



**St Dunstons  
Review  
January/February  
1987**





## From the Chairman

In our last *Review* I looked over my shoulder at some of our achievements during the past year. Now we need to look ahead to 1987 — *this year*.

We can look forward to a lot. In the spring, a new lift in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House. In the autumn, completion of the work at Pearson House, an end to all that mess and chaos and a better, brighter place to live in. In between, an undiminished programme of reunions, hobbies, club activities, sport, visits and holidays; and a fuller participation by our widows. Perhaps a rather better summer?

So as the hail hammers at your window panes, the gales howl in your chimneys, the cat won't go out because of the snow and your elderly car battery gives its reluctant croak before lapsing into final silence; comfort yourselves with the thought that already the days are getting longer, spring is only just around the corner and I hope you will all look forward to enjoying a very...

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Henry Leach*

### WHAT'S ON IN 1987

Please add this to the calendar of events: 1st Computer Weekend 11th-12th April, 1987.

### THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House thank the many St. Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1987.

Carol Henderson and family thank all St. Dunstaners for their Christmas greetings and send good wishes for the New Year.

Phyllis Rogers thanks the many St. Dunstaners who have kindly sent Christmas greetings and sends greetings to you all for your health and happiness in 1987.

Kathleen Broughton sends her thanks to all from whom she has been so pleased to receive Christmas greetings and telephone calls which help to keep her so closely in touch with St. Dunstan's.

Vivien Jackson wishes all her St. Dunstaners and Widows and their families good health and happiness for 1987 and would like to thank all those who sent her cards and greetings this Christmas.

### REVELATION FOR THE HANDS

An exhibition of sculpture for people to touch opened in Leeds City Art Gallery on January 22nd and runs until March 22nd. The exhibition, entitled 'Revelation for the Hands', includes works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and many other famous names, in a variety of materials from the conventional wood, bronze and stone to resin, fibre glass and synthetic ocelot fur! It has been designed to be enjoyed by blind and partially sighted visitors.

From April 5th to May 16th the exhibition will be at the Mead Gallery at the University of Warwick Arts Centre.

### RESPECT YOUR OLD TIME-KEEPERS

Several cases have occurred recently where removal men have bodily removed grandfather clocks and other types of antique timepieces without dismantling them. This causes a great deal of damage, sometimes to the wooden cabinet itself and, invariably, to the clock movement. Removal firms frequently disclaim any responsibility under the insurance which they say does not cover mechanical derangement.

Old clocks are expensive to repair, particularly if cabinet work is also involved. So please, when clocks of this type are to be removed, call in an expert to dismantle and pack it ready for the removers to handle.

## St Dunstons Review

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Free to St. Dunstaners

JAN/FEB 1987

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Cover Picture: During the Ladies Reunion, some of St. Dunstan's 'birds' pose under an appropriate sign at Harewood House.





Colin Beaumont-Edmonds reads the Lesson.

## THANK YOU DOUGLAS WILLS

It was rather like a reunion as St. Dunstaners, staff and past members of staff gathered in the Wintergarden at Ian Fraser House after the Service of Thanksgiving on December 4th for the life of Douglas Wills, O.B.E. That was, perhaps, appropriate as he was for so long the genial master of ceremonies on those occasions and we could imagine him smiling upon this group of people, all of whom were proud to think of him as friend.

The Chapel was full to hear St. Dunstan's new Chaplain, The Reverend Michael Bootes, O.G.S., assisted by another old friend, our former Chaplain, The Reverend George Meek, conduct the Service. The hymns, *Praise my Soul the King of Heaven*, *O God our help in ages past* and *The King of Love my shepherd is*, were chosen at the suggestion of Mr. Wills' family as old favourites of his.

St. Dunstan's President, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., read the Lesson from braille, Revelations 21 verses 1-7.

In an Address, clearly spoken from the heart, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith and Mr. Ian Garnett-Orme, with the other members of the congregation, entering the Chapel.



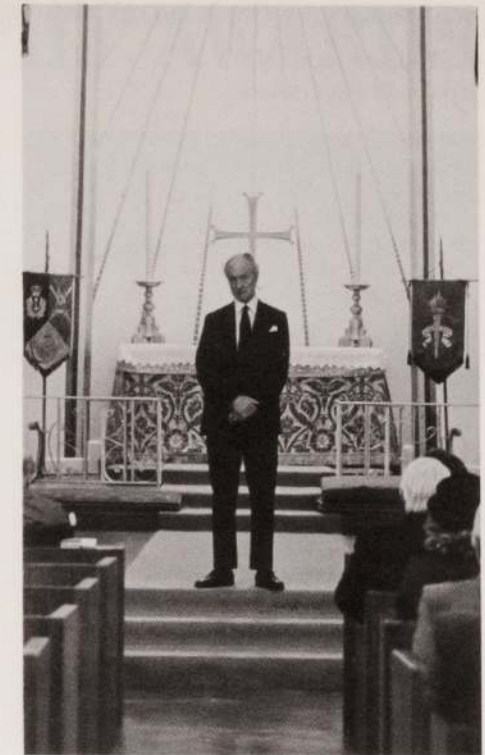
Leach, G.C.B., said: 'For nearly 40 years, in one capacity or another, Douglas Wills worked for St. Dunstan's. During that time he filled many posts, including the supremely important one of Secretary, and all with distinction.

'When due to retire he continued the running of the Area Reunions and gave pleasure to hundreds with an organisation that *we* all took for granted but which cost him a good deal of effort.

'Earlier this year his health started to fail. He lost the desire to eat but not the will to work. When finally he had to give in and entered hospital, he was given his sentence. It was short and shocking. But he never flinched and never complained. Quietly he set about putting the finishing touches to his affairs and to the end he maintained that gentle good humour which had so endeared him to us.

'I think everyone present is glad of the opportunity to pay this affectionate last tribute to a loyal servant of St. Dunstan's and a trusted friend.

'I believe I speak for you all and for the many others who are unable to get here when I say quite simply:— *Thank you, Douglas*'.



Sir Henry Leach making his Address.

St. Dunstaners in the congregation.





