

**St Dunstans
Review
August 1985**



From the Chairman

It was good to see such a splendid turnout at IFH for the Royal Visit on 19th July and I am only sorry that we failed to make better arrangements for the weather.

Going round with them, it was quite obvious that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were deeply interested in all whom they talked with and what they saw, and really enjoyed their visit. The following is an extract from the letter I later received from Sir Philip Moore, Her Majesty's Private Secretary, who accompanied them on the visit:

'The Queen has asked me to write to you to say how much she and The Duke of Edinburgh enjoyed their visit to the St. Dunstan's Training Establishment at Ian Fraser House, Ovingdean, on Friday. Her Majesty, as Patron of St. Dunstan's, was particularly pleased to be able to open the new South Wing. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were immensely impressed by the splendid facilities at Ian Fraser House and with the remarkable range of activities carried out by the St. Dunstaners. But what Her Majesty and His Royal Highness found most remarkable and very moving was the unquenchable spirit of the St. Dunstaners which surely must be an inspiration to everyone who has any association with them.'

We shall all look back on this memorable occasion with pride, gratitude and admiration for our Patron.

God Save The Queen.

Henry Leach

BIRTHDAY

A Member of Council, The Lord Hunt of Fawley, C.B.E., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 3rd. We send him warm congratulations.

FIRE PREVENTION

The London Fire Brigade, in collaboration with Dr. John Gill of the Research Unit for the Blind at Brunel University, has produced a special booklet on fire prevention for the visually handicapped. It is available free in large print and braille from E. S. Rutter, London Fire Brigade, Queensborough House, 12-18 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TJ. Telephone: 01-587 4583.

SKIING 1986

At the time of going to press, it appears that summer has at last arrived. What better time than to think about skiing next winter. I am hoping to organise a trip to France from 22-29th March (Easter Sunday, 30th). The cost will be approximately £350. Applicants should be fit. Would those interested please contact Ray Hazan at HQ as soon as possible. The trip is available to St. Dunstaners and/or members of their family.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 1985

In anticipation of receiving from the Royal British Legion a small allocation of tickets for both the afternoon and the evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 9th November we would invite any St. Dunstaner who has not previously had the opportunity of attending to apply to Miss C. Maloney at Headquarters, before September 13th, for two tickets per St. Dunstaner. Please indicate any preference for the afternoon or evening performance; should it be necessary, a ballot for these tickets will be held.

Should it be necessary, any St. Dunstaner who is allocated tickets would be assisted with both cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London.

BBC EDUCATION

The series of programmes showing how micro-technology can help disabled people, are scheduled for repeat transmissions on Monday afternoons, BBC-1, beginning October 7th. Christopher's 'Magic Cupboard' at 2.00 p.m., and programmes 1-5 — which include Communicating, Learning, Getting About, Working, Inventing — at 2.25 p.m.

St Dunstons Review

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Cover: Blodwyn Simon, escorted by Charlotte McDonald, presents a posy to The Queen. Photo: Evening Argus, Brighton.



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh addressing St. Dunstaners. Photo: John Barrow.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Royal Visit to St. Dunstan's

It was a day to remember; a red-letter day in St. Dunstan's history. It did not matter that the wind tore over the cliffs from the sea, stretching the flags and driving the rain horizontally. For some 460 St. Dunstaners and escorts, also Members of Council, staff and friends were welcoming the Patron of St. Dunstan's, Her Majesty The Queen, and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Ian Fraser House.

This was the formal opening of the refurbished South Wing in our 70th anniversary year and much planning and preparation had gone into the occasion. 59 St. Dunstaners were engaged in demonstrations of the various activities in Ian Fraser House. Happily all other St. Dunstaners who wished to attend found seats in the main lounge and dining room, where, with partitions drawn back and hundreds of chairs installed, the main event of the day took place.

Only a few minutes after 11.15 a.m., the scheduled time of arrival, the Royal car turned into St. Dunstan's grounds, travelling slowly so that the hardy people, who had braved the hostile elements to be there, could see Her Majesty. 'It was worth getting wet just to see her smile', was one comment.

At the entrance to Ian Fraser House, Lord Abergavenny, K.G., O.B.E., Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, presented our President, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., to The Queen. Then Sir Michael presented our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, G.C.B., and Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, K.C.M.G., Member of St. Dunstan's Council.

Sir Henry, with Commander Simon Conway, guided The Queen on a tour of the building while Sir Edwin and Major Arthur Neve guided Prince Philip. They

began on the fifth floor in the Wintergarden, where two tables of Bridge were in play and a special event station, GB4 STD, manned by members of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society was in operation. Here Peter Jones G3 DRE explained to Her Majesty how he used his talking computer for amateur radio. 'Her interest in what we were doing was fantastic', he said. The Queen asked Ted John G3 SEJ how far afield were their contacts, 'I told her anywhere in the world', said Ted, 'We showed the special QSL cards we send to contacts and The Queen admired them.'

At the Bridge table Joe Carney stood up but Prince Philip gently pushed him back down in his chair saying, 'You must sit down, to be more comfortable.' Simon Conway explained the braille cards and the procedure to play Bridge to the Royal Party.

Training Wing

On the fourth floor there was a great deal of activity to interest the Royal Visitors. In the Training Wing Phil Duffee and his pupil, Steve Smith, were going on with a braille lesson. Phil said, 'Prince Philip was very interested in the braille writer, commenting on the way we'd progressed from pricking the dots to the six keys on the machine.'

Bill Norton was with Mrs. Carol Locke in the typing room, so was Velvet, his guide dog. The Queen was interested in Velvet's diet and Bill told her how his dog helps him make friends, 'They talk to the dog and then to me', he said.

In the handicrafts room were a number of St. Dunstaners under tuition from Mrs. Lene Hinton and Mrs. Joan Deare. Here The Queen asked John Cowan about the stool he was making. 'She asked how long it took to make and who I was making it for. She has a lovely, soft, gentle voice and a chuckle of a laugh.'

Brenda Rea, in the training kitchen with Mrs. Pam Durie, found The Queen very interested in the chicken casserole she was cooking in the microwave oven. 'Prince Philip said, "Is there really chicken in that?" and looked under the tomatoes to check that there was.'



Reg Goding and Jim Padley at the Bridge table as The Queen looks on. Photo: Barratt's Photo Press.

The Queen talks about mobility with Ralph Pacitti and Jock Carnochan. Photo: John Barrow.





Prince Philip greeting Margaret Bingham in the ladies' lounge. Photo: John Barrow.

With Jane Farrant and her husband. Photo: John Barrow.



Over in the Ladies' Wing, part of the new conversion, the Royal Party admired the spacious lounge and met some of the lady St. Dunstaners and their escorts. Dorothy Martin told The Queen of her visit to Windsor Castle in 1940 to see the Royal Pantomime in which she, then, Princess Elizabeth played Prince Charming and her sister, Princess Margaret, was Sleeping Beauty. Her Majesty laughed at the recollection, asking how Dorothy came to be there. Dorothy explained that she was serving as a Nursing Sister in a hospital nearby. The Queen asked Winnie Edwards about training, 'She has a motherly voice', said Winnie, 'Very sweet. I didn't feel nervous at all because they both seemed to feel quite at home with us.'

When Prince Philip asked Jane Farrant, seated in her wheelchair, where she came from, her reply that she had travelled from South Wales brought a flash of his well-known sense of humour, 'Not all the way up the motorway in that!', he quipped.

On the first floor it fell to Gwen Obern and Bill Griffiths to show The Queen and The Duke the new double rooms which



Ted Brown's picture framing engages The Queen's close attention. Photo: Evening Argus, Brighton.

In the wrought-iron workshop, Micky Burns and Douglas Field are presented to Prince Philip. Photo: John Barrow.

are additionally adapted for those of our St. Dunstaners who are handless as well as blind.

The Royal tour was planned next for the Annexe but on the way The Queen looked into the 'Stables' TV room where it was explained that here, in the mornings, the racing fixtures and cards are read to those St. Dunstaners interested in the turf. 'Who is your runner?' asked The Queen and she laughed at the reply from the back of the room: 'The Care Assistant with the fastest legs, Your Majesty.' When asked for a tip she answered, regretfully, that she had no horses running that day.

The Queen and Prince Philip visited the workshops to see St. Dunstaners at work on wrought-iron and picture framing under Mr. John Brown and Mr. Norman Feist. Micky Burns was making brackets for hanging baskets in wrought-iron when Prince Philip asked him where he had done his early training, 'I told him Cape Town and then showed him some standard lamps we had made. The Duke asked how long it took and I told him about 20 hours.'





The Queen with Judo experts, Peter Watson (left) and Lee Maskell. Photo: John Barrow.

In the Bowling rink, some of our best bowlers were in action for The Queen, who took a keen interest in the way they bowled. She heard how successful our teams have been in competition and how St. Dunstaners are in the English team to visit Australia for the International Blind Bowling Championships.

Both The Queen and Prince Philip were intrigued by Peter Watson's demonstration of Judo with his sighted colleague, Lee Maskell, in the gym. 'How do you manage to miss the walls?' enquired Prince Philip. Peter confessed he was not sure how to answer when The Queen asked which was his regiment, 'Should I say Your Lancashire Regiment or Queen's Lancashire Regiment?', he wondered. He settled for Queen's and she laughed, 'Not a bad one, eh?', she commented.

So to the final part of the tour, the demonstration of archery in the Annexe ballroom. Tommy Gaygan, one of our handless St. Dunstaners was using special aiming equipment and a device for releasing his arrow activated by his chin. 'Mr. Austin explained the quick release to Her Majesty', said Tommy, 'Then I shot three golds and The Queen said, "You are very

accurate." Another archer in good form was Fred Galway who shot six golds while Prince Philip was watching him. 'I heard someone say, "How do you set this off?", and said, "Well, it's like this" — realised who I was talking to and apologised. He said, "No, that's all right; are you any good?" I shot an arrow and said, "It's not very good", "It's in the gold but not in the centre", Prince Philip told me. I shot another into the centre of the gold, and completed my six arrows into the gold. He seemed very surprised and said, "That's very good."

