

**St Dunstons
Review
April 1986**





From the Chairman

It is our aim to maintain the highest standards for our Homes in Brighton and, as standards generally improve and new facilities become available, this is a moving target.

Our plans for Ian Fraser House are completed — now the time has come to look at Pearson House again. Preliminary work is already in progress and will be completed soon. Then we will be able to press on with a scheme to make the House more comfortable to live in. There will be a general improvement in individual accommodation and, most important, in the facilities available in the Sick Bay, so that the high standard of medical and nursing care can be maintained.

We hope to complete this work in about a year and will do our best to ensure the minimum of inconvenience to resident and visiting St. Dunstaners. But I regret that some disruption and considerable mess are inevitable and I must ask you to bear with this.

Henry Leach

St Dunstans Review

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10p MONTHLY

ACCOUNTANT

Mr. G. B. J. Frost, F.C.A., A.T.I.L., has joined the staff at Headquarters as Chief Accountant and will succeed Mr. E. V. Stevens, who is due to retire in August of this year.

BIRTHDAY

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. E. F. Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., who celebrated her 85th birthday on March 6th.

ELECTRONIC ORGAN WEEKEND 1986

Will all those interested in attending the above weekend from Friday, October 17th until Tuesday, 21st, please notify Tina Coyne at Headquarters when booking your accommodation. For those not booking through Headquarters, please notify the Entertainments Office at Ian Fraser House.

Jim Padley

CORRECTION

In the notice about hearing aids in last month's *Review* the name of the manufac-

turer was incorrectly spelled. It should have read, P.C. Werth. St. Dunstaners are urged to arrange their own insurance of these hearing aids as the cost of repairs is high. Mr. Cheong at Headquarters will be happy to arrange appropriate insurance if this is desired.

BUFFALOES TAKE NOTE

If you want to come to Ian Fraser House for a tour of Sussex Lodges from June 23rd-29th, book now if you have not already done so. All are welcome.

*Tom Page R.O.H.,
Lancaster Province*

NOTE

British Rail will no longer be sending reminders when Disabled Persons Railcards are due for renewal. Holders of cards will have to remember to deal with this at the appropriate time.

CASSETTE LIBRARY ADDITION

SD 44. C90. Microwave cooking recipes.

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A Naval landing at Ian Fraser House. A helicopter from the Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose, arriving at Ovingdean. See story on page four.



HELICOPTER LANDS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Story and Pictures by Carolyn Howell

Commander Conway presents a St. Dunstan's shield to Lieut. Commander Knowles.



On Tuesday, February 25th, a Royal Navy helicopter landed on the lawn in front of Ian Fraser House. If you're wondering why, the story actually starts a little way back, when Johnnie Cope was trying to raise money for his trip as a reserve with the St. Dunstan's bowlers selected to go on tour to Australia.

The Officers of the Fleet Air Arm 810 Squadron at the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose heard about this, and they sponsored a bicycle race which raised £300 towards his trip. By this time Johnnie had enough to finance his trip and kindly suggested that the money be donated to St. Dunstan's. It was decided that a 'Treadmill', which is a walking or racing exerciser, be purchased for the use of St. Dunstaners in the gymnasium at Ian Fraser House.

So, Lieutenant Commander Knowles with five crew flew by helicopter to make a formal presentation of the gift. Following lunch, the presentation was made in the Lounge at Ian Fraser House with a short speech by Lieutenant Commander Knowles. Then Commander Conway thanked the pilots of Culdrose and presented Lieutenant Commander Knowles with a St. Dunstan's plaque for the Squadron.

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DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1986

Once again we invite St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees *only* to apply for tickets in the *Review* Derby Sweepstake. Please remember that every application for tickets made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. The tickets are 20p each and applications for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on Friday, May 16th. Each applicant must state the name and address of the sender and the number of tickets required, and with a stamped addressed envelope, applications must be sent to: The Editor D.S.S. Dept., *St. Dunstan's Review*, P.O. Box 4XB, 12/14 Harcourt Street, London, W1A 4XB. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively and are limited to 25. The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and expenses, will be distributed as follows:

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on May 27th, the race being run on June 4th.

COMPUTER CLEANERS

Tony Firshman Services have designed a power cleaner to prevent damage to your computer caused by a surge or drop in the electric current supplying your machine. The cleaner is available either as a 1-way adaptor costing £14, or as a 4-way trailing socket costing £24, inclusive of V.A.T. and postage. Contact Tony Firshman Services, 43 Rhyl Street, London, NW5 3HB.