*GUIDED THOUGHTS*  
a poem by Sue Gilholm

Columns of six arm in arm,  
Heads held high, hearts ready to burst with pride.  
The drum beats out the sombre song,  
As the men blindly march along.  
"We Shall Remember Them"  
Artificial arms swing in time,  
Frail feet shuffle in file,  
Lifeless eyes turning now  
Toward the white pillar of stone.  
Seeing more than you or I.  
They are gone but "We Shall Remember Them"  
The warm light of November's watery sun  
Reflects upon the proudly worn medals of yesteryear.  
Dazzling seeing eyes.  
"We Shall Remember Them"  
A watch, battle scarred and old,  
Time remains unchanged.  
An awesome memory of a cold November morn  
Of oh so long ago.  
"We Shall Remember Them"  
A chilling wind blows,  
A silent leaf falls gracefully from the sycamore  
A part of the tree no more.  
Gone, but not forgotten,  
"We Shall Remember Them"

It was a cool, blustery day which saw the 72 St. Dunstaners form up on Horse Guards Parade for the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. There were 7000 ex-servicemen on parade, and the pavements in Whitehall were packed 11 deep. There was probably not a single person there who had not lost a member of their family, a loved one, or a friend. It is always a moving moment as the gun of the King's Troop booms out and all that can then be heard is the sighing of the wind, and the silent memories of those all around.

As soon as Reveille is sounded, the mood begins to lighten. The band strikes up with the familiar old army songs as the columns begin to march off behind the Old Contemptibles. On either side of the Chairman this year, were Nicholas Henman, who joined up just prior to the end of the 1st War, and our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds. The other 1st War veteran in the column was Harry Wheeler, who lost his sight, in fact, in the 2nd War. Elsie Aldred, Vi Delaney and Gwen Obern represented the ladies.

There were some bright red faces, reddened by the wind, it must be emphasised, as the coaches pulled into the Russell Hotel entrance.

In his address, the Chairman started by thanking Keith Martin, who had organised the proceedings. He drew a warm round of applause when he referred to the escorts. He was pleased to see so many people wearing red poppies; in view of the controversial nonsense over the white ones. 'It would be difficult to conceive a more convincing peace movement than veterans of two world wars and numerous conflicts since, so strongly represented here today'. He concluded with a poem, which he thought particularly relevant for the day, and St. Dunstan's:

*UPHILL — By Christina Rossetti*

*Does the road wind uphill all the way?  
Yes, to the very end.  
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?  
From morn to night, my friend.  
But is there for the night a resting place?  
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.  
May not the darkness hide it from my face?  
You cannot miss that inn.  
Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?  
Those who have gone before.  
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?  
They will not keep you waiting at that door.  
Shall I find comfort, travel sore and weak?  
Of labour you shall find the sum.  
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?  
Yes, beds for all who come.*

Ken Revis responded on behalf of the St. Dunstaners present. 'Today we have passed through a varied mix of emotions, from the piper's lament, to the exhilaration of marching off, all to the background of the wind in the sycamore trees, a backdrop to our private thoughts. In May, 1940, Churchill promised us 'blood, sweat, toil and tears'. St. Dunstaners have shed blood, have sweated, have toiled and shed their tears. Later Churchill also said, 'We fight on'. We have fought on, with our tiny hands in the larger hand of St. Dunstan's. We have been led on to a life of dignity and normality'.

Ken finished by paying tribute to the Chairman, and, once again, thanking the organisers, before he proposed a toast to St. Dunstan's.

# TORCH TROPHY AWARDS

Famous names in sport, television and entertainment gathered at Simpsons in Jermyn Street for presentations by the Torch Trophy Trust on 18th November. On this occasion, however, they were not there to be applauded but to applaud 24 voluntary officials and backroom workers representing the hundreds whose efforts keep amateur sport going.

## Presentations

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester made the presentations of miniature replicas of the torch that was carried into Wembley Stadium at the opening of the 1948 Olympic Games. Among his audience were Mr. Colin Cowdrey, Mr. Adam Faith, Mrs. Christine Janes (better remembered as Christine Truman), Mr. Pat Jennings, international goalkeeper, Mr. Bobby Robson, England's Football Manager and Mr. Jim Rosenthal, television sports presenter.

First in the list of award winners was Mr. Laurie Austin for his pioneering work in establishing St. Dunstan's Archery Club and his continuing contribution as a coach. He began teaching archery to St. Dunstaners in 1975 when he was Transport Manager at Ian Fraser House and since his retirement he has given a vast amount of his time to helping St. Dunstan's archers improve their skills. This year he has seen them beat sighted teams from the R.A.F. and the Army.

## History of the Trust

Opening the proceedings, the Chairman of the Torch Trophy Trust, Mr. Ted Croker, Secretary of the Football Association, explained how the Trust came into being in 1962 on the initiative of Commander Bill Collins, who had organised the Olympic Torch Relay from Olympia in Greece to Wembley in 1948. Commander Collins wished to encourage voluntary workers in amateur sport and conceived



HRH The Duke of Gloucester presents the trophy to Laurie Austin. Photo: Sidney Harris.

the idea of annual awards, 'The torch awards symbolise the Olympic ideals of amateur sport,' said Mr. Croker.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester said it was a great pleasure to honour unsung heroes. He said that 'Sport enables people to use their physical strength, their skills and sometimes their courage outside the sedentary working lives we tend to lead. Sometimes sport is the only thing to keep us sane in the complications of modern living.'

After the presentations to the 24 recipients, who represented a broad cross-section of amateur sport, His Royal Highness chatted with the guests, among them Laurie Austin and his wife, Amy. 'He asked me how blind archers shoot,' said Laurie. 'And I was able to explain — he was surprised when I told him The Queen had seen them shoot and had been impressed.'



# St. Dunstan's Ladies Reunion in York

By Margaret Bingham

Photos: David Castleton

Beryl Sleigh tries on the Mayoral Chain.



Councillor Cyril Waite, Lord Mayor of York poses with Margaret Bingham.

We assembled in the Minster Room in the Abbey Park Hotel, York, for a very welcome 'cuppa' and a bite to eat. Such a noisy, jolly crowd all eagerly looking forward to our 10th Ladies Reunion. There were 39 altogether — 17 girls with escorts, members of staff comprising Miss C. Mosley, Miss P. Lord, Mrs. D. Inman and Mr. D. Castleton, whilst Mr. W.C. Weisblatt joined us later. Dinner was an informal affair but by the time we had eaten and had a drink at the bar we were glad to tumble into bed.

An early start on Friday morning for a civic welcome at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Cyril Waite. A little talk was given about the artefacts which were laid out on a very large table and then we were free to examine them at our leisure. The large gold mace was the first object followed by two extremely heavy swords, inlaid scabbards and hilts. As well as a solid silver tea urn there were large silver bowls, one of which had a deckled-edge rim about one inch deep which could be removed and the container used as a wine or punch bowl or a flower vase. Two unusual items were the whistling 'potty' and the whistling tankard. The idea was for the user of the first utensil to alert



Gwen Obern presents a St. Dunstan's shield to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

Barbara Bell examines one of the new roof bosses designed by children for the Minster.

a servant that it was going to be used by reversing it and blowing a whistle in the base. The same procedure was used with the tankard when it needed refilling. The Chains of Office worn by their Worships were magnificent to say the least. The Lord Mayor's Chain was three long strands of interwoven solid gold links and very weighty. The Lady Mayoress's Chain was also 24 carat but not as splendid as the Lord Mayor's. Their Worships removed the Chains and placed them on our shoulders and a rather pensive expression was noticed on the faces of one or two of the girls as they gently touched the beautiful gold links. Councillor and Mrs. Waite were an exceedingly nice couple and we were very grateful to them for giving us such an interesting and unforgettable morning.

