

St Dunstans Review

June 1986



From the Chairman

This month I want to talk to you about our widows. Currently there are over 700 of them and they are important to us.

It could of course be argued that St. Dunstan's assets are for the exclusive and direct benefit of St. Dunstaners; and that widows, not being St. Dunstaners, are not our business. This is a narrow view and I do not hold with it.

Because St. Dunstaners have been more badly knocked around in war, it is reasonable to expect that their wives will probably outlive them. It is my belief that the certain knowledge that his widow will continue to be looked after by St. Dunstan's after the husband has died adds greatly and directly to the peace of mind of that St. Dunstaner in his closing years.

As you know, this year by way of experiment, our widows have been invited to our Area Reunions on an every-other-year basis. Already this has proved to be a success which is much appreciated. I am therefore glad to tell you that at its recent meeting the Council approved that widows should be eligible to come to Area Reunions *every* year.

Another fairly recent innovation is that our widows should be visited by our Area Welfare Visitors about once a year. It will take a little time to work-off the backlog but a start has been made.

I hope these adjustments to our affairs will be welcomed by all. In particular I hope they will help a widow to feel rather more 'one of us' — she most definitely *is*.

Henry Leach



Mrs. Opperman with Sir Henry and Lady Leach who were visiting South Africa.

CHAIRMAN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S (SOUTH AFRICA)

Mrs. Natalie Opperman has retired as Chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) after more than 20 years in office. She is succeeded by a St. Dunstaner, the Reverend Michael Norman, B.A., who has been serving as Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Opperman has often visited Great Britain, becoming a friend to many St. Dunstaners here and she has extended generous hospitality to those visiting South Africa.

She joined St. Dunstan's (South Africa) soon after the Second World War, working with the late Mrs. Chadwick Bates. In 1954 she became a member of the Board of Directors and, in 1965, she succeeded Colonel Sholto Douglas as Chairman. In 1981 she was awarded the Star of South Africa (Civil) Knight. This is the highest civil award in South Africa and it was made in recognition of her work for St. Dunstaners there. Over the years she has come to know all South African St. Dunstaners and their families. They will be pleased to know that she is to continue as a member of the Board.

Michael Norman was blinded while serving in France in 1944. After training at St. Dunstan's he studied for his degree at Cambridge University and then entered Theological College. He was ordained priest in 1951 and worked in an English parish until he went to South Africa where he is Rector of St. Stephen's, Pinelands, Cape Town. He became Vice-Chairman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) in 1978.

DOUGLAS WILLS, O.B.E.

As we got to press we are deeply sorry to announce the death of Mr. Douglas Wills. A full tribute will be published in our next issue.

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Cover: Don Planner is guided by Mick Rowe on the slopes at Meribel.

REUNIONS 1986

BRIGHTON, April 11th

The first of the nine reunions to be held this year took place at the Bedford Hotel, Brighton. Although the number of reunions has reduced, numbers attending may go up now that St. Dunstaners' widows have been invited to attend on alternate years. The one sad absence at the Brighton reunion was Mr. Wills, who was in hospital at the time. This was about the second time in 33 years that he had not been able to attend. The assembled gathering naturally wished him well.

In all, there are 50 First War St. Dunstaners in the UK, and 18 overseas, with 742 Second and Post-War in the UK, and 110 overseas, making a total family of more than 1200. There are over 700 widows in the UK to whom St. Dunstan's is paying increasing attention. Attendance at a reunion being one small part of that care.

The Chairman, presiding, wondered why anyone should have thoughts of going to somewhere like Switzerland, when they could have all the sun and snow they wanted in Brighton! He welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Blackman and Mrs. Blackman, and Mr Piper, the Mayoral Secretary. The Chairman thanked Brighton for all they did for St. Dunstan's and urged them 'to keep it up!'

After welcoming former members of staff and other guests, Sir Henry praised the work of our homes administrators, Commander Simon Conway and Major Arthur Neve. 'They take so much in their stride, from dealing with thousands of pounds to minor complaints. I hope you will also take things in your stride.' He finally welcomed two members attending their first reunion, Bill Anderson and George Sinclair, both of Eastbourne.

Bill Anderson and George Sinclair with their escorts.



The Chairman was pleased to see the 17 widows in addition to the 75 St. Dunstaners present. This was the first reunion at which the arrangement was being tried out. He hoped it would catch on. 'It is my firm view that the knowledge that his widow will be suitably cared for by St. Dunstan's after he has gone, will directly add to that St. Dunstan's peace of mind in his latter years.' At the mention of latter years, there was much applause for Robert Finch and George Swanston, both present and going strong at 93. Congratulations were also offered to Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lowry who were celebrating their Ruby Wedding anniversary that day.

Sir Henry went on to talk about 'bricks and mortar'. During rebuilding at Pearson House, asbestos had been found and its removal was nearly complete. The sick bay was being extended to another floor against a time, when possibly, there may

IPSWICH, April 17th

After Brighton, just a few days before, Sir Henry and Lady Leach travelled to East Anglia for the reunion held on April 17th at the Ipswich Moat House Hotel.

In his speech greeting the 17 St. Dun-

staners, their wives or escorts and four widows attending, Sir Henry said, 'This is the smallest reunion but you have very nearly matched the numbers of two years ago and that's a good effort.' He welcomed the presence of St. Dunstaners' widows: 'I very much hope it catches on, I believe it will.'

Sir Henry gave the latest statistics of St. Dunstaners and then outlined some of the building work being undertaken at Pearson House and at the London Hostel, Broadhurst Gardens, 'There will, inevitably, I'm afraid, be a certain amount of discomfort and shuffling around during that time,' he concluded.

After thanking his audience for coming Sir Henry called on Mr. Wilfred Saxby, to speak for St. Dunstaners. 'Often in life we find ourselves looking at something and, perhaps, taking it, not realising what there is behind it,' he began, 'From time to time there are those who think that St. Dunstan's would make a delicious meal but if they were to examine what goes behind the organisation of St. Dunstan's, its responsibility and what it has done for its members, they would think again.'

A word of welcome from Lady Leach for Geoff Bunting.



Ipswich Reunion continued

Mr. Saxby referred to the origins of St. Dunstan's and its evolution under Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser. He recalled how every St. Dunstaner at the reunion would have received a braille watch on entering St. Dunstan's, 'We could tell the time — and we took a step back from a life of despair and we took a step forward along the road of hope. The important things we could not see were no longer important — our sense of values changed. We had to get used to new sets of values and those values have stood us in good stead.

'They were inspired by St. Dunstan's. For St. Dunstan's, in the early days, showed faith in us and gave us faith in ourselves. It

LIVERPOOL, April 19th

'My colleagues and I from London are very pleased to be in this civilised part of the world,' said Mr. Weisblatt at the Liverpool Reunion and raised an appreciative laugh from his friendly audience — and friendly is the word for this gathering of St. Dunstaners living in the North West.

39 St. Dunstaners, with their wives or escorts had travelled to the St. George's Hotel where they were joined by 16 widows. Presiding was Major Mervyn Sandys, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, accompanied by Mrs. Sandys.

After lunch Major Sandys welcomed St. Dunstaners, 'This is a very memorable reunion. It is the first time that I know of that two main reunions of the North West, Manchester and Liverpool, have been joined together. I personally think it will be an extremely good way of doing it. This is also the first year that the widows of St. Dunstaners have been present. This is a first class innovation.'

Major Sandys welcomed Harry Wilson, of Burnley, who was attending his first reunion. He mentioned the absence through illness of Mr. Douglas Wills and Mr. Dennis Robinson. After reporting on the current numbers of St. Dunstaners and progress in building works at Pearson

is this confidence which enables us to play our part in life and take advantage of the various opportunities which are made available to us.'

Mr. Saxby concluded with a message of thanks to St. Dunstan's Council and an expression of the sorrow felt by everyone at the absence of Mr. Wills. After the speeches, Mrs. Peggy Durrant presented a basket of flowers to Lady Leach.

