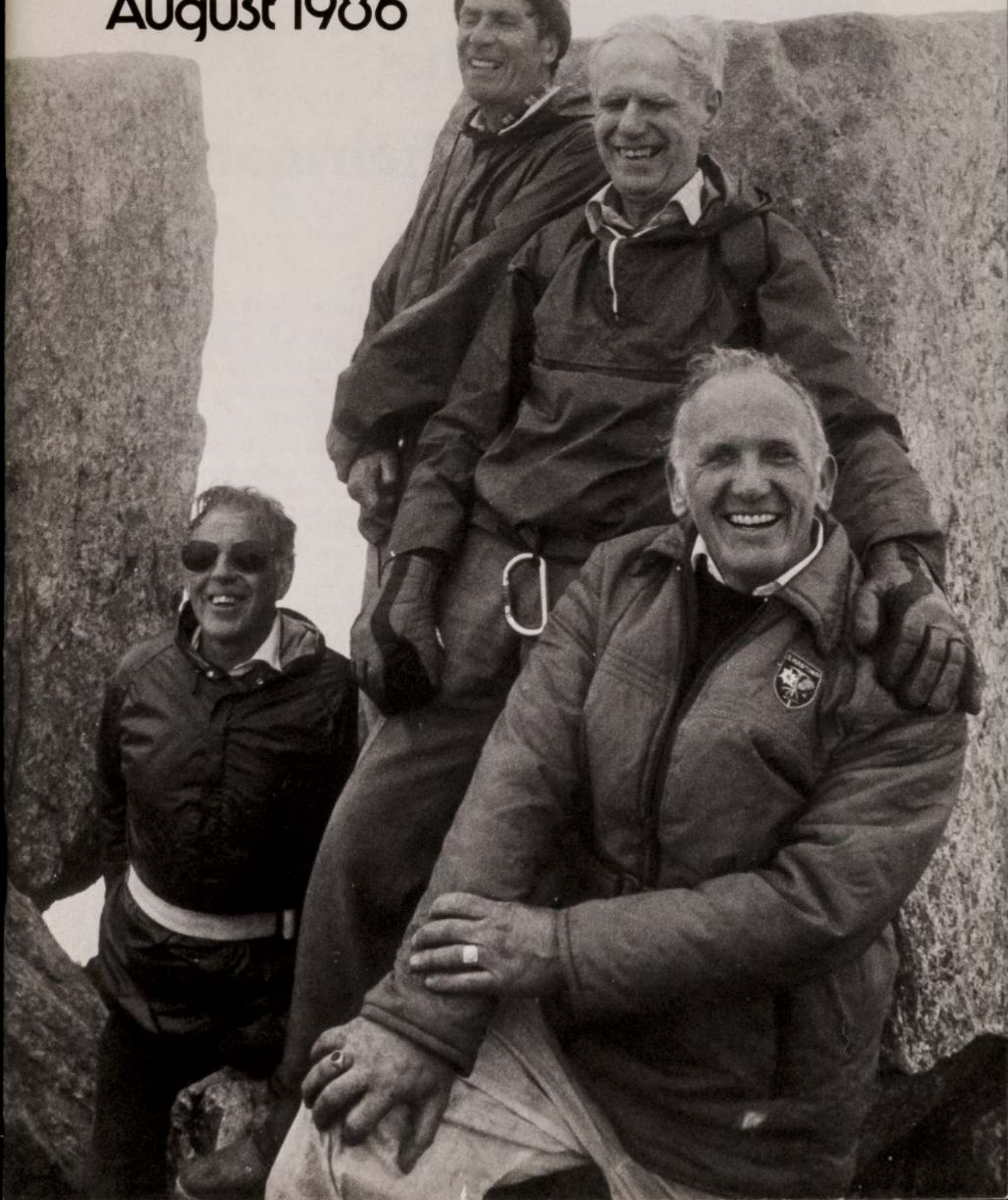


**St Dunstons
Review
August 1986**





From the Chairman

In this age of the computer opportunities for blind people have come with the advent of synthetic speech. Now computers can talk and a blind user can hear everything that a sighted operator sees on the screen.

This holds out opportunities for employment in computing. It also means that computers can be used to assist blind people in other work and in their day to day lives. St. Dunstan's has been keeping in touch with developments through the efforts of Peter Jones and Ray Hazan who have been evaluating different systems for over three years.

We are already seeing the fruits of their efforts. Recently the *Review* announced the availability of Peter Jones' St. Dunstan's Programme Disk One. A computer handling course under Phil Duffee has been established at Ian Fraser House and a dozen St. Dunstaners have systems which they use in employment in office work and telephony, in local government, amateur radio, writing and other activities.

A conference at Ian Fraser House over the weekend of 15/16 November is planned to help established users and those considering acquiring a computer. The major problem is to keep up to date in this fast developing field but we are working hard to keep abreast and will keep you informed.

Henry Leach

OBITUARY

Our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Laura Ellis, widow of the late St. Dunstaner Mr. Jimmy Ellis, who emigrated to South Africa in 1950. Mrs. Ellis passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 6th, just 2½ years after the death of her husband. She was a V.A.D. and she and her husband had been acquainted with many St. Dunstaners in England and South Africa, and she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

We expect to receive a small allocation of tickets for the afternoon and evening presentations of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 8th.

St. Dunstaners who have not attended a previous presentation are invited to apply, before September 12th, to Mr. K. Martin at HQ for two tickets per St. Dunstaner. Please state any preference for afternoon or evening presentation.

A ballot will be held and those successful will be assisted with both the cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London, if necessary.

TENERIFE 1987

I am organising a holiday excursion to Tenerife in early May, 1987, if there is sufficient demand. The holiday would include two weeks at half board in an hotel on the south of the island in Playa de las Americas. The hotel has a swimming pool and is

located about a quarter of a mile from the sea. St. Dunstaner, Hugh Lofthouse, who lives in Tenerife has kindly agreed to organise various outings.

Although the 1987 brochure prices are not yet available, the trip is likely to cost around £375 per person, to include flight, accommodation and insurance.

I shall need final commitment when all details are available, probably in October. Would anyone interested please contact me, Ray Hazan, at HQ as soon as possible. This will be a private and not a St. Dunstan's sponsored trip.

BUFFALOES

The RAOB weekend which was to take place from November 14th to 17th, has now been changed to November 21st to 24th. Will everyone who wishes to attend please take note and change bookings accordingly.

EDUCATING BRIAN

London Weekend Television are to show Jimmy Wright's film, *Educating Brian*, in which Ray Hazan takes part, on Sunday August 24th at 1.30 p.m.

WANTED

St. Dunstaner, Mr. Tiny Pointon would like to purchase a good, second-hand solid gold braille wrist watch. He would be very grateful if anybody who would like to sell one or knows of one for sale could please write to him at 566 Falmer Road, Woodingdean, Brighton, BN2 6NA.

St Dunstons Review

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10p MONTHLY

Free to St. Dunstaners

AUGUST 1986

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Cover: With Adam and Eve on the summit of Tryfan are (left to right) Ray Sheriff, Tom Lukes, Bill Shea and Johnnie Cope.

NATIONAL METRO SPORTS 1986

The 10th National Metro Sports Competition for the Visually Handicapped was held on June 28th at the New River Stadium, Haringey.

The 2-kilometre walking race for the Bill Harris Cup was won by Mike Brace, Vice-President and Founder of the National Metro Sports. Four St. Dunstaners took part in this event: Charles Stafford, Terry Bullingham, Stan Tutton and Norman Walton. Stan came in fourth with a time of 21 minutes 50.4 seconds, Charles came in fifth with a time of 24 minutes 51.8 seconds, and Terry sixth at 27 minutes 00.7 seconds. Stan Tutton also participated in two field events, coming ninth in the shotput with a throw of 4 metres 70, and eighth in the javelin with a throw of 10 metres 24.

Norman Walton came third in the 60

metres sprint in 11.3 seconds, fourth in the high jump, with 1 metre 10, and 15th in the long jump with 2 metres 43.

Tragically Charles Stafford suffered a severe heart attack in the changing room after the race and, despite the efforts to save him on the part of the First Aid and ambulance teams, Charles was dead on arrival at the hospital nearby. Charles has been a staunch supporter of the National Metro Sports since it commenced in 1977 and a contributor towards the purchase of the Bill Harris Cup which is presented annually to the winner of the walking race for the Totally Blind. Although race walking was Charles' principal love, he was an excellent swimmer and took part in all field events in St. Dunstan's Annual Sports before they were discontinued and would have been one of the keenest competitors in the sports at HMS *Daedalus* this August, as he had done in previous years.

Jimmy Wright

NORMAN FRENCH RETIRES

After just short of 40 years service with St. Dunstan's as Research Engineer, Mr. Norman French retired from full-time employment on July 25th.

He joined St. Dunstan's on January 27th, 1947, working in the Research Department and over the years has developed into a specialist, designing and making many gadgets for the use of St. Dunstaners in industry and for those who are doubly handicapped for use in daily life and recreation.

In recent years Norman has taken over as Secretary of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee and supervision of the industrial section covering St. Dunstaners in employment and those with hobby interests in handicrafts.

His work in these areas will be taken over by Mr. Keith Martin, and by Mr. Len Wiggins respectively.

We are happy to report that Norman French will continue, on a part-time basis, to carry on his research and engineering role, with particular reference to the needs of doubly disabled St. Dunstaners.

H.M. THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday, our Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, sent this message of congratulations.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world, I should be grateful if you would kindly give Her Majesty The Queen our loyal greetings on the celebration of her birthday on June 14th. We send her Majesty all our good wishes.

Sir Robert Fellowes, L.V.O., Assistant Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, replied on her behalf.

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your kind message, sent on behalf of St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world on the occasion of the celebration of Her Majesty's Official Birthday on June 14th.

As Patron, The Queen much appreciated this message, and sends her very best wishes to all concerned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr. Jeff Bond, Ontario, Canada

My wife and I have just arrived home from the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded Reunion, held in Montreal, Canada, from May 5th to 9th, 1986.

We were very pleased and thrilled to meet Tom and Peggy Lukes at this function, Tom representing St. Dunstan's. I had met Tom whilst a student physiotherapist back in the late 40's and often thought and spoke of him. Tom made an excellent speech, warm, smooth and very sincere. His message was received with great enthusiasm and many people came across after the dinner to commend him on his presentation. Tom recalled the relationship between the two groups and quite a few St. Dunstan's members were present.

From Mrs. J. Cashmore, widow of the late Mr. D.E. Cashmore, Birmingham.

Yet another widow wishing to express sincere thanks for the invitation to a St. Dunstan's reunion. On Saturday, June 21st, I had the pleasure of attending the Birmingham reunion and it was so nice to feel that once again I was a member of St. Dunstan's 'family.' Meeting old friends made it a very memorable day. My grateful thanks to you all, for helping to make the widows so very welcome.

I am sure that all the widows will agree, when I say how very reassuring I found the Chairman's letter, in the June issue of the *Review*.