Back to the hotel for bar and lunch, a quick spruce up, then off again for a guided tour round the Minster. We were rather apprehensive on hearing that a large chunk of masonry had fallen off the building the previous day but on enquiring were assured the part we were to visit was in another area and we would be quite safe. The triple-towered honey-coloured mass of the Minster is one of the great cathedrals of Western Europe and with





# St Dunstons Review

## PENSIONS SUPPLEMENT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1987



# REVIEW OF WAR DISABLEMENT PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

The next uprating of pensions and allowances will come into effect in the week beginning 6th April 1987. The new rates are in line with the 2.1% increase in the Retail Price Index between January and September 1986.

## DETAILS OF INCREASED WAR PENSION RATES

| DISABLEMENT BENEFITS  |  | Existing weekly rate<br>£ | New weekly rate<br>£ |
|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Disablement pension for Private at 100 per cent               |  | 63.20                     | 64.50                |
| <b>Over 65 Age Allowance with assessments of:</b>             |  |                           |                      |
| 40 to 50 per cent   |  | 4.40                      | 4.50                 |
| Over 50 and not exceeding 70 per cent                         |  | 6.85                      | 7.00                 |
| Over 70 and not exceeding 90 per cent                         |  | 9.85                      | 10.05                |
| Over 90 per cent  |  | 13.70                     | 14.00                |
| <b>Unemployability allowance</b>                              |  |                           |                      |
| Personal allowance  |  | 41.10                     | 41.95                |
| Increase for wife or other adult dependent                    |  | 23.25                     | 23.75                |
| Increase for child  |  | 8.05                      | 8.05                 |
| <b>Invalidity allowance</b>                                   |  |                           |                      |
| Age on qualifying date:—                                      |  |                           |                      |
| Under 40  |  | 8.15                      | 8.30                 |
| Under 50 but not under 40                                     |  | 5.20                      | 5.30                 |
| Under 60 (55 for women) but not under 50                      |  | 2.60                      | 2.65                 |
| <b>Constant attendance allowance</b>                          |  |                           |                      |
| Special maximum   |  | 50.60                     | 51.60                |
| Special intermediate  |  | 37.95                     | 38.70                |
| Normal maximum  |  | 25.30                     | 25.80                |
| Half and quarter day  |  | 12.65                     | 12.90                |
| <b>Comforts allowance</b>                                     |  |                           |                      |
| Higher rate   |  | 10.90                     | 11.10                |
| Lower rate  |  | 5.45                      | 5.55                 |
| <b>Mobility supplement</b>                                    |  | 24.05                     | 24.55                |
| <b>Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (Maximum)</b> |  | 25.28                     | 25.80                |
| <b>Exceptionally severe disablement allowance</b>             |  | 25.30                     | 25.80                |
| <b>Severe disablement allowance</b>                           |  | 12.65                     | 12.90                |
|   |  | Existing Annual Rate<br>£ | New Annual Rate<br>£ |
| <b>Clothing allowance</b>                                     |  |                           |                      |
| Higher rate   |  | 86.00                     | 88.00                |
| Lower rate  |  | 55.00                     | 56.00                |

## DEATH BENEFITS

|  | Existing weekly rate<br>£ | New weekly rate<br>£ |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Widow's pension — Private's widow</b>             |                           |                      |
| Standard rate  | 50.30                     | 51.35                |
| Childless widow under 40                             | 11.61                     | 11.85                |
| Rent allowance (maximum) for war widow with children | 19.15                     | 19.55                |
| <b>Age allowance for elderly widows</b>              |                           |                      |
| Age 65—69  | 5.40                      | 5.50                 |
| Age 70—79  | 10.80                     | 11.00                |
| Age 80 and over                                      | 13.55                     | 13.85                |

## INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

| RETIREMENT PENSIONS   |  | Existing weekly rate<br>£ | New weekly rate<br>£ |
|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Basic rate  |  | 38.70                     | 39.50                |
| Married couple  |  | 61.95                     | 63.25                |
| All pensioners receive an extra 25p per week from their eightieth birthday. |  |                           |                      |
| ALLOWANCES  |  | Existing weekly rate<br>£ | New weekly rate<br>£ |
| <b>Mobility allowance</b>   |  | 21.65                     | 22.10                |
| <b>Adult attendance allowance</b>   |  |                           |                      |
| Higher rate   |  | 30.95                     | 31.60                |
| Lower rate  |  | 20.65                     | 21.10                |

## EXAMPLES OF INCREASES IN PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

It is emphasised that the following are examples only and do not cover every St. Dunstaner.

| Totally Blind   | Employable    |               | Unemployable  |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | Present       | New           | Present       | New           |
| Basic Pension   | 63.20         | 64.50         | 63.20         | 64.50         |
| Dependency Allowance                                      | .60           | .60           | .60           | .60           |
| Constant Attendance Allowance                             | 25.30         | 25.80         | 25.30         | 25.80         |
| Comforts Allowance  | 10.90         | 11.10         | 10.90         | 11.10         |
| Unemployability Supplement                                | —             | —             | 41.10         | 41.95         |
| Invalidity Allowance (over 50 but under 60 on qualifying) | —             | —             | 2.60          | 2.65          |
| Additional Allowance for Wife                             | —             | —             | 23.25         | 23.75         |
| <b>Total per week</b>                                     | <b>100.00</b> | <b>102.00</b> | <b>166.95</b> | <b>170.35</b> |

| Guiding Vision  | Employable   |              | Unemployable  |               |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | Present      | New          | Present       | New           |
| Basic Pension   | 63.20        | 64.50        | 63.20         | 64.50         |
| Dependency Allowance                                      | .60          | .60          | .60           | .60           |
| Constant Attendance Allowance                             | 12.65        | 12.90        | 12.65         | 12.90         |
| Comforts Allowance  | 5.45         | 5.55         | 10.90         | 11.10         |
| Unemployability Supplement                                | —            | —            | 41.10         | 41.95         |
| Invalidity Allowance (over 50 but under 60 on qualifying) | —            | —            | 2.60          | 2.65          |
| Additional Allowance for Wife                             | —            | —            | 23.25         | 23.75         |
| <b>Total per week</b>                                     | <b>81.90</b> | <b>83.55</b> | <b>154.30</b> | <b>157.45</b> |



REVIEW OF WAR EMERGENCY PENSIONS AND  
ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS



*Issued with St. Dunstan's Review*

*January/February 1987*





Gwen and Barbara investigate an old two-seater privy in the Castle Museum.