Through the hour or so of the tour some 500 people had been waiting in the main and blue lounges for the high point of the Royal Visit, the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. All this time they had been kept in touch with what was going on with a commentary by disc-jockey for the day, Ray Hazan. Between periods of background music, Ray was able to tell his audience where the Royal Party was in the building and what was going on there.

Despite the inclement weather The Queen and Prince Philip approached the lounge by the external ramp from the Annexe and entered through the new french windows into the lounge and on to the platform. The Queen sat on a special chair presented by the Directors of Longley, the Contractors responsible for the new wing, and, indeed, for building Ian Fraser House in 1937.

The Queen's chair

The chair is made of Yew wood mainly from a tree felled at Worth, in Sussex, in 1978. The back incorporates a small panel of carved English walnut depicting St. Dunstan's badge on a backing of English Oak taken from a Roman pile recovered from the Thames on the site of Seal House in London. Experts have dated the tree as being felled circa 170 A.D.

Colonel Sir Michael Ansell introduced The Queen who said, 'It is more than 20 years since I last came to Ian Fraser House. Much has happened during that time. New faces have joined St. Dunstan's and the facilities have been greatly improved. I was very impressed with the new South

Wing this morning. But what is most important is that the great spirit of St. Dunstan's continues as strongly as ever and was evident wherever I have been today. I am sure you will maintain this spirit in the years ahead and continue to give your wonderful example of how to overcome the immense sacrifices you have made for your country. In this your 70th Anniversary Year I wish you all Many Happy Returns. I have pleasure in unveiling this plaque and declaring the new South Wing open.'

The Queen then pulled a golden cord which drew aside royal blue velvet curtains unveiling the commemorative plaque on its temporary mounting on the platform. The plaque is Cumberland slate, carved and gilded with gold leaf. Because a tactile element is valuable for St. Dunstaners, Her Majesty graciously agreed that the plaque could incorporate the Machin effigy, a relief in copper of her profile provided by the Royal Mint. This effigy has been used on our coinage in the past. The inscription on the plaque is reproduced in braille on a special plate made by Mr. Norman French and mounted on matching Cumberland slate beneath the plaque. It reads:

South Wing, Ian Fraser House
opened by
Her Majesty The Queen
Marking St. Dunstan's 70th Anniversary
Year
19th July, 1985

The plaque and braille inscription have now been mounted in their permanent position by the entrance to the main floor of the South Wing on the wall between that and the escort office.

After the unveiling His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh also spoke a few words. It is unusual on Royal occasions such as this for both The Queen and The Duke to speak but they graciously agreed to do so knowing that the greater part of their audience could not see them.

'I have a feeling someone has already opened the South Wing', he said, 'because there are people swimming in the pool out there. It is a great pleasure to be back here at St. Dunstan's and to see all the developments that have taken place since the last time we were here. And it is, of course, very impressive to see all the number of activities that are now undertaken by blind people.' Prince Philip's concluding remarks brought a gust of laughter

Sir Michael Ansell welcomes Her Majesty and His Royal Highness. Photo: John Barrow.





Sir Michael Ansell presents his farewell gift to Her Majesty. Photo: Barratts Photo Press.

An autographed, Royal portrait for Ian Fraser House. Photo: John Barrow.



and applause from St. Dunstaners when he said, 'I am only a little bit worried that if St. Dunstan's goes on like this, they are going to make eyes redundant! But, a great pleasure to be here, and the very best of luck to you all.'

Then The Queen and Prince Philip descended from the platform where our senior lady St. Dunstaner, Blodwyn Simon, escorted by Charlotte McDonald, aged 12, presented a posy to Her Majesty. Charlotte is the great grand-daughter of the late Lord and Lady Fraser of Lonsdale. After this, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, our Vice-President and former Chairman, and his wife were presented, followed by Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre. Then the two oldest St. Dunstaners living in Pearson House were presented, Tom Wood and Robert Finch. With them was Miss Penny Goodwin, Matron of Pearson House.

Wooden Toys

Then it was time for The Queen and The Duke to make their way towards the exit from the lounge walking down the aisle where they made many opportunities for informal chats with St. Dunstaners and their wives. Tommy McKay was 'shattered and tongue-tied' when The Queen stopped and spoke to him, 'She recognised my regiment, the Royal Engineers, from the tie I was wearing.' Trevor Phillips was asked what branch of the services he was with and where he was wounded, 'I said I served with the R.A.F. and was wounded in North Africa. My wife was entranced!'

Many other St. Dunstaners were spoken to as the Royal couple moved towards the exit where Sir Henry Leach called for three cheers, which received a heart-felt response. Outside the lounge four long-serving staff members at Ian Fraser House were presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Bob Field, Maintenance Engineer, Mr. Geof. Levett, Senior Charge Nurse, Mr. Feliks Musiol, Garage Manager and Mrs. Valerie Nichols, Pensions Officer. Their combined service totals 119 years.

In the Entrance Hall, after some further presentations of Council Members and officials, The Queen and The Duke of



Talking to Trevor Phillips in the lounge. Photo: John Barrow.

Edinburgh inspected a selection of wooden toys made by St. Dunstaners which were accepted for the Royal grandchildren. Then they signed coloured portrait photographs which will be framed and hung in Ian Fraser House.

Final farewells included the presentation by Sir Michael Ansell of a gift for The Queen; one of the plywood jig-saw puzzles he makes himself. Her Majesty enjoys jig-saw puzzles and Sir Michael's will be a challenge — it is double-sided with pictures of jungle scenes.

Luncheon for some 800 people followed and congratulations must be offered to Paul James and his Red Ball catering team on an excellent meal. Their prompt and energetic transfer of the table settings from a marquee that was succumbing to the elements was a remarkable feat. Hundreds of chairs were removed from the dining area in the building and tables, cloths, cutlery carried from the marquee — and all in 20 minutes!

Another tribute to be paid is to the Police — for the painstaking, two-and-a-half day, security search of our building carried out with good humour and consideration for St. Dunstaners, and for the unobtrusive security watch they maintained over the event on the day.

The verdict from St. Dunstaners in the form of letters seems unanimous: 'What a wonderful day', *Ken and Mary Walker*; 'I am sure everyone had a wonderful day. Even the weather, which tried very hard, could not dampen the spirit of anyone on this very special occasion', *Arnold Rimmer*; 'You can imagine our joy and delight when His Royal Highness chatted with us both and Her Majesty passed the time of day. Such a memory will remain with us both for the rest of our lives', *Jimmy and June Shepherd*.

Perhaps the best quote of all came from David Arcscott of Radio Sussex, who had been reporting and commentating live from Ian Fraser House for the three-hour morning programme 'Sussex Scene'. With his colleague Anna Benstead, David signed off like this: 'I think we should end with a quote from Sir Arthur Pearson, the man who actually founded St. Dunstan's. "It's the blind man who, above all, needs occupation and the more active, the more normal he can make his life, the happier he will be. If you tell a man often enough that he is afflicted, he will become afflicted." Well, they're afflicted in one sense you may say, the people here, but I think you and I feel rather humble having seen just what they can do and it's a marvellous tribute to Sir Arthur Pearson and all the people who followed him.'

FAITH AND THE WILLPOWER TO WANT TO LIVE

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF
V.J. DAY, FORMER F.E.P.O.W.
BILL STALHAM, FROM
CAMBERLEY, TALKS TO
CAROLYN HOWELL

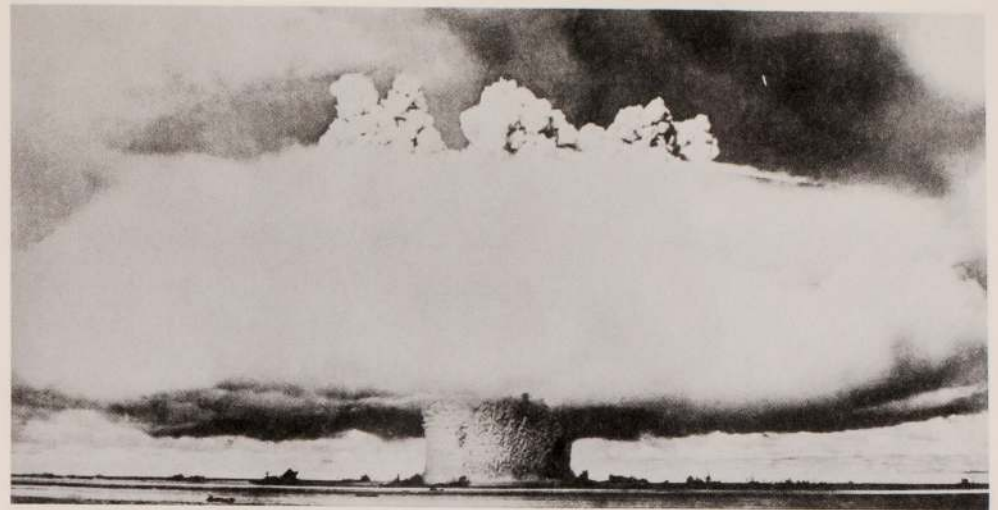
'On August 6th 1945, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the Japanese sentries came round as usual. They used to have two pieces of very hard wood and they knocked them together to tell you the time to come and prepare for work. We went to breakfast, had a small portion of rice, and proceeded to the coalface. We hadn't been working long when everything stopped. There were steel pans with big chains on them that dragged the coal down into the tubs, which we had to push. These had stopped working so we could not continue to get the coal out. All this went on for about two hours. The Japanese sentries were very agitated, simply because if we did not get the allocated amount of coal out they would be punished for not making us get it out.' For Bill Stalham, a prisoner of war working down a coal mine underneath Hiroshima, this shift started off just like the others, in what seemed an endless rota into the future. But this one turned out a bit differently. It was the beginning of the drastic end of a long and cruel war — on this day the atom bomb fell on Hiroshima.