From Mrs. Joy Forster, widow of the late Bob Forster, Leeds.

I felt I must write to say how much I appreciated the letter from Sir Henry Leach in the June issue of *St. Dunstan's Review*, concerning those of us who are now St. Dunstaners' widows. It is very comforting and heart warming to know that we are thought of in this way and that we are looked after, cared for, visited and included.

I recently went to the Leeds reunion, with mixed feelings I must admit, it isn't easy to go back alone to a function previ-

ously attended with a loved and loving husband and, in fact, the last waltz Bob and I danced together had been at a St. Dunstan's reunion.

I need not have worried however, I enjoyed every minute of the occasion, once I began to meet old friends, some of whom had been at Church Stretton when I was a St. Dunstan's V.A.D. there. I was also given news of other Church Stretton St. Dunstaners who now live in various parts of Britain.

I was made so welcome by Sir Henry and Lady Leach, all the St. Dunstan's staff and everyone with whom I talked, that I had a lovely time and came home relaxed and happy in the knowledge that I would always be part of St. Dunstan's loving and caring family. Thank you all so much.

From Mrs. H. Lund, widow of the late Mr. G.E. Lund, Hartlepool.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the ones in St. Dunstan's who decided to invite the widows to the yearly reunions. I had a wonderful day at the Newcastle one, I made the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh on the train going and they, with all the others I met, made my day. I had felt that I might feel out of it with all being strangers to me but when the day finished I certainly had another opinion. Everybody was so friendly including the staff.

ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE

One-to-One is an electronic mail service which has been set up by an American company. This service allows you — using a microcomputer — to send mail to other One-to-One subscribers, and costs £5 for every 50 minutes of connect time. Additional equipment necessary is an electronic mailbox (which may be obtained for free, depending on how many people subscribe) and a DACOM modem which costs £150 plus V.A.T.

For further details please contact J.A. Armour, Cert. Ed., B.A., Lecturer Computer Studies, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9TG. Telephone: 021-427 4577.

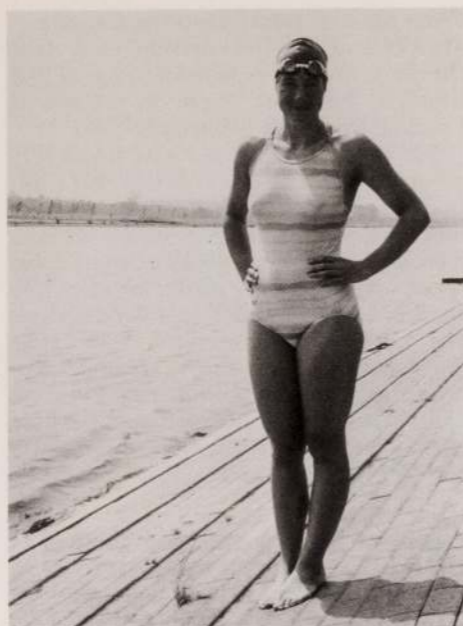
Lynne Tetley Braves The Channel

*'I'll give it
Everything
I've got'
(So pray for good
weather!)*

Story and pictures
by
Carolyn Howell

Ever thought of trying to swim the channel? Even if you're a big, hulking, extra-fit champion of a swimmer, IT'S NOT THAT EASY! Since 1875 when Capt. Matthew Webb was the first person to successfully manage it, there have been about 3600 further attempts. Only 293 swimmers have done it. Besides being in the water for more than 15 hours, there are a heap of other problems facing the intrepid channel challenger: getting far enough before the tide changes against you; acclimatising yourself to the icy cold water, the saltiness and the constant swell; fighting cramp if it arises; avoiding oil slicks, floating debris, seaweed, jellyfish (one man actually swallowed a jellyfish and had to have his stomach pumped), 500-odd ships and maybe a cross channel ferry. Sounds fairly hairy? Gives me an involuntary gasp at the thought.

Not so Lynne Tetley, St. Dunstaner Mike Tetley's daughter, who's going to actually dive in and do it on August 28th, *even if she's petrified*. And Lynne, who's 27,



has an extra problem or, as she seems to interpret it, an additional challenge. Eight years ago, on safari in Kenya with her family, Lynne and her mother both picked up a virus and contracted diabetes within a week of each other. The diabetes is what gave her the incentive to try and swim the channel, in order to raise money for the British Diabetic Association and its research. But this means that sometime during the swim she will have to give herself an insulin injection while she is in the sea.

Lynne is confident that it won't be too difficult: 'At the moment we think I'll probably need an injection between eight and ten hours after I've started. I don't think it's going to be too much of a problem. I've just received permission from the Channel Swimmers Association to actually lean over the dinghy which will be behind the main pilot boat and which I'll be swimming alongside of. As long as the boat doesn't move forward at all it won't invalidate the swim. The rules state

that you can't touch anybody or anything the whole time, but they've allowed me to lean over the dinghy at least, so the pressure is off a little bit. I'll be covered in grease, so it's just clearing a piece of skin — the injection is intramuscular, no problem really, so long as the site is clean. I've got to have a doctor on board, if not two, to cope with any difficulties. But my consultant is confident that there shouldn't be too many problems, as long as I keep my blood sugar level up and enough insulin to cope with it. If it goes low, then I can go hypoglycaemic and your body can't function then at all.'

'Will you know when it's getting low?', I ask, somewhat apprehensively. 'Yes, I recognise the symptoms, I've gone hypo in the water before so I know. You have to be very quick to get the sugar in. It might mean that I have to stop every hour-towards the end particularly. But I'm still experimenting with that, it's very much in the next two months that I will be finding out a lot, sort of experiencing what's going to happen; trying to simulate the circumstances as closely as possible to what it's going to be like on the day, so I'm not caught out by anything unexpected. I'm well-controlled, I don't think it will be too much of a problem, but it has got to be considered. There is a potential risk definitely, but as long as we cover all eventualities, it should be all right.'

A Demanding Schedule

Lynne has been training for 11 months so far for this, under a strenuous training programme devised and supervised by her coach, former Olympic swimmer, Brian Brinkley. 'At almost the same time after I got the idea and was making enquiries about it, Brian joined Peterborough as a professional coach. I phoned the club initially to ask if I could just use a lane to train in — at that time I was thinking of doing it by myself. He contacted me and said we'd have a go and he'd watch me swim. He had his doubts at first apparently, which he's only just told me recently! But I've stuck with it so he's very supportive now. I couldn't have done without him in fact because he's helped

me train all through the winter and he's there every session.'

Because Lynne is a full-time teacher of French and German at Sawtry Village College, as well as studying part-time for a Masters Degree in Education, her training has had to fit into the tight schedule of her daily routine: 'I get up at 5.30 a.m. so I can do one hour 40 minutes training before school — I try and swim about 5 kilometres which is 200 lengths, and in the evening I do a full two hours, 6 kilometres which is 240 lengths. Or if I'm in the river Nene, or the lido open air swimming pool, an equivalent distance. In the river there's about an 800-metre stretch that I use; there's also a rowing pit which is a kilometre's length. The weekend before last I did 12 of those which took 4 hours and that's like 12 kilometres. I seem to really do about 3 kilometres an hour.'

'The channel is 21 miles but because of the tides you end up swimming further. You can't swim in a straight line, it takes you one way, and then there's a slack period and it takes you back the other way. But I'm going to have a lot of practice in the sea. I'm going to do a Solent swim from Southampton, about 5 miles across, in July. Hopefully I'll do a double, there and back, so that'll be 10 miles in the water which should be a good training session. And I'm meeting the people who own the pilot boat for a couple of weekends in July and August.'

'As far as cold water is concerned, three weeks ago I entered the trials for the British Long Distance Swimming Team — I was just using it as a training session. That was in a lake, 47°F, which is fairly cold. There was a 6-mile race, followed by a 3-mile race and then a 1-mile race. I was the only woman competitor to finish all three so I ended up getting four medals at the end of the day which was very nice! That was with eating regularly too, so it was good training. Once the school year finishes in July, I'll have about four to five weeks where I can just concentrate on swimming. On week 10 of my three-month super-programme, my coach has 60 hours in the water lined up for me, which is well over 100 kilometres' swimming. And I'm swimming Lake Con-

iston, in the lake district on July 19th, so that will also be good training.'

It becomes clear that (per Mike Tetley)'swimming the channel is definitely not the cheapest way to get across', as Lynne reveals all the expenses involved: 'Luckily I don't have to get an official pilot boat, there's no way I could afford paying the £700 — so friends of friends who I was at university with have organised a boat for me. They're bona fide sailors although they haven't had the experience of getting channel swimmers across, but it was a question of either that or not attempting it at all. It's a lot of money if you're a teacher, we don't have fantastic salaries at the moment!

'Other expenses have involved monthly club fees; going away to events means petrol and staying overnight; and just getting through swimming costumes, caps and goggles and, um, everytime I swim I have to have a Mars bar or something — on Sunday I got through five Mars bars! All this doesn't sound a lot but somehow it all adds up during the year. It was £55 just to register for the swim; I've had to join the British Long Distance Swimming Association — every time I enter one of their events it costs money — and the Channel Swimmers Association, and then to buy their handbook . . . it's incredible how things mount up.'

Raising Money for Research

Has she managed to raise much sponsorship so far, for the British Diabetic Association? 'Well, the kids at school think it's marvellous so they're all pledging money, obviously it's been mostly from friends so far really. There's no big money or firms involved yet, although Hypoguard who make the syringes are giving £50 towards it, and I have a friend down in London who's been trying to get something organised. I've opened a special account in Nat West for it and what I'm really asking people to do now is to pledge an amount to the attempt, because whatever happens I will have trained hard for it and I'll give it everything I've got — so, in fact they'll be making a donation to the British Diabetic

Association because that's where it's all going to go.

'I'll have a good support team on the boat: the pilot and his crew, a doctor, one particular friend who has been lifeguarding for me when I swim up and down the river — he walks up and down the bank, and he, other than Brian, probably knows my swimming strokes better than anybody else, the other good friend who has helped organise it all and the sponsorship in London, and of course, my boyfriend who really knows more than anybody about how the diabetes affects me, he's my main support team.' (She confides that he has been doing all the shopping, cooking and housework since she started training for the event!)

'If I can maintain the rate I'm doing at the moment, then I should be all right . . . it all depends on the weather, as August weather can be quite temperamental. We'll be ready to go from about the 25th onwards till the 30th of August, that'll give us about six days and hopefully it'll happen on one!' If you would like to make a sponsorship donation in aid of the British Diabetic Association, which will be very gratefully received, please send it to Lynne Tetley at 55 Exeter Road, Peterborough, Cambs., PE1 3QA.



READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 3550

The Sting of Death

By Jessica Mann

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading Time 7½ hours

James Buxton is a dedicated conservationist with a deep love for the land and all growing things. He is shocked and bitterly disappointed when his grandmother leaves Glebe to his cousin Simon Wherry.

Simon has no interest in the property and turns it into what James describes as 'a squalid camping-ground for his peculiar friends'. Simon's motor-boat is often seen with a crowd on board, but are these his 'peculiar friends' or is he smuggling illegal immigrants into the country?