Emily McClarnan and Elsie Aldred with their escorts call at the 'King William Hotel' in Kirkgate.



the aquamarine and dove grey roofs of the Transepts and Chapter House it was a majestic sight to behold. As we were such a large party we were split into three groups.

Building of the church began in 1070 and it took 250 years to complete. There were many carvings, some denoting medieval kings and workmen as well as creatures, devils and animals. The history was so interesting we could have listened for hours but our visit to the Minster was not quite at an end. We were to attend Evensong in the Chapel! The choir consisting of men and boys sang beautifully and the sound of the young, sweet voices certainly brought a lump to the throat. The presiding clergyman made mention of the members of St. Dunstan's in one of the prayers. Our guests of honour at dinner that evening were Air Vice-Marshal Colahan (a member of St. Dunstan's Council) and his wife, and in his after-dinner speech he said how pleased he was to be invited to a Ladies Reunion and how he and his wife had enjoyed it. He ended by telling some amusing stories — such a charming couple. Gwen gave a good old-fashioned Welsh vote of thanks and then most retired — either to the bar or bed.



At Harewood House Dorothy Martin examines an ornate wine cooler.



Eileen Maynard in the bird garden at Harewood House.

The Abbey Park Hotel is a large 3-storey building, very comfy and warm, and employs a large staff. The bedrooms (en-suite) were well appointed but the two lifts were small and we had difficulty in getting my wheelchair in. All members of the staff were extremely pleasant, friendly and helpful, especially Ken, the Head Porter, who was most interested in our comings and goings. The food was excellent, tasty and plentiful. Saturday morning was free. Some stayed in the hotel, some went shopping — a small party visited the Viking Centre where from a slow-moving open-carriage train they were able to hear descriptions by their escorts of sets depicting life in Viking days and smell the 'aroma' from farms etc.

In the afternoon our venue at the Castle Museum was Kirkgate, a spectacular recreation of the 18th/19th centuries with its cobbled streets, courts and alleys and small bow-windowed shops. How interesting these were: Joseph Terry (of chocolate fame) — his sweet shop with the aroma of boiling sugar emanating from its doorway; the Apothecary & Drug Store (1791) — here a wide selection of druggist jars, one for leeches, and surgeon's instruments including an amputation saw; there

was a pawn shop complete with three brass balls; a toy shop; and a wine and liquor shop. Amongst the rums, brandies etc. there was a drink called *Shrub* — no one knew of this drink, not even our guides, but according to the Oxford Dictionary it was fruit juice, sugar and rum. There were two or three large coaches, still used for ceremonial occasions. On to the prison next, passing gruesome instruments of torture, to the condemned cell where Dick Turpin was imprisoned in 1739. No home comforts there, I can assure you, and we were glad to get out into the sunshine. Dinner in the hotel, with bar of course, and hopefully a good night's sleep in readiness for a big day at Harewood House on Sunday.

This was our best day so far as the weather was concerned and as we were to go into the gardens later we were very thankful. What can I say of Harewood House? There was so much to hear about and our guides described everything so well. The Chippendale furniture, Adam fireplaces, paintings by Turner, Gainsborough to name a few of the many English and Venetian painters. The beautifully decorated ceilings with the designs complemented on the carpets below. I could





*Tears of happiness for Sadie Stokes as Andrea McGowan, of the Abbey Park Hotel, produces the surprise birthday cake to applause from Sir Maurice Johnston.*

go on and on but would never be able to give all the details of the varied and priceless objets d'art we saw. I will just have to leave it to your imagination! We had a delicious lunch in a dining hall in the grounds then went to visit the Bird Park and Reptile House. The lake was a beautiful sight surrounded by a variety of trees and bushes. The whole parkland was designed by Capability Brown! There was a large variety of birds and reptiles and glass-fronted cases containing magnificent butterflies from all over the world. Certainly a day to remember.

Dinner that evening was a special occasion. It was Sadie's birthday. During the course of the evening the lights were dimmed, a door was flung open and out came a waiter carrying a lovely birthday cake 'au flambeau'. We sang 'Happy Birthday', presents were given, then Sadie made the first incision into it and a small piece was given to each of us. Very tasty, very sweet! Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston and his charming wife were our guests and as with Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs. Colahan, this was their first Ladies Reunion. In his after-dinner speech Sir Maurice said how pleased they were to meet us and how they had enjoyed themselves. He told some very funny stories as did Gwen when she gave a vote of thanks. Eileen Williams spoke as to the indebtedness of the St. Dunstan's ladies to the members of staff who had been responsible for the arrangements for the weekend

and presentations were made accordingly. What a wonderful reunion it had been — everything ran so smoothly and I speak for all we 'girls' and escorts when I reciprocate those thanks, adding, if I may, a special thank you to those who enabled me to get around and take full advantage of the occasion.

## JORVIK

By Barbara Bell

On a Saturday morning a small group of us descended into the bowels of the York earth by lift where, disembarking, we edged our way slowly along a tunnel whose walls were lined with videos and displays depicting the history of York, with particular reference to the Viking period. At the end we climbed into our little two-seater time-cars and with Magnus Magnusson's voice in our ears describing what we were passing through, moved off smoothly backwards through time. Gliding through the Middle Ages where people were dancing and singing to medieval music, we arrived at the sacking of York by the Normans in 1067, evoked for us by the crackling of flames and burning timbers and the smell of fire and smoke. We travelled back still further until we reached 948 A.D., where the time clock stopped, though we continued our gentle journey. We had arrived at Jorvik!

We pass through a craftsman's workshop and out into the village where

children are shouting at each other — we can't understand their language. Stalls are set up in the market and behind them the workshops and warehouses, with people milling about noisily amongst the buildings. We enter one of the houses which have their eaves nearly touching the ground. Here everything is taking place: cooking, weaving, sewing, talking and playing, whilst the food cooks over the central fire on the floor. A spit also hangs over the fire. The food is cooking on gridle-like utensils, and skins are stretched out to dry.

Out into the farmyard where chickens, cats, dogs and pigs run around and an old man is using the cess-pit, discreetly screened except for his head. The smell is no worse than that of an ill-kept farm today. Now we reach the waterfront where there is a Viking ship unloading its cargo of skins, furs and barrels of herring whilst sailors patch sails, mend nets and children listen, awestruck, to seafaring tales of high adventure. We leave Jorvik through a fisherman's hut, with the sounds of people going home at the end of the day, and come back into the 1980's. Now we slide through actual excavations still taking place, with the remains of buildings, rubbish dumps, cess-pits etc. all around us,

some fully exposed and some in the process of being dug out. On one side is the actual site of the house whose reconstruction we passed through with the blackened fireplace clearly visible.