'The guards didn't want to leave the coalface but eventually we did go to the pit bottom, and we got the message that all the power had gone, nothing at all up above. We walked up a gradient to the safety outlet, and when we were nearing the top you could see the Japanese all in



confusion, shouting, "Fire bomb! Fire bomb!" Some of the people had been on the verge of the blast and when they ran into the sides of the walls, it left something just like a shadow. I saw a lady with a child on her back and one in both arms and they were all screaming. I got hold of one of the children to help and it just disintegrated. That's how I became contaminated.' Bill was the only English prisoner down the mine, and he hadn't seen any other British men for a long time. His hellish story started about three years earlier when he was captured in an attempted escape after the Japanese invaded Singapore.

A Singaporean family who were friends of his had organised a boat for him to escape in, but he had to take with him three British soldiers from the Royal Artillery. It became too dangerous and they had to discard the boat. Travelling by night and lying low in the day, they had almost reached the Burma Front when, as Bill says, 'one of the artillery chappies just went beserk, he really went mad. Unfortunately it was daytime and he ran out of the shelter. While we were trying to apprehend him and calm him down, a Thai came up to us and said, "Ah, British soldiers! Would you like food and coffee?" We hadn't had any proper food for days so the others said yes, but when he went away I said to them, "Let's move, let's go somewhere else," but they said, "No, let's wait



An atom blast over the sea, like the one which occurred at Hiroshima. Photo: Imperial War Museum.

for the food." Of course, as Bill had feared, the Thai came back with Japanese soldiers and 'they literally kicked us all the way back to Changi,' continues Bill, 'We spent three nights outside Changi Civil Prison on the tennis court, with our arms tied behind our backs and each time we sagged they would beat us. On the third day they made us dig our graves and then they brought along my C.O., the Artillery C.O., General Percival, a Roman Catholic priest and a Protestant priest to give us our last rites.' In the few minutes that followed, in what seemed like years to Bill, three of the soldiers were shot. 'Perspiration poured out of me, and they asked me if I wanted to be blindfolded and I said, "No, please go ahead." Then suddenly, General Percival and my C.O. came up to me and said, "You got away with it — simply because you kept your khaki shorts on." The others had changed into sarongs, because going through the jungle one became filthy, and if they came across a clothes-line with a sarong on they would change. I tried to persuade them not to, because once they did they became civilians — spies — you see. So I got away with it. However my C.O. had to reduce me to the ranks, down to Private, to ease the tempers of the Japanese.' And after that Bill had rather a hard time, because on his name tag 'there was something that told every camp I went to

that I had tried to escape, so I got extra beatings.'

Bill was then taken up into Malaya and Burma, to clear the jungle for camps for workers destined to work on the notorious Burma Railway. After that he was put on a ship to Japan, and this was torpedoed by an American submarine. He survived, but spent three days in the water, 'I just lay

The family who helped Bill escape from Singapore.





A solitary church still standing in a wasteland of debris. Photo: Imperial War Museum.

on my back — it was no good trying to swim anyway because you didn't know where you were going. To say I was not frightened would be a bit of an exaggeration, I think.' As if that were not enough, he was picked up again by a Japanese warship and taken to Hiroshima where he had to work down the coal mine. Each man was watched over by a Japanese guard, 'and they even had their rifles and bayonets down the mine,' says Bill.

In the aftermath of the bomb, Hiroshima was covered by a 'black wall of dust' which lasted for six weeks afterwards. Bill and the other prisoners were moved out of the bombing area to another camp, where they had to carry on working down a coalmine. But things were a little better now for him as there were some Englishmen in this camp, some of his old regiment in fact, from the Manchester Regiment. The Japanese only surrendered a week after the bomb which had been dropped on Nagasaki — up till then all the prisoners believed that the war would continue for years longer. But the night before the official surrender, Bill, who could understand Japanese, although as he says, 'I never told anybody because the Japanese would have just cut my head off I think,' overheard on the

Tannoy system an announcement that nobody would work the next day, the war was finished.

When Bill told the others they wouldn't believe him, but after they had heard it themselves (when Bill had deciphered the words for them) great excitement reigned in the camp. They were assembled the next day and told officially. 'The people wept like children,' says Bill, 'The next morning when we woke up, there were no sentries or anything. We were absolutely on our own. Some aeroplanes came over and dropped pamphlets, supplies and food.' Six weeks later a train came to take them to the quayside at Hiroshima. 'Now it was amazing. It took us an hour, it was a special train, no stops, and when we got into the devastated area there was not a thing standing, all black. As we travelled nearer we came across two buildings still standing — one was a hospital and the other, on the other side of the road, was a Christian church. The men got down on their knees.'

It was difficult for them to take in the extent of damage: 'It was immense, really immense. Some people who were on the edge did not get the full blast, their skin was just peeling off in lumps, they were burnt and blistered and you could do

nothing for them. It was horrific.' At this point I had to ask Bill how he managed to come through all these terrible experiences, how he had carried on in the face of all this suffering? 'A combination of a lot of things really. Faith, I think, faith in my own country, faith in religion, the will-power to want to live. You know, it was so easy to give up. A man would say, "I'm fed up, I don't want to go on any more", and within half an hour that man would be dead. It was as easy as that. I was also more accustomed to hardship than a lot of the young men — I was an orphan and I learnt what discipline was in the orphanage — joining the Army was a wonderful thing for me. As for the beatings from the Japanese — being a boxer, many times I used to ride the punches, just move the chin a fraction at the last moment and it would soften the blow, but there were times when all my body, and especially my face, was like red pickled cabbage.'

Obviously, no man could come away from all that without feeling some hatred

for the Japanese. And when Bill arrived back home he found unfortunately, his bitterness increasing rather than decreasing. From the moment he arrived back, he began to feel that the British Government didn't know what to do with him and further, that they didn't really want to have anything to do with him. 'I came back through Canada, and there they treated us like heroes, we had a wonderful time. We got back to Southampton, and they wouldn't take us to the quayside, we had to stay out at sea till the next morning. Then they took us off to a big shed, gave us a cup of tea and some sandwiches and a little card which was supposed to come from Winston Churchill, saying, "We welcome you home, you are heroes, we are proud of you." And then Bill was suddenly on his own. During his six months leave he began to feel strange effects from the bomb.'

He went to be discharged from the Army, but, as he explains, 'What happened was, when I went for the medical they said "Are you thinking of re-enlisting

British naval men look across the devastated area, stretching to the horizon. Photo: Imperial War Museum.



Bill Stalham, *continued*

or staying in the Army?" I said, "No, I've had enough." And then they discharged me without a medical or anything.' Which meant of course that Bill couldn't get a pension. 'I got the British Legion to take up my case and they were fighting for recognition of my condition for two years.' Eventually they persuaded him that the only way he could prove he was not Al was by trying to rejoin the army. 'I went up to the recruiting office in Derby on crutches. They called me in, announced I was Al, and put me in the Royal Artillery. I wasn't too bothered because I was beginning to get something, they trained me as a clerk, and I even went out to Hong Kong. During this period the Korean troubles broke out, and I volunteered to go back. I was going to have such fun you know.' But at Hong Kong, he was ordered off the ship: they were having problems between FEPOW's and the Japanese on their side.

Some time later, Bill collapsed and when he woke up he was in an iron lung. The Army flew out a specialist to see him, from England, and he was the first person to acknowledge and understand what Bill was going through. Says Bill, 'He tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Hello Bill, we both know what this is don't we?" He had also been a POW. He gave me an X-ray and said, "I've found what I'm looking for," and my spine had gone like a figure 'S'. After that I got a 40% pension at least. I'm still trying to prove it was because of the bomb but they won't have it. I only got 100% pension when I lost my eyesight.'

And that was when he became a member of St. Dunstan's, in 1977. 'I do appreciate what St. Dunstan's have done for me. They have done a marvellous amount. And they kind of settled me. The bitterness has gone.' Most of his change of mind though, is attributable to his wife, Christine, whom he met when he was working at a factory in Chesterfield, after being discharged from the Army. Christine is completely deaf, but she lip-reads so fast she doesn't miss a thing. They became firm friends and later got married. Long talks with Christine have dissipated his hatred for the Japanese. As Bill says, 'I realised that the Japs only

treated us like that because they were treated in the same way. They didn't get detentions or prison, they just got terribly beaten on the spot, or their rations taken away.'

Bill and Christine are now devoted to helping people who are less fortunate than themselves. They visit mentally and physically handicapped friends, have them to stay at their home and take them on holiday. They are also founder members of the Woodmancote Visually Handicapped Club and Bill often gives talks to civilian blind people: 'I teach them what St. Dunstan's taught me, how to cope with life as a blind person, and I learn from them as well.' He adds, 'St. Dunstaners forget that everybody doesn't get the same treatment as us. Only those who come in later, realise how well we are treated.' Bill and Christine have since been to Singapore to visit the family who helped him in his attempted escape from Singapore, and they treated him to a full Chinese dinner of 10 courses and 50 guests — some were families he knew in the past — with choice items on the menu, such as Quail eggs and shark fin soup! Together Bill and Christine lead very active lives. Bill can hear and Christine can see, and as a partnership, they seem to experience life at its fullest. And they deserve it, I think.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mrs. Mary Barratt, Haverfordwest, Dyfed

Fred was blessed with the gift of oratory — I unfortunately am not, and my words are so inadequate to convey my thoughts and feelings of appreciation and thanks to the many kind friends who sent messages of love and sympathy to me when Fred died. To Mr. Weisblatt, Miss Mosley, Miss Newbold and all the staff at HQ for their great help and support. To Nancy and Ian at Broadhurst Gardens who looked after me with such care and kindness at the time of my great sadness — thank you.