James and his wife, Tansin, and their two children, live the simple life in a cottage close to Glebe and one day when James is walking over the property he is accosted by his cousin. There is a furious row and Simon orders James to stay off his land. Shortly after the incident Simon disappears. A mutilated body is washed up on the beach, but it is not Simon, and the dark shadow of Tansin's secret and shameful past falls over her — and her children . . .

A lively and refreshingly well-written thriller.

NEW CLOCK FROM THE RNIB

Now available from RNIB is Sharp's Talking Clock, Model CT-660E, sold complete with two 1.5v batteries, carrying wrist strap and both printed and taped instructions. Like all other items sold through RNIB's catalogue of Aids and Games it is covered by the usual 12-month guarantee from date of purchase. RNIB subsidised price £43.

NOTE

We apologise to Shirley Gillberry and our readers that pressure on space has necessitated holding over publication of her short story 'Footsteps'.

ST. DUNSTAN'S MUSIC MAKERS

By William Miller

Making music was rather out of the question, when the Music Makers met at I.F.H. on the weekend of April 11th, for holidays and sickness had reduced us to a rhythm section only. Even so, our first weekend get-together was a great success, for some marvellous entertainment had been arranged for us, and we, in our turn had plenty of time to practise.

The Friday evening of our arrival coincided with the appearance of the *Ted Heath Band* at the Dome, and we were all going to this fabulous 'reunion' of the late band-leader's band, every member of which had in turn become a band-leader, and in some cases had even become something of a legend in their own rights: Kenny Baker, Jack Parnell, Tommy Whittle, to name but a few. The singers, Lita Roza and Denis Lotis combined in a superb and nostalgic night of 1940's jazz.

On entering the auditorium at the Dome, the first people we encountered were our friends Harry Leader and his wife, and on hearing that we were to do the 'Tea Break' in the lounge on Saturday afternoon, immediately cancelled his appointments so he could join in with us.

It had been arranged for Peter Baxter, a local trombonist, listed as the fastest of all trombonists in the Guinness Book of Records, to entertain in the lounge, followed by Billy Jones, a local blind pianist; but when Peter, Billy and Harry Leader with his saxophone and clarinet and our boys all got together, an all-out jam session was inevitable, not entirely appreciated by the holiday makers and 'perms'.

The Sunday session was a more sober affair, for the *Southern Stompers*, a local trio, played for us in the evening. Inviting and playing all requests, this piano, drums and trumpet group were most enjoyable. Bob Forshaw, Johnnie Gale and Jerry Lynch stayed on and played with Ernie Took and his band at the Monday Dance, and so completed a most successful weekend.

It was a pity Ernie Cookson had to go to Australia, for he would have enjoyed himself, and saved money, just being with us.

REUNIONS

NEWCASTLE, May 29th

The reunion was held at the Royal Station Hotel on Thursday, May 29th. There were 13 St. Dunstaners present and 5 widows. Representing Council was Mr. Dennis Cadman, a former Chairman of the Royal British Legion and Mrs. Cadman. It was a small but very cheerful gathering.

It was only the second reunion that Mr. Cadman had attended, and he started by welcoming Mr. Iceton who was attending for the first time. He talked about the several changes that had occurred within St. Dunstan's in recent years; the impact of our new Chairman, the opening of the new south wing by Her Majesty, The Queen, and, more recently, the retirement of our President. 'I am sure that we would not want to let that event pass without sending a very warm greeting from this reunion'. Mr. Cadman went on to give a brief background of our new President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds. 'He is a man who set out to give great service to his community. He made a big impact, and, I am sure, in so doing, greatly raised the status of St. Dunstan's. We bid him well in his new office'.

After giving the latest numbers of St. Dunstaners throughout the world, Mr. Cadman went on, 'I think it appropriate at this reunion, to refer to the retirement of our Scottish welfare visitor, Miss Ray Skinner. I know you will join me in thanking her for the contribution she has made. We welcome her successor, Miss May Anderson'.

Mr. Cadman concluded with several stories of an English, Scottish, American and Spanish flavour. He thanked Mrs. Doreen Inman for organising the day's events. Mr. Cadman passed on warm wishes from the Legion and thanked the guests for having him.

After an impromptu speech of thanks



Mr. Cadman addresses the guests.

from Mr. Dugdale, Mr. Ford, of Middlesbrough, responded on behalf of the guests. He spoke of the three 'c's' that summed up the work of St. Dunstan's — care, concern and compassion. He referred to the seemingly casual, yet careful attention given by the staff at Ian Fraser House. After thanking members of staff and the hotel, Mr. Ford paid warm tribute to the presence, and amusing anecdotes quoted by, Mr. Cadman.

There was a short bout of community singing, led by the rich bass voice of Mr. Dugdale ending with a raffle and tea.

LEEDS, May 31st

The Yorkshire regional reunion, was held this year at the Dragonara Hotel, Leeds on Saturday, May 31st. The Chairman welcomed the 36 St. Dunstaners and 8 widows present. He extended a special greeting to Mr. Norman, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Wandless, and Mr. Wilson, who were all attending a reunion for the first time. 'A very special welcome to Mr. Pat Timiney and Miss Dorothy Attwood, who are get-

ting married in 12 days time. It is good to see so many of you here. I wish there could be more, I think there could be many more, and I would be interested to hear your views of why we do not get many more'. The Chairman referred to the sad loss of Mr. Wills, and welcomed Mr. Stevens, who would take over the co-ordinating of the reunions.

The Chairman said that reunions were the opportunity for him to 'get at St. Dunstaners', and for them to get back at him. But, for once, he had no message, and indeed, felt inhibited, as, sitting at his table, was Mr. Arthur Simpson, 'one of the finest ex grave diggers', who could surely cap any story of his! However, the Chairman went on to relate an amusing anecdote relating to 'a burial'.

The Chairman ended by describing the devious and circuitous route he had been led whilst trying to follow a member of staff to the hotel. But he made it, and his presence was greatly appreciated by all as usual.

Mr. Coupland proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present. He started by fully endorsing the Chairman's comments about Mr. Wills.

'We came to rely on him and so take his presence for granted'. Mr. Coupland referred to the many decisions taken by Council, and the work done by Headquarters staff. 'I wonder if we don't take it all too much for granted. Patience is a virtue, but the mother of all virtues is gratitude. We have also to thank our partners in life — our wives. What would we do without them?'

He thanked the members of the hotel staff, and Mrs. Parry who had organised the reunion. He hoped that the gathering would have a chance to meet the new President. Finally, he quoted Stephen Jack's words at the end of the December *Talking Review* — 'God bless you all', and asked that a message of gratitude be conveyed to Stephen Jack.

During the afternoon, Mrs. Lily Acton, widow of the late Percy Acton, presented a bouquet to Lady Leach. Lily had made a considerable journey from Halifax to be at the reunion. 'I have really enjoyed myself. It has been a great day out, and a chance to meet up with friends again. I hope I can come again'. What a suitable way in which to sum up the Leeds reunion.

Mrs Lily Acton with Sir Henry and Lady Leach.



BRISTOL, June 19th

A bright, sunny day greeted the 48 St. Dunstaners and 10 widows attending the Bristol reunion at the Crest Hotel. Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan attended on behalf of the Council, accompanied by Mrs. Colahan. Our new President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds was also present.

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan started by bringing greetings and best wishes from the Chairman and fellow members of the Council. Proposing a toast to the memory of the late Mr. Wills, he expressed the sorrow of all St. Dunstaners and said how much he would be missed at reunions.

He went on to extend a very warm welcome to our new President. 'I don't know what it is about Bristol, that it should produce our Presidents. It was Sir Mike's patch for 18 years. You will have read Colin's record in the *Review*. We look forward to many more achievements.' After introducing present and past members of staff, the warmest round of applause was given to the wives and widows. Finally, greetings were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Follis and to Mr. and Mrs. Hassam, attending their first reunion.

Alec Purves and his fiancée, Miss Margaret Taylor, join the general applause.



After giving the up to date statistics of St. Dunstan's, the Air Vice-Marshal went on to relate some amusing stories. A warm round of applause came for the story of the two old soldiers comparing the merits of their respective regiments. The first said 'Our drill was so perfect that when we presented arms, all you could hear was slap, 2, 3, slap, 2, 3, slap'. The second said that when they did the same, you heard, slap, 2, 3, slap, 2, 3, slap, jingle. 'What is the jingle?' asked the first. 'Medals, old boy!'

'Finally', he concluded, 'you can have absolute confidence in the state of health of St. Dunstan's. I thank the staff of the hotel for an excellent meal, and urge you all to continue to enjoy the rest of the afternoon'.

Trevor Phillips responded on behalf of the guests. He first thanked Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs. Colahan for attending the reunion. He expressed further thanks to the Council and staff 'for all the work they have done, are continuing to do, and, hopefully, will continue to do in the future'. Further thanks were given to the hotel management, and, of course, to the organiser of her first reunion, our welfare visitor, Mrs. Janet Stevens. A raffle and tea were enjoyed, and, as the last notes of the final waltz faded, so the Bristol reunion became a memory for another year.



Mrs. Eileen Maynard presents a basket of flowers to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds.

BIRMINGHAM, June 21st

The Birmingham reunion was just short of a century. 98 guests arrived at the Albany Hotel on June 21st, including 39 St. Dunstaners with their wives and escorts, 9 widows and 11 guests and staff.

It was a good turn out for Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds' first innings in the chair at a reunion since he became President. He was accompanied by Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds, and they were both soon chatting with old friends as they greeted the arriving St. Dunstaners.

Later, after lunch, he spoke more formally to the gathering as he welcomed them on behalf of Sir Henry Leach and Members of the Council. He made a point of welcoming Mr. T. Horne, Warden of Pocklington Place, a home for retired blind people in Birmingham, where some St. Dunstaners live. 'We are very pleased to see you here,' said Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, and thank you very much for all you do for the St. Dunstaners in your care.'

Our President also had a special word for four St. Dunstaners attending their

first reunion, 'They are Mr. J.P. Cox, Mr. W.E. Hannaford, Mr. L.V. Neasham and Mr. J. Price. We hope you are going to enjoy not only this reunion but many more to come in future.'

'A particular welcome on this occasion to nine widows. This is the first time widows have been invited to reunions and it was really pleasant when, at the first Council meeting I was privileged to attend, it was agreed that widows should not only attend every other year but every year. So I can say to you that we look forward to seeing you all again next year.'

Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds then mentioned the names of staff members at the reunion including Mr. Patterson, retired but still visiting St. Dunstaners interested in joinery. He asked the company to stand in silence in tribute to the late Mr. Douglas Wills, O.B.E.

Recalling the days when he lived in Sutton Coldfield and the reunions he and his wife attended he said 'You and I were still employed then. We might have been

Birmingham Reunion *continued*

thinking of retirement and, certainly, St. Dunstan's, always one jump ahead, were already thinking of our requirements when we finished our time at work. They were beginning to encourage us to look for new leisure occupations.