Reluctantly we left our time-cars and walked into the exhibition hall where we could have spent several hours, examining articles that had been dug up and watching archaeologists carefully sifting the earth to find tiny items that provide clues to the Viking way of life: pollen grains, seeds, bugs and even fleas. Unfortunately, time was short and we had time only to see a few exhibits, such as a cherry stone of Viking times compared with a modern one, the latter being more than twice the size; and herring bones, to my surprise, quite different from each other though only a thousand years apart in time. Just before leaving this hall we found an item that caused much mirth. The Viking equivalent of that roll of small sheets of paper that we use for somewhat personal operations every day: the toilet roll! What did the Vikings use? Guess what — dried moss! A rapid tour of the well-stocked shop displaying most interesting wares: copies of Viking jewellery, Roman spoons and ornaments etc. and we came to the end of a fascinating expedition.

*Outside Harewood House.*





# Electronic Organ Weekend

October 17th - 22nd

By Stan Coe

Our long weekend began on Friday morning, 17th October by our worthy chairman Jim Padley opening the gathering that had assembled in the Winter Garden. After a resumé of what had taken place during the past year we then discussed suggestions for the coming year. Many voices spoke up and a happy note was immediately struck by all of us.

On our first afternoon most of us joined the outing which, as usual, was a great success allowing us to relax over a pleasant tea at the Wingrove Hotel in Alfriston. During our coach trip out, the remainder left in the house were entertained by Clive Allen with a 20th Century medley on the organ and by the remarks during dinner it was obvious everyone had enjoyed themselves. In the evening we were entertained by Mr Norris who, although he was playing for the first time on a very strange organ to himself, gave a very good performance. During his recital he broke in with a splendid pianoforte medley, that for myself was an excellent introduction to his skill on any keyboard. We were also very fortunate, for we had more pleasure to come from this gentleman when we paid our visit to the Seaford Royal British Legion on Tuesday evening.

After a Saturday morning free, we were entertained in the afternoon by Roy Bannister in the Winter Garden who had brought along some multi dubbing recordings which were introduced by his charming wife, Joyce. On the Saturday evening all of our members, with their escorts, sat down to a magnificent dinner, presented by the Red Ball catering company. We had as our guests Mr and Mrs Ernie Took who volunteered to give any of the men private tuition whenever time permitted. The evening was a resounding success and judging by the conversation we would hope to repeat a similar evening at next year's weekend. After the food, accompanied by some very good wine,

had been dealt with we all regrouped up in the annexe where Ernie played out the evening as many of our group tripped the light fantastic.

On the following morning, that being the Sunday, many of the group attended the Church service at St Peter's Church, Brighton. After lunch on that same afternoon, a young man, one Steven Thorpe who was accompanied by his parents, joined us in the Winter Garden where we listened to a feast of music which entailed every type, from Church recital to popular hits of the day. There is no doubt this 23 year old virtuoso of the keyboard has a great future. As I said in my address to him, his music has the beauty and clarity of raindrops that glistened in the sunlight, revealing in every pearl of water, the colours of the rainbow. Such is his delivery and the magnitude of his performance one could listen to him spellbound for many hours. On the same evening once more we were dazzled by Tony Back who gave us a complete evening of wonderful music, as well as a quiz and then rounded his evening off, asking us to join in a sing-song, which everyone in the house enjoyed. It is obvious that here is a man who will be asked to come back at any time to give us more of his musical charm.

After a free morning the Monday afternoon was taken up by a spectacular performance by Alan Blake who in his inimitable style, had us all humming, tapping our feet and thoroughly enjoying a grand selection, and if that wasn't sufficient he tinkled the ivories while everyone in the lounge sipped their tea. At our usual Monday evening dance Ernie Took provided a galaxy of music in his own easy style, where once more we danced and sang the whole evening. A very enjoyable day.

Tuesday morning saw the whole group gathering in the Winter Garden ready to have our General Meeting, which was

chaired by Jim Padley. Many things were discussed for the forthcoming year as well as the happiness which had been evoked by the present weekend for which a vote of thanks went to Sheila Morris for all the help she had given us. It appears that the same chairman and committee have to stand for one more year and the meeting declared itself closed just before lunch. Our weekend which had obviously been a resounding success came to an end as we listened enraptured to one who has become our dear friend, Douglas Reeve. His easy manner and pleasant wit rounded off a wonderful electronic organ weekend.

## ELECTRONIC ORGAN FOR SALE

A St. Dunstaner wishes to offer his Wurlitzer electronic organ for sale. It is in good condition, complete with stool and instruction manual. The asking price is £500. Would anyone interested please write to The Editor, *St. Dunstan's Review*, at Headquarters.

## UP WITH THE BRAINS Computer Weekend, November 15/16th

By Ray Hazan

The whistling in the corridor stopped abruptly as the two old friends met.

'Hey ho, and what are you doing down here?'

'I've come for the computer weekend.'

'Oh, up with the brains are you?'

I am grateful to that unknown inquisitor, for it enables me to dispel from the very beginning the idea that you need brains to use a computer. Typing skills, imagination and a good dose of idleness (let the machine take the strain), are ample qualifications for the beginner!

The computer enthusiast varies little from any other enthusiast in that he or she is more than willing to share knowledge and experience. The object of the weekend, therefore, was to gather together all

## SECOND DAN JUDO MAN

Congratulations to Peter Watson, of Brighton, who achieved his Second Dan over and above the Black Belt at the Headquarters of the Kyushindo International Judo Association at Highgate on November 16th.

To show that he is Second Dan, Peter received a secondary badge for his belt, following the initial circular badge awarded on achievement of the First Dan, which he received in December 1985. He will now be working towards his Third Dan in November 1989. Peter explained that all the Judo movements have been learnt by the time you reach black belt stage and that the Dan grades are purely for the purpose of perfecting your style and skill; each grade has to be that bit better than the last. In Kyushindo Judo you are not allowed to make use of strength and size: balance and timing are of all importance. Peter also teaches classes of all levels in Judo, besides practising himself every week, and is studying for a First Aid Course examination which he will do this month (Jan 87).



ducing ourselves, describing the machine we were using, and for what purposes. Answers varied from those who were attending simply to find out what all the fuss was about, to those who find the computer essential to their work, or hobby pursuit. This form of introduction meant that those of similar interests could get together. Much time was allowed for this and for beginners to 'play' on the key-boards throughout the weekend.