From R. Chalmers, East Boldon, Tyne and Wear

My wife and I have just returned from a two week holiday at Ian Fraser House and we would like to pay tribute to the kindness and service provided by all departments.

I would like to say to all St. Dunstaners, take the opportunity provided for you of comfortable accommodation, good food and good company.

We would like to pass on our thanks to everyone.

ST. DUNSTANER ATTENDS INVESTITURE OF LORD NORMANBY

Although there were thousands of applications, Mr. Jimmy Shepherd, of Whitchurch Hill, was lucky enough to receive two tickets for the public enclosure at Windsor Castle when the Marquess of Normanby, together with the Lord Carrington, was invested with the Insignia of Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by H.M. The Queen.

But Mr. Shepherd had a special reason for receiving the tickets, since he had been taught braille by Lord Normanby himself. '18 months after I had been taken a prisoner of war at Calais,' he explained, 'Lord Normanby started a school, with the assistance of the Red Cross, to teach

From Capt. K.C. Revis, Oxford

Referring to the article on Nuffield Place in the July *Review*, may I please point out that Lord Nuffield married Elizabeth Anstey in 1904 and that she predeceased him.

My apologies to the late Lord Nuffield. The caption to the cover picture should have read 'Bob May's 1926 Bullnose Morris.'

R.L.H.

With thanks from Rose Marie Blebta

First of all, I would like to thank all St. Dunstaners, their wives and widows who contributed so generously to my retirement cheque, and to those who sent me cards and individual gifts. With the cheque I intend to buy a new replacement three-piece suite for my home. Please accept this expression of my appreciation and my very good wishes to you all.

Also, to my colleagues, please accept my sincere thanks for your most generous retirement gift and the good wishes contained in your card. You may be interested to know that I intend to buy a rustic garden seat with this. I shall miss you all.

braille to blind prisoners in Germany.' At the beginning there were only four pupils, one of them being Jimmy Shepherd, and they were taught with matchsticks! Gradually, of course, the number of pupils increased.

So, on June 17th, an unusually sunny day, Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd were able to watch the procession as it moved into Windsor Castle: the Guards Band followed by The Queen and Lord Normanby, as well as the King and Queen of Sweden who were also attending the ceremony. The chapel service was relayed to people in the public enclosure. 'It was a most enjoyable occasion,' said Mr. Shepherd.

WONDER WOMAN IN WALES

Article and
photographs:
David Castleton

'How can we scare these St. Dunstaners?' muttered one of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, standing at the top of Barmouth Slabs — 90 feet of near vertical rock face.

One after another they had stepped backwards over the cliff edge to walk down the face paying out a rope through a metal figure-of-eight clipped to a supporting harness. The sport is called abseiling.

For the first time there was a lady member of the St. Dunstan's team, Vi Delaney, who was soon christened 'Wonder Woman', as she successfully tackled rock-climbing and then abseiling. She did have an initial problem with the latter. Someone said you go down backwards and Vi thought they meant with back to the rock-face! This confusion was sorted out in the first few feet of the descent with some acrobatics from Vi before she got her feet placed on the cliff. 'After that it was easy,' said Vi.

Her fellow members were all experienced veterans of many Welsh climbs: Eric Bradshaw, Tom Lukes, Bill Shea, Ray Sheriff and Trevor Tatchell. With Jock Carnochan, Barry Ellis, leader of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, had planned an eventful weekend starting at Barmouth Slabs on Saturday with rock climbing and abseiling. He had another



Vi Delaney makes her first rock-climb.

Tom Lukes abseiling down Barmouth Slabs.



Trevor Tatchell on his way down.

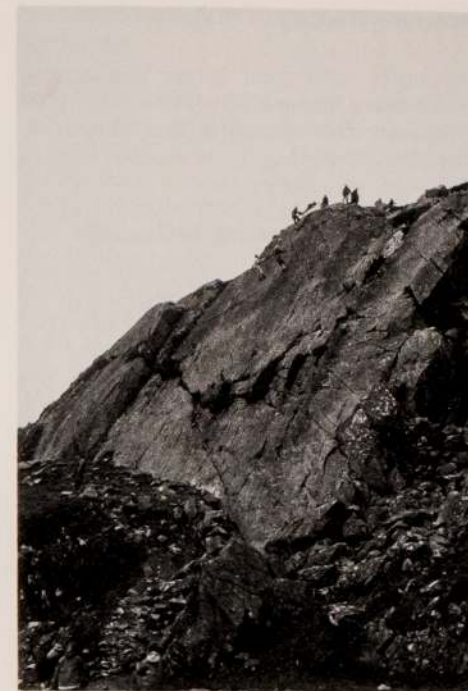
project in mind — simulated mountain rescues by St. Dunstan's teams.

Mountain rescue

This involved a 'casualty' to be strapped into the stretcher, which is fitted with runners like a sledge. Two ropes were attached to the stretcher controlled by St. Dunstaners — another rope was attached to the 'barrow' man, who abseiled down the cliff guiding the stretcher. Vi was the first 'casualty' and Ray Sheriff the barrow man. The second 'rescue' involved Eric Bradshaw as victim and Bill Shea as barrow man. Bill's former experience as a Royal Marine Commando Sergeant was soon apparent as he issued loud commands to his team above: 'Out 1, all out! Hold! Out 2, all out!' These referred to the ropes — 1 and 2 on the stretcher, 3 attached to him.

All went well until, about six feet from the ground, a rope became tangled, which meant pushing the stretcher back upwards to ease the strain while the tangle was sorted out. Bill and the writer of this article took the strain and afterwards made strenuous enquiries to find the culprit at the top — but with no success!

At the Red Lion at Dinas Mawddy, the



'Mountain rescuers' coming over the top.

Barrow man, Ray Sheriff, guides Vi Delaney on the stretcher.



Wonder Woman in Wales *continued*

appetites generated by all this activity were more than satisfied, Chris Rowland and his staff living up to their reputation for good food.

Centre for Alternative Technology

Sunday saw the group, with escorts, (but minus Tom Lukes and his son, Jonathan, who returned home to Colwyn Bay on Saturday), visiting the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth. The Centre demonstrates the use of solar heating and it was an experience to turn on a tap and feel the reasonably hot water generated by nearby solar panels on a morning that was distinctly cloudy. From above came the purring sound of a number of windmills – or to use the alternative technological term: aerogenerators – which provided all the electricity for the Centre via banks of storage batteries.

Water power was also displayed dramatically and the organic garden had one very attractive feature for reluctant gardeners – the encouragement of weeds as attractors for insects and butterflies. The

Eric and Gwen Bradshaw with Vi Delaney and her sister, Rene.



Vi testing solar heated water.

staff of the Centre were not afraid to admit their mistakes. One plastic-lined tank had a caption saying 'Nothing is happening here' and explaining that a scheme to farm fish in the tank had failed. However, opposite was a large pond with large carp breeding very successfully – why they preferred the pond was not known. An afternoon visit to the Corris Craft Centre rounded off Sunday's activities until the evening when St. Dunstan's entertained the principal people who make the Welsh weekends possible. Our guests of honour were Bob and Rowena Thomas, Barry and Gwyneth Ellis and Keith and Pat Durrant. Trevor Tatchell proposed the vote of thanks in his usual unorthodox fashion, producing enormous mirth around the table but also adequately conveying St. Dunstaners' gratitude and feelings of friendship for those who take so much trouble and devote their weekend leisure time to these events.

The River Mawddach

Gwyneth Ellis and Keith Durrant were in charge on Monday morning with Canadian two-man canoes in which St.



Eric Bradshaw and Keith Durrant making for the shore.

Dunstaners voyaged on the River Mawddach, a beautiful estuary this, and yet again, after early morning rain, the sun shone as a picnic lunch was taken on the shore.

Trevor and Beryl Tatchell, with guide dog, Zion, left to return to Cardiff. Zion with many regrets, I am sure, as he vastly enjoyed the river bank, digging in the sand and swimming after his master in the canoe.

Although by now the party was depleted, the hard core set off under Bob Thomas' guidance to do the appropriately named 'Precipice Walk.' Something over half this three mile walk is along a foot-wide path with a drop of 800 feet on one side. The views are breathtaking as were the moments when a blind walker's foot too nearly approached the edge!

Still, we have never lost a St. Dunstaner yet and all agreed that the weekend had been highly successful. Next year rumour has it that we are to return to Tryfan, the mountain whose weather defeated us in 1981 and, after the abseiling and rock-climbing this year, only the weather will stop us!

St. Dunstaner in Puppet Show Venture

Mr. Wilfred Saxby and some other married couples in Brockley have started a puppet show venture to help raise funds for the local church restoration appeal.

The Brockley puppets were the idea of Mrs. Eleanor Springall, of Brockley Green. She produced her children's puppets and other equipment – which had been stored away in the attic for many years. The puppeteers have been giving shows at local schools and in the town hall. The puppet characters' voices are taped and carefully linked with the action. Mr. Saxby has a prominent speaking role and writes the story line of the playlets.

NEW ITEMS ON THE RNIB CATALOGUE OF AIDS AND GAMES

Vibrating Liquid Level Indicator (£1.45)

A new gadget developed by the RNIB helps people who are deaf as well as blind to pour liquids safely and without spilling. The indicator vibrates and buzzes when liquid reaches the right level, and has two sets of prongs: long ones to measure the milk or for a tall glass or mug, and short ones to let you know when the cup is nearly full.

Smiths Electronic Clock and Timer (£5.91)

The timer beeps while you are setting it each time you touch the control buttons, so you can check your setting by counting the beeps. The timer can be set from one second to almost 24 hours. Useful when you need precise timing.

Magnetic Chess Set (£33.80)

This set has a metal board with plastic coating and magnetic Staunton-type chess pieces. It is the same size as the Staunton board which the RNIB sells, but heavier. The black pieces have metal pins at the top to distinguish them from the white pieces.

All these items can be ordered through Men's Supplies at HQ.

