



St Dunstans
Review
January/February
1986



From the Chairman

New Year, 1986. How does St. Dunstan's follow 1985 — our 70th anniversary year with the opening of the new South Wing of Ian Fraser House by Her Majesty The Queen?

We will always remember the great events of 1985 but it is right also to recall that behind all that exciting activity the everyday life of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners continued.

And so it will be in 1986. No doubt there will be highlights but the real reasons for St. Dunstan's existence are our welfare service in all its aspects, the training of new entrants, hobby training for those in retirement, holidays and recreation at Ian Fraser House. In addition, at Pearson House, there is the provision of a place to call home for the elderly and, for those in poor health, the special care they need.

So, for 1986 my wish is continued success for all St. Dunstaners in overcoming the handicap of blindness and, for their families, our voluntary helpers, and the staff of St. Dunstan's, success in their efforts to support them.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Henry Leach

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 1986.

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 1986.

The Care Assistants at IFH would like to thank all those St. Dunstaners who contributed to the generous Christmas Box.

EL ALAMEIN REUNION

The El Alamein Reunion was held in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, during November with five St. Dunstaners attending, 43 years after the battle took place. Winston Churchill once said, 'After the war when a man is asked what he did, it will be sufficient for him to say, "I marched and fought with the Eighth Army."' On Sunday morning the men marched to the Cenotaph for the parade.

MEDICAL OFFICER

The appointment of Doctors Knott and Allenby as joint Medical Officers at our Brighton Homes has been terminated owing to their dissolving their partnership. As from January Dr. Martin Knott has been appointed Medical Officer.

WALL PLAQUES — IFH BAR

We now have over 40 ship, regimental and squadron wall plaques decorating the bar at IFH, as a consequence of our appeal in the April *Review*. Thank you to all those who have donated them, they make a fine show.

There is still room for more and if you have not yet donated and would like to do so, please contact Major Arthur Neve, the Deputy Administrator, who will willingly advise whether your ship, regiment or squadron is already represented or not. The cost of purchase of a suitable plaque is £11.

HMS DAEDALUS CAMP 1986

Old and new campers wishing to apply for a place at the Camp at HMS Daedalus to enjoy the generosity and hospitality of the Royal Navy should apply to Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG, but preferably telephone her at 0799 22874.

The camp will take place from Friday August 8th, 1986 until the morning of Saturday, August 16th. Please apply as soon as possible and in any case not later than Saturday, May 3rd, 1986.

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1986

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Cover: A Scottish piper and drummer herald the New Year at Ian Fraser House. Photo: John Barrow.

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

1986 Review copy deadlines for any material you wish to submit, are as follows:

Review	Copy in by
March	6th February
April	4th March
May	3rd April
June	30th April
July	5th June
August	3rd July
October	4th September
November	2nd October
December	6th November

TRAVEL OFFER FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Registered blind people travelling by rail and Sealink ship to Europe can now take a companion with them free of charge.

The facility is available for travel to 11 countries including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, West Germany and Italy. To qualify for the free travel offer, a full fare return ticket valid for two months must be purchased.

Tickets can be obtained from British Rail travel centres and principal stations. A blind person's Certificate of Registration or special form available at Social Services Departments must be produced at the time of booking.

NEW ADDITION TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

Beware and Take Care!

This tape, donated by Walter Thornton, O.B.E., on behalf of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, offers hints for crime prevention to the blind and partially sighted. Presented by Bob Warman and Sally Jones, advice includes protection of yourself and your home. The cassette is produced by the Birmingham & Sutton Coldfield Crime Prevention Panel. Please quote **Ref. G33** when ordering. The full cassette library list will appear in the March *Review*.

CROSSING LONDON EASIER FROM JANUARY

From 12th January 1986, passengers holding through tickets for rail journeys via London have been able to travel between London termini at no extra cost.

British Rail say this will make travelling easier, cutting out the need to buy a ticket for the Underground which can involve queuing or hunting for loose change for ticket machines.

The cross-London transfer is only available between BR central zone stations served by London Underground or on the 555 inter-station bus link. It is part of British Rail's drive to make long distance journeys via London as trouble-free as possible.

A 'Jetlink' coach service connects with trains at Stevenage, Luton and Watford for people travelling to Heathrow Airport and in May, 1986, InterCity trains will link the North West and Midlands with the South East direct. These trains will use the rail route through Kensington. Olympia station will become an InterCity station serving West London and the exhibition halls and will be re-furnished before the start of the new timetable.

DOOR-TO-DOOR

Guide to transport for Disabled People

The Department of Transport has published a 2nd edition of Door-to-Door, originally published in 1982.

This comprehensive guide gives information about transport facilities and services for disabled people on all forms of public transport by land, sea and air. It also covers other, more specialised forms of transport for disabled people and gives details about buying and running a car and about entitlement to aids and financial benefits.

The Department has also produced a tape version of the guide which is available free of charge from Social Services departments/Social Work offices, Health Authorities, Libraries, Voluntary Organisations or direct from Department of Transport, Door-to-Door Guide, FREE-POST, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0NZ.

Bert Ward Honoured

Leeds Talking Magazine for the Blind Association. Bert Ward, Chairman. Presented on the tenth anniversary to the founder of this Association by the Lord Mayor of Leeds on the 28th November, 1985.

A wooden plaque bearing this inscription was presented to our St. Dunstaner, Bert Ward, by Councillor J. Symonds, Lord Mayor of Leeds. The occasion was a buffet dinner held in the Civic Hall for 85 guests who included readers and members of the Association founded by Bert Ward in 1975.

The first edition of the monthly *Leeds Cassette*, appeared in October 1975, since then two more publications have been added, a weekly, *Sports Echo*, and another monthly called *Talkaround*, for children. Brief descriptions of the journals by those responsible for them formed part of the

evening. The combined circulation of the three recorded magazines totals 1,200. 42% of the readers live outside Yorkshire and Bert can claim national readership for all three publications.

The civic dinner was the culmination of a busy time for Bert, who was interviewed by BBC Radio Leeds on November 25th and by Roger Greenwood on Yorkshire Television's Calendar Programme on November 27th. The *Yorkshire Post* reported the anniversary and Bert hopes for increased readership as a result of the publicity.

'We have launched an appeal to coincide with the tenth anniversary,' he said, 'We need £10,000 to replace our copying equipment, which has had quite a hammering and we are planning to set up our own recording studio. Already, within a month, we have raised £2,500.'



Our St. Dunstaner, Eric Ward Rowe and his wife, Edna, with Sir Peter Blaker, Member of Parliament for Blackpool (South), at a conference held in Blackpool recently.



Stephen Jack and Ray Hazan preparing to record the *Talking Review*.

SERVICE WITH WORDS

Stephen Jack talks to Ray Hazan

Photographs by Lois Stringer

For over 60 years the voice and myriad dialects of Stephen Jack have soothed, entertained, informed and comforted audiences of radio, stage and talking book. Now, in his mid-80's, Stephen continues to speak to us St. Dunstaners via the *Talking Review*. Behind the familiar voice lies a wealth of artistic experience and service to the community.

The odds were stacked against Stephen Jack pursuing any profession other than an artistic one. His grandfather was a master silversmith. His father and uncle were professional singers. His mother and her brother were professional painters. Two other uncles were architects. Born John Stephen Charlton Hutchinson in 1902, Stephen was launched on his artistic career when he qualified as a boy chorister at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, a fashionable church sometimes attended by Queen Alexandra. But it was a tough life for a nine and ten year old. 'I had to leave my Finchley home at eight every

morning for the hour's journey. We practised from nine to ten, sang Matins, and then had school from 11 till one and two till four; then Evensong till five, and the journey home, followed by tea and homework. Choir practice on Saturday lasted three hours to prepare for the three services on the following day.' His father reluctantly decided to move him to a school nearer home — Finchley County School, where he subsequently spent six happy years.

