



St Dunstans Review

January/February 1985



From the Chairman

Mary and I hope you all had a good Christmas and send you our grateful thanks for the lovely calendars, cards and letters you kindly sent us. They were very much appreciated. Now, as we enter 1985, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

It is to be a special year – the 70th anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's. To mark it, our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted our President's invitation to open the reconstructed South Wing at Ian Fraser House on the morning of Friday, July 19th. Her Majesty will be accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The arrangements for the royal visit will be promulgated over the next few months and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to be present at this great occasion.

In fact the modified South Wing will be available for us a good deal earlier than its official opening and details are given on the opposite page. You will appreciate that until the reconstruction work is actually finished there must remain some uncertainty about the precise date. But we have taken a risk on this to enable you to make your bookings in good time.

Henry Leach

ACCOMMODATION AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

We are glad to announce that the refurbished South Wing at Ian Fraser House will re-open on Monday, 29th April, 1985 and bookings for accommodation can now be made in the usual way via Mrs. Tina Coyne at Headquarters.

The accommodation is primarily designed for St. Dunstaners and their wives or husbands but where a St. Dunstaner is a widower or widow, or is for some other reason unable to be accompanied by a wife or husband, it may be possible to provide accommodation for a member of the family or other suitable person able to act as an escort. All such cases will be considered on their merits and adequate notice should be given so that Commander Conway and his staff at Ian Fraser House can consider whether accommodation (usually involving sharing with other escorts) will be available.

Bookings will be taken in periods of up to a fortnight at a time subject to a normal maximum of 28 days per annum. For this purpose the booking year runs from the 1st July until 30th June.

No charge will be made for accommodation up to the maximum period specified but if, exceptionally, bookings in excess of 28 days per year can be accepted a charge of £40 per couple per week will be made or pro rata for periods of less than a week.

If demand for the accommodation in the South Wing is heavy, priority will be given to those who have to travel a considerable distance and/or have not previously taken a holiday at Ian Fraser House in the current year.

Organisers of Clubs and Societies wishing to make block bookings should, of course, submit full details of their requirements well in advance.

AMATEUR RADIO AGM

The Amateur Radio AGM will take place on March 2nd, with visiting speaker Mr. Jim Bacon G3YLA, former BBC TV weather forecast presenter, speaking on 'The Weather Business'. Please book through Mrs. T. Coyne, HQ.

DON'T SEND LOOMS BACK!

...Just a letter saying what kind of weaving loom it is and who has got it. Then, should someone request one, the Handicraft Dept. will know where to get it, as there is no storage space at IFH.

LEARN TO BE BLIND – the story of St. Dunstan's, a BBC documentary programme will be broadcast on Tues-

day, 12th February, on Radio 4 at 4.02 p.m.

HMS DAEDALUS CAMP 85

Those wishing to apply for a place at camp at Lee on Solent to sample the generous hospitality of the Royal Navy at HMS *Daedalus*, should send their applications – or preferably by telephone – to Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG, telephone 0799 22874.

The camp will take place from Friday August 9th, 1985, until the morning of Saturday August 17th. Please apply as soon as possible and in any case not later than Friday May 3rd, 1985, when the draw for places will take place.

10p MONTHLY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1985

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Cover Picture:

In the Pearson House Christmas Concert, Mary Morris and Frank Starling are 'A Couple of Swells'.

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House thank the many St. Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1985.

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

Phyllis Rogers thanks the many St. Dunstaners who have kindly sent Christmas greetings and sends greetings to you all for your health and happiness in 1985.

To recipients of the Chairman's Christmas card: Many have enquired who the staff members are. For the record, they are Mr. Ernie Rous, Mrs. Barbara Stanley and the late Mr. Wally Arnold.

TWO GENERATIONS

The term 'generations of St. Dunstan's' is often used in the *Review* but there cannot be many families in which there have been St. Dunstaners in two generations.

Jerry Lynch, who was blinded in Normandy after the D Day landings in 1944 serving with the 9th Battalion, Cameronian Scottish Rifles, can recall as a child in Ireland visiting his uncle, Danny Lynch. Danny enlisted with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in August 1914. He was wounded in January, 1915 at Givenchy in France.

Jerry recalls, 'He was badly wounded and I remember visiting him in his cottage and seeing him sitting by the fire'. Danny Lynch died in 1947, only a few years after his nephew joined St. Dunstan's.

CORDON BLEU

Telephone call from a St. Dunstaner received at the Lounge Desk, Ian Fraser House mid-day on a Saturday.

'Just got home, I forgot to do the shopping. All there is in the house is a packet of frozen pastry and a tin of sardines. How do I make a fish pie for lunch?'

The Lounge Desk C.A.s would be grateful for a suitable recipe, should he call again.

OBITUARY

Wally Arnold

Many St. Dunstaners will have met Wally Arnold, officially lift operator, unofficially general helper and messenger, at Headquarters, who died on November 29th, 1984. He is one of the reception staff pictured on the Chairman's Christmas card.

Wally was 80 years old and had worked at St. Dunstan's since 1977. He had the enthusiasm of someone half his age and his willingness to help others became a by-word among his colleagues.

He was the son of a fishmonger and followed his father into the trade as a fish frier in Hoxton, East London. Later he worked for a multiple company travelling all over London to start up branches of the business. On each new shop window he proudly painted these words: 'This establishment is under the management of Mr. Wally Arnold, reputed to be one of the finest fish friers in London.'

During the Second World War he served as a cook in the Army in Denmark and Germany. Wally leaves a widow and a son to whom we send our sympathy. His colleagues on the staff greatly miss him. He was a 'character', someone almost too willing, whose favourite saying was, 'Leave it to me.'

RE-ISSUE OF MEDALS

Following recent Remembrance Day Services, some St. Dunstaners have mentioned that they would have liked to wear their medals but had mislaid them or had never received them. Those who wish to apply for an issue or re-issue of medals to which they are entitled, should apply (enclosing full service particulars) to the following addresses:

Army - Officer-in-Charge, Army Medal Office, Ministry of Defence, Government Buildings, Worcester Road, Droitwich, Worcs.

Navy - Director General of Defence Accounts, Pay & Pensions Division, Branch 1, HMS Centurion, Grange Road, Gosport, Hants.

Air Force - Director, Personnel Management, Royal Air Force Personnel Management Centre, Ministry of Defence, Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1EZ.

In any case of difficulty, Mr. Keith Martin should be contacted at HQ.

JUBILEE SAILING TRUST VOYAGES

The Jubilee Sailing Trust offer voyages in the brigantine *Soren Larsen* for voyage crews equally comprised of physically handicapped and able-bodied people, 22 men and women between 16 and 69 years of age, but no more than three confined to wheelchairs, on each trip. Everyone has a part to play however inexperienced or

handicapped. There is always a doctor on board, along with a professional permanent crew of seven. Application forms and brochures are available from the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Atlantic Road, Eastern Docks, Southampton, SO1 1GD, and the 1985 voyage programme and prices are as follows:

Voyage No.	Inclusive Dates	Voyage Duration	Berth Fee	Terminal Port(s)
1.	3 to 6 May	BH Weekend	£95	Southampton
2.	7 to 16 May	10 days	£175	Southampton
3.	20 to 29 May	10 days	£175	Southampton
4.	31 May to 2 June	Weekend	£95	Southampton
5.	3 to 12 June	10 days	£200	So'ton/Falmouth
6.	17 to 26 June	10 days	£200	Swansea/Mersey
7.	28 to 30 June	Weekend	£95	Mersey
8.	1 to 10 July	10 days	£235	Mersey
9.	15 to 24 July	10 days	£235	Mersey
10.	26 to 28 July	Weekend	£110	Mersey
11.	29 July to 7 Aug	10 days	£235	Mersey/Swansea
12.	12 to 21 Aug	10 days	£235	Falmouth/So'ton
13.	23 to 26 Aug	BH Weekend	£140	Southampton
14.	27 Aug to 5 Sept	10 days	£235	Southampton
15.	13 to 15 Sept	Weekend	£95	Southampton
16.	16 to 25 Sept	10 days	£200	Southampton
17.	30 Sept to 9 Oct	10 days	£175	Southampton
18.	11 to 13 Oct	Weekend	£85	Southampton
19.	14 to 23 Oct	10 days	£175	Southampton
20.	25 to 27 Oct	Weekend	£85	Southampton

BH = Bank Holiday

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr. W. Berry, Fife

I was very interested to see in the November issue of the *Review* that Mr. and Mrs. Adamson had achieved 91 years combined service for St. Dunstan's.

I thought you would be interested to know that this record can be broken by the following information:

Mrs. Berry (née Miss S.V. Hunt)	23 yrs
Mrs. Berry (née Miss G.T. Sills)	32 yrs
Mr. W. Berry	46 yrs

Total years of service 101 yrs

We all worked in the Accounts Department.

I realise that the comparison is not quite equal in that three persons are compared with two.

From Mr. M. Tetley, St. Albans, Herts

It was interesting to read Ken Revis' letter to the Editor describing his experiences on his recent trip to Russia. He gave a glowing report on the punctuality of the Russian airlines and the beauty of Leningrad and Moscow. I went to Russia two months ago, to both Leningrad and Moscow and then on to the Black Sea, visiting Georgia and the Caucasus Mountains. My idea was to get away from the tourist routes and see if I could find out what Russia was really like and my report is directly opposite to that of Ken Revis.

We arrived in Moscow half an hour late by Aeroflot and then we sat in our aircraft for 45 minutes while they unloaded it. We then queued up to go through customs and

immigration which took a further two hours during which time all the immigration officers shut their windows for about twenty minutes, presumably while they had a cup of tea. Moscow presented the longest wait of any airport that I have ever used.

In the tourist hotels in Moscow and Leningrad the food was excellent and prompt, but a couple of drunks tried to get into the girls' bedrooms. Whilst on the Black Sea coast the standard of food deteriorated and most of the party were ill. During that time I attended indoctrination lectures in the hotel. I only attended two and was barred from the third. During the first lecture it was stated that 'In the Soviet Union men and women were considered as equals and that 40% of the construction workers were women and in fact the champion bricklayer was a woman...'. Afterwards I asked the question, 'If men and women in Russia are equal why was it that in a census I had carried out that morning only one in every hundred vehicles on the road was driven by a woman?'. I did not get a proper answer.

At the second lecture it was stated that in Russia they catered for minorities. At the end of the lecture I handed the lecturer two Russian coins — from memory a 3 kopek and a 25 kopek and asked him to tell the difference with his eyes shut. Both coins were the same size, in thickness and diameter, both had milled edges, the only difference being that one was silver and one was brass. This, I pointed out, did not enable blind people to be independent in their community. The only comfort they could draw was that the Americans were in the same category, as all dollar bills are the same size with only the value being different.