The Council are still looking ahead. Let me just mention one or two figures to show you the problem. In the United Kingdom we have just under 60 First World War St. Dunstaners and about 740 Second World War, and there are 700 widows. The average age of the Second War St. Dunstaner is 69 and that, I think, shows you the problem.

At Ian Fraser House they have given increased attention to leisure occupations and put in those delightful suites for the married couples. But it will go further than that because Pearson House is being improved in its facilities and bearing in mind what may be required to help us in our old age, they are extending the Sick Bay so that it will be able to care for more of us when that need arises — still one jump ahead!

The President concluded with a tribute to wives and widows and thanks to the hotel staff.

Mr. Arthur Whittington, from Loughborough, proposed the vote of thanks: 'We all look forward to coming here and enjoy it so and it gives us a good opportunity to meet our old friends and make new ones. I would also like to give our thanks to Miss Newbold for organising this event.'

'Now, a year has passed since our last reunion and many things have taken place in this world. But in the world of St. Dunstan's a major event has taken place with the election of Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds as our new President. I am sure you will join with me in offering him our congratulations and wishing him every success in his new appointment.'

Referring to the *Review* article outlining our President's career, Mr. Whittington continued: 'What a wonderful achievement for a blind man and how proud we are that he is our President.'

He concluded with an expression of thanks to the staff, 'for the great care and attention they have shown us throughout the year. I would ask you, please, to put

your hands together and show our appreciation of St. Dunstan's, of whose big family we are very, very proud to be members.'

The last of the formal proceedings was the presentation of a basket of flowers to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds by St. Dunstaner, Mrs. Eileen Maynard, who made a gracious little speech as she did so.

Birmingham is one of the reunions where people dance, so Richard Manning and his band were a popular feature and many couples took the floor. The traditional pattern followed as friend found friend at the tables around the dance floor to exchange a year's news until tea and the prize draw brought this reunion to an end.

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.

Captain Richard Arthur James Bingley, of Newton Abbot, joined St. Dunstan's on June 18th. He is a bachelor.

Captain Bingley, who is 66, joined the Territorial Army in 1938, and after mobilisation at the outbreak of the Second World War, served in France with the British Expeditionary Force, was wounded in 1940 and was evacuated from Dunkirk. After leaving hospital he joined the Special Air Service, was commissioned and then wounded in Sicily in 1943. Subsequently, Captain Bingley took part in the Parachute Regiment's landings at Arnhem in 1945, was again wounded and then taken prisoner. After liberation, he spent some months in hospital before demobilisation in 1946.

After training, Captain Bingley worked in commerce and rejoined the Territorial Army in 1949. He was recalled to active duty in 1951 and served as Deputy Commander B Company Welsh Regiment with the British Commonwealth Division in Korea. He was mentioned in Despatches and was again wounded, losing an eye in 1952. He was awarded a permanent commission and retired in 1974.

Amateur Radio Weekend

By Tom Hart

On Saturday, June 14th, members of the club entertained to dinner 30 guests, amongst whom were Mr. and Mrs. W. Weisblatt, Commander and Mrs. Conway, Mr. and Mrs. Paul James and representatives of the various amateur radio clubs and their wives.

Ted John, our Chairman, in his welcoming speech apologised for the small number of members of the St. Dunstan's Club but said it was nice to see so many members of other radio clubs to which we are affiliated and gave thanks and paid tribute to those of our friends who helped keep the station at Ian Fraser House on the air. Chaps like John Houlihan G4 BLT; John Brandhuber G4 PDY who braved the elements on the roof of Fraser House to adjust and repair the aerials; Alf Lee G4 DQS for keeping the log-book in order and sending out the QSL cards. Mr. Mike Puttick G3 LIK, Secretary of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, responded on behalf of the guests, saying how delighted they were to be there and that amateur radio operators throughout the world belonged to one big family and it was always a very happy affair when part of that family could meet, sit down over a lovely meal, have a glass of wine and a good chat. He then presented a plaque from the RNARS to be hung on the wall of the shack together with the Certificate of Affiliation.

Captain Louis Varney G5 RV presented the club with the original 5RV aerial which he had used for over 20 years. I wonder how many contacts he made with this antenna? Louis developed this aerial and it was used by thousands of operators throughout the world. Thank you Louis, we shall look after it. After dinner, the party adjourned to the annexe where we danced to the music of Ernie Took — did you know that Ernie has played at St. Dunstan's for over 26 years? It was a splendid evening. Thank you, the organisers.

On the Friday evening a diminished committee had met to discuss the happenings and problems that committee members usually have. It went on for two and a half hours and I must say a pint of beer went down well, when we eventually got to the bar. It was a worthwhile job for on the Saturday morning at the General Meeting at which seven members were present with one guest, Mr. Ward-Rowe, we were able to tell the members the progress that had been made in connection with the new shack which had now been muffled with carpet lining to prevent the echoing that went on whenever the Rig was in operation. Some very good suggestions were put forward from the floor to make the radio weekends more attractive and these will be studied by the committee.

In the shack, when not attending meetings or entertaining our guests, the members got down to what Amateur Radio is all about. George Cole, the master of Charlie Whisky 'Morse to the uninitiated', tapped out on the key the name of St. Dunstan's to all parts of the world. George says that morse to him is another language — I'm still trying to learn English! Freddie Morgan is sitting over in a corner giving advice to Arthur Holmes on how to pass the examination. Good luck, Arthur, when you sit for it at the end of the year. Ted John in true sailor fashion is keeping everything ship-shape, listening to the call-signs, checking the equipment, noticing the power-pack has gone missing and in all being his usual tidy self. And what about me? Well, I am writing this.

Our next meeting will be in September over the weekend of the 20th. Any St. Dunstaner who would like to know what it is all about will be made very welcome, just book in for the weekend through Mrs. Coyne at HQ. It might be right up your street!

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY CONFERENCE JERUSALEM, 1986

By Walter Thornton

The role of St. Dunstan's in helping world-wide spread of orientation and mobility training, based on the use of the long cane, is one which has received little publicity and little recognition. Consequently, it is gratifying at international assemblies to hear spontaneous tributes. At the fourth International Mobility Conference, held at the end of May at the Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, they came from members of the 13-man Spanish delegation, whose size reflected the considerable progress made in that country since 1974, when the official reaction to proposals to introduce long cane training was to dismiss it as merely 'mobility for the garden'. Other signs of the extension of mobility training evidenced at Jerusalem were the new flags which formed part of the decorative surround of the lecture platform, from places like Japan, Togoland, Liberia and the Philippines. In view of the unsettled state of the Middle East, and the events surrounding the bombing of Libya, there was some concern in certain quarters in the weeks immediately preceding the Conference, as to whether attendance might be affected. In the event, the attendance proved much the largest of the sequence of four international mobility conferences held in Frankfurt, Paris, Vienna and Jerusalem. 248 representatives from 24 countries registered. In addition, as the organisers pointed out, there was a substantial number of others who merely came for part of the proceedings, so that the total number attending was probably much nearer 300.

Conference with a Difference

IMC 4 was different in many ways from its predecessors. It was the first to be held outside Europe. The working days, from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, were divided into

plenary sessions, which were followed by workshops, or group meetings, where topics raised at the plenary sessions were discussed in more detail. There were more blind people taking part in the Jerusalem Conference, and they were supported by the provision of braille programmes, and tapes to promote familiarisation with the Mount Scopus campus, whose complexity was aggravated by the different levels of the terrain. Musical items, both choral and instrumental, formed part of the opening proceedings.

Attendance Certificate

Simultaneous translations into English, French, German, Hebrew and Spanish were delivered through headphones coupled to small individual radio receivers. At the evening visit to the Jewish Folk Museum, the Mayor of Jerusalem declared that he was considering the preparation of a certificate to be presented to those who were prepared to brave the threats associated with attendance at a Conference in Jerusalem, such as IMC 4. The Vice Chancellor of the university, one of the speakers at the opening ceremony, described how, 29 years previously, he daily had to travel through gunfire in order to reach the university which was then in course of construction.

Quality of Professionalism

In other respects, however, the formula for IMC 4 was as established by the previous conferences. It received the same high-level recognition, in that it was opened formally by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr Moshe Katzau. There was the same high level of expertise and professionalism marking the contributions at the plenary sessions,

dealing with early intervention; low vision; the latest research; mobility aids; and mobility in the Third World. The organisation showed the same careful attention to detail capable of implementation because of the solid support of numerous bodies in the host country. There was not time for questions at all the plenary sessions but, if there had been, one wonders if they would have attracted the same flood of questions which followed the presentation on mobility aids, which Dr Tony Heyes, of Nottingham, devoted to his sonic pathfinder, supported by Mike Durinck of the Guide Dog Centre in Melbourne, Australia who gave an account of the small field trial of the device which had taken place in that country.

What's New in Mobility

This item was followed by the 'What's New in Mobility' session, at which details were given of the major field trial of the sonic pathfinder sponsored by St. Dunstan's, which had recently begun in England. There was also a variety of other topics, including a brief demonstration of a new electronic mobility aid, produced in Germany; an Israeli electronic buzzer to help correct faults of head angle in a blind person with a poor body image; an American system for activating musical clues as orientation aids for the mentally retarded and several British developments. Among these were the 'tag' for automatically extending the green man period at pelican crossings; tactile devices for indicating the 'Go' signal at lights on dual carriage ways; and the 'thick line' being developed by the Road Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Transport, to act as a barrier between cyclists and pedestrians on shared pavements.

O and M

Following the end of IMC 4, a one-day conference was held at the Jerusalem Hilton at which O. and M. instructors exchanged details of the training programmes for producing instructors in

various countries. It was no surprise to learn from these that the period of training for O. and M. instructors in Britain is shorter than that in most countries, but interesting to learn that the Americans are contemplating the establishment of an extended course much on the same lines as those of the one-year course, which is just about to be initiated in Britain.

A bit of Sightseeing

Even though time for the visit was of necessity severely restricted, one could not go to Jerusalem without making a pilgrimage to the areas hallowed in the story of Christendom such as Bethlehem, the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ's grave, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Mount of Olives. On the last day there was a tour which left one with vivid impressions of the wilderness of Judea; the ancient city of Jericho; the Dead Sea, whose hot sticky water presented no inducement to swim, and Massada, described by the courier as 'The Fort of Herod the Great' — a somewhat different impression from that conveyed in the New Testament. The visit to Jerusalem coincided with that of Mrs Thatcher, and a fortunate coincidence enabled us to add our applause to that of other visitors and Israelis in a city where the Union Jack was to be seen everywhere. In spite of this, and in spite of the fact that so many people spoke English, there were constant language problems and a feeling of foreignness which was very pronounced. It was emphasised by the events which preceded the flight out of Ben Gurion Airport, where we had to present ourselves 2½ hours before the 06.30 hours take-off. Compared with the general experience, we escaped lightly during the cross-examination and inspection of baggage which preceded the presentation of tickets at the ticket office. There, there was an unexpected demand for £15 — 'airport tax' — and one wondered what would happen to those who happened not to have that amount in any of the currencies in general use in Israel (in our case, dollars, shekels and sterling).



