N. J. Blacklock, Highland Light Infantry**

Norman Johnston Blacklock, of Lancaster, passed away on September 12th, aged 66, following several months of declining health which he bore with remarkable fortitude and cheerfulness. He had been a St. Dunstaner since early 1982.

Mr. Blacklock served as a Private in the 5th Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry during the Second World War and was severely injured in Germany early in 1945.

In civilian life he had worked in agriculture, was a keen walker, and enjoyed several visits to Ian Fraser House during his brief membership.

He leaves a widow, Hilda, their daughter, Diane, and her family.

**C. B. Headland, Bedfordshire Regiment**

Cecil Benjamin Headland of Silsoe, Bedfordshire, passed away in hospital on August 20th, shortly after admission. He was 88 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1974.

He served as a Private in the 1st Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment during the 1st World War and was the victim of a mustard-gas attack whilst on active service in France in 1918. Mr. Headland was a widower, his wife, Ellen, having passed away in 1981 after 25 years of happy marriage.

Until retirement, Mr. Headland was a foreman-scaffolder. He had many interests including bowling, and greatly enjoyed his visits to Ian Fraser House.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Keech, who has been caring for him devotedly since he moved into her home two years ago.

**D. R. Hughes, Royal Air Force**

David Robert Hughes, of Aberdare, passed away on September 17th, aged 64. He had been a St. Dunstaner for six years.

Mr. Hughes served as a Leading Aircraftsman in the R.A.F., enlisting just prior to the outbreak of the 2nd World War. He was a Far East prisoner of War having been captured in Java in 1941 and suffered considerable deprivation at camps in that country as well as Singapore, Celebes and Sumatra.

In civilian life, he was a coal-miner in earlier years and subsequently was employed at a Working Men's Club until he was forced to retire on health grounds. His greatest hobby was his garden and his greenhouse.

He leaves a widow, Christine, who cared for him devotedly throughout their marriage of nine years.

**J. J. Mooney, R.E.C.C.E.**

John Joseph Mooney, of Middleton, Lancashire, passed away at his home on September 22nd, aged 60.

Mr. Mooney served as a Trooper in the 53rd R.E.C.C.E. from November 1942 and lost his sight when wounded at Falaise in France in August 1944. He came to St. Dunstan's in February 1945 and after training at Church Stretton, Mr. Mooney commenced employment in Manchester in January 1946, starting a long career in industry which lasted until he retired on health grounds from Hawker Siddeley in November 1978.

In spite of some limitations placed on him by his health, Mr. Mooney liked to be busy in retirement and enjoyed many hobbies including wrought-iron work, toy making and picture framing, all of which he did with considerable skill. He also enjoyed his greenhouse and loved music.

He leaves a widow, Edna, and their two sons, Ian and Kevin.

**J. H. Tyrrell, Royal Air Force**

John Henry Tyrrell, of Oxford, passed away in Pearson House on August 28th, aged 72. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1953 and, with the devoted care of his wife, Evelyn, coped bravely with many years of deteriorating health, until he entered Pearson House in January 1984.

During the 2nd World War, he was a Leading Aircraftsman in the R.A.F. and served in North Africa. Until 1972, he was employed as a hospital ancillary worker in Oxford until his retirement on health grounds. Nevertheless, despite increasing disabilities, his interest in caring for others continued for many years and he was actively engaged in voluntary work, including the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Our St. Dunstaner and his wife would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this year.

**A. F. H. Wells, Rifle Brigade**

Arthur Frank Hugh Wells of Reigate died peacefully in a Nursing Home on September 26th, aged 89. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1981.

Mr. Wells enlisted in August 1914 and served in the Rifle Brigade on the Western Front. He was wounded at Arras in 1917 and lost his right eye. After the war he worked as a gardener until his retirement.

He was happily married for nearly 60 years but, sadly, his wife passed away last year. He leaves a step-daughter.