The 9th January, 1919, a few days before his 17th birthday, will always stick in Stephen's mind as his first professional engagement, for three nights at King's Lynn. Standing at over six feet, his voice broken, he played the part of a 35-year old man in a company in which his father was already engaged. His only experience of acting had been in school plays, which were far from the standards known today. His father, who by now had become an actor himself, was concerned because

there were already several actors with similar names 'tramping the boards', so advised him to use two of his Christian names — and so 'Stephen Jack' was launched!

His next break came in the summer, when a friend who was assistant stage manager for Fred Terry in 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' said he knew there was a vacancy for a tall young man. Stephen subsequently toured for six years in this and other plays throughout the UK, with a week in each town, for an average of 40 weeks per year. During this time, he joined the Actors' Association, the forerunner of Equity, and within two years was voted on to its Council. 'I also joined the Actors' Church Union. I thought it would be useful as it would put me in touch with all the theatre chaplains (each theatre had one), and they would tell me about church services, places of local interest, etc.'

It was membership of the A.C.U. that helped launch Stephen on to the stage. A fellow member of the Council was Lilian Baylis; she had just arranged to release John Laurie to go to Stratford, and asked if Stephen would like to take his place at 'The Vic.' To appear there was the ambition of every actor, and of course Stephen accepted. After a season there he was involved in West End productions for three years. He had already gained a reputation for accents. Even before leaving school, handing out sandwiches at a tea party for an American Naval Band had given him vital experience in studying accents from 'across the water'; and so he was given small parts and understudying in two all-American plays at the Queen's Theatre — 'Crime' and 'The Trail of Mary Dugan', both of which ran about six months. He had to be familiar with the part he was understudying and be ready at a moment's notice to take over the role in cases of illness or sore throats. 'We had understudy rehearsals about once a fortnight, so that we could be on the *qui vive*.'

In any interview, actors and actresses will say that their profession was principally learned in touring of repertory companies. A variety of roles played in an assortment of theatres (to sometimes indifferent audiences) are a harsh testing ground. After 'Mary Dugan', Stephen

joined the Arts League Travelling Theatre. Their objective was to take theatre to those places, often remote, that were off the usual theatre trail. If the village had a good hall, that was sufficient. Their role was not simply to entertain, but to demonstrate to local people how shows could be put on relatively economically. As well as acting, the professionals had to sing, dance, mime, and set up and dismantle the stage. 'We played from Thurso, in the north of Scotland to Plymouth in the south. It was a most interesting two years. But, in the end, we 'cooked our own goose.' Whenever our secretary rang to fix an engagement, she found the locals putting on their own production!' A fund raising performance of the Arts League in Liverpool was visited by William Armstrong, director of the Playhouse. He sent a couple of messages of congratulations to Stephen. There followed an interview, a letter and some waiting. 'I finished the Arts League tour on a Saturday, and on Monday morning, a letter fell through the front door containing a contract with the Playhouse.' Another ambition was fulfilled, and there followed a happy five years playing many principal roles, and the continued maturing of his many accents, gleaned from landladies, stage hands, and local markets. During four of the summer 'breaks' he played leading parts in the Cornish Open-air Shakespeare Festival.

Radio

In 1936, Stephen's career entered the world of broadcasting. His very first radio appearance had, in fact, been way back in 1926, in a play called 'Hassan.' 'It was a first performance both for Norman Shelley and myself. We were to work together right up to his death.' Although his involvement was mainly in radio, he was in six television plays. These were, of course, 'live', and went out to the 2,000 viewers living in the Alexandra Palace area. Television came to a halt during the war as their best technicians were drafted away for the war effort. However, the BBC formed its own radio repertory company of about 30 actors, and these were taken



Stephen Jack recording.

down to the west country so that an uninterrupted service could be provided. Again, Stephen was called upon to perform a plethora of parts in drama, variety, religious and educational programmes.

'You dared not take your eyes off the script. Everything was written down, including moves that put you exactly the right distance from the microphone in order to get the desired effect. It would take a whole week to rehearse a Shakespeare play. It was all live performing. I remember one Children's hour broadcast with Norman Shelley. The director had asked us to remove the pin holding our scripts together. The inevitable happened — half of Norman's pages went crashing to the floor right in the middle of the programme. Those who were able grovelled around the floor until a point where they could give it all back to him, hoping the pages were in the right order. A frightening experience at the time!

In 1941, Stephen joined the Civil Defence back in his north London home, but

continued with 'Empire' radio broadcasting. This was mainly for the entertainment of troops all over the world. Recording tape was being introduced at about this time and was important in ensuring the continuity of a programme during an air raid. The final rehearsal would be recorded, and once, right in the middle of a play, the producer was able to switch from the live performance to exactly the right spot on the tape, so that the audience remained blissfully unaware. This was in Bristol.

One new area of work Stephen took up after the war was 'post sync-dubbing' or putting an English dialogue onto a foreign film. 'This was not just a matter of watching the film and tying your script in with the lip movements. We used the 'de Lane Lea' process. What appeared on the screen was an illuminated band with the script. We had to start and finish exactly with the appearance and disappearance of the words on the band. The script had been carefully written to contain the sense

of the original but to also coincide with both lip movement and timing. 'The first film, I "post synched" was "Les Miserables". I also helped de Lane Lea choose character actors to fill these post sync-dubbing roles.'

Stephen's association with Talking Books started in 1942. He had heard Christopher Stone's annual appeal for the Wireless for the Blind Fund, in which passing reference was made to talking books. He met Stone in a lift in Broadcasting House a week later, and Stephen was invited to go along to the one studio in Regents Park to meet Leslie Pinder, the Director, and find out more about it.

The studio was located in an outhouse, the main building, Lord Fraser's home, having been burned down. 'We recorded directly on to a wax disc. Each side lasted 25 minutes. If you made a mistake, then the disc had to be scrapped and you started all over again. I remember once, we were interrupted some 20 minutes into the recording when an exploding V1 made the needle jump right off the disc! We subsequently moved into Hinde Street, where we started recording on tape in two studios. There was one move into premises in Great Portland Street before its present location just two doors away, and where there are now six studios.' Stephen ceased recording in 1982, when, it was estimated, he had recorded some 170 books.

Service to the community has been an important part of Stephen's life. Through Scouting and Toc H, he has found the sort of comradeship that exists in an organisation such as ours. He took up Scouting again seriously in 1925, holding Warrants of various sorts for 30 years, and finally becoming District Commissioner for Hendon in 1955 and resigning in 1963, most reluctantly. He was a member of the Central Council for Toc H and was much involved during the war in providing services such as cinemas and canteens for the forces. 'It has meant that wherever I have travelled, I have always had friends who could help me, and whom I could help.'

Since 1977, many of those friends have been St. Dunstaners. 'In 1975, I was made a Member of St. Dunstan's for services rendered via Talking Books. Shortly after

that, I was invited to read the Review on a regular basis. To me, it meant one more way of rendering service.' He continues to read poetry and articles for many friends all over the country.

Stephen is immensely active for an octogenarian. He drives, shops and cooks for himself and his wife. He can recall almost every production on stage in which he has taken part, including duration of run, those in the principal roles, and at which theatre. He still retains reams of memorised poems, recalled through the use of idea association. That he sounds like someone 30 years younger is not surprising — his voice has been his life.

'My father coached me from my early days as a chorister. Breath control is vitally important. One must make maximum use of the resonating cavities in the head and learn to pass just enough sound over the vocal chords so as not to produce strain but an audible sound with as little effort as possible.' He is proud of his reputation as an expert in accents. He taught part time in this at RADA (1950-1958) and continues to give coaching to actors both young and old. 'Words still fascinate me as much as they did in my schooldays.'

Stephen very nearly joined the priesthood, but felt his contribution in the way he had already chosen to be more fulfilling. For 70 years he has been involved in wooing his audience with his magic voice — a lifetime of service to his fellow human beings. His old friend 'Tubby' Clayton, founder padre of Toc H, said many wise things in his time — one of them, an epigram, states that 'Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth.' Stephen believes in paying his rent.