St. Dunstaners and escorts pause for refreshment on the North Ridge overlooking Llyn Ogwen and the road far below.

Return to Tryfan

Story and pictures by David Castleton

'Tryfan, the queen of the mountains, hard ruler of them all, has many suitors, but none can claim her love. She guards her cold honour with veils of mist, with smooth black slabs of rock, with poised boulders, and with enticing green gullies which bend ever steeper, till the lover slides away in a loose, wet avalanche of stones and moss. Tryfan sacrifices many bloody victims on her cold, stone altar, and remains the vestal who offers nothing but a dead embrace.'

So wrote Thomas Firbank in his book on buying a hill farm in Wales called 'I bought a Mountain.' It wasn't Tryfan he bought but I am sure he must have climbed her many times.

On July 7th, the St. Dunstan's team left Dinas Mawddy in bright sunshine. We were to make our second attempt on Tryfan, which is 3,010 feet high. Our first, made in June 1981, encountered the queen of the mountains in a very bad

mood. Not satisfied with mist and rain she had hurled hailstones at us and turned us back, bedraggled but determined to woo her again.

Barry Ellis and his Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team were our guides and escorts. The St. Dunstaners: Johnnie Cope, making his first climb with his stepson, John Cunningham, Vi Delaney and her sister Rene Bushell, Tom Lukes with his son, Jonathan, Bill Shea guided by Wally Cook and Ray Sheriff, led by Sports Officer, Jock Carnochan.

Tryfan lived up to her reputation. As we approached over the last few miles in our mini-bus, the mist gathered and light rain began to bead the windscreen. The Rhinog team was waiting in a car-park by Llyn Ogwen but in the mist we overshot them and had to turn back to find them. The car-park was close to the start of a climb up the North Ridge of Tryfan described in the guide book as, 'One of the most inter-

esting and entertaining scrambles in all Wales.'

Tryfan is the only mountain in Wales which cannot be walked up all the way to the peak. Sooner or later the climber must use hands as well as feet. On the North Ridge route our team found hands were needed sooner rather than later. Vi and Rene found they could not maintain the pace needed to ensure the group got up and down the mountain in time and were advised to turn back. Not deterred they made their own walk along the lakeside. The rest toiled on up through mist and rain – scrambling in gulleys and urged on by Colin Jones whose replies to questions like, 'Which way now?' were cruelly truthful – 'Straight up.'

Pauses to allow the party to close up gave the opportunity to regain breath, rest legs and to patch up Ray Sheriff who cut his hand on a rock and needed a plaster from Gwynneth Ellis, Barry's wife.

Bad Steps

Barry Ellis was just as tough as Colin Jones: we encountered a near vertical gully – more nearly a crack in the rock – running up some 20 to 30 feet. Our St. Dunstaners were roped for this ascent. 'This is the worst,' said Barry, 'We call it "bad step".' The man was lying in his teeth! When, finally, even Colin Jones was saying it was not far to the top we came upon another hazard, two gulleys sloping steeply away down either side of the ridge with a narrow bridge of rock like the top of a roof to cross by. 'Oh, this is second bad step,' said Barry blandly as they fixed the ropes once more!

The second bad step accomplished, we were left with a steep, rocky scramble up to the peak. There, at last, we were able to touch Adam and Eve, two vertical pillars of rock, which from the ground below look just like two human figures on the summit. We took the customary team photographs – escorts and guides and St. Dunstaners smiling through the mist. Then and only then, the queen relented, the veil of mist lifted and melted away – we were bathed in sunshine and could look down, almost vertically, to the tiny cars in the car-park by the lake. We had left



Bill Shea can raise a smile as he scrambles up the first 'bad step'.

Seen through the mist from the other side of the gully, Johnnie Cope is negotiating the approach to the second 'bad step'.





Tom Lukes, guided by his son, Jonathan, on the way down.

there six hours earlier and now, tired but triumphant, we drank our canned lagers and toasted Tryfan, the best yet.

We went down by a different route, taking two hours to negotiate slopes left slippery by the earlier rain. Ray Sheriff suffered on the descent, a well-worn pair of walking boots leaving him with little grip. It was not the falling down but the getting up that troubled him he explained!

We were just two hours late for dinner back at the Red Lion, but Chris Rowlands and his staff would not hear of us eating anywhere else en route. Into the restaurant boots and all, we went to enjoy another meal served by the Red Lion's friendly waitresses who must, surely, have worked late for us. Nothing is too much trouble for Chris and Etrys, his wife, and their staff.

Sunday morning was reserved for something different. Colin Jones, Keith and Pat Durrant brought their Canadian two-man canoes down to the estuary of the Mawddach where we spent a relaxing

Ray Sheriff, with Colin Jones, canoeing in the Mawddach estuary.



few hours just messing about in boats. Vi Delaney is a dab hand with a paddle and everyone — including sighted escorts — took their places, kneeling in the forward part of the canoe for some elementary instruction in the art of canoeing. The instructors had to cope with a fair amount of spray and water from the trainees' paddles, but smiled through it all.

The short voyages were made more interesting by a fresh breeze blowing over the tide which kicked up small waves to give some extra motion to the canoes.

It has become the tradition to entertain our Welsh friends to dinner on Sunday evening. It was a disappointment that Bob Thomas, who had not felt well enough to climb with us this year, also had to regretfully miss the dinner. He and Rowena were badly missed although they were both at the Red Lion to greet us on arrival on Thursday afternoon.

So the company around the table included Gwynneth and Barry Ellis, Pat and Keith Durrant, and Colin Jones and his wife. The talk soon got around to 'What can we do next?' and there was a gleam in Barry's eye as he spoke of a place he knows where there is a 700-foot rock

climb. Bill Shea was heard to say 'Never again' but nobody believes him!

On Monday morning we drove to Barry Ellis's home set back in the hills behind Dyffryn Ardudwy. We were there not to meet Barry and Gwynneth again, but their son, Richard, who is a qualified farrier. We spent a fascinating hour or so with Richard who demonstrated the shaping of a horse-shoe on the anvil and explained the different types of shoe prepared for the kinds of work that are expected of the horses. He travels to farms, riding schools and pony-trekking organisations to keep their animals well-shod. Most of the party left with their own horse-shoe for luck.

Then into Barmouth to meet Bob Thomas again and to be introduced to the retired Coxswain and the Deputy Coxswain of the lifeboat. We were shown over the fast, inflatable inshore lifeboat which is well-used in the summer season. Its powerful outboard engine can pivot on its mounting allowing the boat to be brought into shallow water on the beach.

Lastly we found Barry Ellis again in his workshop in Dolgellau. No longer the mountaineer, now the craftsman and full of enthusiasm as he described the tech-

In Richard Ellis' smithy, the group watches him fashion a horse-shoe on the anvil.





Intricate work on an ornate door goes on as Barry Ellis explains the craftsmanship to St. Dunstaners.

niques used in the restoration of antique furniture. Before he came to Wales he was a master pattern-maker in industry, now as partner in this restoration business, he turns his skills to giving new life to interesting and beautiful furniture.

We parted from Barry, as we did from our other friends in Wales, promising to be back next year, after a busy weekend full of interest. The star though was Queen Tryfan. Walking down from the climb, Colin Jones expressed his admiration of our St. Dunstaners, 'The north ridge is the hardest climb, short of real mountaineering, in Britain,' he said. Well, Tom, Ray, Bill and Johnnie made it — our congratulations to them all.

Ray Sheriff writes:

Once again, for my tenth time, we arrived at the quaint village of Dinas Mawddwy, which is situated in a valley of North Wales. Close at hand lies the meandering River Dovey. Thankfully the weather appeared promising for our scheduled annual climb as we halted at the entrance of the 'Red Lion'. A venue used most frequently by the St. Dunstan's party.

The 'Red Lion' is a typical Welsh village inn, affording a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The quality and quantity of the food served here is really first class, its reputation renowned for miles around — not that I bother too much about food! The booze is pretty good too, so, Chris the landlord has no difficulty in encouraging his guests to sup into the early hours of the morning, of course, it's only the odd couple that take the opportunity of this facility.

The St. Dunstan's 'Rockers' present this year were: Bill and Joan Shea, Vi Delaney and sister, Rene, Johnny Cope and stepson, John, Ray and Betty Sheriff and for the physical exercise only, Saturday June 6th the old stager, Tom Lukes and son. Missing without permission from the normal group, Eric Bradshaw and Trevor Tatchell.

Friday evening proved a quiet, chatty affair getting our general bearings — way to the bar and other places.

Bob and Rowena Thomas popped in for a quick hello and drink, and to apologise that they could not be with us as honoured guests for dinner on Sunday night. St. Dunstaners have to thank Bob Thomas for instigating the activity of

climbing for the blind a decade or so ago, jointly with Commander R. Buckley, both of whom served with the Royal Navy. Bob always insisted I had served in the wrong branch of the services.

Also, unfortunately, he found it necessary to excuse himself from joining us on the climb the following day.

A few years ago during our annual visit we were intended to scramble to the summit of a hill called Tryfan, height 3,010 feet. However, due to adverse weather conditions, mist and torrential rain, we had to turn back after climbing only a thousand feet or so. Naturally, the party was very disappointed.

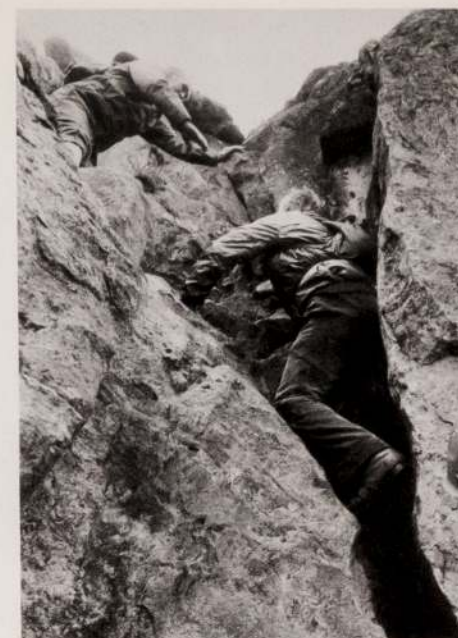
We therefore expressed our wish to have another try at Tryfan at a future date. It was therefore decided, by Barry Ellis, leader of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, assisted by other members of his unit both male and female, that this year — '86, would be as good as any to try again.

So on Saturday morning, we travelled by mini-bus chauffeured by Jock Carnochan, fifty miles to rendezvous with Barry and his band of merry men at the east end of Llyn Ogwen car park, the nearest point to our objective, Tryfan.

As we approached the area the weather seemed to deteriorate, rain and low cloud, once again I doubted that we should make a start. However, our mentors assured us that all would be okay weatherwise. So, after being issued with our rations and caribinier (safety belt), we moved off.