The afternoon was passed enjoyably in the attractive room with its window walls looking out over a sheltered garden. Old friends met yet again and new friends for the first time and there was a warm welcome for all the widows. It was, as usual, a quiet and enjoyable reunion organised by Miss Irene Newbold.

House and Broadhurst Gardens, Major Sandys told his audience of a recent visit he and his wife had made to Leningrad.

He recalled the Germans' 900 day siege during which hundreds of thousands of people died of starvation and the cold. The Germans occupied the beautiful palaces, Catherine the Great's lovely summer palace just outside Leningrad and Peter the Great's palace, the Peterhoff on the Gulf of Finland. They left them purposely ruined and burnt. Now there is not a sign of war left in the city. They have made the most enormous effort and those great palaces are now completely renewed in their former 18th Century splendour.

'This is just an example of the resilience which we all admire and of which all countries and peoples are capable. It is that same spirit that has always inspired St. Dunstan's and made both it and its members the living embodiment and example of resilience in the face of misfortune. A vital part has been played in that by the care and devotion of St. Dunstaners' wives and for this reason I say it is a great pleasure and satisfaction to all of us to be joined by so many St. Dunstaners' widows.'

Major Sandys concluded with an expression of thanks to the management



Harmonica solo by Walter Haslam.

and staff of the St. George's Hotel and passed on the good wishes of Sir Henry Leach and Members of the Council.

Vi Delaney began her reply with a welcome to members of staff and their retired colleagues, 'I thank them on your behalf and mine for all the care and attention that is given us over the years — also the staff at Ian Fraser House where the married quarters are a great success as are the activity weeks and the hobby courses which are enjoyed by all.

'During the last few visits I have made to Ian Fraser House it has been great to renew friendships with St. Dunstaners I have not seen for, perhaps, 40 years, who have now started to visit the place.' Vi thanked the hotel staff and concluded with a word for the widows present, 'I know that they have looked forward very much to today and I hope they will enjoy it.'

Another lady St. Dunstaner, Emily

McClarnan, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Sandys. Finally, Mr. Weisblatt told St. Dunstaners of his visit to Mr. Wills, 'As you will imagine, he is bearing the situation with courage and the best of spirits. He said he is very sorry not to be here today. He sends you all his very best wishes for this afternoon and I am sure that, as Major Sandys has already said, you all wish to join in sending best wishes to him. Mr. Weisblatt added a word of thanks to Mrs. Carol Henderson, 'without whom this would not happen at all. I know she takes great pleasure in organising these reunions for you.'

The afternoon continued with music from David Vaughan-Williams at the piano and songs from Carol Richards. The professionals were helped out by a few songs played on the harmonica by St. Dunstaner, Walter Haslam, who can still blow a lively tune at the age of 89!

INDOOR BOWLS — MARCH HANDICAP

By Ted Brown

The first indoor bowls tournament was held at Ian Fraser House from March 24th to April 4th, and what a tournament it turned out to be! Shocks, surprises and excitement reigned throughout. The greatest thing of all was the old atmosphere which had come back to the bowling alley.

There were three sections of five in the Totally Blind Section and three in the Partially Sighted, played in round robins. This gave everyone a good chance to get to the final three of their respective section. A final round robin was played off in each category to get the outright winner, second and third place. Totally Blind Section was won by Tommy Mugan; second, Jackie Pryor; and third, Percy Stubbs. The Partially Sighted Section was won by Ted Brown; second, George Hudson; and third, Ron Freer.

I don't think the result was very important — with one exception, or should I say, two. The first was Tommy Mugan's win. He has tried over the years, inside and outside, in various competitions, never complaining, and at last he has come good. I have never felt so happy for a player as I did for Tommy, especially when he received his trophy. That great big smile was worth more than all the trophies put together. Well done Tommy lad.

The second exception was one of our very new bowlers, believe it or not, another Tom. Yes, Tom Renshaw, totally blind, his first competition, only missed the final three on shots. But I am very pleased to say he was awarded the Best Novice's Trophy — a rose bowl presented to us by the firm that laid our new carpet down in the Bowling Green — and I can assure you all that we have another potential champion in the making. So again, well done, Tom number two.

I didn't get a chance to thank many of the people who helped to make the bowling fortnight such a great success, so I would like to do that now. Firstly, let me

thank all the bowlers for turning out in such large numbers, for playing, and for supporting others when off the green. Keep it up chaps. We are looking forward to the outside tournaments, providing we get some warm sunshine.

Now I must thank Jock Carnochan for all the work he put in before and during the competition: for making out all the charts, dealing with all the latecomers and the alterations, and for the help which was really needed in getting the trophies ready for the presentation. Thanks Jock.

Without our wives at the helm on these occasions, we would be lost. So I thank you all, especially those who went on the green with other bowlers as well (you should be so lucky). I must also give a big hand to the helpers who came in most days from Brighton and Hove. You all did a great job. But one person that always stands out (in more than one place, ha ha, I'm only kidding) and that is our Katie. She has helped more men on the mat than I care to remember, and her voice is known not only by the St. Dunstan's bowlers, but also by most of the visually handicapped bowlers on the bowling circuit. Thanks a million Katie dear.

I must now thank Mr. Weisblatt and all the staff at HQ for helping with all the booking of accommodation and transport — you are doing a great job. Now for Ian Fraser House: thanks to Commander Conway, Major Neve and their staff for the wonderful way they helped in every respect, other than bowls. I am sure I can speak on behalf of all the St. Dunstaners and their wives, who said that this was the happiest fortnight they had spent at IFH. So thank you once again, and not forgetting the transport office — they did a great job. I mustn't forget the ladies who work in the rooms when we are out, doing the cleaning etc. Thank you all.

Last but not least, we come to a very big thank you to all the catering staff, on both sides of the partition, the married quar-

ters and the men's dining room. It was almost a full house for the fortnight and bursting at the seams at times, but you all managed to get the meals through every day, and well done to you all. But I must say a special thank you to Paul, Billy and their staff for a fantastic dinner on the night of the dance and presentation. You were all marvellous and we are looking forward to our next one, so see you all soon and thank you all once again. I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone in my vote of thanks, but if I have, please forgive me, it isn't intentional.

A footnote from Katie Stubbs: she wishes to thank you all for the lovely present she received last November, and also for the kind gesture shown at the March Presentation. Thank you boys.

READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 4300

The Burglar Who Liked To Quote Kipling

By Lawrence Block

Read by Bruce Montague

Reading Time 7½ hours

Bernie Rosenbar runs a second-hand bookshop in New York. He is also an ex-burglar, several times convicted. As he explains to his friend, the crooked neighbourhood cop, 'Selling books is my business. I'm through with stealing!'

But he isn't — quite. He enters the mansion of a wealthy businessman and ignoring all the treasures therein, takes just one shabby little book from the library. It later transpires that this is a savagely anti-Semitic long narrative poem by Rudyard Kipling. It also appears that Kipling, having had second thoughts about the work, had managed to withdraw from circulation all but one of the limited edition. This naturally makes the surviving volume extremely valuable.

Bernie gets a telephone call from his 'client' instructing him to take the book to a certain apartment and the agreed sum would be handed over. The door is

opened by a woman who tells him the buyer will be along shortly. She gives him coffee. Too late he realises he has been drugged. He is roused to consciousness by the sound of the police hammering on the door. The book is missing, there is a gun in his hand and his late hostess is lying on the sofa with a bullet hole in her head.

He manages to make his escape and goes to ground. The whole of the New York police will be looking for him, his easily-identified finger-prints are on the gun.

With the help of his lesbian friend Caroline, Bernie sets out to discover just who would consider the book so valuable that they would kill to get hold of it — and frame him for murder . . .

A wildly improbable tale, much enlivened by the slick 'New Yorkese' of the characters.