At the third lecture, from which I was barred, I still managed to get my question asked by proxy. Away from the tourist route in Georgia, the latrines were only holes in the ground... not different from some parts of Europe... but there were no doors to them and even the women's had no doors. The filth in the immediate neighbourhood I had not seen surpassed in Africa or Asia — only once, in an Indian village in South America. The lecturer's reply was that they could send men to the moon

but could not train their peasants to use latrines.

I visited a sanatorium and had a brief look at the physiotherapy department, but was shown with great pride where psychiatric rehabilitation was conducted. The ceilings were low and fitted with acoustic tiles, soft music played and the psychiatrist sat at a desk, at the end of a reclining plinth. When I climbed on the plinth, lay back, and exclaimed: 'Now I will tell you all about my sex life', there was no response from the Russians but my wife announced 'This is where I leave the room'.

I must record however that the average Russian was extremely kind to me, as kind as anywhere else in the world but it was impossible to discuss ideas on medicine, history or philosophical concepts. The communist idea came back like a gramophone record. There were three ideas we could import: no hooliganism, no graffiti and no organised crime as opposed to individual crime.

This is an opposite view and experience to Ken's but I felt it must be stated. I wanted to see Russia for myself, as the credibility gap between fact and what is presented in newspapers is widening.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION FOR THE BLIND — DISCOVERING MAMMALS

Another unique experience for the blind opens at the Natural History Museum on March 1st 1985, allowing you to explore the path of discovery that enables a zoologist to distinguish between mammals and other animals.

The question is posed 'What is a Mammal?' and different sections of the exhibition display for touch examination the parts of mammal bodies which give the scientist vital clues and comparisons. From furs, to claws, to bone structure — all can be explored with the assistance of a recorded commentary and braille, moon and large print labels. There are some interesting complete specimens to touch, including a large lion.

It will be open to the public until March 31st and admission is free. Group bookings must please be made in advance. Telephone: 01-589 6323 ext. 374.

A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

John Cowan, of Rottingdean, has his own individual way of remembrance. Each year, on November 11th, with his wife, Evelyn, he visits the Belgian town of Enghier to take part in the ceremonies there.

It all began 15 years ago when, with the Boreham Wood Branch, Royal British Legion, on a tour of First War battlefields, they came to Enghier and by chance met Willy Bowering and his wife, Paula. Willy is the son of a First War English soldier, who remained to live in Belgium after the war.

'When the Germans came they took Willy prisoner but instead of putting him in a civvy concentration camp, they put him with the Royal Marines, why we'll never know. The Marines made him false identity discs, false papers and also got him a uniform. For the next five years Willy was in the Royal Marines,' said John. John himself was blinded in action in Germany with the Royal Norfolk Regiment, only three weeks before the end of the war. Each year, with Evelyn, he stays with Willy and Paula — the Belgians still honour November 11th, whatever day of the week it falls upon — and on the day before, this little group visits the cemetery in Enghier to tidy up, as John puts it.

Forgotten Soldiers

There are about 30 graves of soldiers and members of the Belgian Resistance. The Cowans take two poppy wreaths and enough crosses for each grave, 'Some of these soldiers get forgotten,' said Evelyn, 'People tend to go to the big cemeteries.' The community in Enghier keeps the memory alive when the mayor gathers the town's children together around the memorial on November 10th. 'He explains they must treat these men with respect and thank them for what they did for them and never to forget it,' said Evelyn. Afterwards the children lay wreaths of flowers on the graves.

November 11th is a very full day beginning with a parade and march through the town to a service, 'In the afternoon,' said John, 'We attend a do which lasts about four hours, if you can stand the pace!' John has been made a member of the Enghier branch of the Belgian equivalent of the Royal British Legion.



At the War Memorial at Enghier, John and Evelyn Cowan stand in the background as the Mayor speaks.

Earlier this year John had the distinction of being a member of the guard of honour for H.R.H. the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at Arromanches for the commemoration of the Normandy landings. 'We marched through Arromanches, all in threes,' said John, 'I was between two sighted chaps, all Normandy veterans. We marched to the cemetery behind the Band of the Royal Marines. As we went off the parade ground they picked out some who had to wheel off and come round again on to the parade. About 50 of us lined up in a double line. A big Irish guardsman put us through out paces before we marched. He was an R.S.M., he saw what we could do and gave us some advice. We knew he meant it! He was about seven feet high!'

The Queen and the Duke walked along the lines, 'He said, "You're very smart lads." It was a wonderful day, we stood from about ten in the morning to five in the afternoon. We were a little bit tired but we had a good meal at night and a couple of large ones,' said John.

He concluded: 'The ceremony was worth going back for and after 40 years it brought back a lot of memories, I shed a tear or two — I don't mind admitting it — remembering.'

F.E.P.O.W. Reunion Australia 1984

by Bill Griffiths

On Friday September 28th, as a friend drove Alice and me along the motorway from Blackpool to Manchester Airport, knowing that a 26-hour outward flight to Melbourne and a 30-hour return flight via Sydney awaited us, I wondered whether the long journey would be worthwhile, whether I would get the opportunity of spending much time with the famous Australian surgeon, Sir Edward Dunlop, who had saved my life on the operating table and later from the bayonet of a Japanese guard? Would I meet many of those humorous, understanding, ever helpful F.E.P.O.W. colleagues who had meant so much to me, as indeed the Dutch and British lads had, and without whose encouragement I would not have survived?

Thanks to the representation made by St. Dunstan's to Qantas Airways, the air crew took great care of us. We arrived at Melbourne 5.45 a.m. on Sunday September 30th. Mrs. Rolls welcomed the overseas visitors, and on seeing me she said her husband, Bob Rolls, was a St. Dunstaner. She was appropriately named Dawn!

In the evening Sir Edward Dunlop brought flowers, and before departing arranged to take us out to dinner the following evening. We had just sat down to dinner in the hotel when Mr. Allan Gee, an Australian St. Dunstaner, invited us to join him and his wife, Kath. As we talked about our friends within St. Dunstan's, they said how enjoyable it was talking about people they had only read about in the *St. Dunstan's Review*, and would now look forward to reading it more than ever. Allan is a survivor of H.M.A.S. *Perth* and is very proud that the Chairman of St. Dunstan's is Royal Navy.

On Monday October 1st, we strolled through the park opposite our hotel and located Captain Cook's cottage which was modest with a small garden. It was hard to realise that we were at the other end of the world, hearing nothing but English spoken

in the crowded streets and shops of Melbourne. That evening we dined with Sir Edward at his club, the Naval and Military Club. His other guests were Hugh and Pat Clarke and Lang and Coral Fraser. Hugh Clarke is author of the book 'Last Stop Nagasaki', he and Lang were amongst 24 Australian survivors of the atom bomb. We were introduced to the President of the club, Commodore Dacre Smyth and during our conversation he said that he did his naval training at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, during the last war, and often after a night out, the guide rails in the grounds were very much appreciated.

Tuesday was Registration Day in Melbourne Town Hall. We stood in the overseas queue with P.O.W.'s from Canada, Holland, New Zealand, U.S.A., N. Ireland, Scotland and other parts of the U.K. We were soon escorted from the queue, told to sit down and all would be dealt with for us. Chairs were unnecessary because we were constantly being introduced to F.E.P.O.W.'s, many of whom we hadn't seen for 40 years. One pleasing statement was that I didn't look any older (how kind), it was very emotional, with laughter and tears, we had to pinch ourselves at times to make sure that it was all really happening. We also met women internees whose experiences are portrayed in the TV series 'Tenko'. Mr. Harold Payne O.B.E., National President of F.E.P.O.W. Assoc. U.K., joined us, and he too was kept busy meeting friends, it wasn't till the following day we discovered that we were staying in the same hotel. In the afternoon we visited the well-organised exhibition of P.O.W. memorabilia displayed on the top floor of a large department store, 'Myer'.

Ivor Jones and Graeme McCabe, who taped all that happened at the Reunion, took us to the Bentleigh Club on Wednesday for the R.A.A.F. Malaya Assoc. Aircrew Luncheon. During pre-lunch drinks we circulated, chatting to P.O.W.'s and wives. We



Bill Griffiths outside Captain Cook's cottage.

were pleased to meet Birmingham F.E.P.O.W. Les Stubbs and his wife Pamela, they had just been to Ambon, an island where he and so many other F.E.P.O.W.'s had suffered great brutality. After lunch Alice was presented with a pressed flower picture by Betty Holmes, the chairman's wife, and I gave a short speech. Another couple from Sussex, England, came to speak to us, Jim and Linda Bradley. Jim has had his book 'Towards the Setting Sun' published, and it's a sell-out, telling of his attempted escape from a Burma Thai Railway Camp and his eventual recapture; another enthralling book.

Soon we were whisked off to the magnificent new Concert Hall, Melbourne to rehearse for the Gala Concert on Thursday night. You can guess how I felt after my big lunch, certainly not in the mood for singing. However we had to sit through all the acts so by the time the producers were ready for Alice and me all was well. Wires and cables were all over the stage for the various microphones. This worried the producers and staff, but I assured them that everything would be alright, when there's any tripping up or falling done it's by Alice, not me!

On Thursday morning we went along to Anzac House for the launching of Hugh Clarke's book 'Last Stop Nagasaki', it was a

grand affair with the press and TV cameras present. Sir Edward Dunlop launched the book and the author responded. We were just onlookers and had enjoyed a couple of drinks, when suddenly Hugh Clarke introduced me to the assembled company. Sir Edward then talked about me, with very generous words about St. Dunstan's, and invited me to say a few words.

On arrival at the Melbourne Concert Hall in the evening, we checked our entries and positions on stage, then settled in our luxurious dressing room. It was a full house and guests included the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Cain M.P., Sir Edward and Lady Dunlop, Mr. Harold L. Payne, and other distinguished guests. A choir, three professional artistes performed, a comedian, a German Ex-P.O.W. told a few yarns, then the stage was set as a P.O.W. camp scene, the R.A.A.F. band played 'Bridge over the River Kwai' march (Colonel Bogey) and the 'Warsaw Concerto', taking us back to those war-time days. The Changi Prison Concert Party then entertained again for the first time in 40 years. Frank Rich told us how they started and of their activities and then sang 'Too long in the Tropics'. John Rourke and Ivor Jones rendered the duet 'Two Jungle Gendarmes', Ern Banks played a medley on his banjo and, from the



Presenting St. Dunstan's Plaque to Mr. George Beard, Federal President, Ex-P.O.W.'s Association of Australia.

Changi Hit Parade, Keith Steven sang 'Waiting and Praying for You' and 'My Castle in the Air'. I sang 'Sincerity' taught to me by an Australian P.O.W. and Alice joined me in two duets. Jack Boardman, the Changi P.O.W. camp pianist, accompanied us all. Our party then sang another P.O.W. composition 'Waiting for Something to Happen' - an amusing little ditty of P.O.W. problems and hopes. The whole company and audience rounded off the evening with a rousing chorus of 'Land of Hope and Glory'. When we finally got back to our dressing room the phone rang and the caller asked if we would accept the book 'Towards the Setting Sun' by Jim Bradley!