On previous occasions my escort has proved to be a Welshman, on this occasion, however, it proved to be a Scot, namely, Jock Carnochan — what a brave man! He accepted the challenge, seemingly, undaunted.

Unlike our first climb of Tryfan, Barry decided to take us up the north ridge, which I understand is said to be quite a difficult route, having now done it I am quite willing to believe it. After six hours of sometimes very hard, slippery climbing, negotiating all manner of slabs, jagged rocks and enormous boulders, we thankfully reached the height of the north face where it is only a short climb to 'Adam and Eve', two conspicuous upturned boulders that crown the summit of Tryfan. I must admit I felt a great feeling of achievement



Under the guidance of Jock Carnochan, Ray Sheriff clammers up a crack in the rock face.

A patch of sticking plaster administered by Gwynneth Ellis for Ray Sheriff's cut. In the background are Jock Carnochan and Barry Ellis.





Bob Thomas (left) guided St. Dunstaners around Bar-mouth and to the historic 'lock-up' for unruly sailors near the harbour.

when Jock placed my hands on the span of 'Adam and Eve'.

With the experience of past years I knew only too well that descending such hills could prove equally as difficult and demanding as ascending, and this proved only too true in the case of Tryfan. It took us around two hours to reach the lower slopes. Jock will confirm that I spent most of my time flat on my back, face, and all other parts, so he spent most of his time hauling me back up. Anyway, the cause of the trouble proved to be the soles of my old climbing boots — like my head they were almost bald.

However, we reached the mini-bus thoroughly drenched, bruised and blood-stained, but still able to laugh about our downfalls. After a good washdown and a meal at our inn, we were soon quite revived. To unwind, Jock and I sat talking until 2.30 a.m.

In retrospect I wish to say how very much we all admired the efforts of Vi and Rene for managing to climb quite steeply to around 1,000 feet before reluctantly having to call it a day. Also congratulations to Johnny Cope and his escort for reaching the peak on his first time out, also bearing in mind that half way up he was troubled with his knee.

Finally, 'Thanks' to all those who made

this weekend possible. Our escorts, caterers, climbers, canoeists, chauffeur, and cameraman, David Castleton, even carrying his gear he was always well up front.

Incidentally, I am now the proud owner of a new pair of boots. Yep, Jock escorted me on this purchase.

As I neared the completion of the above impressions I learned of the very tragic news concerning the very sudden and untimely death of our great friend, Bob Thomas, during the early hours of June 20th. I first met Bob in the bar of the 'Red Lion' many years ago.

He was our initial introduction to our scramble to the heights of Cader Idris. Bob was a man one naturally immediately respected, I feel proud to have been considered just one of his many friends. I was pleased that he was able to visit Arnhem, as my guest, a trip I know he enjoyed so much. He was home-loving, a great patriot of his homeland, Wales. He was so proud of his service with the Royal Navy. He was proud to serve St. Dunstaners. He was a good man, kind, quiet and unassuming. Naturally, we wish our heartfelt sympathy to be conveyed to his beloved wife, Rowena.

BOB THOMAS — tributes

David Castleton writes

When the St. Dunstan's team came down from Tryfan, the first name mentioned was that of Bob Thomas and how much he was missed at this most successful climb. We all knew there must be good reason for his absence, but it was a shock to learn of his death on June 19th.

Bob was the person most responsible for our presence with 'Adam and Eve' on the summit of Tryfan. He it was who introduced St. Dunstaners to the Welsh hills he loved so well. The story began in 1974 when Bob, having read an article in the *Review* about race walking, wrote to his friend Robin Buckley with a challenge: 'Your St. Dunstaners are good road walkers but how would they go uphill?' he wrote, and offered to organise a hill-walk to the summit of Cader Idris.



Bob Thomas, leader and seated at extreme right, with the second Cader Idris expedition at the summit in 1975.

The first four St. Dunstaners to take up the challenge were: Bob Fullard, Tom Lukes, George Miller and John Simpson. So began a series of expeditions which has continued ever since. When, in 1980, Bob retired from his work with the Forestry Commission, which had generously allowed him to make use of their transport and entertained successive groups of St. Dunstaners to Coed-y-Brenin, the Forest of the King, he felt he could not continue to organise the event.

However, he was soon involved again, recruiting Barry Ellis of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team for a successful assault on the Cnicht in Snowdonia. Then, in 1981, he planned the first attempt on Tryfan. Bob, his dog, and his camera were present at all the expeditions. His generosity to St. Dunstaners and his concern for them were unbounded.

He was a Member of our organisation for his work over many years in support of our appeals in Wales. He was an ex-Serviceman himself and served with the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War. We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Rowena, and hope that she will draw some comfort from the thought that Bob has passed on his love of the hills to our war-blinded climbers and that he will be remembered by them all with warm affection and deep respect.

Trevor Tatchell writes:

It was with deep regret that Beryl and I heard of the sudden death of our dear friend, Bob Thomas, of Tal-y-Bont, Gwynedd. We extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Rowena.

He was born in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, and did his war service in the Royal Navy. In fact had he not sustained a hearing loss I know he would have very much liked to make the Navy his career. He worked for the Forestry Commission in North Wales for thirty years and met and married Rowena who is from Llanidloes.

Bob, together with the late Robin Buckley, initiated the North Wales climbs and he spent a great deal of time and effort so that St. Dunstaners would thoroughly enjoy the challenge. He was an inspiration to all who were privileged to know him. He was a quiet man with a tremendous sense of humour and a wide knowledge of the countryside and archaeology which he would only talk about if pressed. He was a devout Christian and will be greatly missed by his family, colleagues, and friends.

Bob and Rowena became personal friends of ours and on their visits to South Wales always looked in to see us which gave us great joy and pleasure.

Bob's passing leaves a great gap in our lives but he will live in our memories.

Archery Tournament at I.F.H.

by Ted Bradford,
Coach

Photos: David Castleton

Members of St D's A.C. descended on IFH just prior to the weekend of June 7/8 for their annual Summer Archery Week and Championships. By the start of the week on Sunday, 8 June, 12 keen members were set to start a day of practice and coaching for the busy week that had been prepared for them. The weather for Sunday was windy but dry and the archers enjoyed their first full day's practice.

Monday dawned dry but with a fairly strong off-sea right-to-left wind which was rather unsettling for the right-handed bowmen as their arrows were occasionally blown from their rests. The morning was taken up with more practice and coaching but after lunch the real business of the week commenced. This was the first championship match: the Spurway Trophy which was to be decided by handicap adjusted scores, thus giving archers of all abilities a chance to win. A score of 1440 means that an archer has shot to his handicap and after a good afternoon's shooting George Allen emerged as the Spurway champion, bettering his handicap score by 108 points to give the best total for the day of 1548. Norman Perry (1515) was runner-up while George Hudson was placed third with 1467. All three archers had shot better than their handicap and so would have



Laurie Austin presents the 'Four EEEE's' Plate in memory of Curly Wagstaffe to Walford Davies.

part of their allowance taken away as their handicap figure moved lower. Eric Bradshaw with an actual score of 279 received the Highest Unrewarded Medal.

Tuesday had been set aside for the week's most sought-after trophy: the Four EEEE's Plate, in memory of our late popular club member, Curly Wagstaffe. For this day the wind really blew, almost without let-up and gusting, at times, to almost gale force, causing many arrows to be blown from the arrow rests or when loosed to be blown off course. It was remarked by one club member that Curly must have been laughing at his former colleagues as they battled against the elements in their efforts to win his memorial trophy!

Even though the weather was against really good shooting the scores reflected the improving prowess of the club's members and some very high scores for the full day's shooting were submitted. The final outcome of the competition was a win for Walford Davies with 1519, Eric Bradshaw took second place (1430), only six points ahead of Charlie McConaghy on 1424. George Hudson put in a superb actual score of 467 to take the Highest Unrewarded Medal.

Wednesday is traditionally Dacre Trophy Day and normally, after a

morning's practice and further coaching, the archers assemble for the week's most exacting competition — five dozen arrows at 40 yards. But this year was not to be quite so accommodating; the high wind of Tuesday had subsided, only to be replaced by a torrential downpour that lasted until after lunch when the archers again assembled for this prestige trophy.

The afternoon's shooting began with a slight wind but although the sun was not shining too brightly it was quite warm — good shooting weather! This was later proven, even though as the afternoon shadows lengthened it became rather cooler. At the completion of the day's shooting Charlie McConaghy emerged as the Champion with 1481, runner-up Sid Jones, 1479, and in third place John Ince with 1472. George Hudson again won the Highest Unrewarded Medal with an actual total of 273. Just prior to the start of the competition Ted Paris was taken ill and had to withdraw from the competition.

RUC Pairs Trophy

It was back to practice and more coaching on Thursday morning in preparation for the RUC Pairs Trophy — the only competition which is not won on handicap adjusted scores. For the pairs the highest actual scoring archer is paired with the lowest scoring archer in the Dacre Trophy and the scores they achieve on Thursday afternoon are combined to give the 'RUC Pairs' Champions.

The weather for this was very sunny and warm and seemed to suit the archers perfectly — or at least their scores gave this impression! Incredibly high totals were obtained and the previous record for this round of 520 was smashed by the first three pairs: Eric Bradshaw's 347, and Dr Sosabowski's 350 making a superb total of 697 smashing the record to take the title; George Allen (283) and George Hudson (390), 673, were second while the combined totals of Charlie McConaghy (373) and Jerry Lynch (269) put them in third place with 642. Norman Perry was presented with the Highest Unrewarded Medal for his individual 345.



Charlie McConaghy receives the Dacre Trophy from the President, Anthony Wood.

George Hudson and Norman Perry retrieving their arrows.





Club Chairman, Joe Prendergast, speaking at the presentation dinner, stands before the new gonfalon.

John Ince, who won the Grand National Archery Society's Handicap Improvement Medal.



Eric Bradshaw, who with Stan Sosabowski, won the R.U.C. Pairs.

Friday, the last day of the week's competition was, weatherwise, a virtual repetition of the previous day but to cool some of the sun's heat a light breeze was coming in from the sea. Ted Paris was back on the shooting line, having made a good recovery from his illness and, together with the others (except Dr. Sosabowski who had had to return home prior to travelling to see his injured son) everyone was down early for the last morning's practice and coaching.

The afternoon was given over to the Royal Insurance Trophy and attesting to his fine recovery Ted Paris won the award for the third successive year with his tally of 1457 points; George Allen again shot better than his now lower handicap to put in a total of 1453 while newcomer Bert Wood just bettered his handicap by nine points to give him third place with 1449. Norman Perry again won the Highest Unrewarded Medal.