COMPUTER WEEKEND

There will be a weekend 'get together' for all computer enthusiasts at Ian Fraser House on November 15/16th. The object is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and provide some coaching. Possession of a computer is not a criteria for coming along. Contemplators, beginners and old hands are welcome.

The provisional programme is as follows:

1. Sat. 15th.

a. 10.00. Introductions, and explanation by individuals as to how they use their various systems.

b. 11.00. Gossip and workshop.

c. 14.30. Talk by professional programmer.

2. Sun. 16th.

a. 10.00. Gossip and workshop with assistance from local computer club members.

b. 14.30. Winding up session.

c. 15.00 Further workshop for those who wish to stay on.

Please book in via the normal channel, i.e. Mrs. Coyne. I would also be grateful if you would let me know of your intention to participate.

R.L.H.

TALKING NEWSPAPERS CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Talking Newspapers Association (UK) will be taking place from Friday, June 6th to Sunday, June 8th at the Crest Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. If you would like to attend part or all of the conference, please contact Tyne Sound News for full details and booking forms, at the following address: c/o Newcastle-upon-Tyne Council for the Disabled, The Dene Centre, Castles Farm Road, NE3 1PH.

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CAROL LOCKE RETIRES

Farewell and best wishes to Carol Locke, who has been our typing instructor at Ian Fraser House for 18 years. Carol has now decided to retire after coaching some 250 St. Dunstaners on the typing course since 1968. She will not be giving St. Dunstan's up entirely though; she still intends to act as an escort for the Gardening Club. Her successor is Janis Sharp.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S POSTBAG

The Chairman was sent the following text by Teresa Forbes-Stewart, aged 14, on behalf of her father St. Dunstaner, James Forbes-Stewart, who has carried it for many years.

One Set of footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand - one belonging to him and the other to the Lord. When the last scene had flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that many times along

the path there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noted that this happened during the lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord, 'Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk all the way, but I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you deserted me'. The Lord replied, 'My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'



Mr. Walter Thornton, Chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, has sent us these photographs of the BRIB's new Resource Centre. St. Dunstan's has contributed to the setting up of this centre. The photos show, above, the demonstration kitchen and, below, some of the widely varied display of aids for every kind of activity for blind people.





Taking the air in wheelchairs are Bill Kennedy and Micky Robinson, their 'drivers' are Andy Copus and John Grover. In the background is Bob Finch with Care Assistant, Melody Timouri.

Top right Bob Finch, who joined on 9th June 1917 and is now our longest serving St. Dunstaner, is a resident at Pearson House.

Matron Penny Goodwin chats with Tommy Rogers.



LIFE AT PEARSON HOUSE

Photos: David Castleton

In this issue the Chairman announces improvement plans for Pearson House. This photo-feature shows some aspects of the caring work that is part of everyday life at the oldest of our Houses in Brighton. Pearson House, formerly West House, has been 'home' to generations of St. Dunstaners since 1918, when it was the gift of the Federation of Grocers' Associations.



A cup of tea for Bert Rayner from Sandy Muir.

Bottom left: Care Assistant, Myriam Pitt reading the newspaper to Bryn Kainey.

Harold Williams in light-hearted consultation with our Medical Officer, Dr. Martin Knott.



INDIA THROUGH THE 'EYES' OF A BLIND BOY

Ved Mehta is blind. He was born in India and is now a naturalised American citizen. He is a journalist and successful author with 15 published books to his name including a biography of Mahatma Gandhi and an autobiographical work, 'The Ledge between the Streams.'

This has now been published in paperback (Picador £3.95). It covers nine years of his childhood and has two areas of specific interest to St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

For a time young Ved Mehta took classes in braille and typing at St. Dunstan's, Dehra Dun. He lived with a relative and attended each day. On his first day he met an Indian soldier who was blind and handless and describes his feeling of horror when he touched his fellow pupil's 'hand' and found instead a steel hook. The young boy soon found himself helping his friend, setting his artificial arm right or changing the hook for a spoon.

He learned Grade 2 braille despite his puzzlement at some of the contractions such as for 'sion' and 'tion'. His English vocabulary was small when he started but reading English braille helped to enlarge it.

Ved Mehta's fellow pupil using his special typewriter.