Cat. No. 3475

The Decimate Decision

By Anthony Neal

Read by Andrew Timothy

Reading Time 10 hours

Michael Belman, drunkard and disgraced ex-Det. Inspector from Scotland Yard, is offered a bizarre and dangerous job by his former boss Det. Chief Supt. Kitholme. There is no love lost between the two men.

Kitholme explains that organised crime in the capital is running at an all-time high and getting worse. So much so that a committee of men in 'very high places' have in desperation authorised the 'Decimate Decision'. This involved 'taking out' members of the two major gangs in such a way that 'dog is set against dog' and may lead the police to the men at the top. Belman's job is that of executioner. The man from Whitehall masterminding the Decimate Decision is Prager, a mysterious sardonic man to whom Belman takes an instant dislike.

Belman carries out the first two 'hits' with ruthless efficiency until he begins to suspect that he, too, is being 'set up' for elimination. But why? and by whom? . . .

A run-of-the-mill action-packed yarn with quite good characterisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mrs. Molly Thrower, Diss, Norfolk
I would sincerely like to thank all at St. Dunstan's for their kind expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of my husband, Gordon, and for the support and help of Miss C. Mosley and Miss I. Newbold.

From Mrs. Margaret Bingham, Macclesfield

After many weeks at Ian Fraser House receiving treatment after an injury, I would like to thank all the medical staff, including nurses from the Brighton Nursing Agency, for literally helping me get back on my feet again. Patience, care and understanding was great and I cannot speak highly enough of their combined care and assistance.

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In a recent article in the *Review* about Church Stretton, tandem riding was mentioned. I went on one of these machines with a V.A.D. from Belmont (the girl's home) but either the saddle was crooked or my anatomy somewhat displaced in that area, and I could not walk or sit properly for some days!

From Mrs. W.M. Rushton, widow of the late Mr. A. Rushton, Manchester

I would like to say how very much I enjoyed St. Dunstan's reunion luncheon in Liverpool, it was a lovely pleasant afternoon for each one of us, and to say thank you to all the friends and staff that organised the day for us. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces.

From Mrs. N. Brown, widow of the late Mr. J.R. Brown, Liverpool

I'm not much of a dab hand at putting a letter together, but I just want to say a big thank you to all in St. Dunstan's for the lovely time I had at the Liverpool reunion on Saturday 19th. Even the staff of the St. George's Hotel were fantastic. To be waited on alone was great, and us widows were treated just as good as anyone. And to think I was feeling nervous and shy at going to my first reunion! But right away Mr. Holt and Mrs. Henderson came up

and introduced me to other couples. There was no turning back, as they made me feel great. So, thank you St. Dunstan's — all marvellous people!

From Ken Revis, Oxford

What a truly remarkable story of Ved Mehta, the blind Indian boy who came to St. Dunstan's in Dehra Dun immediately before Partition, as told in the April *Review*. Knowing of only one blind and handless St. Dunstaner at the time when Jo and I were at Dehra Dun, I was convinced that the picture you published was of Gulam Khada and now Jo, who must surely be the only living person to identify Gulam Khada, says 'That is him, I remember his uniform and the hook on his arm stump.' I remember the cover we made for the keyboard of this typewriter with its channels and slots and how he came into my office to laboriously practise pressing his hook into the correct hole over the appropriate key. I also remember Gulam Khada being taken for long walks, one on each arm of a sighted Indian, and giving each other lessons in the other's language, Urdu and English. I wonder where Gulam Khada is now? He, like Ved Mehta, is assuredly an outstanding person.

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 Smith, of Tooting, London, joined St. Dunstan's on April 18th.

Mr. Smith, aged 63, served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1943 until his discharge in 1946. He saw action in Egypt and Italy and worked as a telephonist until his recent retirement. He and his wife, Winifred, have been married for almost 40 years and they have two adult sons.



Sir Henry Leach presents prizes to Shirley Gillberry and Esmond Knight.

STORY WRITING COMPETITION RESULTS

In the November *Review*, our winter story writing competition was launched. Competitors were asked to write from 500-1000 words on 'My most amusing incident'. The response was encouraging and 20 entries were received.

According to the Chambers dictionary, the verb 'to amuse' means 'to occupy pleasantly, to divert, and to beguile with expectations'. The competition not only provided amusing stories, but 'pleasantly occupied' those who took part, which was the Chairman's intention.

The panel of judges met on April 23rd to deliberate. The panel consisted of Mrs. Garnett-Orme, wife of our former Chairman, Mr. Nick Galtress, who directed St. Dunstan's film 'To Live Again', and Miss Noelle Walsh, formerly Editorial Assistant on the *Review*, and now Assistant Editor of *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

The judges were not so much concerned with the grammatical content as to the way the story flowed and kept the reader's interest. They were unable to decide on an outright winner and so chose two stories as first equal. The winners will share the prize money of £45 thus winning £22.50 each. The cheques were presented by the Chairman on Thursday, 1st May.

Congratulations to Shirley Gillberry, who wrote 'Footsteps' and to Esmond Knight, who wrote 'The Reward'. Their stories will appear in future editions of the *Review*. The organisers and judges wish to express their gratitude to all those who took part.

MARATHON MAN

Gerry Jones, our St. Dunstaner from St. Austell, successfully completed the London Marathon on April 20th. On a windy and rainy morning he was the first blind runner home in the creditable time of 3 hours 16 minutes. In the biggest field ever, Gerry and his escort had great difficulty in weaving their way through the slower runners in the densely packed early stages. Although disappointed that he failed to break the record for a blind marathon runner, Gerry was satisfied that he had run a well-planned race and finished strongly and in good physical shape.

He was sponsored as a member of a team running in aid of the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead. In a later issue we hope to bring news of the total amount he raised.



Arthur Wilkins and Lindsay McMillan at 3RPH.

INFORMATION RADIO FOR THE BLIND

Ten years ago a group of blind HAM Radio operators in Australia suddenly hit on a good idea. They felt, like many blind people must do, that they did not have enough access to current information, in-depth that is, as it is explored in the printed media today. They approached the Association for the Blind to support the project of an information radio for the blind.

Today, 3RPH, as it is called, is a non-profit radio station managed by the Association for the Blind, on the air from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day, and broadcasting a wide range of information: governmental (medical care and pensions), reading of news and feature stories in newspapers and magazines, including human interest features and even sports results and the TV guide, council bulletins, and matters of particular interest to blind and handicapped people. There are of course, no advertisements, which makes for more enjoyable listening. 360 volunteers read the material, and often

provide material as well.

3RPH has since discovered that it reaches a wider audience than originally intended: to one including anybody who can't read, handle or comprehend the printed word. In this way listeners can feel they are 'on an equal footing' with their friends, neighbours and workmates, when it comes to knowing about what's going on in the world. As Lindsey McMillan, 3RPH's manager, says, 'RPH is designed to complement people interaction, not replace it'. It provides a means of overcoming personal isolation and integrating the disabled into society. Arthur Wilkins, an Australian St. Dunstaner, is Director of 3RPH and Chairman of the Operations Committee, and he conducts a regular half-hour session, 'Life as I see it', which publicises the work of the Association for the Blind and in addition tries to encourage and help blind people.

To find free air space above Europe would be rather difficult, but it is a good idea isn't it?

A Moment to Spare with Sid Scroggie



The Opium of the People

'What is truth?', said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer. Thus Francis Bacon, and thus till Karl Marx came along, offering dialectical materialism as the one sufficient answer. I am one of those who disassociate themselves from this doctrine, and on grounds at least as scientific as those adduced by Marx in propounding it. Looking round at the world you could not infer that a controlling Deity exists, and this is the view Marx takes. If, however, you assume there is such a Deity, and this is my view, then everything in the world can be made to consist with this assumption. This is what David Hume said, thus offering a rationale both to Karl Marx and myself. At the same time I know Marx is wrong, and Arnold J. Toynbee described his error very well when he said that 'Das Kapital' represented a page torn from the book of Christianity and read wrongly.