A few hours after archery had finished on the field all club members and guests gathered in the Winter Garden for a superb meal organised by Walford Davies, the club's Vice-Chairman. Present were the archery club's President, Mr. Anthony Wood, Vice-President Mrs Eli-



Jerry Lynch takes aim.

zabeth Dacre, Commander Conway and Major Neve and hanging over the top table the club's beautiful new gonfalon (a type of flag), on show for the first time. After speeches the club's Chief Coach, Ted Bradford, read out the winners of the various competitions, who then came forward to be presented with the appropriate trophy. The final presentation of the evening was for the Grand National Archery Society's Handicap Improvement Medal, awarded to the archer who, during the week's activities, had lowered his handicap figure by the greatest amount. This medal was presented to John Ince for an improvement of 10 points, 98 to 88. The week had been John's first venture outside the confines of Ian Fraser House and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience but was a little overcome on being presented with the medal that denotes the archer with the greatest improvement over the period; he now has to wear the medal at all archery functions — or be fined.

After the presentations and final speeches the assembly made their way to

the Annexe for a social gathering and a dance.

The last day of shooting in the grounds of Ian Fraser House was given over to a challenge match between St. Dunstan's and Cuckfield Bowmen. Again the results are determined by handicap adjustment and the eight archers from each side with the best totals form the respective teams. Some 24 archers commenced a full day's shooting in fine sunny weather which resulted in rather good scores being obtained, especially by one of the younger Cuckfield team. However, as has so often happened in the past St. Dunstan's proved too strong for them and retained the Challenge Shield.

A good week's shooting with rewarding results meant that our Chief Coach Ted Bradford and our in-house coach Laurie Austin, were reasonably happy men — as were the archers of St. Dunstan's!

Finally, to round off the week, on Sunday there was an enjoyable shoot against a disabled team on the Isle of Wight, and the St. Dunstan's team won by three points, which made them even happier!

THE SIR ARTHUR PEARSON ASSOCIATION REUNION

By Tom Lukes

One afternoon early in the New Year I had a surprise telephone call from Mr. Bill Weisblatt to ask me if my wife, Peggy, and myself would like to go to Montreal to act as St. Dunstan's representatives at the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of Canadian War Blinded Reunion. St. Dunstan's has had the policy in recent years of sending as their representative someone with Canadian connections, and as I served in the Canadian Army, this applied to me.

We arrived in Montreal on Sunday, May 4th in time to catch our breath before the reunion started the next day. On Monday afternoon a reception was held for old friends to meet; in the evening the reunion was officially opened by the Acting Mayor of Montreal, who cut a ribbon. The Acting Mayor was the principal guest and spoke at the banquet which followed. The evening concluded with dancing. Tuesday morning was occupied by a business session while the ladies were free to please themselves. The afternoon was taken up by a guided coach tour of Montreal in which we were given much information about this cosmopolitan and beautiful city. The coach dropped us at a Munich-type beer cellar and we were entertained by two German bands while we ate and listened to the 'catchy' music.

On Wednesday the business meeting was continued, and we then adjourned with the ladies to the regimental mess of the Fusilliers Mont-Royal. In the evening we attended another banquet at our Holiday Inn, where we were entertained by music and singing from the Les Notables Orchestra. On Thursday morning we assembled for transportation to the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral where a homily was delivered by His Excellency Monseigneur Andre Marie Cimicella. The SAPA members were then escorted by local Air Cadets, on a parade to the local cenotaph, where with due ceremony wreaths were laid on behalf of SAPA and the War Amputee Association whose members were very helpful to us during the whole reunion, especially Nellie Latulippe who was very helpful to us

personally. Lunch was then taken at the Canadian Armed Forces base where we were waited on by Canadian Army girls and Air Cadets. In the evening the final banquet was held at the Holiday Inn where guests were ceremonially piped in. The principal guest was the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, Pierre Sicard, and later on I attempted to convey the good wishes and fraternal greeting of St. Dunstan's. The evening ended with dancing.

The reunion proved to be a very memorable few days for us and we were able to renew many old friendships, including Capt. Fred Woodcock who was one of the P.O.W.'s helped by Lord Normanby; Jeff and Sybil Bond — Jeff was one of my old friends from my time at the Physiotherapy School; Vicki Proctor — now Mrs. Bill Mayne, and other friends from Church Stretton days. We must also thank David Dorwood, the Executive Director of SAPA, for making the arrangements for our visit, coupled with much help from St. Dunstan's HQ, especially from Miss Georgea Kent. We must also thank all the SAPA members for giving us such a warm welcome and for all the hard work and many little surprise gifts which we both appreciated very much. It all helped to make the reunion a very successful occasion.

D.F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

As I write these notes there is a suggestion that summer is on the way, but there are still quite a lot of clouds about. The bedding plants have all gone into their flowering places with some slug and snail pellets scattered around as a protection.

I only hope there will be plenty of colour when you read these notes and more to come along, in the borders, plenty of vegetables to keep the house going and some for the freezer.

Give plenty of water in dry times and also add fertilisers in pellet and powder form.

Do ensure that you give all the beds a good watering before you go away on holiday and a feeding in the greenhouse to cut down the work of those people who have volunteered to look after things for you.

Vegetables

Clear up all those beds which have completed their use, fork over, and consign the dead foliage and stems to the compost heap. Chop up those thick cabbage family stalks or they will not break down rapidly.

Stop all the growing points of the runner beans and harvest as soon as ripe, or you may find them very stringy for use in the house or consigning to the freezer for later use.

Dig up all the potatoes as the halums die down and leave the tubers on the top of the soil to dry off providing the weather is free from rain. They will store much better when dry.

Onions will be getting to the time when they are ripe so bend over the stem at neck level.

Stop outdoor tomatoes and gather fruit regularly and don't forget to give fertiliser every other time when watering the plants.

As usual in late summer and autumn there are plenty of pests and diseases about so spray regularly.

It would be a good thing to peg the areas which you have used for potatoes, beans and peas and the cabbage family so you can be sure of a good rotation of crops, so that you have a gap of three years before using the same crop on these areas, as club root can be a pest.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly but cut down the number of times in very dry weather.

When you have had no rain for some time it would be a good thing to give the grass a good watering with the hose or better still use a sprinkler. This last will mean contacting the water people and getting a licence from them.

Trim the edges regularly to give the place a nice neat look.

Fruit

Thin out the apples where there is a heavy crop in order to get a good size of apple. Those early varieties will be ripe by the end of September so pick for use in the house to eat at once as they will not keep for very long.

Cut away all the canes from loganberries and raspberries which have fruited. Also cut away all those runners on strawberries which are not needed for planting to get new items. New beds can be started especially where the old beds have come to the end of their useful life.

In August test the grease bands on the fruit trees and get rid of any which are showing signs of pests and renew with fresh bands at the end of September.

Flowers

Keep all the dead heads cleared from your perennials and other bedding plants as this will make for more bloom over a longer period. Try and keep those weeds at bay by regular hoeing or hand weeding where you have rather shallow rooting items such as the annuals. A dose of fertiliser such as *Growmore* will help them on.

Use the watering can regularly in small gardens but a hose will be much easier in the larger areas.

Chrysanthemums and those tall large flowering dahlias will need to be staked and disbudded to get really good size blooms for the house and also if you want to put any into the shows locally.

All other tall growing perennials will need to be staked in windy areas and also to stop them falling on the small bedding plants.

Cuttings from geraniums can be taken in September for use next season plus the sowing of hardy annuals in a warm corner sheltered from the wind. Even antirrhinums may stand a winter outside like some of mine which we forgot to pull out last back end and are in full flower now.

Don't cut back those hydrangeas but leave throughout the winter and cut down in the spring. Leave the peonies until they

Gardening Notes *continued*

have died back before tidying them up. It might be a good thing to grow some more lupins from seed to replace older plants next season and delphiniums are easy from seed without heat at this time of the year in a cold greenhouse or frame.

Give the roses some fertiliser just round the base of the main stem and it would be a good thing to get one specially formulated to roses which are on sale at most garden shops or big stores selling garden equipment. In addition cut away dying flowers and if there is any sign of black spot spray at once after you have picked off the diseased leaves and consign them to the dustbin.

Get all those lots of spring flowering bulbs in their places by the end of September. Remember the larger the bulb the deeper they should be planted with the crocus and anemone only just below the surface of the soil.

Greenhouse

Cut down the moisture content by the end of September and it would be better to shut the windows at night but leave wide open during the days of hot weather.

There will still be plenty of diseases and pests around so use the sprayer or smoke regularly.

Old cyclamen can now be started in new pots with fresh compost. Keep the corns near the surface, get the compost wet by almost submerging the pot in a container of water, and drain off before putting on the staging.

Other pot plants for flowering in December or early spring can be put into slightly larger pots and primroses can be split and put into small pots to give a good show later on without any heat.

Disbud those indoor chrysanthemums to give one really large flower later on and don't forget to give them regular feeds and watering.

Those azaleas which flowered last year and were put into sheltered spots outdoors in the summer can be repotted into slightly larger pots now but do use special compost which has no lime in it and try and water with rainwater.

At the end of September get those December and January flowering bulbs in, such as narcissus and hyacinth, but do keep them in cool conditions away from light. Check that the compost is moist but after the first watering they will probably need no more till they are starting to flower in warmer conditions. Remember to get the specially treated hyacinths. Crocus can also be used but it would be wise to plant them later on.

Most of the tuberous types of plants such as achimenes, begonia and gloxinia will be at the end of their flowering life so you can cut down the watering a bit and stop when the foliage has died down.

Seeds of the schizanthus can be sown without much heat to give you a good show in the house or greenhouse round about Christmas and the New Year.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON

Bowling

On May 23rd a party of 22 made their way to Swansea at the invitation of the West Glamorgan Visually Handicapped Bowling Club. After a pleasant journey we arrived at our hotel in mid-afternoon. Most of the party were ready for a meal and an early night.

On Saturday a trip was arranged for us to go to St. Fagan's where we enjoyed the beautiful gardens and the castle and museum. In the evening Colwyn Lloyd and Harry Davies arranged for us to spend an evening at their local hostel. It was a very enjoyable time and we send our thanks to Mary Lloyd and Margaret Davies for providing such delicious refreshments. We even had Welsh singers to entertain us and with the support of the St. Dunstaners we had a rousing evening. Thank you Colwyn, Mary, Harry and Margaret for a memorable evening.

Bowling commenced on the Sunday afternoon under very bad weather

conditions and after two hours play in the rain we had tea and decided to discontinue play for that day. On Monday we resumed play and fortunately the weather was just the opposite to Sunday. Over the two days St. Dunstan's bowlers had a very handsome victory and we came away with a trophy.

On the Sunday and Monday evenings Baldwins Social and Recreation Sports Club, who had kindly loaned their club house for the event, invited all who had taken part in the bowling contest to social evenings which were enjoyed by all who had attended. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. McTavish for arranging this fixture.

Thank you Commander Conway for making life so easy for us regarding transport and also many thanks to our driver, Brian, who was ever present to help us all.

Following our visit to Swansea our next match took place at Burgess Hill on June 12th. We had a very successful afternoon's bowling and we were made very welcome by our hosts. After a delicious tea and a couple of drinks we returned home and we were entertained all the way by the gifted talents of Tommy and Theresa Mugan. Beware Joan and Bob, these two are rising stars!