Ved Mehta was not impressed with St. Dunstaners' need for guide wires and, after talking one day with Sir Clutha McKenzie, 'I couldn't believe my ears: Sir Clutha walked (away) clanging his stick on the guide wire, just like a recently blinded Indian soldier. . . I made a mental note to tell Daddyji. . . he had much worse mobility than I had.'

This is the second area of special interest in 'The Ledge between the Streams.' As a small blind boy running around after his brother and sisters he developed a strong obstacle sense to the extent that he was able, with many bumps and bangs, to actually ride a bicycle round the compound of his family home. He describes how he rebuilt an old bicycle found discarded in the servants quarters. He began by 'scooting' his bike along with one foot but soon was riding round the gravel covered area around the house, 'I would locate myself by the way the sound of tyres on the gravel bounced off walls and objects. I had developed my facial vision to a high degree, so that I was able to distinguish a lawn chair from a lawn table by the way the screech of the bicycle tyres sounded in the gravel, but an object had to be fairly substantial and there had to be no distracting sounds. . . for me to sense and avoid it, especially since on a bicycle I approached objects at great speed. I had to learn to react quickly.'

His speed meant that although he sensed an object the slightest hesitation meant collision. 'Every day I would scrape and bruise my knees, hands and elbows.' But persistence paid off. 'Eventually my facial vision became so acute and my reaction so quick that I could circle the house dozens of times without hitting anything.'

A truly amazing story of obstacle sense in a young boy blind from the age of four, but there is more to this book covering, as it does, the period of partition in India. The account of a boy's reaction to the tumult of that historic time contrasts with his earlier descriptions of Indian family life. In all, a book that gives insights into the world of a young blind person and into a culture so different from that of Europe.

OBITUARIES

J. G. Osborne, O.B.E.

It is with great regret that I have to report the death of Mr. John G. Osborne, O.B.E. on February 2nd, in his 90th year. A funeral service was held at Cramond Kirk, where he served as a Senior Elder for many years, on February 6th.

Mr. Osborne was appointed Director in 1950 and served in all the areas of work of both the Royal Blind Asylum & School and The Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. His service included the Convenorship of the War Blinded Committee and he was Chairman of the Board of Directors for 16 years, during which time he served on the Council of the RNIB and St. Dunstan's. On his retirement in 1977 he was made an Honorary Vice-President for life of both institutions.

He will be remembered with great affection for his dedication towards meeting the needs of both the civilian blind and the war blinded for which he commanded their universal respect.

*J. B. M. Munro, Secretary and Treasurer,
The Scottish National Institution for the War
Blinded.*

RATING

Property rates used to mean payments to the local council. When the new Water Acts came into force creating the large water boards, they were responsible for catchment, sewerage and water supplied. However, as water supplies were largely arranged for and often dealt with by local water companies, matters were left in their hands until such time as they can be taken over by the conglomerates, so for the time being many of the small water companies collect the water rates on behalf of the big water boards. The water boards collect sewerage rates etc.

Life is such fun these days that instead of receiving one annual rate bill to cover everything, many properties receive three demands each half-year. Another joy to accommodate is that most rating years are from April 1st to March 31st and do so

A. F. McConnell, M.B.E.

Foster McConnell, of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, died in December 1985, aged 93. He was a Private with the 2nd Anzac Cyclists and was wounded at Ypres in September 1917 suffering the loss of his sight and injuries to his throat. He came to St. Dunstan's in January 1918 and it was while he was training here as a shorthand typist that he met and married his wife — she was Miss Florence Lilian Gray who was a part-time V.A.D. at the Charing Cross and Greenwich Hospitals and also at St. Dunstan's College in Regents Park. Mr. and Mrs. McConnell returned to Australia in 1920 but visited England again at various times over the years.

Mr. McConnell served as Honorary Secretary & Treasurer of the Australian Blinded Soldiers Association (now the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's) for many years until he retired from the post in 1960/61. He was also at one time Chairman of the Blinded Soldiers Bowling Club in Australia. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the 1954 Birthday Honours.

Mrs. McConnell pre-deceased her husband in 1966. He leaves four children.

BRITISH TELECOM KEEPS BLIND SHAREHOLDERS IN TOUCH

British Telecom's half year report has been produced on audio tape for its blind or partially-sighted shareholders. The printed report for the six months to September 1985 is currently being mailed out to the company's 1.65 million shareholders with the 3 pence per share interim dividend, payable from February 25th. Instructions on how to obtain the free tape are on the final page of the printed report.