NATIONAL BRIDGE CONGRESS, IFH

December 6th-9th, 1985

All bridge players were assembled correct by Thursday evening. After having a very pleasant evening get-together, we assembled for the start of the Congress on Friday morning. After a speech of welcome by the Captain and the introduction of the tournament Director, Geoff Connell, and his very able assistant, Rowley, we spent a very pleasant day on Friday participating in the two events for that particular day.

On Friday evening the A.G.M. was held in the Winter Garden, Commander Conway presiding. The meeting was very brief and straightforward, Bill Phillips being elected Captain again, and Bob Fullard, Treasurer. The Committee is as follows: Bob Evans, Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney and Fred Dickerson. Bill Allen, having vacated his seat as Secretary, passed it over to yours truly.

The Congress itself with the various events, passed with pleasure, disappointment, surprise, or excited jubilation, whichever category we fitted into. At the end of the Congress our thanks and appreciation were expressed by Bill Phillips for the help given by Geoff Connell, his wife, Enid, Rowley and Maurice Douse, and all the markers. To Geoff Connell we presented a voucher whereby he can get something to remind him of this year's visit to the Congress, Rowley was presented with a document case, chocolates and our express wishes for a speedy recovery were given to Geoff's wife who, unfortunately, was taken ill during the weekend and had to return home.

The club Captain expressed his thanks to the Escort Office, through Enid, for the help she and Sheila gave in their endeavours to make the Congress a very happy one. Our thanks go to St. Dunstan's, Commander Conway, Major Neve and all the staff and also the the Red Ball Caterers for the excellent meal provided. After dinner we retired to the Annexe where a dance

was laid on for us, plus the usual beverages. This is the first dinner and dance that we have had in this Bridge Club and I hope, since it was such a success, long may it continue.
Reg Goding, Secretary

RESULTS:

Sir Arthur Pearson Pairs Championship

- 1st Bill Allen & Ron Freer
- 2nd Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson
- 3rd Harry Meleson & Jim Padley
Bill Phillips & Bob Evans

Consolation Prize

Bill Miller equal 2nd with sighted partner

Paul Nuyens Teams of Four

- 1st Bill Phillips & Bob Evans
Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson
- 2nd Bert Ward & Harold King
Reg Goding & George Hudson

Consolation Prize

Bill Miller equal 1st with sighted team

Alf Field Memorial Trophy Datum Pairs

- 1st Ron Freer & Bill Allen
- 2nd Bert Ward & Harold King
- 3rd Harry Meleson & Jim Padley
Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge

Lord Fraser Cup

Individual Championship

- 1st Jim Padley (Cup winner)
- 2nd Ralph Pacitti
- 3rd Wally Lethbridge
- 4th Bob Evans
Harold King
- 6th Vi Delaney

Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Teams of Four

- 1st John Whitcombe & Fred Dickerson
Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson
- 2nd Bob Evans & Bill Phillips
Reg Goding & George Hudson
- 3rd Bert Ward & Harold King
Bill Allen & Ron Freer



Alf Dodgson, Bob Evans, Bill Phillips and Ralph Pacitti.

Drummer Downs

- 1st Vi Delaney & Alf Dodgson
- 2nd Jim Padley & Bill Miller
- 3rd Wally Lethbridge & Joe Carney
- 4th Ralph Pacitti & Bill Allen

Gover Cup - Brighton

Ralph Pacitti

Gover Cup - London

Wally Lethbridge

Final Round

On Monday, December 9th, after the conclusion of the annual Bridge Congress, a drive was held from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with a break for lunch, to entertain our markers. There were 20 St. Dunstaners and 12 markers and wives of members, who had a very enjoyable day.

The prize winners were: Harold and Bertha King - 2790; Vi Delaney & Mr. Douse - 2090; Wally Lethbridge & Dr. R. Goodlad - 1840; George Hudson & Ralph Pacitti - 1600.

Prizes were also awarded for making little slams to Bill Allen and Ralph Pacitti, and Bob and Lynn Evans.

Mr. Douse

Individual champion, Jim Padley, with the Ian Fraser Cup.



THE ROYAL AIR FORCE DACRE TROPHY

by Joe Prendergast

First let me explain about this trophy which has become the most sought after trophy in the Royal Air Force. It was given in 1951 by the late Air Commodore G.B. Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., in memory of Flying Officer Kenneth Dacre, D.F.C., who was killed while flying on an intruder patrol over Germany in September 1943 with No. 605 Squadron.

The inscription on the trophy reads: 'To the regular squadron in Fighter Command which is declared to be the most proficient in Weapons Training.' The advances in aircraft design and armament during the last decade have made it impractical to hold a weapons training competition. As a result, the trophy is now awarded annually to the Squadron making the highest contribution to fighter efficiency. The award is based on the performance of all Squadron activities, that is, results of annual missile practice camp, flight safety, aircraft serviceability, response to alert exercises and achievement in operational training.

The winner of the trophy for the year 1984-5 (and for the fourth time) is No. 56 (Fighter) Squadron. The trophy was presented as usual by Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P.

The Dacre Trophy Presentation 1985 -

Mrs. Dacre had invited me to attend as St. Dunstan's Archery representative. The event took place at R.A.F. Wattisham on November 19th, 1985. My escort/driver, Mr. Andrew Crook, and I arrived at Wattisham on the 18th at 3.30, to be met by our hosts: Wing Commander A. McKay, Squadron Leader R.J. Lawley and 'Bunny' Warren. (It had to be 'Bunny' with a name like Warren!) Bunny was to be our escort for the following day. As we sat talking and drinking coffee, two more of Mrs. Dacre's guests arrived: our Commander in Chief



Mrs. Dacre presents the trophy to Wing Commander A. McKay.

of the Archery Club, Mr. Ted Bradford, and his better half, Brenda.

After the evening meal our hosts invited us to the bar for a drink and chat. We all had an early night in preparation for the following day. Tuesday, the 19th, dawned with snow in the air, it was a cold and windy day. After breakfast we were met by Bunny Warren who explained our day's programme.

At 9.05 we visited the Squadron's armament and historical display, followed by coffee in the crewroom. At about this time, Mrs. Dacre was meeting the Squadron N.C.O.'s, Aircrew, Airmen and their wives. We went back to the Officer's Mess at 10.30 for Mrs. Dacre to meet Squadron officers and their wives. It was then that I

was introduced to the A.O.C. No.11 (F) Group, Air Vice-Marshal J.D. Stear, M.A., R.A.F., who told me of the shoot he hoped would take place at R.A.F. Bentley Priory between the R.A.F. archers and St. Dunstan's in early 1986.

Bunny Warren rushed us down to the Parade Ground at 11.05 to see the start of the parade marching in. I must say, for men that do very little parade work, they excelled themselves. At 11.25 Mrs. Dacre arrived, accompanied by Air Vice-Marshal Stear. After the General Salute, the inspection and some words to the Squadron, she presented the trophy and the Station Padre then said a short prayer and blessed the Squadron. Back to the Officer's Mess at 12.00 for drinks, followed by a formal lunch with speeches and toasts. I was greatly surprised to be presented with a framed photostat copy of the Phantom FGR2-XT901 - this is an aircraft in use by No. 56 Sqn.

After lunch I changed into archery greens and with my equipment I was taken down to an aircraft hangar where a target had been set up to give an archery display. In doing this I shot, as most of our men do, blindfolded and using a tactile sight. This proved to be a great success, after which Ted Bradford had most of the spectators shooting with training bows he had brought with him. He had also brought a dozen arrows, alas, he took home one dozen bent and mutilated arrows! The backstop netting we used, was a concrete wall made to withstand a 2000 lb. bomb. (The arrows did very little damage to this!)