On the Saturday, we were addressed by our first guest, Paul Blenkhorn of Diamond Wilkinson Associates. Paul recently moved to the company from Birmingham, where he was a trail blazer in writing programs which enabled blind people to use primarily the BBC micro, and now, the NEC and the new Amstrad PC. Because of the widely varying degree of knowledge in the audience, he confined his talk to giving a useful and interesting overview of various systems, from speech units to braille embossers. His talk prompted many questions, and we were privileged to have him there despite the many demands on him.

If you were visting IFH without a calendar of events at hand, you would only have to keep your ears open to learn about the meeting in progress. The dining-room, corridors and bar echoed with such phrases as 'just to the left of the function 1 key', 'I find nested loops a trial', and 'get AS%'. Technology is full of jargon, but all the speakers had to be congratulated on the way in which they kept everything simple, and it was during the 'off-duty' periods that much of the benefit was obtained from discussion and explanation.

We had two further excellent speakers on the Sunday morning. Mr. Vivian Daniels, a former radio producer, who has written many of the programs now used by the visually handicapped community. Being blind himself, his programs are ideally suited to use with the voice synthesiser. It was both useful and interesting to listen to the philosophy behind the writing; his approach, his objective and its execution. The proceeds of the money he earns from his software goes to a charitable trust in aid of third world blind people.

Our second speaker, David Calderwood was the founder of the 'Computer Talk' quarterly cassette magazine. This is a must for any user, especially for the BBC Micro owner. The cassette contains many items of interest; how readers use their systems, latest developments, extracts from magazines, software evaluation and copies of programs written by other enthusiasts. The tape costs £4 per annum and initial enquiries should be made via the secretary, Mike Cassidy, 137 Almond Road, Gorleston on Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8EN. David is a games enthusiast and has written many audio games, including golf, pin ball, and many others. He gave us a mouth watering appetiser into a totally different facet of computing.

The final session was a useful input by all members present. Phil Duffee is maintaining a register of all users and asked that anyone owning a computer, whatever the make, should write to him letting him know which system they have, how they use it, what programs they run. He can then act as a focal point to redirect enquiries. He did emphasise that all enquiries should be in writing, as telephone calls interrupt lessons. Peter Jones reiterated that his 'St. Dunstan's Prog 1' was freely available on both disk and cassette. This contains diary and sorting facilities that would get any beginner off to a good start. The student tape library has a good collection of books; membership of the library is not necessary, simply contact Goswell Road on 837 9921 and ask for a list of tapes.

We were pleased, and fortunate to have with us Tom Laydon of the Manpower Services Commission. Quite apart from being of immense help practically, his knowledge and advice within the working environment was of great benefit to us all. What better than to end on a note of advice from him. Second hand BBC Micro's are becoming cheaply available. The early models can be easily updated, thus for a 3 figure sum a whole new challenge can open up, be it a talking typewriter, office filing system, a talking game, or a mental stimulator. We look forward to having you join the group at our next weekend in April, 1987.



## SAFE PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE

By Walter Thornton

*Walter Thornton, O.B.E., Chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution of the Blind (BRIB) shows the Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP, Secretary of State for Social Services, a model of the BRIB's Rehabilitation and Resource Centre.*

This was the title of a one-day seminar held recently at the Department of Transport in London, as part of the European Road Safety Year. It was the latest in a succession of meetings which began five years ago during the International Year of the Disabled, when the declared objective was 'Travel without Handicap for the Handicapped'. Two civil servants have been closely identified with the process represented by this series of meetings, Sir Peter Baldwin, K.C.B., former Permanent Under Secretary, and Anne Fry. The latter's contribution has been recognised by her appointment to head the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, a statutory body established by the Transport Act of 1985, and also by her being one of the 'Women of the Year' at the 1986 Savoy Luncheon.

'Safe Paths to Independence' had Peter Bottomley, M.P., Under Secretary of State for Transport, as its principal speaker. Others represented consumer groups such as the National Federation of the Blind, the Access Committee and St. Dunstan's. There were also representatives

from sections of the community providing services, such as the police, local government, British Home Stores, Avon County Council Surveyor's Department, the Electricity Council and the Street Works Act Review Committee. One does not expect results overnight from seminars such as the 'Safe Paths to Independence' one. It does, however, represent another stage in the process of shaping opinion which leads to action.

It brought out the need for handicapped groups to pool their efforts to secure action. It was another step in the constant campaign to restrict pavement-parking (a reminder about which is being sent out by the Department of Transport with car licence reminders) and to promote avoidance of other unnecessary obstructions on pavements, like the portable shop signs which seem to have mushroomed lately. Once again, it brought home the need for co-operation by all and sundry in easing the progress of the handicapped in going about their lawful business. It was another reminder to the powers-that-be that independence for



the handicapped within the community is more economical than permanent stay in hospitals or residential homes.

As Sir Peter Baldwin modestly put it when referring to the achievements of the past five years, 'We've got things rolling'. It is now much more generally accepted that consultation with representatives of handicapped groups at the planning stage can secure provision which costs little more than developments which ignore the needs of the handicapped, the overall result being provision which is better for the public at large. More pelican crossings with audible signals mean more road safety, as do better protected scaffolding and better protection of road-and pavement-works. Probably the textured surfaces or 'bumpy pavements' to indicate approach to a pelican crossing represent special provision just for blind people; they are, however, just one part of the stimulus to the Research Sections of the Department of Transport which is producing a spin-off in other directions. Examples are the experimental 'cone of sound' signal for dual-carriageways, which has been installed at a pelican crossing near a Home for blind persons on a particularly busy section of the Bristol Road South, Birmingham; the personal device for extending the length of display of the 'green man' signal; and the work which is going on in connection with 'ELSIE', the talking bus stop. There have been considerable developments during the past five years in the training of staff on transport undertakings, so that there is a much more lively awareness of ways of helping disabled travellers. Direct results of representations by blind groups include the talking map of the London Underground system. Then there is the introduction of the rail card for disabled people, and the arrangement by which a guide dog owner, travelling on British Rail with dog, can have a first class sleeper for the price of a second class ticket.

The list goes on: there is the 'CARE-LINE' bus service connecting London railway termini and Heathrow; The 'Dial-a-Ride' scheme; more public address announcements on British Rail, etc., and indications are that the list will be extended by seminars such as this.

## THE TALKING UNDERGROUND MAP

A talking Underground 'map' mentioned by Walter Thornton in his article has been produced by London Regional Transport's Unit for Disabled Passengers.

The 'map' is an audio cassette on which every Underground line is described and all stations are listed. It was produced with the advice of the Royal National Institute for the Blind on how best to meet the need of visually-handicapped passengers for a sound equivalent of the popular printed map. Technical help was given by the National Tape Magazine for the Blind.

Each Underground line appears on the tape in alphabetical order. The main characteristics of the line are first described, followed by a list of the stations starting in turn from each end of the line. Interchanges with British Rail and with other Underground lines are clearly identified.