What do we understand in common speech by the word 'true'? When something is 'off the true' it doesn't conform to the specifications laid down for it, and when something is in this condition it doesn't work. When a living species gets off the true, that is to say no longer conforms to its environment, it becomes extinct. Truth in this sense is as vital to lower species as in another sense, it is to Man. It has only been by recognising truth in this material sense and by adapting ourselves to our environment as the evolutionists say, that we have come to be what we are today. Marx wouldn't disagree with any of this, but there is a side of Man's nature Marx's doctrines don't take into consideration: what might be called the psychic side.

Over and above the physical universe there is its psychic counterpart. Before matter there was mind, and this mind pervades the universe it conjured into existence. It's impossible that the mortice joint could have made the carpenter, that the theory of relativity could have made Einstein. Laws govern the physical universe, corresponding laws the psychic one, and whereas lower species have only the physical side to contend with, the psychic side is equally important for Man. He is different from all other species in having to adapt himself not only to his physical environment, changing it to suit him if need be, but also to this psychic one which he alone has the capacity to appreciate.

Should Man fail to elucidate these laws and conform with them his prospects are as gloomy as those of the dinosaurs. These laws relate to human behaviour, the kind which is at best as pure and correct in its way as atoms and galaxies are in theirs. Cats and dogs never waver from the truth, they can't, they are always in harmony with the universe. With human beings, however, it is a matter of choice, and it is in relating to their psychic side, that their future as a species is in jeopardy. If we don't adjust ourselves, then we perish. It's the function of religion to elucidate the psychic laws of the universe and teach them to Man. The evolution of our species is at stake, for in us is a potential not to be realised until we are in harmony with the universe as a whole. Out of Man can come Superman, but not on the conditions laid down by Marx. If we would live after death, and that is implied in conformity, then it is not to the soil we must look, but to the stars.

To Meribel for Masochism

by Ray Hazan

Photos: Peter Zamudio

What makes you ache from neck to ankles? What makes you walk around in boots weighing 5 lbs each, like a deep sea diver? What sends ice cold water trickling down your neck or trouser leg? What twists you into contortions you did not think humanly possible? What sends heart and body leaping into the air with the uncertainty of ever reaching terra firma again? In a word, downhill skiing!

So, you may ask, why do we bother? Could it be the thrill of experiencing new sensations? Could it be the satisfying sense of achievement? Could it be the sheer delight of floating over the ground without seemingly obvious effort? Is it the feeling of absolute togetherness with one's guide? Is it the pleasure of sitting down at the end of the day with a drink, pleasantly tired from one's exertions? Sun, fresh air and exercise are invigorating stimulants!

Most of the party who met up at Gatwick on a Saturday morning prior to Easter knew what they were letting themselves in for. Newcomer, Charles Daly, of Harlow, had had some inkling as he had wisely done some dry slope training beforehand. But a nylon-brush 'carpet' is a poor substitute for the real thing.

It was a pleasant surprise at Gatwick to find that our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan was on the same flight and was spending the week in an adjacent valley. We have impeccable witness therefore, quite apart from a few bruises and scratches to prove we have actually been doing what we are bragging about!

The booking-in hall at the airport rang with the cries of greeting, despite the 5.30 a.m. start that most people had made. One guide dog looked most bewildered as his master left him for the first time. Friends waved cheery goodbyes, or was it the thought of crawling back into bed that caused the smile? One of them asked, 'Are we going on board the aircraft?' The reply

had to be 'Not unless you want to run along side!' With a final flourish, the Duke of Kent boarded our flight, and we were off, climbing steeply into a cloud-laden sky, leaving behind thoughts of an English winter, and hoping we would return to the dawning of spring.

European flying nowadays seems to comprise a blur of cling-foil, plastic containers, sticky fingers, as you search for the thimble size cup of coffee and find a jam tart instead, and duty-free goods as the main under-carriage hits the tarmac, which, fortunately has little effect on alcohol. In all, best forgotten!

It seemed in no time that it was 'ici Lyons', and our escort, Major Peter Barnes, with help from Joan Wortley, Jennie Hazan and Jane Boyd (daughter of Bill Shea), had shepherded us onto the awaiting coach. For two hours after leaving Lyons, we drove through a somewhat dilapidated countryside. Perhaps it was suffering the aftermath of winter. In the distance rose our mountainous destination. Excitement grew as we started the final hour's climb up a steep zig-zagging road. Hearts fell for a time as there appeared to be little snow, but then rose again in proportion to the rising level of snow. All would be well.

It has frequently been a source of mischievous intent to wonder if officialdom takes any notice of details contained in the endless forms we have to complete! If one wrote an entirely fictitious number or fact, would anyone notice? On the coach, we all, except the one who had forgotten, had to hand in a passport photograph which is then stuck onto a ski pass. This has to be shown at all lift entrances. Peter took a command decision and decided his spare photo resembled the missing face of our colleague who lives not too far from Cornwall. Not once during the whole week, was the false Barnes ever stopped or questioned.



St. Dunstaners and their guides.

There were more cries of delight as we reached our destination — the chalet Dahu in Meribel. Arriving at almost the same time were our guides from 5 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery based in BAOR. This was the fourth time we had met up with Peter Zamudio and Olly Allport. They have seen several of the very much younger members of the group grow into competent teenage skiers. The others must have wondered what they had let themselves in for; Sgt. Harry Harris-Ward, L/Bdr. Mick Rowe, and Gnrs. Mark Leatherby and Eddie Edwards. All are members of the Regimental downhill ski team. But they were to guide their St. Dunstaner charges both on and off the slopes as though they had been doing it all their lives!

Meribel is part of the 'Three Valleys' and was built largely with British money in the 50's. It is a purpose built resort, so not brilliant from the aesthetic point of view, but beautifully designed for access to the slopes. The chalet Dahu, in which we were housed together with two other families, is a small hotel really, located at the base of the nursery slope. Dahu is the French for 'Yeti', an appropriate name!

The chalet was run by about seven staff, it was difficult to be certain. They were mostly English with a dash of French and New Zealand thrown in. There was a public bar, dining room and lounge downstairs, and a veranda outside looked promising with the hint of sun-drenched lunches and drinks. The word 'drenched' is used advisably, though it was not the sun regrettably that did the drenching! Furniture was specially designed for its lack of comfort. Bamboo chairs bent alarmingly, if not already broken, and the dining tables had a ledge underneath preventing your knees from fitting under the table, so that food could be neatly dropped into the lap. Had I enough spare trousers?

By 6 p.m. the chalet was empty as the group made its way to the ski hire shop. With only six days skiing, no time was wasted. Like old hands, if that is the correct expression, French boot sizes were requested, and comments such as, 'Oh yes, going for 1.80's this year, I see'. This refers to the length of the skis: the longer the metric measurement, the faster the run, and apparently the more able the skier!

After a much needed meal, some drinks, a lot of catching up chat and more

drinks, some of us thought it wise to try and catch up on sleep. What an idealistic world we live in! At 2.30 in the morning, after much tossing and turning, and to the accompaniment of what sounded like snapping branches, I found my feet and head on the mattress, but my behind deposited carefully on the floor. Some previous occupant had kindly just balanced the supports, which, not unnaturally, had slipped. I nobly stuck it out (it already was, I suppose), and rectified the situation in the morning, but it was a dozy skier who hit the slopes next day!

'Hunchback

This same dozy skier also looked a bit like the hunchback of Notre Dame. Communication between skier and guide can prove difficult if there is a lot of wind and the snow is icy, which creates a loud rasping noise between ski edge and ice. I have the additional problem of wind noise across my hearing aid microphones. Major Peter Barnes was able to persuade his T.A unit, 7 Royal Anglian, to lend us some small infantry two way radio sets. These were about the size of a cigar box and were strapped tightly on back or chest under the anorak. I wore just one headphone, thus leaving one ear to hear all the natural sounds, which is important for obtaining direction. My guide, Mark, wore a throat mike and held the presser-switch in one hand, bravely foregoing his ski stick. The presser-switch must be pressed to speak; we thought it might be too expensive on batteries to have the set on permanent 'send'. The aerial, a 14-inch whip antenna, was tucked across my shoulder into the other sleeve, causing my collar to arch up, hence my hunchback appearance. But, more importantly, the system worked, and it greatly bolstered my confidence to know that I did not have to strain to hear my guide, provided he remembered to press the switch!