At 2.25 Mrs. Dacre left R.A.F. Wattisham for home, by road. At 4.00 it was coffee for us once again in the crewroom, to have a good chat with our hosts. They told us how impressed they were with the archery and our method of shooting; all in all, it looks like our display went down very well.

It was time for our evening meal at 6.00, which was to be followed by a party in the Airmen's Mess, so at 8.00 Squadron Leader Bob Lawley and his good lady arrived to take us down to the mess. As you can imagine, being a free night, the mess was full. We struggled to the bar and managed to have a good time. All too soon it was over and time for bed so as to get a good start for our journey home the next

day. My thanks to Mrs. Dacre for the invitation to attend the Dacre Trophy Award, and my thanks to my hosts at R.A.F. Wattisham for their hospitality and a great couple of days.

WORD-SEARCH WINNERS

It is with pleasure that we announce Barbara Bell, of Ben Rhydding, to be the winner of the word search competition with her magnificent total of 1689 words obtained from the phrase 'St. Dunstan's Anniversary Year.' Congratulations too, to the runner-up, Mr. L.W. Cook, of Purton, Wilts.

1986 OUTSIDE EVENTS

- April 26th BOLD Tulip Tandem Cycling Marathon, Spalding, Lincs.
- May 10th Welsh Open Archery Tournament for the Visually Handicapped, Port Talbot.
- May 24th & 25th Glasgow Games (Athletics, Bowls), Ashcraig, Glasgow.
- June 21st WAVHB Singles Bowls Tournament, Cardiff.
- July 6th WAVHB Triples Bowls Tournament, Cwmbran
- July 12th Manchester National Games
- July 26th WAVHB Pairs Bowls Tournament
- September 2nd-4th Wales v England biennial Bowls Tournament, Penarth

For details, please contact Jock Carnochan at Ian Fraser House.

OTHER EVENTS AT IFH

- May 4th-5th - Bridge Weekend, IFH.
- July 29th-August 7th - Sussex Racing Fort-night.
- October 6th-12th - Musicmakers.

CORRECTION

There was an error on the 1986 Events List which was distributed with the December Review. From July 7th - 19th, St. Dunstan's Bowls **Outdoor** Tournament will be taking place at Queens Park. It is not a national tournament, as printed on the list.



Beatty Wright.

Simon 'George Formby' Conway entertains.



Chorus line.

Christmas at Brighton – by Simon Conway Photos: John Barrow

The Christmas festivities at the Brighton Homes started with the Pearson House concert on December 16th. As usual, it was a tuneful and colourful affair, with the care assistants attired in traditional music hall costumes, and was much enjoyed by all. We were delighted that Lady Leach was amongst the appreciative audience. As far as I was concerned, the highlight of the afternoon was the announcement by Matron, who had intercepted the phone call, that I had just become a grandfather for the first time!

The Christmas programme at IFH followed the traditional pattern, greatly enhanced by the presence of the many wives staying in the married quarters. The Christmas Eve concert was great fun – at least for the artistes – and we were very grateful to our musical director, Beatty Wright, for her splendid piano playing, in spite of a broken wrist.

Our Christmas dance on December 21st, which we shared with the Brighton

club, was attended by Andrew Bowden, M.P., and was much enjoyed by all.

An innovation this year was the New Year's Eve fancy dress ball which was so successful that I hope it will become a permanent fixture. There were some magnificent costumes and much ingenuity, so that the judging was especially difficult. The winners were:

Best Couple: 1st – Mr. and Mrs. David Taylor – Victorian couple; 2nd – Sid Doy – Just William, and Eileen Hall – his teacher.

Best Lady: 1st – Elsie Aldred – Madame Butterfly; 2nd – Mrs. Elsie Tucker – clown.

Best gentleman: 1st – Les Copeland – Sultan of Zanzibar; 2nd – Brian Rahim – Wee Willie Winkie.

Scottish pipes and drums helped us to see in the New Year, and to say goodbye to a year which has seen many changes and a great Royal occasion.



Emily and David Taylor, best couple.

Sid Doy and Eileen Hall: Just William and Teacher.



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.

Norman Edward Follis, of Cardiff, joined St. Dunstan's on October 18th.

Mr. Follis registered for National Service in early 1945, but instead of joining the Royal Navy which was his preference, he was directed into the coal industry under the Bevin Scheme and was totally blinded by an accident at the coal face. He is married with an adult son, and is now employed as a Chartered Secretary with the National Coal Board at their South Wales Area Headquarters, in Cardiff.

Percival Gott Icton, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, joined St. Dunstan's on November 11th.

Mr. Icton served in the Royal Engineers during the 2nd World War. He is married.

Horace Underwood, of Leeds, joined St. Dunstan's on November 1st.

Mr. Underwood served in the Northamptonshire Regiment and the 3rd Dragoon Guards, during the 2nd World War. He is married with one adult son.

Ronald Wilson, of Keighley, Yorkshire, joined St. Dunstan's on November 11th.

Mr. Wilson served in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the West Yorkshire Regiment during the 2nd World War. He is married.

Donald Winson, of Norwich, joined St. Dunstan's on November 21st.

Mr. Winson served in the Second Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment, during the 2nd World War. He is married with three adult children.

STAFF RETIREMENT

Miss Kathleen Broughton, who has been a Welfare Visitor for St. Dunstan's for the past 27 years, retired on December 31st.

Miss Broughton came to us in September, 1958 with good experience of welfare work, having spent a long period with S.S.A.F.A. and having also worked for the Manchester and Salford Council of Social Service. Upon joining our staff Miss Broughton became responsible for visiting an area stretching across the country from North Wales to Lincolnshire and also, at various times, covered East Anglia and South Yorkshire. After taking semi-retirement in 1981, Miss Broughton continued to visit in Cheshire, Manchester and its immediate suburbs and Stoke-on-Trent.

Thus, in so many years, Miss Broughton has been known to a great number of St. Dunstaners and their families and we can only thank her most sincerely for her tireless and dedicated service and wish her good health and happiness in a well-earned retirement. We shall all look forward to seeing her again at our annual Reunions.

We also send warm thanks and appreciation for the help given by her mother, Mrs. Broughton.

STORY WRITING COMPETITION

The following have kindly agreed to be the competition judges:

Mrs. Katharine Garnett-Orme, wife of our former Chairman.

Miss Noelle Walsh, a former editorial assistant on the *Review*, and now an authoress and Assistant Editor on the *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

Mr. Nick Galtress, who directed St. Dunstan's film, "To Live Again."

So far we have received entries under the following noms-de-plume: Robert West Moors, Red Croft, Puddle Jumper, Joe Crow, Nicholas Lackland, Grandpa and Orson Carter. May we remind those who will still be sending in entries, that

they must be in by the end of February. And please don't forget to enclose the separate sealed envelope, as stated in the November 1985 *Review*, in which is written your nom-de-plume, the title of your story, your actual identity and full address.

Joe Kibbler meets up with old wartime pals

I was taking part in the Remembrance Parade in London and waiting in Horseguards Parade while we were forming up to march past the Cenotaph. There were about 60 Airborne to our left, I was wearing my red beret and badge. Someone from the Airborne group spotted me, came over and asked 'What battery were you in?' 'The 4th Air Landing,' I replied. 'So was I,' he said, 'I'm Brownie.'

I remembered the name and told him I was Kibbler. Off he went and came back with Parrish, someone else I served with, and we chatted about the war. Brownie was injured in the Rhine crossing, being blinded in one eye and suffering facial injuries. Parrish went through the war in Europe unscathed and ended up in the Far East. We heard the command to form

ranks to march past the Cenotaph. The two old pals from 41 years ago promised to keep in touch.

I was delighted to receive a telephone call from someone else I served with, whom they had contacted. I hope we can keep in contact because they tell me there are only 11 of us left. The Para's have been in touch with me and one has sent me an Airborne tie for a present.

BUFFALOES

The Buffaloes thank St. Dunstan's for the good time that they had from November 9th-11th, 1985. They would like to thank Commander Conway, Major Neve and all staff at IFH and HQ.