On Friday we went to Geelong for a tour of the sights and lunch. Our party filled 15 coaches, we were in the H.M.A.S. *Perth* and S.S. *Houston* survivors' coach. Allan Gee, St. Dunstaner, arranged this. Many of these men had been in the sea for 12 hours before being picked up after their ships were sunk, and we were proud to be with such brave men.

On Saturday we joined a coach tour of Melbourne which included a visit to Como House, the Melbourne Arts Centre and Museum, with lunch at a local hotel. On this occasion we had the company of our Nat. President, Harold Payne. In the evening we assembled for the Reunion Dinner in Myer. 1750 were seated, the remaining P.O.W.'s and wives had dinner in the Town Hall, speeches were relayed to them. I had two St. Dunstan's plaques to present, and as

had been decided by the Reunion Committee I presented one to Mr. George Beard and gave a short address. I presented the other to Sir Edward later.

We also met St. Dunstaner Mr. Alan Williams, who talked with great enthusiasm about St. Dunstan's and Church Stretton, he sought news of our friends Gwen Obern, Tommy Gaygan, Jimmy Legge, Tom Hart and David Bell, M.B.E. An Australian F.E.P.O.W., Scotty Thompson, reminded me of the day he took Joe Gannon, a St. Dunstaner, and me for a walk around the camp. A Jap guard suddenly came up to us and gave Joe and I a hefty blow across the face, but did not strike our sighted friend. When relating this incident Scotty was very upset, and said this had worried him for years. We both came to the conclusion that the Jap guard must have thought that Joe and I, by holding on to Scotty's arms were preventing him from bowing, which was, as F.E.P.O.W.'s know, always demanded.

We all met at the Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday, and marched in the Parade to the Shrine of Remembrance which is situated at the top of a hill and looked marvellous in such a beautiful setting. Alice said that it was a wonderful sight as we all marched up the hill, headed by the R.A.A.F. band in white uniforms. I intended joining the R.A.A.F. contingent, Alice got a shock as the band passed, there I was again with the *Perth* and *Houston* lads, heading the Parade with Sir Edward on one arm and semi-sighted St. Dunstaner Allan Gee on the other - we represented the Army, Navy

With Sir Henry, Lady Helen and Alexander Dunlop.



Bill with Sir Edward Dunlop on his right and Allan Gee on his left with the Perth and Houston contingents in the Parade.

and Air Force. The service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration was conducted by the Rev. J.C. Lavender, B.A. and narrated by Sir Eric Pearce, K.T., O.B.E. Harold Payne laid a wreath on behalf of the U.K. F.E.P.O.W. Assoc. The very moving service ended with the Australian National Anthem and a hearty rendering of 'God Save The Queen'.

We then lunched at the home of Jack and Betty Holmes along with 20 other guests, all F.E.P.O.W.'s. Alice, Ivor Jones and I sang. We chatted and laughed all the afternoon - the occasion certainly reminded me of the many get-togethers we have enjoyed with P.O.W.'s and wives in the U.K., it was just the same, this special brand of friendship that millionaires can't buy. One of the guests, Peter Atherton, had been with me in Java in 1942, so we had plenty to talk about. Later Sir Edward and Harold Payne joined us, then we were off to Sir Edward's home, where he opened a bottle of champagne. We certainly slept that night.

On Monday Sir Edward took us to see his family and then entertained us for dinner at

his home with his son Alexander and Lady Helen. Sir Edward did so much for F.E.P.O.W.'s in the camps and since the war has been energetically involved in Ex-P.O.W. affairs. He also served in the Vietnam war.

I was interviewed on the last day, Wednesday October 10th, by the Melbourne Herald - for a week prior to the Reunion this newspaper had published a series on P.O.W.'s and we were given photocopies of the articles. Throughout the Reunion we had lots of phone calls and messages, including from St. Dunstaners Bob Joyce and a Mr. Gray. Our bedroom was filled with flowers, we have made so many friends.

The whole Reunion was well organised, we are so glad we were able to attend, it is an experience that Alice and I will never forget. We thank and congratulate the Reunion Committee for organising the event so successfully. We also thank most heartily and appreciate the invaluable assistance afforded to us by Mr. W.C. Weisblatt and Miss C. Mosley.

THE DACRE TROPHY PRESENTATION 1984

by P.O. Walker

This year Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre honoured me with an invitation to accompany her as the St. Dunstan's representative to the presentation of the Dacre Trophy to 29(F) Squadron, R.A.F. Coningsby, Lincolnshire.

At 1045 hours on Monday, November 26th, 1984, I left Lewes, near Brighton, by train on route for Havant, Hampshire. There I met Squadron Leader H. T. Elliott VR(T) who had been asked by Mrs. Dacre to act as my escort. Hugh Elliott and the late Flying Officer Kenneth Fraser Dacre, DFC (son of Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre) had trained together at R.A.F. Luton during the dark days of 1941. On our drive from Havant to R.A.F. Northolt, London, we exchanged stories and reminisced on service life, he from his experiences in the Air Force and mine in the Army. We found we had a lot in common.

On arrival at Northolt at 1500 hours we were met by a friendly R.A.F. Corporal driver. Five minutes later we were on our way in a Mark II Ford Granada. Diverted by roadworks we were driven through my old home town of Grantham and I was thrilled to pass within 100 yards of where I was born. We also passed Belton Park where 240,000 men trained as machine gunners during the First World War.

Arrival at Coningsby

At 1830 hours we arrived at Coningsby and booked in at the Officers' Mess. After a tidy up Hugh and I went down to dinner where we were met by the Duty Officer. Within a few minutes Wing Commander A. J. H. Alcock, MBE, Officer Commanding, arrived with his wife and six squadron leaders and their ladies. During the course of dinner, conversation and goodwill flowed in their entertaining company. Retiring to the bar afterwards we spoke to these fine young men and found out what they did and what they thought about the R.A.F. in general. How proud they all seemed. Speaking to me about my regimental tie one officer told the following story. On ordering the 29 Squadron tie an officer approached a local tailor. Giving him details of the colour and pattern the officer

said the tie should display the Roman numerals: two X's and one X (meaning 29). On delivery of the order it was found the ties had three X's (meaning 30). On being questioned the tailor replied "Well, you asked for two X's and one X and that is what I did! The Squadron still keeps the tie with its three X's. That's how traditions are started.

The Presentation Ceremony

Next morning at 1015 hours Mrs. Dacre arrived in the ante-room like a whirlwind, anxious not to be a minute late, followed by Air Officer Commanding No. 11 (Fighter) Group, Air Vice-Marshal K. W. Hayr, CB, CBE, AFC, RAF, his wife, and the Station Commander Group Captain Elsam and Mrs. Elsam. Shortly we were all on our way by car to the parade ground which, owing to the weather, had been moved into a large war-time hangar, where the Dacre Trophy was to be presented. After a General Salute and a fanfare played by the Band of the R.A.F. Regiment, Mrs. Dacre inspected all airmen, including the band, speaking to most men. Squadron Leader Pat Lawrence then gave a brief outline on how the Dacre Trophy came into being and introduced Mrs. Dacre. Mrs. Dacre congratulated the Squadron on winning the Trophy and said how courageous they were to enter for the award and how much more courageous they were to have won it. She then presented the Trophy to Wing Commander Alcock. After a further General Salute the ceremony ended.

Cars quickly took us to the Sergeants' Mess where we met some of the senior N.C.O.'s and their wives, who were more than interested to hear of Mrs. Dacre and St. Dunstan's. They were a grand crowd.

1200 hours saw us back at the Officers' Mess for a pre-lunch sherry. In his after lunch speech Wing Commander Alcock said how pleased and proud his Squadron were to have won the Dacre Trophy. He thanked all ranks for their efforts in achieving this prize and then presented Mrs. Dacre with a statuette of a Battle of Britain fighter pilot, complete in every detail and

colour, as a memento of her visit to RAF Coningsby. Replying Mrs. Dacre said how delighted she was to receive the gift and how much she had enjoyed her visit, during which she had been greatly impressed by the high standards of all personnel. She then unexpectedly presented to Wing Commander Alcock a beautiful pen and ink drawing of the Dacre Trophy. Now it was my turn to say a few words. I mentioned by name all our Chairmen and said what great work they had done, and were doing, and linked them with the achievements of 29(F) Squadron. I thanked them for inviting Hugh Elliott and myself as guests and for the splendid hospitality we had been given. I then presented to Wing Commander Alcock a St. Dunstan's plaque suitably inscribed, commemorating the visit of Bill Griffiths ten years ago and my visit of 1984.

Lunch over we were taken to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight set in another hangar. There we saw four Spitfires, two Hurricanes and one Lancaster bomber which still flies. What memories these aircraft brought back.

New type of Hangar

Our last tour of this famous station was to 29(F) Squadron itself. We were introduced to a new type of hangar called a "Harden Area" – more in the shape of a blister than the old fashioned hangar. These are areas where planes are kept, men can eat and sleep and man the Squadron under active service conditions. The name 'Harden' is used because of the thick reinforced concrete structures of which the areas are made. On entering one goes through a decontamination room into what is called a clean air space. Within these boundaries are facilities for sleeping, eating, equipment, briefing, engineering, intelligence, communications and all other modern needs of a fighter squadron. Suddenly we were asked to be quiet as a scramble was about to take place. Pilots and men ran towards one of the Phantom fighters, its engines started, the fighter was rolled out and within an incredible six minutes it was airborne on a training flight over the North Sea. What a fantastic sight and sound this plane made and what wonderful coordinated efficiency on the part of the men. During our tour we saw two pilots dressed in modern flying suits incorporating

oxygen masks and radio communication equipment. They said they still had more equipment to put on when they left us, looking like men from outer space.

Our visit over we said goodbye to the many friends we had made and were escorted to a Hawker Siddeley 125 seven-seater jet. The runway from which we took off had been used during the last war by both fighter and bomber squadrons. Hugh Elliott had flown from this station and other St. Dunstaners may have done the same. Thoughts of history and of the future were all mixed together as we sped quickly away from R.A.F. Coningsby back to Northolt – 150 miles in 30 minutes. Hugh's car had been parked ten yards away from where our jet landed and within minutes we were on our way home.

What a wonderful experience.

D. F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and that perhaps 1985 will give even better results than last year – plenty of sun in the summer. The way the rain has come down in autumn, the reservoirs should be more than full to cope with the use of hoses. I know that most of us rather detest frost and snow but they will give the whole garden a good start in the ground and clean off the insects, and maybe diseases, a bit. It is always said that snow, on melting, will go down well into the soil, to make things grow better in spring and summer. Many early spring flowers will be showing their worth, with some colour from the crocus, even when there is snow round about. It does make one feel that a start can be made with all the border work but I think that any further digging should be left till frosts have disappeared. Do get your mowers in for a service and sharpening of the blades.