So a successful six days of some close partnerships commenced. Alan Wortley skied with Peter Zamudio's fiancée, Maya, an expert Swiss skier. They would disap-

pear for hours on end, which convinced us they had reached at least Italy or Switzerland! Peter Z., who holds his English and German Gold instructor's badges, looked after Charlie Daly. The slopes in Meribel are better suited to the intermediate skier, but Charlie coped admirably. Unfortunately, the hardest slope was that immediately above our chalet, thus any idea of finishing the day with a flourish generally ended in an undignified heap, though perhaps I only speak for myself?

Where you have two Royal Marine Commandos, you have an inseparable pair. It was, therefore, inevitable that Bill Shea and Harry should team up, both being of the same persuasion. Harry also holds a German instructor's award, which caused some black looks from the French guides. They had apparently been on strike a short while before for the very reason that they felt their jobs were being taken by 'foreign' guides. However, both the French guides and lift operators were very helpful in pushing us to the front of lift queues when they saw our bibs, a vest worn over our anoraks with the international disabled symbol.

Daunting prospect

Guiding a blind person across the street can be a daunting prospect for some members of the public. Mick may have been no exception to start off with; mind you, trying to keep up with Don Planner would be demanding of anyone! But Mick adapted very quickly and he and Don were both very confident in each other after a short while. Gerry Jones and Olly are longstanding partners and amply demonstrated the advantages of continuity. Eddie was extremely useful as a 'spare' guide and helped some of the sighted novices as well as standing in for others so as to ring the changes. In earlier years, St. Dunstaners found the changing over of guides a little unsettling, but we are now so confident, and the guides so capable, that normal services are quickly resumed if there is a changeover.

'Après-ski' is an integral part of any such holiday; the equation runs something like this: the level of alcohol, divided by the



Après ski: Charlie Daly, Ray Hazan, Gerry Jones, and Bill Shea with Olly Allport.

altitude times stamina is in inverse proportion to the keenness of the skier! In many ways, it is easier not to have to gird ones' loins after a hard day's skiing to go out and find a restaurant with tables available for 25 people. It may be less adventurous, but very easy to change from dining-table to bar, and on hands and knees up to bed, without so much as a hint of snowflake on your person! On one evening, there was a barbecue — delayed steaks cooked over a log fire; I say delayed, as the griddle could only hold a couple of steaks at a time. There were evenings of 'Trivial Pursuits' and cards and visits by the more hardy youngsters to 'Le Pub', the Meribel in-place. Always there was chatter and conviviality. This last made the winding staircase and the shelves that seem to project from every wall in the bedrooms at precisely head-height a much more interesting challenge!

Good Friday, our final day, stood well up to its name. Our customary end of week race was held in brilliant sunshine. Peter Z. laid out an excellent giant slalom course of 10 gates; there were radio sets at start and finish and a stop watch that read

in hundredths of seconds. You would have been hard pressed to tell the difference between us and BBC's 'Ski Sunday', apart from the fact that the latter do not suffer from ignorant peasants who hurtle down through the course uninvited!

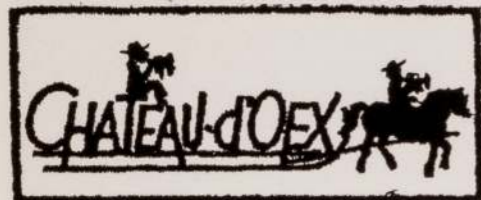
There were three separate races, with each competitor having two runs. The St. Dunstaners race was won by Alan Wortley in 35 seconds, followed by Gerry Jones, 41 seconds, and Don Planner in 41.06 seconds. The remainder of the party which included Richard and Sean Wortley, Chris and Nick Wright and Lucy Boyd (aged 5), had their runs. Finally, came the 'piece de resistance', the blindfolding of our guides. Was it malevolence or fun that both Jonathan and Giles Hazan managed to ski Peter Zamudio and his fiancée, Maya, into the same and largest snow drift around? How was it that no guide bettered the time of a St. Dunstaner, some taking twice as long as our slowest? How come these supreme downhill racers would do the whole course in the snow-plough or breaking position? One has to admire their courage in agreeing to tackle it at all, and could we have coped, like Olly All-

port, on just one ski and no sticks — well, not intentionally, anyway!

By now, the snow was beginning to thin and get very soft on the lower reaches. On several occasions, our guides would take us 'in train' through the difficult passages. They would open their skis in the snow-plough position, with our skis in between theirs, and us holding onto their hips as if on the pillion of a motor-bike. It saved many a tricky situation and must have looked a fairly terrifying sight!

The last run down on the Friday afternoon is always the dangerous one; 'Just one last run to last me until next year!' I only fell down a 10 ft bank and had the indignity of walking back into the chalet! But we were all home, with only minor scratches and wrenches, and the insurance company was claim-free this year!

We could not have ended Friday on a more perfect note, especially as drinks were on the Wortleys, celebrating their 19th wedding anniversary and their daughter Rachel's 16th birthday. In a brief presentation, Alan was awarded the alpine cow-bell for his racing first. Jonathan Hazan received a badge for being the fastest under 16 year old and Charlie Daly for being the fastest (and only) beginner! We were touched and moved by the efforts the guides had put into both the week and



SWISS ROLE!

Tiny Pointon has written to say: 'As in past years, I have written articles on my experiences, I feel that this year readers would be more interested to have a longer article from Jock Carnochan, St. Dunstan's Sports Officer, who at my request escorted me this time. This, to say the least, made life very much more pleasant than being entirely alone and having to ask assistance from others, except when actually skiing and under instruction.'

the race. In order to ensure a good day's sleep on the return journey, some of us continued the party into the wee hours!

So we hang up our boots for another year. They were pleasantly tired but tanned faces that drew into Gatwick airport, but not without one final incident. The aircrew were obviously concerned that the Duke of Kent, who was again on the flight, should have a favourable impression of their airline. As the aircraft drew to a halt, there was a great rushing of compressed air. The air hostess, quietly, quickly and efficiently, had pulled the emergency escape shoot! It would have been impressive had the Royal legs slipped nimbly down the chute; in the event, there was a more dignified 20 minute delay.

We are grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Kerr, Commanding Officer, 5 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery for allowing us the pleasure of the company of our guides. Major Peter Barnes was as long-suffering, active and helpful as always, but may we have some new jokes for next year? We thank St. Dunstan's for helping to make the trip possible.

P.S. I think the letter which read, 'I look forward to being piste again next year' should have read, 'I look forward to being 'on' piste again next year!'

SKI-ING IN SWITZERLAND

By Jock Carnochan

Chateau-d'Oex, one of Switzerland's popular ski resorts, is situated 102 km to the east of Geneva and lies in a valley surrounded by mountains and pine forests, a village with a population of approximately 3000 and which, incidentally, is the neighbour of the famous village of Gstaad where you can rub shoulders with royalty and world famous personalities on the ski slopes. The village also sports a finishing school for the debutantes of the nobility, where Tiny's ski instructor's wife, Lucy, works as a teacher and taught Princess Diana as a pupil.

The village, like most Swiss villages, was very clean and very picturesque in the brilliant sunshine that ensued through-

out the visit. The friendly manner and help given to all by the local shop staff was very noticeable. The other thing that impressed me was the priority given to pedestrians when there had been a fall of overnight snow — the pavements were cleared first and then the streets, a practice that local authorities here could copy, as I well remember the state of our pavements here in Brighton remained quite dangerous days after the streets had been cleared.