To all St. Dunstaner Buffaloes, the next meeting will be from June 23rd-29th, travelling round the other Lodges in Sussex. There will be a weekend meeting from November 14th-17th, with the usual programme. Wishing you all the best for 1986. P.S. Hope there are no buckets in the Annexe next time!

Tom Page, R.O.H.

St. Dunstaners Tom Page and Walford Davies with visiting Buffaloes.





Harold Payne receives his inscribed coffee table.

HANDLESS REUNION

Eight handless St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts gathered at Ian Fraser House on September 26th for their annual reunion. We are grateful to members of this group of old friends for these notes on the long-weekend.

Everyone enjoyed the reunion especially the new accommodation. How good it was for wives or escorts not to have to go back to a hotel. Some familiar faces were missing: the late Mr. Freddie Higgs and Mrs. Higgs; Tommy Gaygan, who was called upon for an operation, and his wife, Audrey; Peggy Brett who hasn't been well for some time, and her husband, Dickie, who didn't feel like joining any part of the reunion without his Peg. Our thoughts were with you and we look forward to being all together again next year.

Thursday evening was spent having a social evening in the Annexe, catching up on all the news. David Bell was in good form; everyone was interested in his trip down the Nile. It was a real trip — David fell into the Nile and had to be rescued!

Commander Conway laid on the facilities for our private meeting on Friday

morning which was lively and constructive. It was decided that our dear friend, Mrs. E.F. Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., was to be our President; Mr. David Bell, M.B.E., M.A. Comm., Chairman; and Bill Griffiths, M.B.E., Treasurer. Then, in the afternoon we assembled for our technical discussions with the heads of departments and Dr. Fletcher from the DHSS Limb Fitting Centre, Roehampton. Mr. W.C. Weisblatt was unfortunately unable to present because of illness.

The tables were beautifully laid for dinner in the evening and the meal was excellent. When everyone had finished, Mrs. E.F. Dacre took the chair and after observing a moment's silence for Freddie Higgs, she gave an amusing speech. Our principal guest was Mr. H.L. Payne, O.B.E., National President of the F.E.P.O.W. Association, and his wife, Mary. In his interesting address he referred to the fact that he and Bill Griffiths and all other F.E.P.O.W.'s would not be alive today but for the atom bomb which ended the war. Harold is an excellent worker for all ex-Servicemen and their families, and in

appreciation of this, an inscribed coffee table made by Tommy McKay on behalf of St. Dunstan's, was presented to him by Bill Griffiths. Bill also presented a retirement gift of a leather-bound photograph album to Dr. Fletcher, who expressed his appreciation, and Bill gave a vote of thanks. Gwen Obern presented Mrs. Dacre with an evening bag. All three were deeply touched. Other guests included three groomsmen from Buckingham Palace, who had entertained us last year in the Mews. Afterwards, everyone circulated in the Annexe. Harold Payne and Mary were kept busy chatting to everyone and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Saturday was spent at Goodwood House, when Sir Henry and Lady Mary honoured us with their presence. We toured the house in the company of excellent guides and after dinner, Ted Miller presented a table to Lord March.

On Sunday morning, which was bright and sunny, we went to Roedean School and joined the Church Service. The girls were very helpful in assisting us to negotiate all the steps. Bill Griffiths and David Bell took part in the Service. Bill sang 'The Captive's Hymn' and David gave the address. After the Service, we had coffee with



Dr. Ian Fletcher.

the Headmistress, staff and girls, and Gwen presented a table to the Headmistress. Lord Abergavenny entertained us for cocktails in his home during the evening, and a table was presented to him by Gwen, assisted by Air Vice-Marshal Colahan.

Our grateful thanks to our dear Mrs. Dacre, Air Vice Marshal Colahan and Mrs. Colahan, Commander Conway and all the staff at Ian Fraser House for their part in making the weekend so enjoyable for us all.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 1447

A Donkey in the Meadow

By Derek Tangye

Read by Michael de Morgan

Reading Time $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

The writer and his wife run a flower farm in Cornwall. It is not altogether the Cornwall seen through the rosy-tinted glasses of the holidaymaker. Torrential rainstorms and ferocious gales can flatten 10,000 daffodils in a single night. Disease can kill off a greenhouse full of freesias. In season it is backbreaking toil from dawn to dark in a feverish effort to get blooms to market before their competitors.

They left behind security and the bright lights of London for this. And they wouldn't change it for the world. And now

it is the slack season and they are determined to have a holiday, the first for years. They will go up to town, do themselves proud, stay at a decent hotel, do the rounds of the theatres.

Then the telegram arrives — they have no telephone at the remote farm. It is from a pub landlord some miles away. Knowing their love for donkeys he will give them first refusal on a beautiful specimen ... going very reasonably.

Of course they can't possibly buy a donkey just then. They're going on holiday, the first for years. Still there can be no harm in going and having a look at the beast. The Tangyes do not go on holiday...

A quite delightful little book.



LLEW DAVIES

Friends and colleagues of Llew Davies will be pleased to learn that he is truly back in

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you all had a Happy Christmas and that the New Year will be a bit better weatherwise, than in 1985. As I write these notes during the last days of autumn, the weather is certainly getting more wintry, with frosts and even a few snowflakes. I only hope that it does not herald a hard winter.

Get all frames in good order to keep out the worst of hard conditions and make sure that heating in the greenhouse is working all right as it will not be long before you start some of the seeds of both flowers and vegetables into growth, but I would hold things back for a while, even until March if the weather gets very frosty and snowy. Make certain that all new plans for the garden are in hand so a quick start can be made when conditions improve. If you haven't got orders in for new tools, plants and seeds, send for catalogues and order straight away. If you haven't had the mower overhauled, get it to the specialist at once.

Vegetables

Some of you may have been a bit late seeing to those empty beds, so get them dug over by yourself or through a firm on contract, making sure that you get compost or manure, plus lime, dug in at the same time, especially where you are to grow cabbage, as some protection against club root. I think that I would delay any sowing onto the soil for a while till it has warmed up and dried off a little, even those of you

circulation again after his illness. Proof was to be seen in the pages of the November issue of *Rugby World* where a photo showed Llew back on the line at Streatham - Croydon Rugby Club with his friend, Brian Richards, who gives him a running commentary on the game.

Llew is President of Streatham - Croydon and on New Year's Day, in a fixture he arranged, his club visited Old Deer Park for a match against the famous London Welsh side. They gave their opponents a good game, losing 21-13 but scoring two tries in the process.

in the south. Those of us in the north should wait till March or even longer if frost persists. Start seeds under glass in green-house or frame to get really good plants.

Brussel sprouts and winter cabbage should be over by the end of February, so clear beds and consign remnants to the compost heap, but make sure that thick stems are chopped up first. Get all runner bean sticks ready and order more if a bit short. Some short prunings from fruit trees and shrubs could be kept aside for use with peas and dwarf beans. Plastic netting can be used in places where you are sowing seeds but I find that it gets very tangled up so it's better to use black cotton criss-crossed with small stakes to keep the birds away. When sowing seeds add some soil pest deterrent along the rows to keep roots from being eaten up, plus calomel dust where cabbage has been started or grown to maturity.

Fruit

Try and get all pruning of apple and pear trees completed by the end of February, as all leaves should have gone by then. Some spraying with an insecticide in good sunny conditions with no frost about will protect the future growth and give a good start to the season. Leave pruning of damsons and plums till the end of March.

Lightly dig or fork over soil round tree trunks and add some compost or manure to give them a good boost as they grow.

Most of the new trees that you are going to have will come along in March and April so get all places well dug over with compost or manure at the base of holes. New beds of strawberries can be started at the end of February in frost-free conditions.