Vegetables

If you haven't found time to dig over empty beds, try and get it done as soon as poss-

Gardening Notes — *continued*

ible, provided frosts have gone. Get some lime on the beds, particularly where you are to grow the cabbage family, as it does help to keep down club root. Sowing seed is a bit risky now even if you do have cloches. Those of you in the north would be better to leave sowing till next month. Broad beans and very early peas might be alright but wait for sunny days which have warmed up the soil.

Clear away any refuse and consign to the compost heap. Brussel sprouts and winter cabbage should be about over, so get these beds tidied up. Get all bean sticks, both runner and dwarf types, in hand, as well as hedge prunings for the peas. It seems a bit early to talk of these supports but better to have them in hand. Where you have frames in a nice sunny warm quarter, you can start off quite a number of seeds, such as most members of the cabbage family and lettuce, for pricking out in their permanent quarters later in spring.

Fruit

Try and get all pruning of apple and pear trees completed by the end of February as all leaves should have fallen by then. Damsons and plums should be left to the very end of February or even early March.

Dig over the surface of the soil round trees and get some compost or manure set round the roots in order to give them a good start to the season. Don't plant any new trees until spring but get positions ready by digging over well and adding some manure/compost so that new roots will have a good feed to start them off. New beds of strawberries can be set out towards the end of February.

Flowers

There is not a lot to be done in the borders now apart from forking over lightly and using the hoe, so that the soil can get air and sun in. This will also get positions ready for planting of perennials and annuals later on. It might also be a good idea to put a bit of manure/compost round the root area of shrubs and other perennials such as delphiniums, lupins, paeony, hydrangeas, etc. Roses will also need to be forked over round the roots and some manure added. Don't do any main pruning as yet, but broken shoots can be cut away. New bushes can be planted soon so have every-

thing ready for them when they arrive from the growers. Check them over and contact the growers if you are not satisfied, giving details of the faults.

Perennials of all kinds can be ordered now, for delivery in March or April, so have all the places ready for planting. If you wish to grow your own annuals from seed this year and have no greenhouse or frame, get a really warm area of the garden well forked over, raked and hoed to give a good fine tilth ready for seeds a bit later in the spring. Most good garden shops will have plenty of packets from which to choose, or send for a catalogue from one of the big seed merchants. Remember to get some fine plastic netting to place over the seeds when sowed, to deter birds.

Greenhouse

Try and keep temperature at a minimum and open windows on sunny days, but close fairly early in the afternoon so any heat generated by the sun can be retained for some hours. Naturally where you have any pot plants, cuttings and seedlings, keep your heater on all the time and increase a bit during frosty nights. It might be a good idea to put all the above items directly above the heat. During February you can sow most of the half hardy annuals, for setting out in their flowering positions some time in April or early May.

Where you have retained fuchsia and geranium plants from last year, set them in fresh pots and bring them into growth by watering. Place over the heat and soon new growth will take place. Some shoots can be taken as cuttings for new plants in case some earlier cuttings have gone down the drain. Begonia and dahlia tubers can be started in peat and well watered. Where there are many shoots emerging, cut away some from the main tuber in order to get more plants. Do dust cuttings and the main tuber with flowers of sulphur which will help to stop moulds taking over.

Where you have plenty of heat, gloxinias and achimenes can be started, but I think it might be as well to wait a bit longer — perhaps March or early April. Keep the whole place tidy and not too moist on the floor or benches, as mildew, moulds and insect pests of all kinds will start to make their presence felt, so get the smokes lighted regularly.

READING TIME by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 3520

The Devil's Alternative

By Frederick Forsyth

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 21½ hours

Due to a technical blunder during the treatment of seed with pesticide, it becomes obvious that the Soviet grain harvest will be a catastrophic failure. At an emergency meeting of the Politbureau it is proposed that the necessary grain and meat be taken by force from all over Europe in an all-out war. The voting is six for, six against. The sick and ageing Chairman Maxim Rudin, himself the centre of a bitter power struggle, casts his vote against the motion.

The US President offers the Russians grain and other short-supply goods on advantageous terms providing they are prepared to make arms concessions at a conference to be held in Dublin. They agree and the threat of war seems to have been lifted.

Then two members of a Ukrainian Nationalist group assassinate the much-feared leader of the KGB. The official version is that he has had a stroke and is seriously ill in hospital (he will later be allowed to 'die'.) It is imperative that the truth be kept secret because of loss of face and possible threat to internal security.

The assassins are arrested in West Berlin for killing the pilot of a hi-jacked aircraft, and the authorities refuse to hand over the men to the Russians.

Seven Ukrainians board a supertanker at anchor in the North Sea and take over the

ship at gun-point. They then lay explosive charges at vantage points in the vessel and issue their ultimatum: either the two assassins, both Jewish, be allowed to go to Israel or they will blow up the ship and release one million tons of crude oil into the North Sea. In Israel they would give a press conference and tell the world the truth about the KGB leader's death. The Russians are prepared to go to any lengths to prevent this happening. It is an impasse. There is only one alternative — the devil's alternative.

Full marks to Frederick Forsyth for this marvellously graphic block-buster.

Cat. No. 4436

Joyce

By Joyce Grenfell and Friends

Read by Brian Perkins

Reading Time 5½ hours

This is a tribute to the late and much loved Joyce Grenfell, with contributions from her husband, her editor, and friends, like Stephen Potter, Herbert Farjeon and many more. These are interspersed with glowing examples of her own particular brand of wit and wisdom, poems and sketches, some of them hitherto unpublished.

She was 'discovered' by Potter while she was radio critic on the *Observer*. He introduced her to Herbert Farjeon at a party and on the strength of one impromptu monologue he asked her to appear in his *Little Review*. From that moment her career never looked back.

This is a most pleasant book and a fitting tribute to 'Joyce' who gave so much pleasure to so many people.

AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT'S DIFFICULT TO BEAT

You'd do better than pick a fight with Mr. Peter Watson, of Brighton, who has just infiltrated the upper echelon of the Judo world. Mr. Watson, who lost his sight in a bomb explosion in Northern Ireland in 1977, already has a Black Belt in Judo and on December 2nd, he received his 1st Dan over and above the Black Belt at the National Grading Examination. The type of Judo he practises is called Kyushindo and

he was judged by a panel of three, of whom one is a 3rd Dan, one a 6th Dan and one a 9th Dan from France.

As it will take him two years to become a 2nd Dan Black Belter, he will be taking a St. John's Ambulance Course in the interim, which is a requirement before he can undertake the Judo Instructor's Course. We congratulate him on his outstanding achievement, and wish him all the best.

Pantomime at Ian Fraser House

Photos: John Barrow



Marnie Bennett, Hughie Gallagher, Ron Thurston, Peter Wiltshire pulling crackers.

At the ball, ugly sisters, Jock Carnochan and Trevor Smithson dance a not so light fantastic!



Jock Carnochan presides over a 'Pass the Lady' game — the lady is Julie Barlow.



Some of the pantomime cast take a photo-call: Marión Beech, Sheila Morris, Mary Frith, Trevor Smithson, Marnie Bennett, Simon Conway, Jock Carnochan and Jackie Hazeldine.

'Eastern Promise' portrayed by Trevor Smithson, Olwen Jenkins, Mary Frith and Arthur Neve.



Christmas Concert at Pearson House *Photos: David Castleton*



Members of Staff and St. Dunstaners entertained at Pearson House in their Christmas show. Harry Boorman, Bill Jack and Jim O'Donnell were the St. Dunstaners while the staff members in programme order, were: Ted Furey, Zena Stewart, Mary Morris, Frank Parker-Brown, Ron Carr, Ken Martin, Melody Timouri, Frank Starling, Penny Goodwin, Andy Winter and Simon Conway. Their pianist was Beattie Wright. Our photos show: (Top far left) Melody Timouri talks about going to the dentist. (Bottom far left) Mary Morris sings 'The Way We Were'. (Top mid-left) Sir Henry Leach finds himself on stage with Andy Winter for 'A Bit of Fun'. (Bottom mid-left) Ron Carr in 'A Wee Drop of Scotch'. (Above) The Company. (Left) Jim O'Donnell sings 'O Lord, it's Hard to be Humble'.

Long Cane up the Khyber

by Don Westaway

Don Westaway joined St. Dunstan's in 1963. He worked for many years as National Public Relations Officer for the Royal Guide Dog Association in Australia, and is currently a Blind Services Consultant in Bangalore, India.

After 20 years of experience under a wide variety of conditions, I am convinced the basic principles of Orientation and Mobility are as applicable to conditions in India, as they are to conditions in the United States where they were developed. The nylon overfit tip of my long cane has glided over the rocks of the Khyber Pass under a blistering sun, to the smooth marble floors of the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo, through the Taj Mahal, and up and down the misshapen staircases in many a temple and I have almost forgotten how easy it was to move about in places like New York, London and Melbourne.

How to move about without sight in India can at first, look rather daunting to a Westerner. Gradually, as one studies it more and more closely, the environment takes on an appearance of order where there appeared to be none. Certainly there is a marked contrast between conditions in most parts of India and those of highly sophisticated cities in more developed countries.

Most of the people in India move about on foot, even so, the buses are crowded and there is always congested vehicular traffic. The movement of cars, trucks and other modern vehicles is often hampered by the thousands of cyclists, and the many carts drawn by either oxen, horses and humans. Eighty per cent of the Indian population live in villages, and in the villages it is usual to find all the roads are unmade mud



roads where cars, trucks, pedestrians and animals all share the same carriageway. With regard to pavements or sidewalks or footpaths, they exist in some places, but they are often used for everything except walking. Hawkers set up little stalls along every one of them or crowd into doorways, and animals too often choose to lie down and rest away from the traffic lanes. In, around, and through that environment, thousands of blind people go about their daily round of events in some sort of a fashion. Many of them, with years of practice do it very well while others do it less well or don't attempt it. Most of the blind people who move about in the community are men. Indian women seldom move about alone in public places, and Indian women who are blind almost never do.

There are at least nine million blind people in India according to conservative estimates, accepted by workers in the field, which means that although the percentage of blind people who move about in the community is quite small, numerically it amounts to a lot of individuals who could benefit from formal mobility training.

That is how I saw the scene 15 or so years back when I became interested in the idea of Orientation and Mobility services being expanded here. I say expanded, because for several years before that, efforts had been made to introduce the service and a training course for O&M Instructors was

already established at New Delhi, in the North of the country. It was originally set up at Dehra Dun, with the intention of one such training centre being sufficient to meet the national demand for trained instructors. For some reason, Orientation and Mobility had not 'taken off' as one might expect in a country where there is such a large blind population, many of whom move around in a very difficult environment. The safety offered by formal training and the use of a long cane did not attract large numbers of applicants for training in those early times. Even today, blind people are not flocking to the doors of centres where good quality programmes are being offered free of cost.