A. Miller

Bridge

Pairs - June 8th

W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	66.0
R. Pacitti & Mrs. Pacitti	59.8
W. Phillips and Dr. J. Goodlad	54.8
F. Dickerson & Mrs. Douse	53.4
R. Evans & Mrs. McPherson	45.8
Miss Stenning & Mr. M. Douse	41.7
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Buller-King	39.6
G. Hudson & Miss Sturdy	38.9

Entertainment Section

The date for the Annual Dinner and Dance is November 1st, to be held at Ian Fraser House. Will members wishing to be present, please contact Bob or Joan Osborne, as the numbers must be limited.

Phyllis O'Kelly

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Mr. A. Budd, of Gosport, on passing his amateur radio exam with a Credit in Part 1 and a Distinction in Part 2. His call sign is G1 TKP.

Rory and Hedley, the two sons of Mr. and Mrs. D. Clark, of Sevenoaks, who have both recently qualified in their professions - Rory as a Chartered Accountant and Hedley as a Chartered Surveyor.

Mr. Bob Coupland, of Hessle, who recently completed his annual 25-mile sponsored walk in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal. There were 40 walkers (and an excellent support party) so the amount raised should be around £1,300. His personal sponsorship amounted to £120.

Andrew, younger son of Mr. Sid Jones, of Manchester, who has graduated from Cardiff University with a BSc (Hons) in Computer Systems.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. Pat Timiney, of Sheffield, on his marriage to Miss Dorothy Attwood on June 12th.

Angelika, daughter of Mr. A. Budd, of Gosport, who married Ian Tiyford on May 24th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Dixon, of Merseyside, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on June 8th.

Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Dodd, of Coventry, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on June 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Field, of Partridge Green, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 13th.

Ruby Weddings *continued*

Mr. and Mrs. N.F. Nolde, of Victoria, Australia, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on May 20th.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Andrew, of New Southgate, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 25th.

Mr. H. Williamson, of Pearson House, and Mrs. Williamson, of Ashton-under-Lyne, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 6th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Howard, of Worthing, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 2nd.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. M. Ash, of Exeter, on the birth of their sixth grandchild, Sarah Louise, born on June 9th to their daughter, Carolyn, and son-in-law, Paul Mackey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Beatty, of Killymitten, Balinamallard, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Susan Evelyn, born on May 5th to their son and daughter-in-law, Cyril and Hazel.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bradshaw, of Porthcawl, on the birth of their grandson, Carl David, born on May 3rd to Heather and Ian Bradshaw. Ian is serving on *H.M.S. Arrow*.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ormond, of Burgess Hill, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Roxanne, born on March 27th to their son, Renny, and his wife, Christine.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitcombe, of Eastbourne, on the birth of their grandson, Paul Jason, born on June 11th to their daughter-in-law, Lesley, and son, Stephen.

Mr. and Mrs. N.F. Nolde, of Victoria, Australia, on the birth of their seventh grandchild, Jenny Lee, born on February 16th to their son, Peter, and his wife, Cheryl.

GREAT GRANDCHILD

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Bull, of Southampton, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Daniel Joseph, born on May 3rd to grand-daughter, Kelly.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

Mr. A.J. Boardman, of Wimbledon, whose mother passed away on June 14th in Manchester, aged 87.

Miss Anne Hodges, of Bromyard, who mourns the death of her eldest brother who passed away in early June at the age of 85.

Mrs. Edna Mead, wife of Mr. W.S.J. Mead, of East Ham, whose youngest sister passed away in Devon recently.

Mr. H. O'Neill, of Orpington, on the loss of his young niece in February, followed by the death of his brother recently.

Captain W.A.L. Purves, of Bristol, on the death of his sister on June 16th.

Mrs. H. Seymour, widow of the late Mr. W. Seymour, of Southwick, whose eldest son died suddenly in June.

The family of Mrs. F.M. Trevelion, widow of the late Mr. L. Trevelion, of Eastbourne, who passed away on June 5th. She leaves six children who remember the happy holidays they spent at Northgate House from 1947.

Mrs. E.E. Williams, of Harrogate, who mourns the death of her sister, Mrs. Ivy Gibson, who passed away suddenly on June 4th.

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.

M. Burns, 17th Infantry Brigade

Michael Francis Burns, of Tenterden, died at Ian Fraser House on June 25th, aged 66. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 44 years.

He enlisted in the 17th Infantry Brigade in May 1940 and was wounded in a landmine explosion during the invasion of Madagascar in May 1942. On his recovery he trained as a physiotherapist and was elected as one of the members of the Physiotherapy Advisory and Joint Consultative Committees. He worked at Southend General Hospital, West Park Hospital, Epsom and Benenden Chest Hospital over a period of 32 years, retiring in 1984 on health grounds.

He and his wife were keenly interested in politics and in 1960 he won the local election at Southend with the largest Liberal majority in over 10 years. He subsequently stood as Liberal candidate at Epsom and finally at Kingston-on-Thames in the General Election of 1966 where he fought excellently but without success. On two occasions he participated in the Games at Stoke Mandeville where the children's courage and determination deeply impressed him. Sadly, his youngest son was himself disabled some years later when he broke his back in a rucker scrum at school.

A good all-rounder, Mickie on his retirement excelled at wrought iron and picture framing, and over the years he contributed lively comments and suggestions to the *Review*. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues, amongst whom he was deservedly popular. He leaves his wife, Margot, and their three sons.

W.W. Burns, Merchant Navy

William Wilberforce Burns, of South Shields, affectionately known to us all as Billie, passed away in hospital on June 8th, aged 74. He had been a St. Dunstaner for over 40 years.

He enlisted in the Merchant Navy in 1934 and, whilst serving as Chief Engineer on *MV. Gold Shell* in February 1946, his ship was sunk in the channel by enemy action. As a result, he suffered severe burns to his face and upper part of his body, being totally blinded and

necessitating the amputation of one finger on each hand. For three years, at frequent intervals, Mr. Burns endured prolonged periods of hospitalisation for plastic surgery which he bore with tremendous courage and cheerfulness.

During the course of his treatment, Mr. Burns taught himself braille and on being discharged from the Merchant Navy in 1950, undertook a period of training in braille shorthand and telephony. From the outset, he proved to be a highly valued and efficient telephonist and from 1959 until retirement in 1977 was employed at the Newcastle branch of Barclays Bank.

In earlier years, Mr. Burns was keenly interested in his garden and greenhouse. He always greatly enjoyed attending our reunions, listening to talking books and visiting his local club where he will be greatly missed.

He leaves his widow, Laura, with whom he shared 47 happy years, his son, Ian, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and other members of his close-knit family.

R.M. Chapman, Territorial Army,

First Cambridgeshire Regiment

Reginald Mons Chapman, of Cambridge, passed away in hospital on June 17th, aged 72. He had been a St. Dunstaner since November 1975.

In 1933 he joined the Territorial Army and was therefore mobilised at the outbreak of the 2nd World War. Whilst serving in Singapore during 1942 as a Sergeant in the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment, Mr. Chapman was taken prisoner of war and for practically the whole period of his captivity worked on the notorious 'Death Railway', suffering great hardship and deprivation. (Ironically, his father had also been taken prisoner during the First World War at the Battle of Mons, and Mr. Chapman's middle name was an obvious reminder of his father's survival).

Prior to his admission to St. Dunstan's, he worked in a storeroom, but for the major part of his working life until his health deteriorated, Mr. Chapman was a skilled concrete mould-

man. Reg, as he was affectionately known, received tremendous pleasure from his talking books and pottering in the garden. He was always a welcome visitor to Ian Fraser House and frequently attended FEPOW reunions. At the time of The Queen's visit to Ovingdean last year, he had the honour of speaking to Her Majesty and was extremely proud of the photograph taken at that time. In June last year, he and his wife, Lillian, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

He leaves his widow, their son, Alan, and members of the family.

D. Donnarumma, Royal Army Medical Corps

Domenic Donnarumma, of Southampton, passed away on June 22nd following a long illness borne with remarkable fortitude and cheerfulness. He was 77 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1958.

During the Second World War, he served for six years as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps and whilst stationed in India his eyesight was affected. Mr. Donnarumma was an accomplished pianist and undertook professional engagements until 1969 when he retired on health grounds. Nevertheless, in subsequent years and as recently as 1985 when his health was already seriously affected, he provided entertainment with his music to an appreciative audience at our reunions in Southampton and also at Ian Fraser House where he was always a welcome visitor. To the end, he retained a keen interest in current affairs and sporting events, and all visitors from his birthplace, Italy, as well as neighbours and friends were assured of a warm welcome.

He leaves his widow, Angela, affectionately known as Julie, who cared for him devotedly since their marriage in 1982, and members of the family.

Lieutenant G.B. Reed, Rifle Brigade, South Wales Borderers

George Butcher Reed, of Farnham, passed away in the Middlesex Hospital on June 25th, aged 74. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945.

George Reed enlisted in the Rifle Brigade in 1932 and then transferred to the South Wales Borderers. He was seriously wounded at Anzio in 1944. He was totally blinded and his right arm was later amputated. He was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant.

A conjurer like his father in early days, he then became a ventriloquist as well as training as a shopkeeper. He was also a keen musician,

his instrument being the trumpet. However, in later years George's main interests were his ever expanding collection of musical boxes from all over the world and his complicated hi-fi equipment. He and his wife greatly enjoyed travelling and went together on many cruises, the last being to the Caribbean at Christmas. He will be greatly missed by his many friends at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves his wife, affectionately known to all as Bun, and their son and daughter.

C.J. Stafford, Pioneer Corps

Charles John Stafford, M.C.S.P., of Kings Langley, after participating in the walking race for the Bill Harris Cup in the 10th Annual Sports Competition for the Visually Handicapped on June 28th, collapsed and passed away shortly after admission to hospital. He was 75.

During the Second World War, Charles Stafford served as a Private in the Pioneer Corps and was admitted to St. Dunstan's four years after his discharge from the Army. Prior to enlistment, he had been employed in display and window dressing but on becoming a St. Dunstaner, he became proficient in braille and typewriting as well as handicrafts, followed by a period at Church Stretton for training as a physiotherapist, qualifying in 1950. For several years Mr. Stafford had a hospital appointment as well as a few private patients but from 1960 he operated exclusively from his home, building up a thriving practice where his skills as a physiotherapist were highly regarded. For the past three years however, he had been semi-retired, continuing with only a few private patients.

Charles Stafford was a man of many interests, particularly those involved with sport, and was a regular participant in walking races and a keen swimmer. Fred Duff, his racing guide, spoke of him in an interview with David Castleton published in our last issue with an accompanying photograph, which went to press shortly before Mr. Stafford passed away. He had travelled extensively throughout the world accompanied by his wife, affectionately known as Lylie, with whom he had been looking forward to celebrating their Diamond Wedding next year, and had attended Physiotherapy Conferences in Canada, Israel and Finland. He will be greatly missed not only by numerous St. Dunstaners and their wives as well as fellow physiotherapists but also by staff in Brighton and London and many grateful patients.

He leaves his widow, daughter, Janet, and members of the family.