Lawns

Grass will be starting to show growth, plus some weeds which were missed when you put down weedkiller last season, so a dose of fertiliser plus weedkiller will work well now to kill off young weeds more easily. It might also be a good thing to fork over the lawn so it can breathe better and to let water from heavy rains soak away better, especially on very heavy soils. I think that I would keep your first use of the mower till early March with the blades set high.

Flowers

Not much alive in the garden during January apart from some small bulbs such as crocus and snowdrops which will be showing their buds or might even be fully out. Fork over borders but do be careful with regard to small bulbs near the edge. Some compost or manure would be a good additive to build up perennials and shrubs when they come into flower later in the year. A little sprinkling of fertiliser in pellet form such as *Growmore*, will be very good.

Stake up shrubs which are tending to be a bit wobbly at root level and keep other stakes in hand for taller perennials such as delphiniums. Cut away just below the break in these items. During February life will be starting to come along in the garden and bulbs such as crocus will be giving a good show of colour. Leaves of other bulbs will be showing up which will give you an idea where you planted them if you have forgotten!

Roses will be growing a bit but leave main pruning till about the end of March. However, stake plants which are a bit top heavy, add some more soil and tread in well. Spray some black spot solution on bushes plus the ground round about. Get any new beds dug over so they're ready to receive new bushes next month and add some manure or compost at the same

time. Some special rose fertiliser put on the ground all round growing bushes will be of benefit for the new season.

Make up your mind as soon as possible on the kinds of annuals, both hardy and half-hardy, you want the garden to have for a good show of colour. Order seed immediately from suppliers after consulting catalogues, or get them in a local seed shop. I don't think that you should sow these seeds outdoors before March but it will be all right in a greenhouse, or even in the airing cupboard if your wife approves.

Greenhouse

Get things really started here in the next two months, with all types of flower seeds, both for use outside and in the greenhouse as pot plants. Naturally you will have to get the heat on but not at a very high level. Most seed boxes should be placed on the staging above the source of heat to give good germination. Move bulbs which have been kept in cool places as soon as they show good size buds and give more heat to make them grow quicker, then place in the house to give their show of colour.

Geraniums and fuchsias which have been kept almost dry can now be given more water to get them to start growing, and then put into larger containers. Where there is a lot of young growth, snip a few off to make for more plants and replace earlier cuttings which have come to nothing.

Start all begonia and dahlia tubers into growth by transferring to shallow boxes of peat, and watering well. Later on, as they grow, some may show more shoots than necessary and some of these can be used as cuttings for new plants. Cuttings of all kinds should be dipped in hormone rooting power, as it has a mildew repellent in addition to helping roots grow quickly.

Where you have a fair amount of heat, achimenes and gloxinias can be started off towards the end of February, otherwise leave till March. Plants in pots that are starting to give signs of flower, should be given more water and feed. Insect pests and mildews of all kinds will be on the rampage now, so get smoke cones out and use regularly.

ANOTHER HAPPY REUNION IN AUSTRALIA

Mr. Norman Nolde, a St. Dunstaner who lives in Victoria, Australia, recently received a telephone call from a Mr. Peter Regan in Melbourne, asking him if he recalled Mr. Ron Freer.

'To say the least, I was thunderstruck. Ron and I were both in Hong Kong at the outbreak of war with the Japanese, not only in Hong Kong but in the same area, Fort Stanley. He was a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery and I was in charge of the Royal Engineers Office. We were both in the same P.O.W. camps and after our release met again at Ovingdean. We did correspond after I and my family came to Australia for a while but time and circumstances drew us apart, and I had not heard his name for over 30 years.

'Anyhow, Mr. Regan said that his father-in-law, Ron, was in Melbourne (Ron had accompanied the bowling team as a reserve — readers will recall the report by Ted Brown in the November *Review*) and would like to see me. We met at Mr. Regan's house in Melbourne the very next day and as you may guess, we had an awful lot to talk about. The interesting point however, is that Peter Regan, Ron's son-in-law, turned out to be the very well

known singer and producer — well known both in England and out here. My wife almost threw a fit when he opened the door and invited us in. I must say that the hospitality shown to us by Peter and his wife was tremendous. His wife, incidentally, is Olivia Hamnet, a well known actress and an extremely charming and attractive girl.

'My greatest thrill of course was meeting Ron again after so many years. We were both shoved into a room on our own where we brought each other up to date. There were a few other people invited to the gathering and my wife and I were treated like old friends. They were all very interested when Ron and I extolled the virtues of St. Dunstan's. Unfortunately very few people out here realise what St. Dunstan's is and what it does for its members. Anyway, we had one of the best evenings for a long long time and eventually left about 11 p.m., with Peter and his wife insisting that we pay them further visits whenever we are in Melbourne. Ron and his charming wife left for home two days later. We are very thankful that we were able to meet, and in such convivial circumstances.'

COOKERY CORNER

Recipe for **Tomato Casserole** from Tom and Betty Page.
Serves two people.

Ingredients

2 lamb chops
14 oz tin of tomatoes
1 medium sized onion
good pinch mixed herbs
3 ozs breadcrumbs
3 ozs grated cheese

Method

Chop onion and lay in bottom of casserole. Lay chops on top of onions and add salt and pepper to taste. Pour tomatoes over and add mixed herbs. Mix cheese and breadcrumbs together and spread over the top. Cook for 1½ hours in Reg. oven, 325F, Gas 3.

GAME FOR A LAUGH

Old-fashioned

A doctor examines a new patient. 'You really are in excellent shape,' he says, 'let me guess your age — 48?'

'Nope, I'm 70.' 'My goodness,' says the doctor, 'that's fantastic. How old was your father when he died?'

'Who says he's dead? He's very much alive — plays golf, swims, chops down trees for a hobby.'

'Well — how old was your grandfather when he died?'

'Who says he's dead? He's 118 and fit as a fiddle — in fact he got married last week.'

'That's incredible — but tell me, why on earth would a man want to get married at that age?'

'Who says he WANTED to get married?'

Observer

CLUB NEWS

Bridge

Christmas Bridge Drive — December 1st

Ten St. Dunstaners and 14 markers spent a very enjoyable afternoon, and prizes, presented by Mrs. Dacre, went to the following:

W. Lethbridge & Mrs. Barker	2160
Mr. & Mrs. W. Phillips	1460
R. Fullard & Mrs. McPherson	1140
Mr. Douse & Mrs. Andrews	890

1985 Gover Cup (London Sect.)

This was a most exciting competition throughout the year and a very close contest right up to the final match.

Results of the total best five played:

W. Lethbridge	359
B. Miller	357
R. Fullard	353
H. Meleson	345
J. Carney	333

B. Allen, Sec.

NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB

In my report this year, I would like to comment that, although the club is decreasing in numbers, all competitions have proceeded as usual.

First I wish to congratulate the two winners of the Gover Cups namely: W. Lethbridge in London and R. Pacitti in Brighton. May I also congratulate R. Evans on winning the Pairs Cup in Brighton. Our three way competition played in the spring between London, Brighton and the Provinces was won by W. Allen's 'London' team. In Harrogate this year, for the first time to my knowledge, we attained a 100% success in all matches played. I was overjoyed and I am sure we all were. Well done lads.

If possible we would like more bridge players to come to Harrogate and those who have been before will be pleased to know that the hotel is having extensive renovations this coming year, and the food has improved greatly. So if you wish to give it another try or to come for the

first time, you will be most welcome — just let Mr. Ian Dickson at London HQ know, and we look forward to seeing you there. Many thanks to our three helpers: Mr. Ian Dickson, Mr. Norman Smith and Mr. Stan Medcraft, also to Mr. Cedric Cockcroft from the Harrogate end who was his usual efficient and amusing self.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the relations of our late club members, Mr. Alfred Smith and Mr. Ernest Carpenter, of Pearson House, and Mr. Jack Simmons — they will be missed by us all.

I thank all members for supporting the Bridge Club and hope you will continue to do so. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you continue doing so to keep our Bridge Club going. Thanks and Season's Greetings to all members and helpers.