In Australia, where O&M techniques had been introduced in the early 70's when two experts from the USA came to Melbourne to set up a Training Course for Orientation and Mobility Instructors, it was necessary to modify some of the American techniques to suit local conditions. Similarly, in India today, the principles of O&M have been retained with some modifications where necessary, e.g. I have heard about one modification which allowed the blind traveller to protect the load he was carrying on his head. Instead of the usual length cane, a piece of bamboo which reached vertically from the ground to the top of the load on his head, was preferred. The right arm was fully extended at shoulder height.

With the hand acting as a pivot, the cane tip is dug into the soft mud on the left side and then on the right side in order to give protection and assist stability while walking on the raised mound between rice and paddy fields.

During the early 70's I made several trips to India and gradually the feasibility of India and Australia making some joint efforts to improve Orientation and Mobility services, became apparent. The first practical project took place in the middle 70's when a team of six Australians came to India to hold a workshop of one month's duration for 20 persons. Every effort was made to avoid the one month course being mistaken for a shortened O&M course which would entitle those who took part to teach mobility skills to blind people. The title for the course was given as 'An Introduction to Mobility' but despite the best efforts, some people did go on to teach mobility on the strength of that brief training course.

Other visits and experimental programmes followed and eventually towards the end of the 70's, the National Association for the Blind of India agreed to develop a Centre which specialised in Orientation and Mobility providing financial and technical assistance was forthcoming from Australia.

Agencies for the Blind in Australia declined to take up the international ven-

Increasing awareness of blind rehabilitation in rural India.



Long Cane up the Khyber — continued

ture even though the Australian Council of Churches offered, and did, raise the money to pay all expenses to be incurred in operating the first of such centres for a period of three years.

After discontinuing my paid job with an Agency for the blind in Australia, I decided to participate as a volunteer in India, helping to develop the first Mobility Training Centre, in Bangalore, South India. The doors opened for business on July 14th, 1982 with two O&M Instructors on the staff. Both of these Instructors had been trained at the course in Delhi. One of them with five years experience, was appointed Senior Mobility Officer and was made responsible for all the professional services being provided at the Centre. In the long term it was planned to have at least ten O&M Officers on the staff of the Centre, and it became apparent they would have to be recruited and trained locally, in order to have staff who spoke the local language, Kannada. The first course for a batch of eight trainee O&M Officers commenced in November 1982 and ran for a period of four months. Assuming this Centre remains operational, there is, I believe scope for similar centres in other parts of India, especially in the North and also in Pakistan.

With regard to mobility programmes for blind persons, probably the most significant modifications to the training methods practised in other countries, have been the introduction of a six week closed end syllabus, and the O&M Officer working with a batch of four clients as a group, even out in the general environment. Individual tuition is given for parts of the O&M programme, including such places as street intersections with and without lights, and boarding transport. At such times the other three members of the group will be practising some aspect of their technique under safe conditions, but not necessarily under supervision.

The long canes being used in our programme are made in Bombay and are fine for the job for which they are designed. Made of aluminium, with nylon overfit tips, a rubber grip with a flat side, no crook and costing Rs.30/- (£2.30), they do not vary much from canes produced elsewhere; perhaps a little heavier. All over the country people are still trying to design and make the perfect cane, but personally I feel the

range of canes available locally are quite suitable, but the training to use them is the area which offers scope for improvement.

Following the completion of our term as Honorary Consultants to the National Association for the Blind, Mobility Training Centre Project, my wife and I accepted two invitations to assist in other projects in the same city of Bangalore where we had been working. One is with a newly built eye hospital which will be operated by a Lions Club through a Trust. The other is with a school for blind children, which after 25 years of work has decided to remodel its entire programme. Both of these projects are to be based on Orientation and Mobility as a vital part of the service provided to clients. My wife, Jane, is an Occupational Therapist with a Diploma in O&M and we will also have with us six of the O&M Officers trained in the earlier project.

The amount of work to be done in these two projects is enormous and the challenges many . . . nevertheless our team is looking forward to assisting those who have taken up the challenge of running the projects to benefit blind people. Both of the projects mentioned, can be assured of our team's best efforts. Later we can report on the progress being made.

WOODCARVING EXHIBITION WELCOMES BLIND VISITORS

A travelling exhibition of woodcarving by an eminent, sighted craftsman, David Pye, is open to the public at the Crafts Council Gallery in Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London.

The exhibition consists of sculpture, turned boxes and carved bowls and dishes. For blind visitors there are thirteen bowls and dishes on open display which may be picked up and examined by touch. They include one rough blank, an interesting double bowl and single and double handled bowls. Other exhibits are in perspex cases and not available to blind people but there is a cassette recorded by Sue McGregor, of 'Woman's Hour' and Kirsten Hearn, a blind sculptor, which gives a commentary on the exhibits and the techniques used by David Pye.

His bowls are particularly interesting actually because, on the inside they are fluted in various designs using a device he invented for the purpose. It involves a



David Pye carving flutes with the device he invented. Photo: David Cripps.

gouge in the form of a pivoted lever mounted over the workpiece which is itself placed on a turntable. Pulling the lever towards himself, David scoops out a flute from the centre to the edge of the wood. Rotating the turntable a degree or so and repeating the process cuts another flute overlapping the first.

David Pye says, 'A fluted surface is possibly an advantage in a fruit bowl because it allows the air to get at the underside of the fruit, like an apple rack. It is not surprising that no one else has been eager to adopt the fluting technique, perhaps, for although it is quite a good way of making bowls, it is rather a poor way of making money, being far slower than turning in a powered lathe, and it is hard work'.

His exhibits prove that his hard work is well worthwhile and blind visitors will surely enjoy handling the shapes and feeling the textures carved in, mostly, home grown timber from southern parts of England: fruit woods like cherry, walnut and the wild service tree.

The exhibition closes in London on February 3rd and then tours the following towns:

BRADFORD

23.3.85-21.4.85
Cartwright Hall

BOSTON, LINCS

27.4.85-26.5.85
Blackfriars Art Centre

CHICHESTER

1.6.85-29.6.85
Pallant House

BATH

6.7.85-4.8.85
Crafts Study Centre

GATESHEAD

28.9.85-27.10.85
Shingley Art Gallery

LIVERPOOL

2.11.85-8.12.85
Merseyside County Museum

BEDFORD

14.12.85-18.1.86
Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Museum



Photo: Watford Observer.

A VERY GENEROUS AND DEDICATED LADY

Mrs. Dora Penstone, of Croxley Green, Herts, worked at St. Dunstan's for 22 years, and when she left in 1968, she didn't intend to stop there. Although she has been blind since the age of nine, it seems this has in no way deterred her energy and determination. Mrs. Penstone, aged 76, is now the local voluntary representative of the Shaftesbury Society, which deals with physically and mentally handicapped children, and says her life is busier than ever.

She has been organising their annual Christmas bazaar for five years now, and this year raised more than the £500 target. The Director of the Society, Mr. Gordon Holloway, praised her efforts, saying: 'She does a tremendous amount of work and it is wonderful to see her raise this much for the Society.' Mr. John Timpson, author of the book 'The Lighter Side of Today', came to autograph his book, which helped draw in the crowds, and donated £1 from each book to the charity.

'And the following Sunday,' says Mrs. Penstone, 'we had a Toy Service in the Baptist Church. The Shaftesbury Society distributes the toys to the hospitals and poor children of London. We sent up something in the region of 800 toys.' Thanks to Mrs. Penstone, a lot more children will have had a happy Christmas . . .

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.

Cecil R. Lewis, of South Croydon, joined St. Dunstan's on December 5th.

Mr. Lewis enlisted in 1917 in the First London Civil Service Rifles and was the victim of a mustard gas attack in France in 1918. He is 85 years of age and is married with three children.

James McDonald, of Leicester, who joined St. Dunstan's on November 7th.

Mr. McDonald served in the Royal Air Force from December 1940 until August 1945.

He is married and his wife's name is Mabel.

LAST POSTAL CODE SUGGESTION

When One Asks Four Ex Buddies
Mrs. L. Jones, Cape Town, South Africa

New Bar at Ian Fraser House

Mrs. Phil Conway pulls the first pint in Ian Fraser House's new bar for St. Dunstaner, Fred Livermore. A feature of the bar decor will be plaques of regimental badges and it is hoped that St. Dunstaners will be prepared to donate plaques of their own regimental badges for the bar.



Long serving staff members retire

Mr. Bill Weisblatt making presentations on behalf of their colleagues to Pat Saunders and Denis Neale. Pat Saunders first joined St. Dunstan's in 1941, straight from school. Denis Neale has been with St. Dunstan's for 24 years.

Portrait of the Brailist for H.Q.

Paul and Thelma Francia with Sir Henry Leach when they formally handed over this portrait of Paul as 'The Brailist' painted by Thelma under her professional name, Thelma Charley. The picture is hung in the Entrance Foyer at Headquarters.



CASSETTE LIBRARY LIST

Any of the following tapes may be obtained by sending the appropriate number of blank cassettes to the PR Department. Please state clearly, the reference number of the library tape required.