The weather was perfect for skiing, warm sunshine during the daylight hours, with frost in the night making the early morning pistes quite icy, and as the day wore on, the melting surface presented a bit of drag on the skis, but on the higher altitude piste conditions were perfect. The altitude of the pistes ranged from 1000m to 3000m giving varying degrees of difficulty and demand on one's expertise, depending whether you chose an intermediate blue run or the more demanding black run. The usual crop of broken limbs was evident and usually

happened where someone had completed their first half-dozen lessons, beginning to think they were future Franz Kramers and then, crunch, however the local rescue teams and ambulance services were all well prepared for these events. In the photographs it can be seen that Tiny is wearing a bibette which is yellow with three black dots — the European symbol to indicate the wearer is disabled in some way, and this goes a long way to getting every consideration on busy slopes.

Although Chateau-d'Oex is a small village, culturally it had many interesting local arts and crafts displays which could interest one on a day off from the pistes. I watched the making of the famous Swiss Gruyere cheese, where the fresh morning milk is poured into a large cauldron and heated over a pine log fire to a temperature of about 50°. Rennet is then added and the heat increased to 55°. During this time the mixture is constantly being stirred against a fixed paddle which breaks up the forming curd into small par-

'Tiny' Pointon





Chateau-d'Oex

ticles. It is stirred for about an hour and a half and then drawn off the heat. A large square cheese cloth with a flexible arch fixed to one end is scooped under the curd and the lot lifted out of the cauldron and placed in a mould and hand-pressed to exude most of the whey. It is then taken down to a cellar and pressed daily until it finally reaches the required maturity. To make a cheese of about 18" diameter by about 5" deep takes approximately 800 litres of milk, and nothing is wasted as the remaining whey is finally used for cattle feed etc.

We visited the local village hall one evening to listen to the village male voice choir's rendering of local folk songs which was most enjoyable. Although neither of us understood the language very well, many of the tunes were reminiscent of British folk songs.

To conclude, the quiet tranquility of the village, the good food and accommodation under the expert management of the hotel proprietor and his wife and staff,

accompanied by the fine weather was most therapeutic. And of course, the physical and mental demands for skiing contributed to a very satisfying visit.

Tiny adds: Thanks to one dummy run we had done on a dry ski slope in Newhaven, we had worked out some of the muscle stiffness. Jock had no problems, but it is obvious to me that next year, I need more strenuous training for hip muscles. I at least got the hang of this mysterious thing they call a parallel turn — perhaps one should not be too ambitious! However, I hope next year to do that three-kilometre La Bray run and not wonder how my legs had become jellified at the end of it.



TRIBUTE

This poem — a tribute to Sam Wilkins, who passed away suddenly on April 22nd at Ian Fraser House — has been written by Terry Walker, on behalf of all his fellow St. Dunstaners.

Our Sam

*He's a long way from the poems
And tales of Waterloo,
But Sam round here is famous
And loved by all he knew.*

*He didn't ask too much from life
He seldom made a fuss,
But Sam he had some courage,
It showed to all of us.*

*He'd done his bit like many here,
He too had tales to tell
Cheerful, kind and friendly
Was how we knew him well.*

*He's on his final journey now,
He left an hour ago
Our Sam is in his heaven,
I've only tears to show.*

PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS

Motorists tend to forget about pedestrians when they're looking for parking spaces. A St. Dunstaner, 'Mannie' Corbettis, of Purley, got so fed up with trying to get past cars parked on the pavement on his way home, that he decided to apply some 'Pavements are for Pedestrians' stickers which he had obtained from the Pedestrians' Association in London.

While he was busily sticking them onto cars, up popped a policeman who, he says, told him he was under arrest for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. 'Mannie' suggested that the policeman should, perhaps, rather be conscientiously writing down the numbers of the cars with a view to prosecuting their owners for causing an obstruction. At which the policeman 'un-arrested' 'Mannie' and began to do so.

The case was taken up with the Pedes-

trian's Association who wrote to Scotland Yard who, in turn, wrote to the Croydon Police. It is a situation which is faced with some difficulty by the police, as they have to sometimes decide whether the obstruction caused if the car had been left in the road would be worse than parking on the pavement. Nevertheless cars are often towed away for obstruction or the owners are cautioned about the offence. On the other hand, sticking notices onto wind-screens could be construed as criminal damage. Whichever way, it would help if car owners showed a bit more consideration to pedestrians, wouldn't it?

BRaille QUESTIONNAIRE

We learn from Bob Fullard, who represented St. Dunstan's recently at a braille conference, that the Royal National Institute for the Blind are conducting a survey of braille users in the form of a questionnaire.

Among other things it asks what advantages and disadvantages the user thinks braille has over other ways of reading, on what subjects the reader uses braille for information and for comments on RNIB braille and tape services.

Respondents can remain anonymous and the questionnaires are obtainable from RNIB Customer Liaison, Braille House, 338 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7JE. Telephone: 01-278 9615.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

Canoeing in Cumbria, horse riding in Kent, rock climbing in Yorkshire, sailing in Cornwall — the RNIB is subsidising a range of group activity holiday/courses at 14 different centres offering accommodation and instruction in a variety of land and water-based outdoor pursuits. Further information from Sports and Recreation Officer, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA.

ST. DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS BEAT R.A.F.

In their first match against a Service team St. Dunstan's had a fine win when they beat a Royal Air Force team by 7146 points to 7041. The match was held at Ian Fraser House in very windy conditions on April 22nd.



Ted Parish

Ted Bradford checks the scores for Pat Smith and Ted Parish.



The teams consisted of eight archers but only the five best scores on handicap qualified for the match. The St. Dunstan's archers were: George Allen (Captain), Eric Bradshaw, Johnnie Cope, Walford Davies, George Hudson, Sid Jones, Ted Parish and Joe Prendergast.

Shooting for the Royal Air Force were Wing Commander John Walters (Captain), Mr. Bob Abbott, Junior Technician Gary Carr, Corporal Colin Glenister, Junior Technician (W) Jacquie Gregory, Mr. Gary Hardinges, Mrs. Pat Smith and Chief Technician Dennis Smith.

Cameras of TVS, the southern area television service, were there to record the match and extracts were shown on their Coast to Coast, evening magazine programme that day.

Trophies went to the top scorers on handicap: George Allen — 1460; Sid Jones — 1446 and Jacquie Gregory — 1440. The winner on absolute scores was Gary Hardinges — 540. Presentations were made at a luncheon presided over by Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, Lady Paramount, St. Dunstan's Archery Society.

NICKEL-CADMIUM RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

By Peter Jones, B.E.M.

With the ever increasing number of battery operated devices used in the home and the escalating prices of 'throw-away' batteries it is worth considering changing to rechargeable ones particularly in those devices which gobble up batteries such as portable radios, cassette recorders and battery-operated mechanical toys.

The Nickel-Cadmium rechargeable battery which costs only about four times as much as the standard Zinc-Carbon type can be used and then recharged some one thousand times before it needs replacing. The cost of recharging works out at about one penny per battery.

Changing from disposable batteries to rechargeable ones represents a considerable saving in the long run even taking into account the higher cost of the batteries and buying a charger unit.

Memorex, a division of the Tandy Corporation of Texas, have just introduced a new type of charger and range of batteries to the U.K. market, and these should be generally available in the High Street electrical and photographic shops soon.

The charger unit plugs directly into a 13 amp. socket and resembles a two-way adapter in size and shape.

Adapters which hold the batteries being charged, plug on to the sides of the charger. The charging time is nominally about 12 hours. The charger will cope with up to eight batteries at one time, four on each side.

The adapters are non-reversible in the way they attach to the sides of the charger and so present no problems to a visually-handicapped user. Within the adapters there are springs which make the electrical connections to the negative (flat) ends of the batteries being charged whilst small plates make contact with the positive (stud) ends of the batteries. This method of connecting to the batteries within the adapter is most helpful to a visually-handicapped user in ensuring that they are correctly loaded.