Bill Phillips, Captain

BRIGHTON — Bowling

The Indoor Bowling Competition for the Sir Michael Ansell Cup has now commenced, and will last until the end of April 1986. Tommy Mугan has made a very good start, closely followed by Jackie Pryor and Alf Waters.

Our Indoor fixtures started with a match against Burgess Hill on November 8th followed by a visit from the Guildford Bowling Club on November 22nd.

We were slow getting into form whilst playing Burgess Hill, but we surprised ourselves by a resounding victory against Guildford — perhaps this was due to the addition of two new members, Jackie Pryor and Eddie Allchin — welcome to the Section boys!

On Friday, December 13th (unlucky for some) we entertained Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club, and play commenced under difficult circumstances for our visitors. They had to play in the dark as work was being carried out by the Southern Electricity Board. The St. Dunstan's bowlers made a good start but unfortunately the lights were not too long coming on and our visitors soon caught up with us. Nevertheless we all enjoyed a good afternoon's bowling. Our ladies once again turned up trumps by providing excellent

Bowling *continued*

refreshments which were appreciated by our visitors and the members of St. Dunstan's Bowling Club.

A new competition has commenced. The late John Simpson donated a Cup in order that the ladies could participate in a Tournament of their own and this is proving to be very popular. Look out boys — do not be too nervous!

Wishing everybody a Happy New Year and we look forward to an enjoyable Indoor Season.

A. Miller

Entertainment Section

A very happy evening was enjoyed by all the 64 members present at the Annual Dinner and Dance, which for the first time was held at Ian Fraser House, by kind permission of Commander Conway.

The guests were Air Marshal Sir Douglas and Lady Morris, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Dacre and Miss Stenning. Unfortunately Dr. and Mrs. O'Hara were prevented by illness from being with us, and we wish them both well.

After an excellent dinner, the President, Mrs. Dacre, gave us good wishes from fellow St. Dunstaners in South Africa, and then introduced Air Marshal Sir Douglas Morris who made a short speech of thanks in his reply. This was followed by the speech of the Chairman of the Social Club, Bob Osborne.

Joan Osborne then presented Lady Morris with an orchid, and a stool made by one of the men, and an orchid was given to

Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Dacre, Miss Stenning and Mrs. Conway.

Following this we all adjourned to the ballroom, where a very lively evening was danced away to the music of Ernie Took and his band, which ended at 11.30.

Thank you Commander Conway for the bar extension, and also to members of the staff who helped to make it a successful evening.

On December 18th we held the Christmas tea party, and among the members we welcomed were Hilda Webster, and Joan Killingbeck, who through ill health, have not been able to get to the weekly meeting. Dr. John, Mrs. Dacre and Miss Stenning were present, and all enjoyed a very tasty meal, thanks to Commander Conway and his staff.

On Saturday, December 21st a combined house and club dance was held in the ballroom, when two plaques were presented by Mr. Andrew Bowden, our M.P., to Mr. K. Dew, the treasurer, and Miss M. Stenning, the secretary, in recognition of all the hard work put in to make the Brighton Club successful. Later Mr. Bowden presented the trophies for bridge, fishing, whist, darts, cribbage and 5's & 3's competitions.

Everyone enjoyed the evening dancing to the band in the capable hands of Ernie Took. We wish to thank Commander Conway for the lovely buffet supper, and also for the transport to and from the house. The evening came to an end at 11.30 with the national anthem, and it would appear from the laughter and fun, a good time was had by all.

Phyllis O'Kelly

Competition Winners

Gents

Whist

Theo Giles	672
Alf Dodgson	627
Harry Preedy	546
Ralph Pacitti	529

Dominoes

Theo Giles	27
Jim Padley	18

Ladies

Marie Blacker & Joan Osborne (tie)	657
Phyllis O'Kelly	635
Joy Walters	634

Phyllis O'Kelly	22
Marie Blacker	17

Dominoes *continued*

Ralph Pacitti	17	Joy Walters	15
Bernard Blacker	16	Joan Osborne	12

Darts

1st: Harry Preedy
2nd: Bob Osborne
Jim Padley & Theo Giles - Semi-finalists

Marie Blacker
Joan Osborne
Kay Pacitti & Phyllis O'Kelly

Cribbage

1st: Theo Giles
2nd: Bernard Blacker
Bob Evans & Bill Phillips - Semi-finalists

Joan Osborne
Joy Walters
Ette Simpson & Phyllis O'Kelly

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Debbie, grand-daughter of Mrs. I. Carr and the late *Mr. Bill Carr*, of High Wycombe, who has been promoted to Sister in the Paediatric Department at Hammersmith Hospital.

Anne, youngest daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Hamilton*, of Anglesey, who plays the violin in the Gwynedd Youth Orchestra and spinet in the Bangor Music Society Ensemble, with whom she gave a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria and other sacred music in Bangor Cathedral at Christmas. St. Dunstaners who attended the Manchester Reunion in 1984 might remember that she entertained guests by playing the piano.

Mr. E.A.A. Hannant, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, who has been a member of the St. John's Church choir, Boxmoor, for 70 years.

Mr. C.G. Rentowl, of Southampton, who has been selected to play in the Hants Dominoes Team against Devizes for the Coronation Cup.

Mrs. R. Russell, widow of the late *Mr. 'Ernie' Russell*, of Leeds, on being presented with her husband's Gold Badge from the Royal British Legion, in the form of a locket and chain, at their A.G.M. on November 30th.

WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Christopher, son of *Mr. and Mrs. A. Franklin*, of Hoddesdon, on his marriage to Stella Maxen on August 24th.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. A. ('Charlie') Clarke, of Cherton, near Folkestone, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on December 17th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Hancock, of Ipswich, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ince, of Peacehaven, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on January 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Sanders, of Louth, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Sayer, of Ramsgate, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 24th.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodhead, of Sheffield, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 26th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. W. Arnold, of Keighley, on the birth of their 12th grandchild, Paul, born recently to their son, Derek, and his wife, Hilary.

Mrs. Marjorie Barton, widow of the late *Mr. Ted Barton*, of Hawkshead, on the birth of her eighth grandchild, Charlotte Janet, born on November 22nd to her daughter, Jan.

Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Brown, of Buckingham, on the birth of their grandson, Adam, born on September 19th to their daughter, Janet, and her husband, Desmond Mee.

Mrs. I. Carr, widow of the late *Mr. Bill Carr*, of High Wycombe, on the birth of her grandson, Joel, born to her son, Bill, and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Dodd, of Coventry, on the birth of their grandson, Trevor James, born on December 14th to their son, Trevor, and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Foster, of Barnsley, on the arrival of their third grand-daughter, Louise Ellen, born on November 7th to their son, John, and his wife, Kay.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodhead, of Sheffield, on the birth of their grandson, James Matthew, born on June 1st to their daughter and son-in-law, Denise and John Fowler.

Mrs. and Mrs. A. Guylor, of Hayes, on the birth of their grandchild, Vincent Alex, born on October 6th to their daughter, Una, and her husband, Barry Glenn.

Mrs. and Mrs. H. Howard, of Worthing, on the birth of their grandchild, Wayne Dexter, born on November 7th to their daughter, Trudi, and her husband, Keith Byrne.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller, of Leamington Spa, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Alice Louise, born on December 24th, to their daughter, Angela, and her husband, Bob.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Spence, of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, on the birth of their seventh grandchild, Laura Jane, born on August 29th to their daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Christopher.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Walker, of Sutton Scotney, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Sarah Ann, born on October 11th to their son, Michael, and his wife, Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rowe, of Minehead, on the birth of their 10th grandchild, Catherine Emily, born on October 8th to Mark and Helen Rowe.

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. White, of Burton-on-Trent, on the birth of their grandchild, Stuart Alan, born on October 31st to their son, Robert, and his wife, Joanne.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. W. Burnett, of Brighton, on the loss of his sister in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on December 4th.