REUNIONS



Mr. Joe Nicol giving the response at Newcastle.

NEWCASTLE, 6th JUNE

The predominant theme of this year's reunions is the celebration of the end of the war 40 years ago. One comparison which can be made is the time required to reach Newcastle by train from London. Once, it took 7 hours; now, it is 3 hours and 5 minutes — a mere stone's throw.

The nineteen St. Dunstaners present heard Sir Henry refer to the sacrifices made before reaching the end of World War II 40 years ago. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Dugdale of Penrith, attending his first reunion. He went on to bring the guests up to date with all the arrangements for The Queen's visit to Brighton. After mentioning the numbers of St. Dunstaners worldwide, some 1306, and 700 widows in the UK, who received increasing attention, he wished the assembled guests a pleasant afternoon.

Mr. Joe Nicol, of Cottingham,

responded on behalf of the guests. "When I was asked to reply to Sir Henry, I was pleased to do so, as it gave me the opportunity not only to say a personal thanks, but to say thank you on behalf of those of us in the UK and abroad. I don't know what we would have done without the thoughts of the late Sir Arthur Pearson. If he were to look down on us now, I think he would have a smile of gratitude on his face for what Sir Henry and the former Chairmen have done to help people like myself. We would not be sitting here today enjoying ourselves". Joe went on to say that the work of the welfare visitors was a vital one. For it was on their information gathered at grass root level that the Chairman and Council were able to formulate policy. Mrs. Inman was gratefully thanked for her work in organising the day.

The Public Relations Department were kept busy when an unprecedented number of journalists turned up. Interviews were carried out for BBC Radio Newcastle and local hospital radio, and stories written for two local papers, hopefully keeping alive the name and achievements of St. Dunstan's in the public mind.

So concluded a most friendly reunion. Those from the north-east have a smile in their voice, a smile on their face, and a smile in their heart.

SHEFFIELD, 8th June

As usual, it was the Grosvenor Hotel which received the 25 St. Dunstaners attending the reunion. The Council was represented by Major M.E.M. Sandys. He prefaced his remarks by welcoming Mr. Sanders of Louth, attending his first reunion. It was the first reunion that Major Sandys had attended in 15 years at which there had been no members present from World War I. He was surprised that considering the number of conflicts that had raged since the Second World War, including Northern Ireland and the Falklands, there were not more new members. This is due to great improvements in medical care both on the battle field, and after. This is a



Major Sandys welcomes the Sheffield reunion guests.

welcome development. 'It would, perhaps, be right to applaud the lack of new members'.

Major Sandys went on to say how this year we were especially celebrating the arrival of VE and VJ Day. Last year, though, not in connection with D Day, he and his wife had visited northern France, and, in particular, the beaches at Arromanches. 'Today, when you see a pretty French town, children with their buckets and spades on the sands, it is hard to visualise the harsh battles that raged there.' He went on to describe the beautifully kept American war cemetery at the Omaha beach. He had visited Caen, the capital of Normandy, which had been smashed to bits in 1944, but had been rebuilt into a beautiful city by the French.

"Those events are fresh in our minds,

BRISTOL, 29th June

It was Miss Muriel Meyer's day at the Crest Hotel, Bristol, where 50 St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts attended, with Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, accompanied by Lady Leach, presiding. Retirement tributes were paid and presentations made to one of our most

and, as a result of television and film, even in the minds of those who were not alive at the time! It shows what an impression it made on our national history'. After referring to the impending visit to Brighton by The Queen, Major Sandys concluded by paying tribute to the staff of St. Dunstan's for all their endeavours. 'My wife and I wish you all the very best, and hope you have a happy year'.

Mr. George Fearn, of Spendon, responded. In a brief speech, he thanked Major and Mrs. Sandys for coming to Sheffield. He was grateful to Mrs. Parry, for organising the day in particular, and for all her work in general. He concluded with warm thanks to St. Dunstan's.

It was a relaxed afternoon of conversation and dancing which closed a most pleasant reunion.

popular Welfare Visitors on the occasion of her last reunion as organiser.

After luncheon, Sir Henry spoke of 1985 as a year of anniversaries referring particularly to the 70th anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's. He spoke of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His

Bristol Reunion *continued*

Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and was able to tell his audience that no St. Dunstaner who wished to be present at Ian Fraser House on 19th July would be disappointed.

Finally he turned to 'Your Visitor, Miss Muriel Meyer, who is about to retire after more long years of effective and devoted service than I care to count. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for a job supremely well done and, in wishing her well for the future, I'm not going to say goodbye because I think we shall continue to enjoy her company at reunions.'

Sir Henry made a presentation to Miss Meyer on behalf of the Council and called upon St. Dunstaner, Len Curnow to speak. After expressing thanks to St. Dunstan's and to the staff of the hotel Len went on: 'Now I would like to say a few words to Miss Meyer, who is leaving us, with love and affection. This will not be our last because we will meet up on many other occasions. Miss Meyer, I do thank you sincerely for everything you have done for us and wish you a very happy retirement.'

Len Curnow concluded with an expression of thanks to Sir Henry and Lady Leach and was followed by Joe Harris, the St. Dunstaner making a further presentation to Miss Meyer on behalf of his colleagues. He spoke briefly before making the presentation thanking her 'for all the help and kindness she has given us over the past 25 years and because of this she deserves a long and happy retirement. That, Miss Meyer, is our wish for you.'

Replying Miss Meyer said, 'It is very difficult for me this afternoon to say thank you to you adequately.' She paid tribute to her fellow members of the staff, particularly Miss Lord and Miss Newbold. 'I want to thank you all for letting me spend 25 years coming to your homes, sharing in your joys and in your sorrows. Now I am expressing my thanks to you, very inadequately, for being here today and for giving me this very generous gift. Thank you very much and may I end by saying God Bless you all.'

But the presentations were not over! Mr. Henchy, Banqueting Manager of Crest



Miss Meyer with the cake she received from the Crest Hotel.

Hotels, came to the microphone to pay tribute to Miss Meyer and thank her for 'Making our job very easy over the past 14 years. We look forward to having St. Dunstan's every year. It is a great pleasure to see so many of you here that I saw last year, the year before, the year before... Now we do not have another presentation for Miss Meyer but we would like her to have a small piece of cake tomorrow for her afternoon tea — we have a small, a very, very small gesture of thanks!' The gesture took the form of a cake with a greeting in icing from the hotel.

The formal proceedings over, there was dancing and all the laughter and good fellowship the Bristol Reunion is renowned for. No doubt many more thanks were expressed personally to Miss Meyer before tea brought a most enjoyable afternoon to a close.

CORRECTION

In the June issue of the *Review*, in Sydney Scroggie's report on the 3rd Dundee Health Marathon, there was unfortunately a misprint on Mary Scroggie's time. We apologise for this error. Her time was **3 hrs. 35 mins.**, one minute better than her previous best.

H.M. THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday; our Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, sent this message of congratulations to the Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen:

On behalf of St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world, I should be grateful if you would kindly give our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, our loyal greetings on the celebration of her birthday on June 15th. We send Her Majesty all our good wishes and greatly look forward to her gracious visit to Ian Fraser House on July 19th.

Sir Philip Moore replied on her behalf with these words:

I am commanded by The Queen to ask you to convey her warm thanks to the St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday.

The Queen, as Patron of St. Dunstan's, received this message with great pleasure and has asked me to tell you how much she is looking forward to her visit to Ian Fraser House on July 19th.

A TRIBUTE TO ERNEST RUSSELL

It is always sad to reflect the passing of a fellow St. Dunstaner, particularly one like my friend Ernest Russell. If anyone really earned the title 'Public Spirited' it was Ernest. Over 50 years of service to the public both paid and unpaid. He gave devoted service to the British Legion and N.A.L.G.O. both nationally and locally, but it will be as a true St. Dunstaner that he will be remembered by many of us. He had the most prodigious memory not only of events but of his many friends and colleagues and the names and associations of their families.

Ernest, one of the early St. Dunstaners of the Second World War, made a special

point of visiting the newly blinded. This is how we first met and I cherish the friendship and help he extended to me. It is symbolic that he died returning from the Sheffield Reunion.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his dear wife, Rose. She was a great support to Ernest for so many years and during the latter years when Ernest suffered illness. I hope she will take comfort from the fact that she still has the support of the family spirit of St. Dunstan's that her dear husband did so much to foster in his lifetime.

Bert Ward.

OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the death, on April 14th, of Mr. George E.C. Zipfel, of Hailsham, E. Sussex, who served St. Dunstan's for 50 years. He joined St. Dunstan's as a Boy Scout in August 1919, and in later years worked as an assistant to Mr. Owens. In 1961 he became Homes Sales Manager, a position he maintained until he left, in June 1970. He also contributed a lot of time and energy to the activities of the Staff Association, becoming its Chairman after the war. He will be sadly missed by those who knew him, and we offer sympathy to his widow, Mrs. D. Zipfel, and other members of the family.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of another former member of staff, Miss D. J. Oliphant, who passed away in Warminster Hospital on June 10th, aged 92. Miss Oliphant worked for St. Dunstan's as a Social Visitor from 1934 until 1948, and during this time was also a keen organiser of the Warminster Camp each summer. Her funeral took place on June 14th in the parish churchyard near her home. We send sympathy to her friends and relatives.

Last month we published a tribute to the late Mrs. Doris Churchill Eaton, sent in by her husband, Mr. Harry Eaton. We subsequently received the unfortunate and sad news that Mr. Eaton passed away on June 15th, following an operation. We offer sympathy to his son, Mr. Roger Eaton, and other members of the family.

JUNE AMATEUR RADIO WEEKEND

At the June meeting we were in the Winter Garden as we have been on earlier occasions. This was due to the fact that our future home on the fifth floor was still not ready to be used. In September, however, we hope to have a 'Grand Opening', and our Hon. Sec. has promised to try and persuade St. Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, to attend on that day, providing he can fit it in his appointments calendar.