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|---------------|--|---------------|--|
| SD 1. C60. | Visit by HRH Duchess of Kent to IFH. | SD 32. 4×C90. | Gardener Magazines January to October, 1984. |
| SD 2. C60. | Lord and Lady Fraser's Memorial Services. | SD 33. C90. | Gas Board recipe hints. |
| SD 3. C60. | St. Dunstan's dance band, 1927. | SD 34. C90. | Nat. Tape Magazine feature on IFH. |
| SD 4. C60. | Lord Fraser; 'Wireless for Blind' appeal, 'In Town Tonight', 1952. | SD 35. C90. | 75 years of army songs: Harry Wheeler, Bill Harris, Peter Spencer. |
| SD 5. C90. | Track 1: KRM press conference. Track 2: KRM extracts from radio and TV. | SD 36. 2×C90. | J. Man on Eminent electronic organ. |
| SD 6. C90. | Track 1: Sound track 'To Live Again'. Track 2: Sound track 'Ability is where you look for it'. | SD 37. C90. | M. Leary on Dr. Bohm organ. |
| SD 7. C90. | BBC 2: 'History of Medals', General Sir J. Hackett. | G 1. C60. | P. Jones - DIY hints. |
| SD 8. C90. | Track 1: J. Wright, BAFTA award; Radio 4: 'Profile'. Track 2: Radio 4: E. Knight, 'Death of the Hood'. | G 2. C90. | R. Smith - ultra sounds, bats and whales. |
| SD 9 C60. | Track 1: D Day recordings. Track 2: Film on sailing, J. Wright. | G 3. C90. | R. Smith - trip to Outer Hebrides. |
| SD 10. C90. | Radio Brighton at IFH. | G 4. C90. | R. Dufton on research, and TSI open day, 1978. |
| SD 11. C90. | Gardener's Year. Extracts from <i>Review</i> . | G 5. C90. | BBC 2 - 'Gardener's World'. |
| SD 12. C90. | FEPOW Forum - extracts. | G 6. C90. | R. Smith - trip to Shetlands. |
| SD 13. | Electronic Organ course. Part 1 - 6×C90; part 2 - 7×C90; part 3 - 7×C90. | G 7. C60. | Acol bridge system. |
| SD 15. C90. | D. Reeves - Musical talk and demo. | G 8. C90. | Track 1: Machines that talk. Track 2: Machines with ears. |
| SD 16. C90. | T. Back - talk and demo on Yamaha organ. | G 10. C90. | Black box in flight recorder. |
| SD 17. C90. | T. Back in concert. | G 11. C90. | Track 1: Guide to Windsor Castle. Track 2: Introduction to RAF Uxbridge wartime operations HQ. |
| SD 18. C90. | M. Leary on Wersi organ. | G 12. C90. | BBC Micro computer, with speech: keyboard, demo, intro to programming. |
| SD 19. C90. | B. Pagan - musical talk and demo. | G 13. C60. | Lake Isle relaxation tape. |
| SD 21. C60. | In Touch, January 1983. | G 14. 2×C60. | 'Bird's eye view of New Zealand'. Four programmes recorded from NZ TV. |
| SD 22. 4×C90. | 'To Revel in God's Sunshine', story of RSM Lord. | G 15. 3×C90. | Philips 'Guide to Business Computing and the Electronic Office', (abridged). |
| SD 23. C90. | S. Jack reads poems by John Masefield. | G 16. 4×C90. | 'Basic, basic; an intro to programming', (abridged). |
| SD 24. C90. | Radio 4: Two programmes on FEPOW's. | G 18. 2×C90. | 'Spanish grammar revision and verb tables. |
| SD 26A. C90. | Savoury recipes. | G 19. 4×C90. | 'The Beginners' Computer Handbook'. |
| SD 26B. C90. | Sweet recipes. | G 20. C90. | 'Using the Computer', by N. Ardley. |
| SD 29. 2×C90. | G. Watkins - talk and concert on Wersi organ. | G 21. C90. | Votrax speech synthesizer appraisal. |
| SD 30. 2×C90. | M. Leary - talk and concert on Wersi organ. | G 22. C90. | ESSO, story of oil. |
| SD 31. C90. | T. Back on Elke Organ. | G 23. C90. | Guide to Leeds Castle. |
| | | G 24. 2×C90. | Guide to Canterbury Cathedral. |

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|---------------|---|--------------|--|
| G 25. C90. | BBC Computer Keyboard (description). | R 36. C90. | Ragchew No. 9, October 1981. |
| G 26. C60. | Editing Program instructions for BBC Micro. | R 37. C90. | Auditory aids - G. Day. |
| I 1. C90. | Instructions - Fidelity Chess Challenger. | R 40. C90. | Ragchew No. 10, June 1982. |
| I 2. C90. | Instructions - Sharp Talking Clock. | R 41. C90. | Speakers at March 1982 AGM - R. and J. Ham, E. Howard. |
| I 3. C60. | Instructions - Sharp EL620 Talking Calculator. | R 43. C90. | Technical Innovations Bulletin (TIB), brochure. |
| I 4. C60. | Instructions - Cassio VL1 tuner. | R 44. C90. | Ragchew No. 11, August 1982. |
| I 5. C90. | Metalcraft Manual (wrought-iron patterns). | R 45. C90. | TIB, January 1982. |
| I 6. 2×C90. | APH Vari speed 2 recorder manual. | R 46. C90. | TIB, April 1982. |
| I 7. 2×C90. | Instructions - Sharp EL640 Talking Clock / Calculator / Calendar. | R 47. 2×C90. | Instruction manual - Trio 130S. |
| I 8. C60. | Monarch 120 switchboard; description and brief instructions. | R 48. C90. | Ragchew No. 12, December 1982. |
| I 9. C60. | Elke electronic organ manual. | R 49. C90. | TIB, July 1982. |
| R 1. C90. | New RAE format - R. Canning. | R 54. C90. | TIB, October 1982. |
| R 2. C90. | Interference - J. Hoolahan. | R 55. C90. | Ragchew No. 13, May 1983. |
| R 3. C90. | Repeaters and 70 cms. | R 56. C90. | Ragchew No. 14, August 1983. |
| R 4. C90. | New licence regulations. | R 57. C90. | TIB, January 1983. |
| R 5. C90. | Morse code, slow time. | R 58. C90. | TIB, April 1983. |
| R 6. C90. | Morse code, quicker time. | R 59. C90. | TIB, July 1983. |
| R 7. C90. | Satellites - R. Ham. | R 60. C90. | TIB catalogue for spring 1983. |
| R 8. C90. | G5RV antenna. | R 62. C90. | Ragchew No. 15, October 1983. |
| R 9. C90. | Experiences with the BBC - F. Hennig. | R 64. C90. | TIB, October 1983. |
| R 10. C90. | Radio teletype. | R 65. C90. | TIB, December 1983. |
| R 11. C90. | 'Worked all Britain' award. | R 67. C90. | Ragchew No. 16, March 1984. |
| R 12. 2×C90. | RAE revision notes. | R 68. C90. | Ragchew No. 17, October 1984. |
| R 13. C90. | Experiences in South America - L. Varney. | | |
| R 14. C90. | Microwaves. | | |
| R 15. C90. | Ragchew No. 1, November 1978. | | |
| R 16. C90. | Ragchew No. 2, May 1979. | | |
| R 17. C90. | NE555 - i/c timer. | | |
| R 18. C90. | Wiring by touch - P. Jones. | | |
| R 19. C90. | RAE question papers for May 1979. | | |
| R 20. C90. | Telecommunications. | | |
| R 21. C90. | Ragchew No. 3, August 1979. | | |
| R 22. C90. | Talk on HM Coastguard. | | |
| R 23. C90. | Ragchew No. 4, November 1979. | | |
| R 24. C90. | Life with BBC - H. Hatch. | | |
| R 25. 4×C90. | 'So you want to pass the RAE?' from Practical Wireless. | | |
| R 26. C90. | Ragchew No. 5, February 1980. | | |
| R 27. C90. | Ragchew No. 6. | | |
| R 28. 12×C90. | 'Guide to amateur radio'. | | |
| R 29. C90. | Various appendices to above. | | |
| R 30. C90. | Ragchew No. 7. | | |
| R 31. C90. | RAE question papers for December 1980. | | |
| R 32. C90. | Ragchew No. 8, April 1981. | | |
| R 33. C90. | Talk by President RSGB, July 1981. | | |
| R 34. 4×C90. | RAE Manual. | | |
| R 35. C90. | 'Becoming a Radio Amateur', RSGB publication. | | |

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

1985 Review copy deadlines for any material you wish to submit, are as follows:

<i>Review</i>	<i>Copy in by</i>
March	7th February
April	7th March
May	3rd April
June	8th May
July	6th June
August	4th July
October	5th September
November	10th October
December	7th November

GAME FOR A LAUGH

Why is the new £1 piece known as a Maggie Thatcher?
- Because it's brassy and likes to think of itself as a sovereign . . .

Bob Fullard



John Whitcombe and Bert Ward in play during the Congress.

BRIDGE CONGRESS, IAN FRASER HOUSE

November 23rd-26th, 1984

Our annual Bridge Congress took place on the weekend of November 23rd-26th, 1984. We were very pleased indeed to see our tournament director and his dear wife, Geoff Connell and Enid, also another director, Roland Bolton. As in previous years they ran the tournament very efficiently and we are more than pleased with all the help they give us. Thank you Geoff, Enid and Roland.

This year all the cups were literally bid for. Our individual cup went to our lady bridge player, Vi Delaney – nobody can keep her down. Congratulations Vi – you are the greatest. Our congratulations also go to all the other cup winners.

On Friday evening, November 23rd, we had our A.G.M. in the annexe. The committee for the past year were all re-elected on block. Your captain of course, is still Bill Phillips with his previous committee. I would like to thank all the committee for their good work over the past year.

We only had one beginner in the Begin-

ner's Weekend, Joe Walton. According to Enid's reports, he is a budding bridge player of great future. With a little more application and concentration from Joe and a great deal of patience shown by St. Dunstaners when giving him a game of bridge, I think some of you chaps had better watch out next year in the competition.

I would like to thank Commander Conway, Major Neve and all the staff of Ian Fraser House for all the kindness and understanding given to us over the weekend. I would also like to thank all the markers, without them I am afraid we could not exist. We are full of appreciation for everything that they did for us.

I must also mention on behalf of our committee that the three way tournament is to be held on May 4th and 5th, 1985 at Ian Fraser House. This will be between the London team, Brighton team and the provinces. All St. Dunstaners wishing to take part should contact HQ for their bookings emphasising that they intend to come

down specifically to take part in this tournament.

Another thank you to Maurice Douse for running the Bridge Drive on Monday November 26th. Maurice has done a great deal of work on our behalf.

Mrs. Conway kindly presented the cups to the winning St. Dunstaners. The results of the Bridge Congress matches are as follows:

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Pairs Championship – November 23rd

- 1st Bill Allen & Ron Freer
- 2nd Harry Meleson & Jim Padley
- 3rd Joe Huk & George Hudson

Paul Nuyens Memorial Trophy Teams of Four

- 1st Bill Allen, Ron Freer, Harry Meleson, Jim Padley
- 2nd Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Joe Carney, Peter McCormack

Alf Field Memorial Cup Datum Pairs – November 24th

- 1st Bob Fullard & Mike Tybinski
- 2nd Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge
- 3rd Joe Huk & George Hudson

Lord Fraser Cup Individual Championship

- 1st Vi Delaney
- 2nd Bill Phillips
- 3rd Bill Miller
- 4th Alf Dodgson

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Teams of Four – November 25th

- 1st Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Bill Miller, Peter Surrudge
- 2nd Joe Carney, Peter McCormack, John Whitcombe, Freddie Dicker-son

Drummer Downs – E/W Con.

- 1st Bill Allen & Bill Miller
- 2nd Vi Delaney & Joe Huk
- Bob Fullard & Jim Padley

Gover Cup – Brighton

- 1st Bob Fullard
- 2nd Bob Evans
- 3rd Joe Majchrowicz
- 4th Jim Padley

Gover Cup – London

- 1st Bob Fullard
- 2nd Bob Evans

- 3rd Bill Miller
- 4th Harry Meleson
- 5th Bill Allen

We would like to wish all St. Dunstan's bridge players a happy New Year for 1985 and may you all have plenty of two club opening hands.

Bill Allen

GROUP ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS FOR BLIND PEOPLE 1985

Following its introduction in 1984 we are pleased to announce the continuation of the scheme for assisting in the provision of one week activity holidays for groups of visually handicapped people at the Sealyham Mansions Activity Centre, near Haverfordwest, South West Wales, during 1985. The weeks presently available are those beginning (Sunday) 7th April, 5th May, 4th August (already fully booked), 25th August, 1st September, 8th September, 15th September, 22nd September, 29th September. (Each week runs from Sunday p.m. to Friday p.m.).