Mr. G. W. Cooke, of Crewe, who mourns the death of his last surviving sister in December.

Mr. D. Cribben, of Leigh, whose brother passed away on November 30th after a serious illness.

Mrs. Eileen Dudley, of Croydon, widow of the late *Mr. E. Dudley*, on the death of her younger brother, Ronald Barley in St. George's Hospital, London, in December following a severe illness.

Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Jarman, of Wellington, Somerset who mourn the loss of Mrs. Jarman's mother, Mrs. Florence M. Trake. Mrs. Trake, who had been living with them, passed away on October 5th, aged 85.

Mr. M. Lawton, of Edgware, whose sister passed away in Ireland on December 30th.

Mr. T.N. Parkinson, of Blackpool, whose youngest sister, Evelyn, passed away unexpectedly, at the age of 48.

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.

E. Barton, Royal Air Force

Edmund ('Ted') Barton, M.A., of Hawkshead, Cumbria, passed away at Pearson House on November 9th, aged 67.

Before the 2nd World War, he was a brilliant student at Cambridge, where he achieved Double First Class Honours in Mechanical Sciences in 1940. He was then commissioned and served with the R.A.F. in Iceland and India and was severely wounded. He returned to England in 1944 and trained at St. Dunstan's. Ted was married in 1945 and started work with I.C.I. in Huddersfield, where he was to have an outstanding career; in the early days of man-made fabrics, he made a considerable engineering and scientific contribution to the more economical operation of the plant. Increasing difficulty with his additional handicap of deafness led him to retire in 1966 and he and his wife moved to the Lake District, where they had a full and happy country life with many active hobbies and outside interests. Recently, he spent long periods at Pearson House and he will be greatly missed by Matron Goodwin and the staff.

For many years severe ill health gradually deprived Ted Barton of so much, but he was sustained by his own courage and the unfailing, devoted understanding and care of Mrs. Barton and all the family.

He leaves his widow, Marjorie, married son and daughter and their families, and his sister, Sally, wife of St. Dunstaner, Howard Simcocks.

M.J. Golding, Royal Artillery

Montagu Joseph Golding, of Bordon, passed away in hospital on November 16th, a few days before his 70th birthday. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1946.

'Monty' as he was affectionately known, served as a Gunner with the 5th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery during the 2nd World War. As a result of a mine explosion, he

suffered serious injuries, including amputation of one forearm and the loss of an eye, with the sight in his remaining eye also seriously affected, and was discharged from the Army in 1946. Prior to the war, he had been a master builder.

Until 1954, Mr. Golding successfully ran a tobacco and confectionery business with the assistance of his first wife, Esther, who sadly died in 1958. He subsequently retrained for industry and worked as a capstan lathe operator, retiring on health grounds in 1956. In 1957, he undertook telephony and was a valued and efficient operator until his retirement in 1976 from Barclays Bank.

Mr. Golding had many interests, in earlier years enjoying sailing and travel, but latterly his main hobby was bowling and he will be sadly missed by the members of our Bowling Club of which he was a staunch supporter.

He leaves his widow, Melanie, to whom he was married for 26 years, his four children, stepdaughter and their families.

T. Grace, Royal Artillery and Reserve

Thomas Grace, of Southwick, affectionately known as 'Tom', passed away in hospital on December 6th, aged 79. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1966.

Mr. Grace enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Artillery in 1928, but was transferred to the Reserve in 1931. He was therefore automatically mobilised one day before the outbreak of the 2nd World War. As a result of severe eye problems, Mr. Grace was discharged from the Army in 1940. He retired in 1965 and in earlier years enjoyed stool-making as a hobby and, in particular, gardening.

He had no family but for the past 18 years lodged with Mrs. Hetty Seymour, widow of St. Dunstaner, William Seymour, who died in 1963. Mrs. Seymour cared for Mr. Grace devotedly and he will be greatly missed.

In Memory continued

A. H. Hill-Brown, Royal Marines

Arthur Henry Hill-Brown, of Swanage, passed away in a nursing home on December 21st. He would have been 75 in January and had been a St. Dunstaner for 40 years.

Whilst on active service as a Corporal in the Royal Marines in Sicily, his sight failed suddenly, and he was discharged from the Service in 1944. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's the following year and was trained for telephony. At the end of 1949, Mr. Hill-Brown commenced working for Barclays Bank in Cambridge where he remained until retirement in 1967 and was a highly valued and efficient operator.

The following year he and his family moved to Dorset and, in earlier years before his health deteriorated, he was a keen gardener. However, as a result of diabetes, he suffered a leg amputation five years ago, but bore his disabilities with tremendous fortitude and courage.

He leaves his widow, Irene, with whom he would have celebrated 49 years of happy marriage on Christmas Eve, and a daughter, Susan, and members of the family.

W.H. Rathmell, Merchant Navy

William Harold Rathmell, of Holland-on-Sea, passed away on November 14th, aged 84.

He was a Radio Officer and served in the Merchant Navy from 1919 onwards. He lost his sight as a result of his time as a P.O.W. in the Far East, was discharged in 1945 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1946. He trained for 'country life', settled in Alresford and became an expert apple grower.

Mr. Rathmell married in 1954 and he and his wife later adopted two children. He retired in 1966 and enjoyed a quiet life at the seaside, always keeping his mind active with his interest in his friends and in current affairs. He enjoyed reunions for as long as he was able to attend them. He and Mrs. Rathmell had just returned home from a holiday at Ian Fraser House when he fell and broke his hip: complications followed and he passed away in hospital.

He leaves his widow, Norma, son, John, and daughter, Jane, and other relatives.

D.N.C. Sara, Royal Engineers

Douglas Newcombe Carnell Sara, of Shaftesbury, passed away in hospital on November 7th, aged 88. He had been a St. Dunstaner for six months.

Mr. Sara enlisted in the Royal Engineers in January 1915 and was discharged three years later with the rank of Lance Corporal. He suffered eye damage in a gas attack at Ypres in 1917. After the war he served in the Merchant

Navy and subsequently in the Inland Revenue for 23 years. He then farmed near Canterbury, where he lived for many years, until his final retirement in 1972.

He was a widower and leaves four grandchildren.

J. Simpson, Royal Air Force

Joseph Simpson, affectionately known as Joe, of Herne Bay, passed away in hospital on November 22nd following a serious illness which he bore with great fortitude. He was 74 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner for only eight months.

He enlisted in the Royal Air Force as a Leading Aircraftman in 1940, and was discharged at the end of 1943 because of loss of vision which occurred whilst he was on a pilot-training course. Mr. Simpson was a Publican until retirement.

During his brief period of membership, Mr. Simpson greatly enjoyed attending the Kent and Surrey Reunion this year with his wife, and they had been looking forward to their first visit to Ian Fraser House last September which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to his deteriorating health.

He leaves his widow, Flora, to whom he had been married for 33 happy years, his stepson, Mr. Donald Whitehead, and members of the family.

H. Smith, Royal Engineers

Harold Smith, of Peacehaven, passed away unexpectedly on December 21st, aged 75. He had been a St. Dunstaner since the end of 1974.

During the 2nd World War, Mr. Smith was a Sergeant in the Royal Engineers. He suffered a serious injury to one eye whilst on active service in Gibraltar during 1940, but was not discharged from the Army until 1946 when the sight in his other eye was failing.

In civilian life he worked in the printing trade for the *Daily Mirror* but had to retire in 1970 on health grounds. However, he had many interests and hobbies, mainly gardening, greenhouse, woodwork and toymaking. Mr. Smith was also a great music lover and an accomplished player of the accordion and electric organ. With his wife, Winifred, he enjoyed many holidays abroad over the years. In 1977, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved south from Altrincham and he became an active participant in many of the events organised by the Brighton Social Club as well as the Gardening Club, on whose behalf he organised a weekend to the Dutch bulb-fields last year.

He leaves his widow, Winifred, with whom he would have celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in March 1986, and other members of the family.