All the members who were present were taken around and shown our new base: the two rooms allocated are much too grand to be called a 'Radio Shack,' I think a more correct term would be 'Wireless Room' or 'Signals Office', but I suppose that as amateurs are using them, they will still be called the 'Shack.'

Our Hon. Sec. has arranged for our affiliation certificates, of which we have four, one from each of the Armed Services A.R.S., and one from the Radio Society of Great Britain, to be framed and glazed. This has been done through the good offices of John Brown in our workshops, with St. Dunstan's Jackie Johnson, doing the actual frame making. St. Dunstan's A.R.S. sends its thanks and appreciation to both men.

The trip to Chalk Pits was discussed, I must admit, with some apprehension on account of the weather, but we decided to brave it and set out at about 2 p.m., graced by three wives, Mrs. George Cole, Mrs. Ted John, and Mrs. Vic Reeves and the trip turned out to be most interesting and entertaining. We were welcomed by Ron and Joan Ham, the husband and wife team who run the Chalk Pits Industrial Museum, and taken by a small gauge railway on a trip round the grounds of the museum. A point of particular interest was the Rangers Bridge. This bridge was constructed and built entirely by the Ranger Girl Guides, and a more competent job I have seldom seen, even by constructional engineers.

We then made our way to the Communications Museum. There we came upon a

veritable 'Aladdin's Cave' of communication equipment. It ranged from the old 'clickety-clack' sounders of the old Wells Fargo days of the last century, to a 20 year-old video recorder. For the ex-service Signallers there were all the old familiar sets used by the Navy, Army and Air Force. There were even the sets used by the Resistance and other covert organisations. For the pure Radio Ham, there was the replica of the Radio Shack, together with some of the actual equipment that was used by the very first British YL Radio Ham. There were also the original keys and various other items of gear used by many of the house-hold names in the pioneering days of Amateur Radio. The pièce-de-résistance which we were privileged to see (it is not open to the general public yet), was a mock-up of the communications section of the Lancaster Bomber. Ron and Joan Ham were so vivid and enthusiastic in their description I could almost see our late member Roy G4 KJM sitting in the chair and operating the transmitting set.

The time passed so quickly that by the time we came out of the radio room, we were already too late to return in time for the evening meal at Ian Fraser House. Of course we phoned and made arrangements for a late meal, but unfortunately we had to miss the rest of the tour around this very interesting industrial museum. Ron and Joan are friends of long standing to St. Dunstan's A.R.S. and know they are welcome at Ian Fraser House any time that they wish to visit us, and I hope when they do, that we can make their visit as interesting and enjoyable as they have made our visit to the Chalk Pits. Thank you Ron and Joan, and every success in your venture. Sunday passed with discussions of 'Cabbages and Kings', and so to bed.

There are two items of special interest. Firstly the G3 MOW Trophy. Over the last few years, the response of the members to ballots which have been organised in order to select a recipient for this award

has been rather indifferent. It was therefore decided at the A.G.M. in March, that the Committee would assume responsibility for the awarding of the G3 MOW Trophy to a suitable candidate. Any member who wishes to nominate a candidate is, of course, quite welcome to do so. It must be stressed however, that the candidate's name, together with his or her suitability to receive the award, must be available to the committee by the September meeting at the very latest. All nominations should be forwarded to the

Hon. Sec. Ted John, G3 SEJ. In the case of a candidate who is not generally known to the committee, a brief resumé of his or her work on behalf of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, would be very much appreciated. The second item is that the speaker at the September meeting, is to be Peter Robinson G3 MRX, who will give a talk on Amateur Packet Radio. This promises to be a very interesting talk, especially to me, as at the moment I have no idea what Amateur Packet Radio is.

A. W. Lockhart, SWL.

DANCE STEPS UP THE LADDER

Reg Page, whose achievements in ballroom dancing we have reported in the past, has moved another step towards his ultimate target, the Supreme Award.

On June 23rd he was awarded three Gold Stars in Ballroom and two Gold Stars in Latin American. He was commended in both categories by a judge he described as 'very fair but very strict.' Once he has passed the three Gold Star level at Latin American, Reg will be able to tackle the Supreme Award. If his plans go right he will obtain the Latin American standard in December and then look forward to a year's hard work for the top award in 1986.

For his latest test he was partnered by his tutor, Miss Joan Luxton, and his detailed marks out of 100 were:

Ballroom: Waltz	78pts
Foxtrot	76
Tango	78
Quickstep	76
Rhythm foxtrot	78
Slow time	} 78
Quick time	
Latin American: Rhumba	76
Pasodoble	75
Samba	73
Cha Cha Cha	76
Jive	76

'The marks are lower but I worked harder,' commented Reg, 'It's getting a bit complicated now. As you climb the ladder they expect more from you — expect you to be more professional. I had the jitters but, thank goodness, it was all right.'



Reg Newton with Miss Joan Luxton.

'TOUCH AND SEE' SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

An exhibition of sculpture for and by the visually handicapped will be taking place at the RNIB, Great Portland Street, London, from September 10-20th.

The pieces of sculpture on exhibition are either on loan from local artists or made by visually handicapped sculptors. The exhibition will be demonstrating the application and results of a pilot scheme, run by Leicester University's Department of Education, for the teaching of sculpture to the visually handicapped.

Professional Boxing Between the Wars

This year, Joe Attfield, of Paignton, attended the Ex-Professional Boxers Reunion on May 17th in Plymouth, as a Guest of Honour. Joe has boxed in 120 amateur and 180 professional fights during his long boxing career which stretches right back to 1929. He has sent us the accompanying piece about his reminiscences of the boxing world – the trials, the winnings, and the errors...



Joe Attfield in younger days.

I suppose I began learning to box when I was about nine years old. That was in the Boy Scouts. The star amateurs in those days were lads like Charlie Gale, Len Gale and Eddie Treadwell. Another lad you might remember, although he used to fight for the Boys Brigade, was the late Charlie Simonds. The men who used to train and teach us in those days you will probably remember when I mention Dick Westcott, Phil Jude and Bob Squance.

At about 11 years of age I joined Dick Burt's Caprera Boxing Club, which was in a converted fisherman's loft in Woolster Street on the Barbican, where I stayed until I was about 14. During those years I remember I was given the honour of carrying the board giving the number of rounds in the fight between Len Harvey and Eddie Philipps at the old Millbay Rinks. For that I had a free ringside view. It's a great pity that they now give this job to mannequins and not to the young amateurs of boxing. I carried on as an amateur until I was about 15. I reckon I must have had about 100 fights during that time and I lost only two. For those two, I was very

proud to have been presented with the Best Loser's Medal for the tournament. I was fortunate enough to win so many fights but I don't think I was any better. As my father used to say, 'If there weren't any losers, there wouldn't be any winners.'

At 16 I went to Jimmy Cartledge's club, the City Athletic, Devonport. I thought Jimmy would have started me off as a professional straight away, but he kept me training and learning for a further two years. I learnt a lot sparring with people like Jimmy O'Connor, who was then the lightweight champion of the West of England, and seaman Long Ben Duffy, and a lot more naval lads who fought in the shows in those days. Jim used to take me round to the different shows and tell me to watch a certain lad fight, after which he would ask me what I thought my chances would be if I was matched with him. For several fights I said each time that I thought I could beat him. So I didn't get any fights. Then one evening he took me to watch Joe Finch. After that I told Jimmy I didn't know and that I thought I would have all the way to go. He said, 'Right, you

will be fighting him in a fortnight.'

My fight with Joe was the hardest I have ever had. And we have been the greatest of friends every since. After this I had several fights. To name a few I remember well, were: with George Avery, of St. Austell – I fought him twice and won; with Jeff Oliver, of Torquay; and with Jackie Phillips. The war started and I was still an apprentice. The only shows on then, were charity shows for the Red Cross. I remember fighting the lightweight champ of the R.A.F., Dick Burt, in a Red Cross Show at the Alhambra, Devonport. It was my second fastest time, I won by a knockout in approximately one and a half minutes of the first round, and the crowd booed the house down. I would probably have been cheered if I'd taken a hammering. I received a pound for expenses.

I then joined the Army. At that time I was stationed with a Signal Training Regiment in Yorkshire. A volunteer was asked for, to fight in a charity for a miner who had been off sick from work with silicosis. I said I would do it. The match was at Hickleton Main. I didn't know who the opponent was until he climbed into the ring. He was then announced as Billy Thompson, lightweight champion of the British Empire and the British Isles. I thought to myself, 'What the hell have I left myself in for? Silly Joe, don't ever volunteer again.' Anyhow, it was a good fight, I went the eight rounds. Since I had had the honour and privilege to have been in the ring with a champion for this fight, I received my expenses – 30 shillings in war saving stamps. After that I landed in Normandy on D Day with the Third British Division and got through as far as Nijmegen, on the breakthrough to Arnhem. It was Nijmegen where I was wounded. It was one of the few times in which I forgot the advice of all my boxing teachers and didn't duck quickly enough.

GOLDEN WEDDING

This photograph of Mr. and Mrs. H. Haskey, of Pinner, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 20th (mentioned in June Review) was sent to us by their daughter as she thought it was a very nice one.

Word Search Competition No. 2

The Review has been asked to organise another word competition. Entries should reach the Editor by November 30th. Winners will be notified before Christmas, and the full results published in the January/February Review. The first prize will be a cheque for £10 and the second prize £5.

How many words can you get from the following phrase?

'St. Dunstan's Anniversary Year.'

Rules

1. Words should contain a minimum of 3 letters.
2. Each letter in the phrase may only be used once.
3. Plurals that simply add 's' on the end may not be used.
4. No proper names, slang, abbreviations or initials.
5. The dictionary should only be used to check a word.
6. Please put your total at the end of your entry.
7. The Editor and the Collins English Dictionary will be the final arbiters.



READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 4335

How to be Seventy

By George Mikes

Read by Brian Perkins

Reading Time 9 hours

George Mikes was born in Miklos, Hungary, in February 1912 and is therefore 'older than the BBC and younger than the Magna Carta'. In the early part of the book he talks with affection and humour of his many colourful, not to say, outrageous relations.

In the Hungary of his youth it was the custom for men travelling in the bus to doff hats when passing a church. Jews did not. Feeling somewhat left out the young Mikes got himself baptised and happily took off his hat with the rest of them. He now describes himself as once-Jew, once-Roman Catholic, now Atheist.

At university he read law and obtained his Doctorate, but never practised as he always felt that journalism would be his life work, which it proved to be.

In 1938 he arrived in London as correspondent for two Budapest newspapers. His original stay was to have been for two weeks, up until now that fortnight has extended to 46 years. Soon many of his friends followed him to London and together they formed a small Hungarian enclave with a lifestyle more bohemian than staid metropolitan.

One day a little emigré van-driver called on him. He had been at school with his younger brother. 'I liked him a great deal and we became firm friends' says Mikes, 'but that was before he became my publisher!' The van-driver's name was Andre Deutsche.

Although he has lived in England for more than 46 years, Mikes has never become completely anglicised. When a friend suggested that he buy a house in France he said he was not interested. 'Why,

wouldn't you like to live abroad?' asked the friend. 'Oh, but I *do* live abroad' replied Mikes.

Cat. No. 3266

Flashman's Lady

By George MacDonald Fraser

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 14½ hours

Harry Flashman, self-confessed coward, scoundrel, womaniser and one-time Rugby bully, is back in London after his triumphs in the Afghan wars. Through a chance encounter with Tom Brown (of 'Schooldays' fame) he meets Don Solomon Haslam.

Don Solomon is a rich and personable Old Etonian with large business interests in the Orient. He invites Flashman and his beautiful wife, Elspeth, to accompany him on a cruise to the Far East on his luxury yacht. In Singapore, Solomon takes advantage of 'Flashy's' absence on a women-hunting prowl, to sail off with the fair Elspeth as prisoner, en route for his pirate lair on the island of Borneo. For it now transpires that the suave man-about-town Solomon is none other than Suliman Huzman, the notorious pirate King.

An armada of ships gives chase, led by no less a personage than James Brooke, the first 'White Rajah' of Sarawak. They eventually meet up with the pirate fleet and a fair amount of blood is shed. After diverse adventures our hero falls into the hands of Ranavallona, the mad Queen of Madagascar. Her chief delight is killing off thousands of her subjects in a variety of novel and extremely painful ways. This is not at all to our Harry's liking and when he is coerced into taking part in a plot to overthrow the cruel despot, he almost dies of fright. . .

A crazy, rollicking, bawdy gem of a tale.

A moment to spare with Syd Scroggie

Abandoned

When my wife Margaret goes out for the evening without me, which isn't very often, it's always with the same person, a fat old friend, Nan Shepherd. When she was young Nan was slim, had long, shiny, beautiful black hair, and used to cycle round the youth hostels; but a fatal predilection for Mars bars, Yorkies, doughnuts, eclairs and tippy cakes, sugar, starch, milk products and polysaturated fats, have expanded her in her middle age into something less resembling the sylph she was, than the Michelin man. It's got something to do, Margaret thinks, with the fact that Nan's father committed suicide at a critical age in her girlhood, Nan being the first to discover the body; but at the same time, it may have been her mother to blame — a woman who only remains to us now in her portrait painted by Margaret's father. 'Nae muckle wonder,' he used to say, 'Pair shepherd hing'd himself.'

Well, Nan has this evening put on one of her chic, playful outfits (the style she affects is forever youthful). Margaret has bathed, washed her hair, put on a tasteful, if well-preserved, suit, scented herself, and having fed me has now gone away in the car to pick up Nan as a preliminary to a meal, an evening at Dundee Rep, and a good blether. I am left on my own, and the question arises how I'm to amuse myself till the sound of the car's return, the banging of the garage's up-and-over door, and the noise of a key in the lock announce that Margaret has come back.

There's the hedge to be trimmed, of course, and some grass to be cut, the tea-dishes to be washed and the upstairs to be hoover'd, a letter or two to be written and my hill-journal to be got up to date, but surely it's too fine an evening to be thinking about work, and in fact I feel a kind of langour today better cossetted and given in to, in my opinion, than dispelled in the old Victorian manner by grim

application to labour. It's too late in the summer for the birds to be singing, but the combines are busy in the fields around, and it occurs to me that if I just sit on the dyke in the sun it will be pleasant, even therapeutic, here to study the activity of Man as he grapples with Nature in the annual event of the harvest.

It's not without a certain unease of mind that Margaret thus abandons her husband from time to time, not so much that she fears I may be lonely, but the very reverse, that as soon as she is gone unholy desires rise in me, I make for the phone, and my evening is spent not in the ordered contemplation of profound matter, but tumbling on the divan with some trollop lured out from the town. So she can't really enjoy her fried sole and chips with Nan, the play might be *Hamlet* or *Arsenic and Old Lace* for all she remembers of it, and there is always something about the house on her return, in apple pie order as it is, redolent of the clandestine and the sinful. Certainly there's no smell of perfume, there's not a blonde hair to be found, the divan is smooth and tucked in, but was there not a touch of the exaggerated in her husband's welcome, the hand at her elbow, the assistance up the step, the kettle already singing on the hob? Abandon your husband, as Margaret desultorily does, assert your independence as a wife, and such terrible consequences accrue, burrowing like a worm in the brain, as to make independence something not to be courted but eschewed.

The noise of the combines falls silent, a bat whistles, an owl hoots in the thickets of Paradise Wood, a moth brushes my cheek, and I hear the noise of Margaret's Mini, feverishly and recklessly driven, making its way along the road from Bridgefoot. The hedge is uncut, the dishes unwashed, and peace, blessed inheritance of the abandoned husband, has reigned all evening at Roseangle.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

What a peculiar season we are having. It is a wonder that plants have grown as well as they have during the poor summer. It seems that you people in the South have been washed out whilst my little area in the Wirral has had little or no rain but plenty of gales. I do hope those of you who have taken your holidays have had a good time, and a friend or relation has looked after your plants satisfactorily.

Vegetables

Keep the beds well hoed so that weeds are kept in hand, and the soil is open for air and moisture to get down to roots of plants that are still growing. Onions should nearly be ripe enough to pull out, but it would be better to bend over leaves for a while before harvesting. Dig out main crop potatoes and leave tubers on top of the soil for a while to dry off, if there is no rain, before storing in sacks. Don't use plastic bags or you will have trouble with rotting of tubers.

Check outdoor tomatoes, cucumbers and marrows, giving plenty of water, feeding every so often with a liquid feed. Pick tomatoes and cucumbers as soon as they ripen to give young fruit a chance to grow well and get the benefit of water and fertilisers. Where there are some leaves bending over tomatoes and keeping the sun off fruits, carefully cut away some of the leaf, so they ripen quickly, as temperatures will be going down towards the end of September. Runner beans which are still growing strongly should be stopped at the main growing point so that beans can ripen and sides can be formed, to give more beans in the last few weeks of the season. Pick ripened beans regularly.

Clear areas where vegetables have been harvested and a light forking over will benefit the area for next season and will also ease autumn digging. Pests and diseases are still raging around so use sprays regularly. Some of you may be rather against the modern chemical sprays but

there are always items like *derris* and *pyrethrum* which come from plants and are very good against all insects.

One can still sow some salad items such as radish and lettuce which will grow quickly, especially in southern areas. It might be a good idea to set pegs on the last rows of potatoes, plus one where other items, apart from the cabbage family, were grown and then the last one for the cabbage family. This will make it easier for you to make sure of your three year rotation and helps against the main ground pest, club root.

Lawns

There is still lots of growth in grass at present, so mow regularly in moist conditions. Cut down mowings when there is a dry spell. One can still give doses of special grass fertiliser till the end of September but keep off the weedkiller till early spring. Do remember to clean blades of the machine and brush away grass cuttings in or on other parts of the machine. It is especially important to do this in wet conditions or you may have some rusting. Keep edges tidy by cutting after each mowing, so that the whole place, lawn and borders, will look nice.

Fruit

Some so-called summer pruning during the next two months, which means cutting away some tall thin growths and this will benefit the setting fruit. Don't forget that there is still time to thin out rather overcrowded clumps of apples so as to get good quality and size. Where apples are being shaded too much, cut away some of the leaves, but not too many. Grease bands can be put in place on apples and pears towards the end of September. Remember that these should be put in place about a foot or two above ground level on the main trunk. Some apples will be ripening early so go around and test by lifting lightly and if they come away they are ripe.

Remove all unwanted runners from

strawberries and clean up beds especially if you have put down some straw to keep the fruit clean. All side shoots of currants should be cut away by late September. Cut away all old fruiting canes on raspberries and keep only three or four for next year's cropping.

Flowers

Keep the hoe going regularly to ensure that weeds are kept in hand and also open soil for the entry of any moisture that may come along to get down to the roots. Some liquid fertiliser for annuals will give them a boost. Antirrhinum spikes of flower that are deteriorating need to be cut down so other side shoots will form and give more flowers, and they will go well into the autumn. Do stake up taller growing items as strong winds come along regularly at this time of the year. Where you have climbing plants such as clematis, honeysuckle and wisteria, ensure that you tie in new shoots before they are damaged or you will have a poorer show next season.

The large dahlias and named ones will be showing colour now, so tie them into canes or you can easily have break downs. I find that the regular spraying with an insecticide will keep all in check, including earwigs which seem to like large flowers. At the end of September get in all new bulbs for spring colour. Crocus and anemone should be settled in their quarters, with some hardy cyclamen in shaded places round the base of trees. Don't let seed heads settle on perennial border plants unless you want some for sowing yourself. Outdoor chrysanthemums will need lots of water and occasional feed. Cut the flower heads as soon as possible for the house, leaving a few side shoots with some buds which may give you some late colour if the weather isn't too hard.