Activities organised at the Centre include Rock-climbing, Orienteering, Canoeing, Pony-trekking, and others to meet the needs of particular groups, depending on the availability of facilities. All activities are carried out under the supervision and tuition of qualified and/or experienced Instructors and the Centre is well equipped with the necessary safety equipment and wet weather clothing.

The all-inclusive (full-board and instruction) RNIB subsidised cost for one week will be £80 per head and initial bookings must be placed through the RNIB for parties of up to 24 persons in any multiples of six, at least 50% of whom must be visually handicapped. Alternative separate, self-catering accommodation is available for weeks other than the above, if booked early enough, at a comparable cost.

Groups are responsible for their own transport to and from the Centre and if this is by rail, they will be met at Haverfordwest BR station.

For further details about the Centre and a booking form, contact the Sports and Recreational Officer, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA, telephone 01-388 1266, as soon as possible.

GOLD STARS FOR REG PAGE

Reg Page, whose dancing achievements have previously been recorded in the *Review* has qualified for more top awards. In ballroom dancing he has obtained the Double Gold Star with Honours. His marks for the five dances in this section were all in excess of 80. His highest mark was 90 for Rhythm, which earned the judge's comment 'Very expressive.' His Quickstep earned 88 marks and his Waltz 87 – and another comment: 'Style is very good indeed.'

In Latin-American he was awarded the Single Gold Star and commended. We congratulate him and wish him luck in his ambition to achieve the Supreme Award.

A VERY SPRIGHTLY YOUNG RUNNER

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bilcliff, of Hardwicke, near Gloucester, are two very proud grandparents. And it's very understandable. Their young grand-daughter, Joanne Bilcliff, aged 12, is what you'd call a rather extraordinary young runner. She was born with a hole in the heart, but since she started her running career nearly two years

ago, she hasn't looked back, winning medals and trophies for her school and county at a very speedy rate.

In 1983 she won a place in the Staffordshire County team and this was followed by several silver and bronze medals, achieving her own first gold medal in the West Midlands Cross Country League. She was subsequently elected 1st reserve (Under 15) for all English Schools and ran in the England Nationals at Knebworth, finishing 104th out of 700. She also broke several school records during the 1983 track season. All this time, aged 11, she has been competing in the Under 13 age group, so now she will have another year to further prove her ability as a runner.

More recently, she won another gold medal for the Cannock Club and on the 1st December 1984 ran at Sheffield for her school, coming 7th out of 155! She will be running regularly almost every weekend in 1985. Her family, not to mention her county, are very surprised and pleased. In January 1984 she was interviewed with her mother on Midlands News (Central) and has featured in her local newspaper as well. May we join the ranks of supporters in wishing her lots of luck in the future.

CLUB NEWS

BOWLING ROUND UP 1984

Another very busy and successful year of bowling for our St. Dunstan's bowlers culminated with the St. Dunstan's Indoor Championships, as always very keenly contested.

Our bowlers were again very well represented in all the national tournaments, i.e. Weston Super Mare, Torquay, Home International Oxford, T.B. Triumph Invitation at Worthing, Hastings and Lowestoft. Once again St. Dunstan's claimed a high success rate in both categories, T.B. and P.S. Proof of this being the selection of four of our members to represent England in the World Bowling Championships in Australia during August and September of 1985: T.B. first string, Percy Stubbs, with Johnny Cope as reserve, and Ted Brown as first string P.S., with Ron Freer reserve. May we congratulate them all for their hard work

and dedication which obviously points to the reason for their selection.

But to me, our own three domestic competitions, Handicap, Outdoor Tournament and Indoor Championships are always more important as they give bowlers who are not quite in the top class an opportunity to knock the big boys off their pedestals. Of equal importance, it allows players like Geoff Bunting (wheelchair) and Alan Mitchell (M.S.), the opportunity to compete (not always possible on outside greens) with the support of a more physically able bowler, as in pairs. Triples do come in the running for prizes as you will see in the prize list. This re-inforces Jimmy Wright's film, 'Ability is where you look for it', so may we also congratulate Geoff and Alan on their efforts in spite of their additional disabilities.



St Dunstan's representatives in the England International Bowls team to visit Australia in 1985: (L-R) Ron Freer (reserve), Ted Brown, Kate Stubbs (sighted helper), Percy Stubbs and Johnny Cope (reserve).

The 1985 season starts on March 25th with the Indoor Handicap so we wish all our bowlers a very successful year of bowling in 1985.

J. Carnochan

APOLOGY

The committee of the St. Dunstan's National Bowling Club wishes to apologise for the error which occurred at the prize presentation at Ian Fraser House on Friday November 16th 1984, when the Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl was wrongly presented.

It was the unanimous decision of the committee that this trophy should have been presented to Johnny Cope, as the most successful bowler in his category during 1984.

We deeply regret the error, and hope he will accept this sincere apology on behalf of all bowlers of the National Bowling Club.

Indoor Championships 1984 Prize List

Triples
T.B. Sir Douglas Morris Shield
Winners: J. Cope, H. Preedy & W. Burnett
Runners-up: E. Richards, J. Morrish & A. Walters

P.S. Percy Acton Shield

Winners: E. Brown, M. Golding & C. Lloyd
Runners-up: W. Davies, R. Forshaw & J. Forbes-Stewart

Pairs

T.B. Paul Lightfoot S.A.S. Cup

Winners: W. Burnett & H. Preedy
Runners-up: A. Dodgson & P. Stubbs
Third: A. Miller & E. Richards
J. Morrish & J. Pryor

P.S. Wilf Knight Cup

Winners: W. Davies & E. Brown
Runners-up: M. Golding & J. Forbes-Stewart
Third: R. Freer & C. Lloyd
G. Bunting & P. Surridge

Singles

T.B. A. D. Lloyds Cup

Winner: P. Stubbs
Runner-up: J. Pryor
Third: R. Freer

P.S. Garnett-Orme Cup

Winner: R. Freer
Runner-up: P. Surridge
Third: E. Brown

Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl

Presented to bowler of the year: J. Cope.

NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB REPORT, 1984

To begin my report this year, I would like to start, on behalf of the Club, by offering our condolences to the family of Dougie Upcott, on his sad death earlier this year. Though a rather recent member, the Squadron Leader did enjoy his bridge, and will be sadly missed by all members.

It has come to my notice that unfortunately it is very likely that we shall not be visited by Nora Field in the future. Family commitments make it necessary for her to be at home at all times. Your committee has decided to make a presentation to Nora in recognition of the wonderful service she has afforded us so unstintingly over many years. Thank you Nora, and our fondest wishes for the future.

To return to bridge matters. Brighton entered two teams of four in the Sussex League, captained by Ralph Pacitti, and finished runners-up. London entered one team and I was informed by a member of that team that they bravely avoided relegation.

The Brighton Club will be entering a team of eight in the Sussex League this winter under the chairmanship of Maurice Douse. The thanks of all Brighton members must be extended to Maurice on taking over the running of the Brighton Section. He has done a wonderful job and his efforts have been greatly appreciated. Thank you Maurice.

The Club's annual trip to Harrogate was again a great success. Thanks must go to our three helpers under the guidance of Ian Dickson. Cedric Cockcroft, who partnered myself for most of the week, performed his usual great organisational job. My personal thanks to him for his partnership.

In the three-way competition, congratulations go to the Brighton Team. Next year's competition will be held on May 3rd and 4th at Ian Fraser House. It is hoped and presumed that Ian Fraser House will be completed by this date, so members wishing to bring their wives will be accommodated together in the building. When booking at headquarters, please indicate that you are playing bridge in the three-way competition.

In conclusion I would take this opportunity to express my thanks to the committee and all members for their support during the past year.
Bill Phillips, Captain

Dear All with thanks from Nora Fields

How can I thank you for your generous gifts which I shall treasure always as memories of so many happy times I spent among you all.

I have always regarded it as a privilege to be in some small way connected with you, and the work Alf started all those years ago. I shall follow your activities with interest, and wish each and every one of you success in the future. With a special greeting to your wives with whom I found support and friendship always.

Thank you for everything.

BRIGHTON Bridge

Bridge Drive – November 26th

Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	3100
Bob Fullard & Mrs. MacPherson	3020
Wally Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	2650
Jim Padley & Mrs. Padley	1940

Christmas Bridge Drive – December 7th

Bill Burnett & Mrs. Andrews	2250
Ralph Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	1360
Bob Evans & Mrs. Barker	1110
Jim Padley & Mrs. Padley	600

Entertainment Section

At our Annual Dinner and Dance at Butlins, Saltdean, on November 8th, our guests included His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton, Sir Henry and Lady Leach, Mr. Roderick Rogers, Miss Susan Barnes, Mrs. Dacre, Commander and Mrs. Conway and Major Neve. It was a very happy evening with short speeches from the Mayor, the Chairman and Bob Osborne.

After a good meal we danced to the band of Ernie Took – Dr. John looked in good form. All too soon came the raffle draw, Lady Leach kindly helped Bob Cunningham with this, Ettie Simpson and Billy Burnett were winners of holidays presented by Butlins. At the end of a happy occasion Major Neve accompanied the men and wives home, transport kindly provided by Commander Conway, many thanks.

December 8th was the evening of the Christmas dance held in the annexe. Commander Conway and Bob Cunningham met our visitors, Air Vice-Marshal Colahan and his wife, Wing Commander Bolt and his wife, also Mrs. Dacre, and escorted them to the annexe, where they met Bob and Joan

Osborne. The prizes for fishing and indoor competitions were presented by Air Vice-Marshal Colahan, Mrs. Colahan handed out the raffle prizes after we had enjoyed a superb buffet. Thanks again to Commander Conway, also, for the transport provided for the men and their wives.

December 19th was the date for our Christmas party. 50 people were expected, and with thanks to Mrs. Dacre, Miss Henning and some of the wives, we all enjoyed a very tasty meal. Everyone present received a gift. Our thanks to Joan Osborne for all the hard work arranging it. We send our best wishes for peace and good health in 1985 to all St. Dunstaners.

Phyllis O'Kelly

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Nicholas Mitchell, son of Mrs. M. Mitchell and the late *Mr. A. Mitchell*, of Guildford, who has passed his finals and is now a State Registered Nurse.

Mrs. June Shepherd, wife of *'Jimmy' Shepherd*, of Pangbourne, on her tremendous success as organiser of the poppy day collection for the Pangbourne & District Branch of the Royal British Legion – over £2,000 was collected!

Mr. M. Tybinski, of Ipswich, on becoming a Bridge Master Player. He scored 5249 points in the championship tournaments.

Emma Warren, daughter of *Mr. A. C. Warren*, of Pearson House, and Mrs. Warren, on recently being awarded her Junior Diving Badge, stages I and II.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Andrew, eldest son of *Mr. and Mrs. F. Hamilton*, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on his marriage to Jane Mason, of Sandbach, on October 20th.