The Memorex Pro Series charger costs £5.99.

The most commonly used battery is the AA or HP7 which is now designated R6. The adapter for this size which will hold four batteries and comes supplied with two, costs £4.76. Additional R6 batteries cost £3.49 a pair. The PP3 battery which is extensively used in miniature radios and cassette recorders is the 6F22E and one of these together with the adapter costs £7.13 and the charger can recharge two of these batteries at the same time.

The Memorex range includes the larger batteries and suitable adapters and your local dealer should be able to advise you further on this range of products.

Further information is available from Consumer Advice Department, Memtek Products Ltd., 2, Ascot Road, Bedfont, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 8QH. Tel. 07842-47241/8.

NEW RNIB PRICE LIST

RNIB's 1986-7 price list of over 600 aids and games for visually handicapped people is now available in print, large print, braille and on tape free from RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA. Telephone: 01-388 1266. Copies of the illustrated catalogue are also available free in the same four formats.

BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION

John Gallagher, who is the new Public Relations Officer for the Braille Chess Association, has informed us that if any St. Dunstaners would be interested in becoming members, they are welcome to join. The Association holds 'over the board' tournaments in the UK and abroad and also plays in braille correspondence leagues. It has several tape services concerning chess and a chess magazine and gazette. For further details, please contact the Secretary, Mr. Stan Lovell at 36 Partridge Court, Harlow, Essex. Telephone: 0279 339694.

D.F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

Do remember to keep all plants well watered, both in the flower borders and flower beds.

Carry on with regular hoeing to get rid of young weeds and to open up the soil, so that any moisture can penetrate to the roots. Pests above and at soil level will be on the rampage, so use the sprayer regularly plus a dose of small pellets on the soil to keep snails and slugs at bay. Cut away all those spent flower stems so that the plants can replace them with new ones and fresh flowers later in the season.

Vegetables

Keep the hoe and fork going between rows of growing plants. Give plenty of water if you have had no rain for a time, and to save some trouble it might be a good thing to get the sprinkler set in place, moving it about fairly regularly. Pests, as I have said before will be having a good feed, so get your sprayers out and add soil pest killers in the shape of pellets. After rain or your own watering, sprinkle some *Growmore* pellets in rows to give plants better growth and to increase the crop.

Lettuce will need to be kept more moist than other items or they will go to seed. Harvest regularly and put in small quantities of new seed every so often. Break a leaf over the curds of cauliflower to give some shade and to make a good head. Carry on earthing up potatoes and dig up some of the really early ones for household use. Plant some tomatoes in warm sheltered places and do place a stake in position and tie up regularly as they grow.

Set out earlier grown cauliflowers in their growing places, and some cabbages for a late crop. Sprinkle roots with calomel dust or dip into a paste of it — in case you have planted them in positions which may have been used for the cabbage family very recently — and to try and stop attacks of club root. A good sprinkling of

lime will also help. There may be an attack of black fly on broad beans when they are in flower, so either pick out the main tip or spray with an insecticide. Set some dwarf and runner beans in their places, but do remember to get climbing strings and stakes into place at once.

Fruit

Give all trees and bushes some fertiliser either in pellet or manure form. Manure form may be better as it will help to keep any moisture at root level. Spray regularly when there are any signs of pests or disease. If you have a large set of apples it is best to thin them out a bit to ensure a good size and quality at the end of the season. Also, cut away all extra and superfluous growth on trees, and overlaid branches which are bending over too much will need some support.

On currant bushes, pinch back the side shoots and pull out surplus and weak shoots to ensure a good even crop. Give all the fruit trees and bushes plenty of water during dry spells. Strawberries must have more than most, and runners can be layered for next season's new plants.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly but not too often during dry spells. It might be a good idea to set up the sprinkler and let it go during the evening when the moisture will settle into the soil better. Some fertiliser in liquid form gives the grass a boost when it is growing at top speed.

Flowers

Carry on planting out all those half hardy annuals if there are any left, and thinning out the hardy annuals which were planted from seed in their flowering quarters. Thinnings can be used to fill up spare places. A number of perennials will have been flowering well and some tending to go to seed, so cut shoots down to make some side shoots grow well and give flowers later.

Tie in sweet peas and where they have reached the top of canes, pinch out the tips of their growth for bushier growth and more colour. Some taller perennials may also need stakes pushed in and the

plants tied to them. Dahlias will need looking after well to give good flowers, and stake up the tall items.

Plant out the begonias, both the tuberous types and fibrous rooted. The latter should be planted in the front of borders since they are dwarf plants. Both these types make good pot plants for indoors, in troughs and other containers around the house. Even half hardy fuchsias will give a good show in the middle of the borders but do put in stakes when you plant out. Another plant used a good deal on the rockery and in the front of borders is mesembryanthemum, but do find really sunny spots. I am trying them for the first time this season.

Greenhouse

Now is the time to cut off all heat, except during cold spells when you may have to put it on again at night. Give all plants plenty of ventilation by having windows open during the day, and even a bit open at night during warm periods. Plenty of moisture will be needed by all plants, so water regularly and give liquid feeds. It might be a good thing to keep the floor and staging moist. All sorts of pests and disease will be roving around, so either get the sprayer working or light some smokes in early evening when ventilators are closed. Remember to open windows and doors for a couple of hours before you do any work inside.

Azaleas which flowered earlier in the year may be taken outside and placed in a warm shady position until early autumn. One can sow cyclamen, cinerarias and various primulas for flowering next year and planting out as rock plants in autumn. Some plants in small pots should be repotted into larger containers, and water in well as soon as they are potted. Put some shading on the outside of the greenhouse, if not already done. I have found that painting or even spraying *Coolglas* is very effective and the rain does not wash it off.

Give tomatoes plenty of water and feed regularly. Tie in main stems to keep the plant from bending over to the cane or whatever you have at the top of the greenhouse. The plants need stopping when

they get to the top. Pinch out side shoots as they appear and pick off fruit as soon as it gets to a ripening stage. Cucumbers will need plenty of water and feed, and pick off fruit when it gets to a good size. Don't let side shoots get too long and leave only a few fruit per side shoot. It is better to have the *Femina* type as all the fruit will make cucumbers and you won't have to pick off those male ones which have no fruit behind the flowers and tend to make the fruit poor.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON Bowling

On Saturday April 12th we entertained a party of 32 from the Woolston Bowling Club. They arrived at 2 p.m. and play commenced almost immediately. We all enjoyed a good afternoon's bowling, but unfortunately on this occasion the St. Dunstan's bowlers were not at their best, and after a hard struggle we went down with our colours flying!

We then retired for tea and both captains said in their vote of thanks how they thoroughly enjoyed this fixture and looked forward to many years of bowling. We then retired to the bar whilst the room was being prepared for the dance. Once again it was a great success and a wonderful evening was had by all. The evening was made more successful because Doctor John O'Hara was presented with a portrait of himself in appreciation of his work as St. Dunstan's Medical Officer for many years.

On Friday April 18th we welcomed to St. Dunstan's members of the Old Woking Bowling Club. This was our last indoor bowling fixture and we hoped that we would finish off in grand style. On all previous occasions we had beaten Old Woking but this time, as they had three lady players, we were unable to do so. We know now how Oxford felt when they lost the boat race! Many thanks to our ladies for catering so well during the Indoor Bowling Season.

A. Miller

Club News *continued*

Bridge

We sent a team to Horsham on Sunday, April 6th for the annual friendly match. At the outset Horsham announced in friendly fashion that they were out to avenge our big win of last year, which they did — at the large margin of 80 points. Horsham, as usual, made us very welcome indeed and we enjoyed meeting old friends.