Sweet peas will still be showing their worth, so cut away all dead heads, unless you want to get your own seed, but I honestly think that new seed from a good source is much better. Give plenty of water and regular feeds. Roses will still have plenty of colour for the next two months or more, provided they are looked after properly and fading flower heads cut down fairly hard. Give some special ferti-

liser which is easily obtainable at most garden shops. Mildew and black spot will still be rampant so spray regularly and it might be a good thing to use one which also includes a feed, all these go down to the plant through the leaves, and does save extra labour.

Greenhouse

Still plenty of colour and growth in the pot plants, though by the end of September many items such as begonias, gloxinias and achimenes etc., will be coming to the end of their colour and growth, so start reducing water so that leaves tend to dry off. When all the leaves have turned brown, the pots can be set on their sides to be kept for the winter in frost proof conditions. Re-pot old cyclamens in fresh compost and start into growth by watering. The same can be said for late flowering azaleas, but do use special compost which can be obtained at most garden shops.

Calceolaria and cineraria seedlings should be put in their flowering pots by the end of September but keep them cool. Disbud winter flowering chrysanthemums in order to get good blooms and if not already under glass put them inside. Many annuals can be sown in August for winter flowering especially schizanthus which always gives a wonderful display, so it's no wonder that it is called *The Poor Man's Orchid*. It is quite easy to cultivate and can be had in colour at all times of the year.

Cyclamen and geranium seed can be sown, so as to have good plants for next season. As long as they are frost free, they will be all right. Some roman hyacinth and freesias can be potted up now for good colour and scent around Christmas. One should be picking the last of the tomatoes, so get rid of any plants which have no young fruit on them. Clear away pots and grow-bags. Remnants of soil can be spread around the borders to give perennials and shrubs a boost for next season. As temperatures drop a little, it would be best to cut down on open windows and certainly don't spray moisture about the floor. Aphids and diseases will still be about so spray regularly or light a smoke or two.

CLUB NEWS

LONDON — Bridge

At the half-way stage of the **Gover Cup Individuals Competition**, and of those who have played at least five matches, the position is as follows:

W. Lethbridge	355
H. Meleson	331
B. Fullard	325
B. Miller	319
F. Dickerson	313
R. Evans	299

Bill Allen, Hon. Sec.

BRIGHTON — Bridge

Pairs — June 9th

R. Fullard & Group Captain E. McMillan	57.5
W. Lethbridge & Mr. R. Goodlad	55.0
W. Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	54.1
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	51.7
J. Majchrowicz & Miss Sturdy	49.2
J. Padley & Mrs. Padley	48.3
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	42.5
J. Huk & Mrs. Andrews	41.7

Individuals — June 22nd

Mrs. Murch	70.4
R. Pacitti	64.8
J. Hudson	53.4
J. Majchrowicz	53.4
J. Huk	52.3
Miss Sturdy	52.3
Mrs. Pacitti	51.1
W. Lethbridge	48.9
Mrs. Szpala	44.3
Mrs. Douse	43.2
Bob Evans	37.5
Mrs. Barker	28.4

Bowling

We commenced our summer bowling season by visiting East Preston, followed in quick succession with visits to Hurstpierpoint, Burgess Hill and Marine Gardens, Worthing, Bowling Clubs. We were warmly greeted by members of all four

clubs and weatherwise we were very fortunate. We proceeded on to the greens and took some little time to settle down to outdoor bowling. Although we did not fare too well there were some good individual performances, but, nevertheless, we all enjoyed our bowling and hope that we will improve as the season progresses.

In his vote of thanks to all four clubs, Captain Bob does not seem to know the difference between winning and losing, as he always announces that the matches have ended in draws! Harry, Bob and Tommy have all purchased new woods hoping that this might improve their game. Keep practising boys, you may yet reach Australia!

Do not forget our next two matches: Guildford — Sun. August 18th, Woolston, Southampton — Sat. August 24th.

A. Miller

Entertainment Section

On Wednesday June 5th, 33 members were entertained to tea, and a superb concert given for us by the 'Not Forgotten' Association. We were met at the Princess Marina Home at Rustington by Miss Seeley, Brig. Woodruff, Mr. and Mrs. Hobday, Lieut. Commander A. Carvossa, and the Matron.

After ice-creams some of the men took a walk along the seafront, others were able to follow the Derby, while some were pleased to talk with members of the Association.

Tea was served and as usual we had boiled eggs, and when everyone had enjoyed this, the tables were cleared and chairs assembled for the concert. The artists who entertained us were Phyllis Whitaker at the piano, Linda Watts who sang some very much-loved songs, Gordon Holdon, the compere, who also sang humorous ditties, and Syd Shaw, an accomplished harmonica player. It was great to hear such resounding singing from St. Dunstaners. This was enjoyed by everyone. Bob Cunningham thanked the Association for their kindness, and also the Matron. He presented Miss Seeley with a token of our gratitude. Dame Jean Conan Doyle was also present, and we

were pleased to have members who live away from Brighton.

Please could members who have tournaments to complete, help by coming as we should like to finish them before the summer break. The annual dinner and dance is being arranged for November 7th and the cost will be approximately £7.50 for members and £12 for non-members.

Phyllis O'Kelly

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Raymond, son of *Mr. and Mrs. W. Beatty*, of Ballinamallard, on his marriage to Myra Coulter on February 26th, and to Cyril, their other son, on his marriage to Hazel Beacon on April 10th.

Guardsman Robert Alan White of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, and son of *Mr. and Mrs. J. White*, of Rosliston, Burton-on-Trent, on his marriage to Private Joanne Wake, W.R.A.C., on May 11th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Walton, of Blackpool, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on June 27th.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Andrew, of New Southgate, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 25th.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Wilkins, of Point Lonsdale, Australia, on the occasion of their

Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 29th 1984.

65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. E. Kippax, of Burnley, who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on June 26th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Beales, of Hereford, on the birth of their third grandchild, Lucy Kathryn, born on April 12th to their son, Robert, and his wife, Caroline.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cattell, of Northampton, who are pleased to announce the birth of another grandchild, Paul Idris George, born on April 29th to their daughter, Jayne.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Foster, of Barnsley, on the arrival of their first grand-daughter, Shelley Louise, born on April 25th to their daughter, Hilary and her husband, Gerard.

Mrs. G. Milewski, widow of the late *Mr. S. Milewski*, of Coventry, on the birth of her grand-daughter, Catherine Louise, born on April 30th to her daughter, Yvonne, and son-in-law, Raymond Hutchinson.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Cynthia, wife of *Mr. P. Baker*, of Sidmouth, whose mother passed away on June 1st.

Mr. C. E. V. Dale and family, of Findon, whose wife, Dorothy, passed away on June 16th after several years of ill health. They were married for 66 years.

Deaths continued

Sybil, wife of Mr. Phil Duffee, of Seaford, whose mother passed away suddenly on May 23rd.

Mr. A. Grimshaw, of Beccles, whose wife, Edith, passed away on June 26th. He is

staying temporarily with his daughter in Wareham.

Mr. G. Jakins, of Guildford, whose sister passed away suddenly on April 26th.

Mr. R.J. Leach, and family, of Hastings, whose wife, Laura, passed away on June 15th, after 46 years of happy marriage.

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.

C. Hiscox, Dorset Regiment

Clifford Hiscox, of Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan, passed away in hospital on June 11th, aged 65. He had been seriously ill for two months.

Mr. Hiscox, who became a St. Dunstaner in 1974, served as a Private with the Dorset Regiment from January 1937, and lost most of his sight when wounded in Burma in 1944. Following his discharge from the Army, he was able to work for a time as a miner but then he rented a few acres of land at the foot of the mountains opposite his home, and with the help of his wife and son, ran a small holding on which he fattened cattle for market and grazed horses. He was also a keen and successful gardener and kept busy with these outdoor pursuits until the sudden onset of his illness.

He leaves his widow, Joyce, and their two children, Byron and Wendy and their families, who have been such a great source of help and support.

E. Russell, 1/6 Lancashire Fusiliers

Numerous fellow St. Dunstaners, friends and members of St. Dunstan's staff in London and Brighton have been deeply shocked by the sudden passing of Ernest Russell, of Leeds, who collapsed on his way home following the Sheffield Reunion on Saturday 8th June. He was in his 67th year and has been a St. Dunstaner for 45 years.

At the age of 21, Mr. Russell enlisted in the 1/6 Lancashire Fusiliers at the onset of World War II and six months later was blinded by a gunshot wound whilst on active service in Belgium with the B.E.F.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's shortly

afterwards for training in braille, typewriting and telephony. He was a highly-valued and efficient employee of Leeds City Council for 40 years, 33 of them working as a telephonist since he was blinded and, from the time of Local Government reorganisation in 1974, as Assistant to the City Buildings Manager. Mr. Russell also served on the *Nalgo* Regional Executive Committee, and in 1975 was elected President of the White Rose Branch of the Royal British Legion of which he was a founder member. In appreciation of his sterling work on various committees of the British Legion he was the proud possessor of their Life Membership Certificate and Gold Badge. His services to the community were numerous and throughout he was ably and willingly assisted by his wife, Rose, who was presented with a silver rose bowl at a special British Legion dinner given in honour of our St. Dunstaner, as a token of their great appreciation for her support. In 1977, Mr. Russell was elected President of Leeds *Nalgo* whose members gave him a gold braille watch at a dinner in Leeds Civic Hall in his honour in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

'Ernie', as he was affectionately known, was always a welcome visitor at Ian Fraser House where he enjoyed meeting old friends. His high spirits were infectious and he was a mine of information, at one time being named the 'local encyclopedia' by his many colleagues in civic life and at work.

He leaves his devoted wife and helpmate, Rose, who shared his many interests and with whom he had been looking forward to celebrating 40 years of happy marriage in August, and members of the family.