The 40-minute recorded report includes a message from the Chairman, a review of operational activities and the financial review. Blind shareholders will also be able to hear other company news and details of aids for blind and visually handicapped telephone users. The report is also available in braille.

D. F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

Winter is still on the warpath with frost each day and a little snow. It keeps us from getting on in the garden and making sure that the whole place is neat and tidy. The soil is pretty solid and I am glad I had a local gardener to dig up the vegetable patch earlier. Birds are starting to give us some song but they must be very cold and I wonder how they got through winter. Despite the dearth of good trees round us, there is a grey squirrel that seems to have been digging some holes to get at his winter stock.

Slugs and snails will be making a start on seedlings, so put down some bait. Greenfly and other pests will be showing on all plants, fruit trees and bushes, so get your sprayer working. If you are against the newer chemical sprays, use Derris and Pyrethrum which are plant derivatives.

Vegetables

Get beds ready for all types of seed by lightly forking and raking the top few inches to get a good tilth. Don't forget to label at the end of rows, so you know what you have put in. Earlier grown plants that have been hardened off, perhaps in a cold frame, can be placed in their permanent places at the end of the month. When you sow seed, do ensure that you sprinkle some soil pest powder, and into the holes where planting is done. Add some calomel dust or dip roots of the cabbage family into a paste of this stuff as a protection against club root. All types of seed can be planted outdoors towards the end of the month but I would wait a bit longer in the north. Don't use all your seeds but keep a few back in case you have had earlier failures.

Spray a bird deterrent on the seeded area — this is much easier than putting in small stakes and tying black cotton or using fine mesh plastic netting. Broad beans and peas sown earlier will be growing well so keep them moist and add a general fertiliser in pellet form. Get some stakes in place and tie tall growth in as a protection against wind, especially beans which grow much taller. Put in main crop potatoes, rubbing off some shoots before you put them in their places. Put in about five inches deep with three feet between the rows.

Fruit

All these items will be showing really good growth, with fruit buds increasing in size, so give them a good spray against pests and disease. Try and spray on days when there is little or no wind about, and it would be a good idea to wear a mask over your mouth and nose, plus some gloves. Spraying should certainly not be done in frosty conditions. Do remember to give all utensils a good wash after use.

Where you have had very dry spells in spring, give the area around roots a good watering and cover with compost to retain moisture. Give black currants a good spray against big bud and if you are a bit late in spraying, pick off big buds and put in the the rubbish bin. Don't plant any new

trees or bushes now, leave till autumn. At least you can get places ready by digging over and putting down some manure.

Lawns

A good time to give the lawn a dose of fertiliser with weedkiller added, provided you have given it a light mow. Leave the weedkiller to work fairly well before cutting the grass again. Use the rake towards the end of the month to get rid of dead weeds and let light and air get to the roots of the grass so that it grows well.

Flowers

Now is the time to get flower borders ready for planting all those seedlings, plus the sowing of seeds outdoors, but do delay a bit in the north. Protect perennials which tend to grow fairly high plus those which tend to be a bit on the floppy side, especially in exposed and seaside areas. It would be a good thing to add some extra soil or compost round the root area to give the plant more stability. Give this extra addition a good push into place with your heel. Some sprinkling of fertiliser in pellet form will keep them going for the whole season.

There is still time to break up some of the very large clumps, throwing out centre portions and keeping one or two at the same spot and if you have some spare plants in other places in the garden which are a bit sparse in colour. Those autumn sown hardy annuals will have grown pretty large now, so thin them out and put extra ones in other places fairly close to the border, keeping the front spots for annuals, which are normally much smaller. In very windy and exposed areas climbers may be breaking away from the wall, so tie in place, cutting away any broken pieces.

Roses can be pruned still, especially in areas hit by severe weather, and add soil round the root areas and heel in well, giving those which grow tall some stakes. Cut away all broken shoots on shrubs and trees and consign to the incinerator and spread ashes round the border to give better flowers. All pests and diseases will be on the rampage by now so get the sprayer going a couple of times during the month.

Greenhouse

Keep temperatures at a minimum of 45F at night, though in sunny spells it will probably go up to around 75F so get the windows open — but close before the evening comes along. Once again put in smokes — I will not apologise for telling you to do this each month; it is because we can all have bad memories.

Half hardy annuals started earlier will need to be moved to other trays or even to small pots if you are to have some for show in the house later on. Calceolaria and cineraria will need moving to larger containers. Annuals which are for the garden should be put in trays about one inch apart and later into a frame or warm corner to harden off, before you put them in their flowering quarters in the borders.