Our team:

W. Allen
J. Whitcombe
W. Phillips
R. Evans
R. Pacitti
A. Dodgson
Mrs. V. Delaney
W. Lethbridge
R. Goding
G. Hudson
R. Palmer
Mrs. Phillips

Pairs — April 13th

W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	60.4
R. Evans & Dr. J. Goodlad	54.2
W. Phillips & Mrs. Phillips	50.0
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	46.9
Miss Stenning & Miss Sturdy	45.8
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	42.7

Individuals — April 19th

H. King	61.1
R. Goding	60.0
W. Phillips	58.8
Miss Stenning	57.5
Mrs. Pacitti	50.0
R. Evans	48.8
Mrs. Barker	48.8
R. Pacitti	47.5
Mrs. Douse	46.3
W. Lethbridge	45.0
J. Whitcombe	40.0
Miss Sturdy	36.2

On Sunday, April 20th we played our semi-final match in the West Sussex Inter-Club League with Crawley and were successful by a narrow margin of 9 victory points to 7. The match was very closely

contested all the way and proved a most enjoyable fixture.

Our team:

J. Padley
W. Lethbridge
R. Evans
R. Goding
R. Fullard
M. Tybinski
R. Pacitti
A. Dodgson

The final round is to be played on May 11th at Horsham Bridge Club against West Sussex.

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Janet, younger daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. R. Goding*, of Gosport, on her marriage to William Hammerton on April 7th.

Julie, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. E. Slater*, of Leyland, who married Anthony Richard Hardman on April 26th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Brown, of Huntingdon, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 24th.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Forshaw, of Bognor Regis, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. P.V. Lowry, of Saltdean, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Proctor, of Rottingdean, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Reynolds, of Shrewsbury, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 20th.

Ruby Weddings *continued*

Mr. and Mrs. Dickie Richardson, of Kempsey, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Simpson, of Doncaster, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 22nd.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. F.T. Baugh, of Stafford, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Amanda Louise, born on March 3rd to their daughter, Linda, and son-in-law, Les.

Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Bentley, of Birmingham, who are pleased to announce the birth of two grandchildren: a boy, Neil Martyn, born on March 18th to their son, David, and his wife, Elaine, and then another little boy, Christopher Frederick, born on April 12th to their son, Robert, and his wife, Janet, who live in California.

Mr. and Mrs. F.P. Surridge, of Reedham, Great Yarmouth, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Stacey, born on January 30th to their son, Peter, and his wife, Tina.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Lynn Blaxill, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Alec Morton*, of London, who, at the age of 17, has been promoted from the Nat West Bank, Aldwych to the Leicester Square branch as Senior Machine Operator in charge of 27 members of staff. Congratulations also to her brother, Ian 14, who won the Old Maltings Snooker Centre Junior Title 4-2.

Catherine, aged 21, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. R. Newton*, of Oldham, who recently qualified as a State Enrolled Nurse, and is at present working at Altrincham Hospital. She has still to decide whether she will go on to qualify as a S.R.N.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mrs. Janie Kempe, widow of the late *Mr. S.N. Kempe*, of Camborne, whose step-daughter passed away at Easter following a short illness.

Mr. J.H. Nicol, of Cottingham, whose brother died at the end of March, after a long illness.

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.

R. Atkins, *Royal Berkshire Regiment, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Regiment, Hampshire Regiment, Labour Corps*. Robert Atkins, of West Mersea, passed away on April 3rd, aged 89. He had been a St. Dunstaner for ten years.

During the First World War, Mr. Atkins served in three regiments: the Royal Berkshire, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire and Hampshire. At the end of the war, he remained in the Army with the rank of Corporal in the Labour Corps from which he was discharged in March 1919, as a result of failing vision. He worked as a gardener until retirement.

His wife, unfortunately, died in 1975, and after that Mr. Atkins resided at different times in his daughters' homes, making periodic visits to his other children, who all cared for him with loving devotion.

He leaves a close-knit family of five sons and three daughters.

H.J. Haskey, *Royal Artillery*

Henry James Haskey, of Pinner, passed away suddenly at home on April 18th, aged 75. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1970.

Mr. Haskey served in the Royal Artillery in World War II and was wounded by an explo-

In Memory *continued*

sion in Ireland in 1941. Before his enlistment he had worked on the railways and was able to return after his war service until his retirement in 1969. He was also a keen and successful gardener, and a member of the Headstone Horticultural Society. He frequently walked off with many of the prizes at their annual shows and in 1978 received a trophy for his roses. He was a regular visitor at Ian Fraser House and will be remembered with affection by members of the staff and his fellow St. Dunstaners.

He leaves his widow, Rose, to whom he was married for 51 years, and their son and daughter.

A.A. Peacey, 15th Gloucester Regiment

Augustus Albert Peacey, of Cheltenham, passed away in hospital on February 12th, aged 93. He had joined St. Dunstan's in September 1982.

Mr. Peacey enlisted in the 15th Gloucester Regiment in 1909 when he was 16 years of age and saw active service during the First World War. He was severely wounded in the head and legs whilst serving in Belgium and suffered the loss of one eye.

In civilian life, Mr. Peacey was a wheelwright and coach-builder, retiring at 66 years of age. From that time, he managed to care for himself adequately in his own home with the devoted care of his sister, Mrs. Hudson, and step-daughter, Mrs. Searle, with whom he spent the winter months.

H.H. Scaife, Royal Artillery

Herbert Henry Scaife, of Osbaldwick, York, affectionately known as 'Herbie', passed away suddenly on April 2nd, aged 74. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Mr. Scaife served as a Gunner in the Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and at the end of 1944 suffered severe facial injuries from a shell explosion whilst on active service in Italy. As a result, he was faced with deteriorating health problems over the years which he bore with great courage and cheerfulness.

On admission to St. Dunstan's Mr. Scaife received training at Church Stretton in braille, typewriting and handicrafts, and for a time returned to his pre-war employment as a baker until the firm closed down in 1957. In earlier years, he had been a keen fisherman but, in retirement, his greatest hobby was his garden and greenhouse. He was also a rugby enthusiast and received much pleasure from his talking books and yearly visits to Ovingdean. Unfortunately his wife, Mary, died in 1983, but

Mr. Scaife was able to continue living at home with the devoted care of his son, Kenneth, and other members of the family.

S.A. Wilkins, Royal Air Force

Stanley Allen Wilkins, affectionately known as Sammy, passed away suddenly on April 21st at Ian Fraser House. He was in his 78th year and had been looking forward to moving into a new home in Peacehaven with his wife, Margaret. They lived formerly in Maltby, near Rotherham.

Mr. Wilkins enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was discharged at the end of 1945 following injuries received when he was knocked down by a tank whilst serving in France during the 2nd World War. He was able to work as a time-keeper until 1971 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's two years later.

In 1981, Mr. Wilkins was involved in a car accident whilst travelling with his wife and in the years following had to be admitted to hospital on several occasions for surgery and treatment. This seriously affected his general health but he bore his disabilities with remarkable courage and cheerfulness. 'Sammy' will be greatly missed by numerous fellow St. Dunstaners and all the staff at Ian Fraser House.

He leaves his widow, Margaret, with whom he spent 11 happy years, two sons, two step-daughters and other members of the family.

T.G. Wood, London Regiment

Thomas George Wood passed away at Pearson House on April 19th, aged 98. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1977 and was the oldest surviving member.

Tom, as he was affectionately known, enlisted in November 1915 in the 13th County of London Regiment and served throughout the First World War. He was gassed at Opie Wood in 1918. Following his discharge he worked as an engineer with a firm of brewers until his retirement in 1953. He was a very keen gardener throughout his life and had a large vegetable garden at his home in Kent until he was 80. Sadly, his wife died two years after his admission to St. Dunstan's and he then became a permanent resident at Pearson House. He was introduced to The Queen during the royal visit last year and made Her Majesty smile broadly when he referred to Matron Goodwin as 'that girl'. He remained remarkably fit and alert despite his great age and will be greatly missed by all the staff and his friends at St. Dunstan's.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood had no children but he leaves his brother-in-law, Mr. Henry Foster, and his old friend, Mr. Leonard Cotterell.