The station names are well-spaced, with audible cues to assist in locating specific lines on the 'map' when travelling or before setting out.

Anyone who would like a free copy of the cassette should write to the Unit for Disabled Passengers, London Regional Transport, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD, or telephone 01-222 5600.

## SPORTS DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT

The Royal National Institute for the Blind Technical Services are offering practical assistance in the development of aids and adaptations to enable blind people to participate in sport alongside sighted players.

The point is made that many successful systems have been developed locally but there has been no method of co-ordinating their development nationally. Help will be available for construction of prototypes, evaluation and possibly, marketing. For information contact Chris Attrill, Sports and Leisure Officer, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Telephone: 01-388 1266.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 3973

### Acid Drops

By Kenneth Williams

Read by Christopher Slade

Reading Time 4½ hours

This is a lovely collection of examples of the English language being used as a deadly and potent weapon. Many are venerable and oft-quoted but it is a real pleasure to meet old friends... 'Jimmy' Thomas, the Labour MP was not noted for his purity of tongue. 'I've got an 'orrible 'eadache' he complained. 'Poor man' said F.E. Smith, 'What you need is a couple of aspirates!'

Williams recounts the celebrated encounter between two deadly enemies Lord Sandwich and the firebrand John Wilkes. 'Sir!' announced his Lordship, 'you will either die of the pox or on the gallows!' 'That all depends, My Lord, whether I embrace your mistress or your principles!' replied Wilkes.

Most of the great wits are represented here: Wilde, Shaw, Beecham, Dorothy Parker, H.L. Menken, Mark Twain and many more. There is W.C. Fields' famous dictum that 'Anybody who hates small children and little dogs can't be all bad!', and my own favourite from Dorothy Parker — that the only way to keep children at home was 'to provide a warm comfortable home atmosphere... and let the air out of their tyres!'

Sometimes the most devastating remark can fall flat due to the ignorance of the recipient. A critic told the leader of a revered pop group, 'You have the musical ear of a Van Gogh.'

'Gee, thanks a lot!' said the 'musician'.

*Acid Drops* is a gorgeous mélange of *Bon mots*, 'put-downs', 'send-ups' and downright 'bitchery' compiled by a man who (if you'll pardon the expression) is himself no slouch with the English language.

Cat. No. 4188

### The Frights

By Nicholas Salaman

Read by George Hagan

Reading Time 7½ hours

It is 1942 but at Cutcombe Hall the county seat of the aristocratic Sandersons, life goes on pretty much as usual. The Good Lord and the fruitful Cutcombe acres will — and do — provide.

The undisputed head of the family is Granny Sanderson, usually full of good food and acid comment. She is inordinately proud of the fact that son Tristram is away serving King and country as an officer and a gentleman, though in truth he is not doing terribly well in either capacity. His wife Julia spends much of her time being elegant and alluring — a role in which Nature has been more than generous in endowment.

Julia has two sons, Rufus aged nine and Adam, six. Rufus is a sadistic little swine who terrorises his younger brother with threats of The Frights, malignant night creatures who snatch small boys who do not fall in with elder brothers' every wish.

Regular visitors to the Hall are two American officers from a nearby base. Major 'Chuck' Caldwell is an ex-cattleman, red of face and foul of tongue. Lieutenant Thomas Lippencot is a Harvard-trained physicist who is forever quoting poetry, much to Major Chuck's obscenely expressed disgust. Both men lust after the nymphomaniacal Julia who is more than willing to do her bit for Anglo-American relations.

Living in a cottage in the grounds with his English wife is an Italian painter, Franco, who owes his liberty to the grace and favour of Granny Sanderson's influential pals. This does not prevent his doing a little gentle spying in his spare time.

With such an assorted crowd of characters anything can happen. It often does...

A most unusual first book. The style has a tongue-in-cheek quirky edge which makes for very enjoyable reading.





Lady Trumpington enjoys a joke with Dick Brett and Harry Preedy at Ian Fraser House.

St. Dunstan's last 'Old Contemptible', Bob Finch meets the Minister at Pearson House.



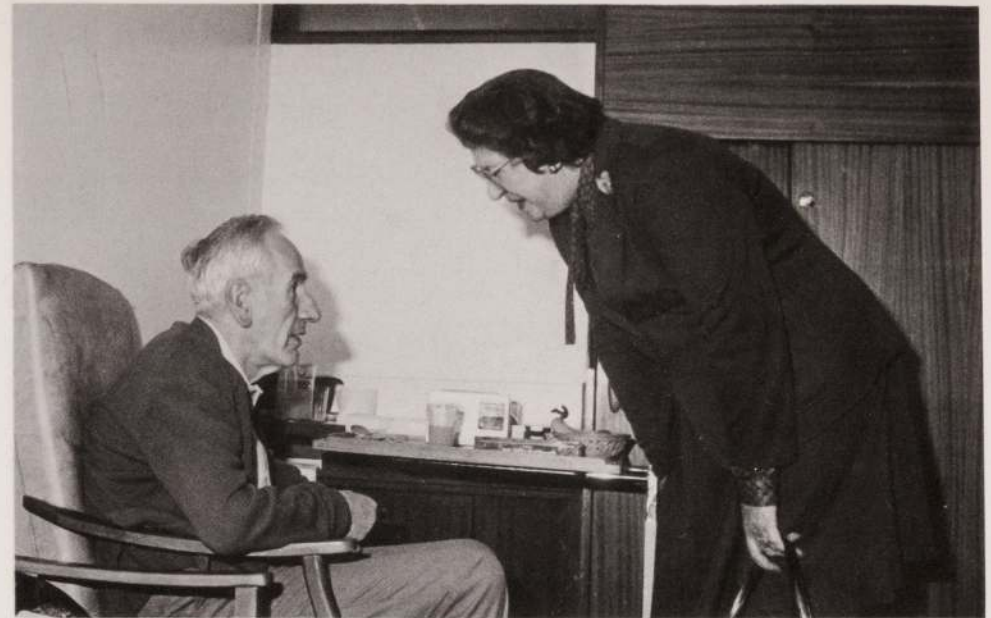
## MINISTER VISITS St. DUNSTAN'S

Story and Pictures: David Castleton

The Baroness Trumpington of Sandwich, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, visited St. Dunstan's Homes in Brighton on Friday, November 28th.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach was at Brighton Station to meet the Minister and conduct her to Pearson House, where she was greeted by Mr. William Weisblatt, Secretary, Commander Simon Conway, Administrator, Brighton Homes and Group Captain Keith Martin, Pensions Officer.