Don't forget to put begonia and dahlia tubers in some peat over the source of heat. When shoots come along on dahlias they can be cut off with roots at the bottom and placed in small containers. Some begonia tubers which show many shoots can be cut up into sections, covering the cut portions with yellow sulphur.

Extra cuttings of fuchsias and geraniums can be taken if you lost a few earlier on, and to increase the number of good varieties. Get some freesia bulbs potted up to give colour in the house with a really good scent. Don't forget to give extra water to all items as they grow, especially during warm weather, plus a weak solution of liquid manure. Tomatoes should be growing well now so tie them onto the stakes and nip out side shoots, but not the flowers. Do not overwater or you may have trouble later on. When the tomatoes are forming increase watering and give regular special feeds.

Take out pots of Christmas flowering plants and plant in the garden to give a show next year. Hyacinths won't do much good as they were specially prepared for an early show. Keep cyclamen going even if they have finished flowering but when the leaves tend to dry off cut down watering until they have gone and then place pots outdoors in a shady spot in the garden till autumn when they can be repotted into a fresh pot with new compost and started off again under glass.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 161

Those who walk Away

By Patricia Highsmith

Read by Gabriel Woolf

Reading Time 8½ hours

Ray Garratt, a young American art dealer, lives in Rome, where his father-in-law, Edward Coulen, is also based. Garratt's wife Peggy — Coulen's only daughter — has killed herself, for no apparent reason, only a fortnight before.

Coulen's grief at the loss of his beloved daughter soon turns to a consuming bitter hatred for Garratt whom he believes, quite wrongly, was responsible for her suicide.

He follows Garratt to Venice, where he makes two unsuccessful attempts on his life. After the second Garratt moves to another part of the city, living under a assumed name. He desperately needs to talk to Coulen, to try to convince him that he is innocent of Peggy's death. But Coulen, obsessed with the idea that she died because of Garratt's treatment, scours the city for him, bent on vengeance . . .

When Ms Highsmith is not preoccupied with her notorious meal-ticket, the atrocious Mr. Ripley, she does this sort of thing rather well.

SOUND PRESS CASSETTE MAGAZINE

A free national monthly talking magazine called 'Sound Press' is to be launched in the spring. The contents include extracts from weekly magazines, general articles on fashion and such-like, short stories, items of interest to visually handicapped people etc. If you think you would be interested in receiving this cassette magazine, please contact Sound Press for the Blind, 81A Dawes Road, London, SW6 7DU. Telephone: 01-385 3874.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's



On behalf of St. Dunstan's, we welcome a St. Dunstaner recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Frank Edward Miller, of Streatham, joined St. Dunstan's on February 7th.

Mr. Miller, who is 73, served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from September 1940 until October 1945. He was with the 8th Army in North Africa and taken prisoner at Tobruk. After being shipped to Italy and Germany, he was sent to work in the Polish coal mines for three years which seriously affected his health over the years. Mr. Miller is married with two adult sons.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON — Bridge

Individuals — February 15th

J. Padley	71.4
Mrs. K. Pacitti	66.7
R. Goding	61.9
M. Tybinski	47.6
R. Pacitti	42.9
Miss C. Sturdy	42.9
R. Evans	38.1
W. Lethbridge	28.5

On February 16th in the West Sussex League Match against Crawley (B) at Ian Fraser House, the St. Dunstan's team was successful by 12 victory points to four. The team consisted of:

J. Padley
W. Lethbridge
M. Tybinski
R. Fullard
R. Pacitti
A. Dodgson
R. Evans
Mrs. V. McPherson

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Stephen Burke, grandson of Mrs. E. Ollington, widow of the late Mr. H.C. Ollington, of Church Crookham, on his marriage to Karen Hawes on March 29th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Bilcliff, of Hardwicke, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on March 6th.

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Claydon, of Weybridge, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on February 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Nicholson, of Belmont, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on February 16th.