Ryan Price, eldest grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. V. Dale*, of Worthing, on his marriage to Helen Mary Gomme on December 15th at Storrington Methodist Church.

Bridget, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. G. J. SALTERS*, of Liverpool, on her marriage to John Munro on December 15th.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. B. Munday, of Norwich, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on November 21st.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Brereton, of East Molesey, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Faulkner, of Sutton Coldfield, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Lipscombe, of Exeter, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 23rd.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Robinson, of Enfield, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 24th.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. A. Grimshaw, of Gillingham, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on December 25th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. J.W. Barkby, of Houghton-on-the-Hill, who is pleased to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Alexandra Elizabeth, the first child born to his son, John, and daughter-in-law, Christine, on August 8th.

Grandchildren – continued

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Bice, of West Moors, Dorset, on the arrival of their second grand-daughter, Sarah Jane, born on November 20th to Jayne and Tony Bice.

Mrs. Booth, widow of the late *Mr. P. Booth*, of Wimborne, on the birth of her grand-daughter, Hannah, on November 8th to Jayne and Garry Stevenson.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bradley, of Burton-on-Trent, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Lorna, born on September 29th to their daughter, Joan, and her husband, David.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brown, of Huntingdon, who are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson, Robert Michael, born on November 7th to their son, Christopher, and his wife, Linda.

Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Collins, of Cardiff, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Kathryn Theresa, born on December 9th to their son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Theresa.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cowan, of Rottingdean, on the birth of their second grandson, on December 2nd to their daughter, Linda, and her husband, Denis Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodhead, of Sheffield, on the birth of their grandchild, Alexandra Claire, born on September 27th to their daughter, Angela, and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hamilton, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on the birth of another grand-daughter, Marie Claire, born on November 26th to their daughter, Beth Anne, and her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Morgan, of Bristol, on the arrival of their 13th grandchild, a daughter born on October 8th to their youngest daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Leslie Orgar.

Mr. and Mrs. T. O'Reilly, of Blackburn, on the birth of another grandchild, Kathryn Louise, born on December 12th, a third little girl for their daughter, Kathleen.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Parish, of Norwich, on the birth of their fifth grandchild, Robert John,

born on November 7th to their son, Graham, and his wife, Mary.

Mrs. C. Stevens, widow of the late *Frank Stevens*, of Derby, on the birth of her grandson, Nathan Francis, born on April 16th, and a great-grandson, Steven John Hill, born on August 25th.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. D. Vickery, of Plymouth, on the birth of two new grandchildren: Rebecca, born on November 7th to their daughter, Roslyn, and her husband, Mark Stevens; and Alan David, born on September 28th to their son, David, and his wife, Sandy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitcombe, of Eastbourne, who are happy to announce the arrival of a grandson, Michael James, born on November 26th to their son, Stephen, and daughter-in-law, Lesley.

Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Williamson, of Darlington, who are proud to announce the birth of a grand-daughter, Rebekah Helen, born on September 18th to their son, Ian, and daughter-in-law, Christine.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN Congratulations to:

Mrs. F. Elliman, widow of the late *Capt. J.A. Elliman*, of Salisbury, on the birth of her first three great-grandchildren; Michelle Fay Dafford born on July 20th, James John Elliman born on September 7th and Catharine Anne Feltham born on October 1st.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. C. Astell, of East Horsley, whose wife, Helen, passed away on December 30th, aged 77. They had been married for 29 years.

Mr. E. Bradshaw, of Northampton, whose father passed away on October 28th aged 87.

Mrs. J. Bull, wife of *Mr. E. W. Bull*, of Southampton, whose mother died suddenly at the end of November.

Deaths – continued

Mrs. D. Gilbert, wife of *Mr. W.J. Gilbert*, of Wimborne, Dorset, whose father passed away in October.

Mr. F. D. Howe, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, whose sister, Mrs. E. A. Coxon, passed away recently after being ill for some considerable time.

Mr. G. W. Hudson, of Bingley, whose wife, Rebecca, passed away on December 17th.

Mrs. M. Lloyd, wife of *Mr. C. Lloyd*, of Llanelli, whose father passed away on November 13th.

Mr. A.W. Lockhart, of Dagenham, whose younger brother, Robert Lockhart, died suddenly on December 13th. Robert Lockhart often attended the Cenotaph Parade as an Escort, and was thus known to many St. Dunstaners.

Mr. J. Parker, of Loughborough, whose father passed away suddenly on November 27th.

Mr. H. Wheeler, of Merton Park, whose wife, Ethel, passed away on December 12th, aged 87. They had been married for 66 years.

In Memory

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

F. Castle, 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders
Frederick Castle, of Edgware, passed away in hospital on December 12th, aged 89. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1950.

Mr. Castle served in the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders in the First World War and was gassed in France in 1917. He worked for Standard Telephones and Cables but took early retirement at the age of 60 and was then able to devote himself to his hobbies of gardening and electrical experiments. He was extremely inventive in this field but unfortunately did not take out any patents.

He leaves a widow, Minnie.

J. Greenwood, 2nd Grenadier Guards
James Greenwood, D.C.M., of Blandford, passed away suddenly on December 7th, aged 92.

Mr. Greenwood served in the 2nd Grenadier Guards in the First World War and became a St. Dunstaner in 1918, having been wounded several months before. He attained the rank of Lance Corporal and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

After his training he became a shopkeeper and with the help of his wife, Clara, ran a very successful business as a tobacconist. On their retirement they greatly enjoyed holidays abroad.

His wife predeceased him in 1980 and he leaves a son and other members of the family.

I. Hill, Royal Artillery
Ismael Hill, of Warley, passed away at his home on December 16th, aged 86.

Mr. Hill served as a driver in the Royal Artillery during the 1st World War, receiving a gun shot wound in France which caused his loss of sight but he was able to follow employment for many years and did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1981. He was by then in rather frail health but nevertheless took a keen interest in the garden tended by his youngest son Norman with whom he shared his home and enjoyed the regular visits of other members of his devoted family living nearby.

He leaves four sons and two daughters and their families.

J.G. Holmes, 12th Middlesex Regiment
James George Holmes, formerly of Bognor Regis and resident of Pearson House since 1978, passed away in Hospital on November 11th, just one month short of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Holmes, who was the holder of the Military Medal, enlisted at the onset of the 1st World War, and whilst on active service at Ypres in 1917 as Sergeant in the 12th Middlesex Regiment was gassed and wounded. As a result, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in October of that year.

Our St. Dunstaner was trained for telephony and was a highly valued and efficient operator until retirement in 1945. He was also a skilled brailist. Mr. Holmes moved to Thaxted after giving up his employment and became a poultry keeper and was so successful that within two years he was able to take over a poultry farm and remained there until 1978, when he moved to Bognor Regis. Although no longer working, our

In Memory – *continued*

St. Dunstaner retained a keen interest in his garden and greenhouse.

Unfortunately, his first wife passed away in 1922, leaving a young son, but he remarried in 1926 and a second son was born in 1931. Regrettably, his second wife, Eleanor, died soon after the baby's birth and he employed Miss Biggs shortly afterwards to act as housekeeper. She remained with him for over 50 years, raising his young son and devotedly caring for Mr. Holmes until her death in 1978 at which time it became necessary for our St. Dunstaner to become a permanent resident in Brighton.

His first son, Jimmy, was in the Fleet Air Arm, but unfortunately passed away in 1977, and his younger son served in the Korean War. He leaves one son, Gordon, two daughters-in-law, grandchildren and members of the family. He will also be greatly missed by Matron Goodwin and her staff at Pearson House.

J.A. Kerfoot, *Royal Air Force*

John Aspinall Kerfoot, of Chorley, passed away suddenly at his home on December 4th, at the age of 63.

Mr. Kerfoot served in the R.A.F. from 1940 to 1946 but spent much of this period in captivity, having been taken a Prisoner of War in Java in 1942, and his loss of sight was the result of privation suffered during that time. Nevertheless in civilian life Mr. Kerfoot was able to follow employment, his last post being in motorway construction work, until 1981 when he became a St. Dunstaner. Even though his vision deteriorated further, Mr. Kerfoot enjoyed a busy and active life, doing much charitable fund raising, spending summer weekends at the family caravan in Scotland and above all, playing golf with considerable success – *Review* readers will remember the account of his hole in one for England in a special international match for visually handicapped golfers against Scotland recently.

He leaves his widow, Gwen, and their daughter and two sons.

G. Martin, *Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment*

George Martin, formerly of Redhill, and for the past few months resident in our Brighton Home, passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 6th, aged 94. He was a widower without children.

Our St. Dunstaner served as a Private in the Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment during the First World War and was wounded in action at Cambrai in 1917.

At the time Mr. Martin was admitted to membership of St. Dunstan's in June 1983, he was living in his own 150-year-old cottage without modern amenities or electricity. Nevertheless, although 93 years of age, he was remarkably

alert and independent and managed well with the devoted assistance of his niece, Mrs. Joyce Panton, and his good friend and neighbour, Mr. C. Brightwell.

He will be greatly missed by Matron Goodwin and her staff, Mrs. Panton, all members of the family and Mr. Brightwell.

W. Rouse, *South Wales Borderers, Royal West Kents*

Wilfred Rouse, of Abergavenny, passed away in hospital on December 4th, aged 71.

Mr. Rouse had two periods of Army service, first from 1926 to 1938 with the South Wales Borderers and then from 1939 with the Royal West Kents, being discharged in 1945 with the rank of C.S.M. His loss of sight was the result of a gun shot wound to the face sustained in Italy but he was left with sufficient vision to enable him to work as a Post Office engineer until he was 62. Sadly later years brought the deterioration of his remaining sight and the onset of diabetes which disabled him to a very considerable extent. His death came shortly after surgical treatment in hospital.

He leaves his widow, Beatrice, and his son, Michael, and his family.

T.J. Simmons, *The Buffs*

Thomas Jack Simmons passed away in hospital on December 30th, aged 63. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 41 years.

He served with The Buffs and was wounded in Tunisia early in 1943. He had studied mixed farming before his enlistment and in 1944 took a one year horticultural course at Reading University. On completion of his training he went into partnership with his father in Kent and in 1953 set up his own market garden, establishing a successful business which he sold in 1969. He then trained in telephony and worked for the National Westminster Bank until he took early retirement on health grounds in 1983.

Mr. Simmons was an active Freemason and keen bridge player. He was twice married and is survived by his wife, Heather, two sons and a daughter by his first marriage.

J.H. Ward-Best, *Royal Artillery*

John Henry Ward-Best, of Newton Abbott, passed away at Bovey Tracey Hospital on November 26th, aged 73. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 18 months.

Major Ward-Best served with the Royal Artillery in World War II and suffered multiple fractures of the skull in a staff car accident in 1942. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 and retained a little useful vision until shortly before his admission to St. Dunstan's. He was a pianist of concert standard and throughout his life his music was a great consolation to him. Major Ward-Best was happily married, with two sons.

He leaves his widow, Doris, and members of the family.