Mrs. and Mrs. R. Towner, of Maidstone, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on February 22nd.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr and Mrs. W.E. Hannaford, of Hednesford, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 23rd.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Cooke, of Crewe, on the birth of their grandson, Alexander, born on February 13th, to their son and daughter-in-law, John and Avril.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Marsh, of Hartlepool, on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Leo William, born on February 18th, to their daughter, Marie, and her husband, Philip.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Prendergast, of Leyland, on the birth of their grand-daughter, born on February 7th to their daughter, Julie, and her husband, Alan.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Pryor, of Peacehaven, on the birth of their grandchild, Holly Eileen, born on October 8th to their daughter, Stella, and son-in-law, John Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Read, of New Haw, near Weybridge, on the arrival of their third grandson, Marcus Leon, born on February 3rd, to their daughter, Sheila, and her husband, Eric Bonner.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. L. Delaney, widow of the late Mr. J.W. P. Delaney, of Bridgwater, on the birth of her great grand-daughter, Siobhan Nichola, born on December 21st to her grandson, Stephen Cleverly, and his wife.

Mrs. E. Furniss, widow of the late Mr. G.F. Furniss, of Telscombe Cliffs, on the birth of her first great grandson on January 30th.

Mrs. E. Ollington, widow of the late Mr. H.C. Ollington, of Church Crookham, on the birth of her first great grandchild, Rebecca Clare, born on February 4th to Alan and Gillian Ollington.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. G. Harman, wife of *Mr. F. Harman*, of Ilford, whose mother passed away in December at the age of 93.

Mrs. M. Hill, widow of the late *Mr. J. Hill*, of Crawley, on the death of their eldest son, John, on February 6th following a heart attack. Mrs. Hill also mourns the death of her sister on February 15th.

Mary, wife of *Mr. Jack Lawson*, of Stretton, near Warrington, who suffered the loss of a brother and sister just before Christmas.

Mr. R.M.V. Williams, of Tiverton, and family, on the death of his grandmother, Mrs. L. M. Fewings, in hospital on January 22nd.

Mrs. S. E. Hill

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Mrs. S. E. Hill, of Hinton Parva, Wiltshire, who passed away on February 7th, aged 97. Mrs. Hill was married to the late Mr. Henry Eaton Hill of St. Dunstan's on September 6th, 1915. She was a widow with a little boy when she married, and two daughters were born subsequently. For the last 22 years she had been living with her younger daughter.

Note: Mr. Hill served in the 1st Wiltshires and was wounded at La Bassée on October 29th, 1914 when he was totally blinded. He was admitted to Sir Arthur Pearson's Soldiers and Sailors Hostel on February 19th 1915 and was therefore one of the first six blinded men to become St. Dunstaners. Mr. Hill died in 1960.

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.

H. Fretwell, 10th Royal Fusiliers

Harold Fretwell passed away suddenly at Pearson House on February 21st, aged 87.

Mr. Fretwell was a Private in the 10th Royal Fusiliers from March 1917 to March 1919. He was wounded by shell fragments six months after joining the Army and then suffered mustard gas poisoning in May 1918 and it was this which, in later life, caused his loss of sight. Mr. Fretwell joined St. Dunstan's in May 1966 by which time he was already retired but he was a keen gardener and, with the help of his son nearby, always had a plentiful supply of vegetables for home needs. The unfortunate deterioration of Mrs. Fretwell's health meant that she had to go into the care of a nursing home, so Mr. Fretwell took up residence at Pearson House towards the end of 1985.

He leaves his widow, Hilda, their devoted son, Dennis, and his family.

P. S. Sumner, 7th Lincoln Regiment

Peter Sidney Sumner, B.A., M.Sc. (Econs), of Tunbridge Wells, passed away on February 23rd, aged 91. He was one of the oldest surviving St. Dunstaners from the 1st World War, having joined in January 1916 following the

loss of both eyes during the Battle of Ypres, while serving as a Lance Corporal in the 7th Lincoln Regiment.

From the age of 12, Mr. Sumner's academic successes showed exceptional promise but his enlistment in the Army at the age of 19 curtailed his university ambitions. Nevertheless, despite his subsequent total blindness, his determination to succeed academically was such that by 1919 he obtained his Board of Education Certificate and a B.A. degree. The following year he obtained a teaching post at Worcester College, where his abilities were highly valued, and remained there until 1949 when he retired after 30 years' service. During his years at Worcester College he obtained a degree in Economics culminating with the award of his Masters Degree in 1931, both with Honours.

His first wife, Eve, passed away in 1970 a few weeks after they had celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. He had had the additional sadness of losing their only daughter prematurely when she died in 1940.

He leaves his widow, Phillipa, whom he married in 1971 and who cared for him devotedly through a long period of declining health, his two step-daughters and members of the family.