Half of Pearson House is in the hands of the builders so Lady Trumpington's tour was limited to the nursing wing where she met staff working in improvised accommodation and St. Dunstaners in an emergency lounge and in their rooms. She was particularly interested to meet Leslie Webber, who was staying temporarily in the House, when she learned that he had been Mayor of Tewkesbury. Lady



Talking about civic duties with Leslie Webber.

Under the guidance of Laurie Austin, Lady Trumpington borrows 'Tiny' Pointon's bow.

Trumpington was Mayor of Cambridge and she and Leslie discussed the demands and pleasures of civic office for a few minutes.

On to Ian Fraser House where she was met by Major Arthur Neve, Deputy Administrator and Doctor Martin Knott, Medical Officer. In the main lounge Lady Trumpington clearly enjoyed exchanging banter with a group of St. Dunstaners including Harry Preedy, Dick Brett and Bernard Blacker — and she had a special word for Albert Grimshaw, aged 92, among others.

In the Training Wing the Minister was keenly interested in what was going on in the kitchen, especially the use of microwave ovens, concluding that she ought to have one herself. In the Handicraft Rooms she admired the wide variety of work going on and, in the Braille and Computer Room, quizzed Phil Duffee on braille note taking with a hand frame and listened to the spoken output from the computer operated by trainee, Doug Field.

In the Ladies Lounge with Blodwyn Simon, Thelma Meredith and Brenda Rea, Lady Trumpington spoke of her own







Doug Field and Phil Duffee demonstrating the talking computer.

A greeting from Percy Stubbs in Handicrafts.



first-hand experience of coping with disability in the family and it was clear that with this experience and her Departmental responsibilities for war-pensioners she was deeply interested in all aspects of her visit.

After lunch and an inspection of one of the new double rooms in the South Wing the tour continued with a visit to the workshops. 'I have a picture I want framed, I wish I had brought it with me,' commented Lady Trumpington on seeing the standard set by Instructor John Brown and achieved by his students.

For the final part of the tour there was some very accurate bowling and archery going on in the Annexe to demonstrate the degrees of skill attained by St. Dunstaners in these sports. Lady Trumpington was full of praise, although she could not resist a joke with Walford Davies when he told her he was one of the first St. Dunstaner archers twelve years ago. 'Well you *should* be good then,' she said.

## A moment to spare with Syd Scroggie

### Christmas, Fact or Fable?

In the aftermath of the festive season, whether this is centred for you on the 25th December or the 1st January, I find myself realising that of these two aspects of mid-winter merry making it's the pagan one that's more convincing as regards its rationale, the Christian one less so. Admittedly nothing could be done to accelerate the procession of the equinox, the sun in its own time would gradually rise further N.E., climb higher in the southern sky, and set further to the N.W., and so such pagan rites as were designed to encourage in its motions what Yuletide sun there was reflected mere ignorance and superstition, but at the same time these had the practical effect that our northern ancestors felt they were doing something about it rather than passively submitting to an annual phenomenon, the winter solstice, which for all anyone knew might one year result in the sun's disappearance altogether. The psychological basis of these pagan rites was sound, and we have to congratulate the initiators of them on their astuteness. The people got their Beltane fires, Yule logs and mistletoe, drank their heather ale, and went away convinced that the grim gods of those times would see their point of view, once more stay their hand, and allow things to go on cosmically as they had always done before for at least one more year. Christian attitudes at this time of year, however, pay no attention to the sun, but rather to a star, and this is where we first glimpse that tissue of fable which has come to be interwoven with the story of the Nativity, a rebirth of hope for Christians where paganism concentrated on the rebirth of the sun. We're told the Magi followed this star from the East, and that it

led them to a stable in Bethlehem, but a moment's reflection shows this to be a quite preposterous notion, having at the same time, it must be admitted, a romantic and poetic quality as pleasing to the emotions as its absurdity is repellent to the intellect. For it's only if this hypothetical star had bobbed about in front of their noses, more a will o' the wisp than a heavenly body, that it could ever have led the Magi to their destination, there to sit on the roof of the stable till it saw the Magi safely inside. All this is to say nothing of the unlikelihood, extreme to the point of impossibility, that Kaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, for all their magical powers of divination, could ever have predicted the date of the birth of the saviour of Mankind, let alone the locality of his mother's confinement. Meantime we're told that the multitude of the heavenly host appeared in the night sky on this occasion, certain shepherds getting the fright of their lives as a consequence. Well, in the first place the heavenly host, spiritual like God himself, can therefore not be visible, as they must also be impalpable to the other senses; and in the second place it's pretty obvious from Luke's description of this phenomenon that what the shepherds saw was a display of northern lights, something so uncommon in these latitudes as to suggest in minds un-educated regarding such things the idea of divinely inspired ongoings up there. The incontrovertible fact is that Jesus was born, but as for the rest it's pure fable, having no more connection with the Nativity, nor needing to have, than Yule logs with the return of the sun, Beltane fires and mistletoe with the heliocentric nature of Earth's orbit.





Piping in the New Year.



John O'Donnell at the microphone with full supporting company in McNamara's Band.



Part of the appreciative audience.



Welsh Lass, Blodwyn Simon with her escort, Jenny Sidol.

## Happy Christmas at Brighton

By Simon Conway. Photos: John Barrow, Phyllis Conway and Nick Shaw

The traditional start to the Brighton Homes Christmas Festivities — the Pearson House concert — was somewhat low key because the refurbishment programme has left us without much space for a stage or for dressing up but the Care Assistants produced a lively and tuneful entertainment, a splendid effort in the circumstances and a great credit to all concerned.

The married quarters at Ian Fraser House were again full over Christmas and the New Year and this helped to make it seem like a happy family party.

Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife, Joyce, who had visited Pearson House earlier in the day, attended the Dance on 20th December and presented the annual Brighton Club prizes during a most enjoyable evening.

The Reverend Michael Bootes brought the entire Sunday School, ages ranging from 5 to 14, from his Ovingdean Parish to Chapel on Sunday 21st and they sang some delightful carols for us. We particularly enjoyed the singing of one little choir girl who held her music upside down throughout the service! I hope we can make their visit an annual fixture.

Beatty Wright's concert on Christmas Eve — enhanced by improved stage curtaining — was, as usual, great fun for the artistes and seemed to hit the spot with the appreciative audience. (Overheard

from a C.A.: 'If we can do so well without rehearsals think what it would be like if we had them!')

The New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Ball, first held last year, was again very well patronised. The judgement of such splendidly inventive costumes is always difficult but the eventual winners were:

Best Couple: Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Hannant — Boy Scout and Girl Guide  
 2nd Mr. and Mrs. George Cole — Noddy and Spanish Lady  
 3rd — Mr. and Mrs. F. Tucker — Spanish Lady and Nell Gwynne  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor — Miss Muffet and her harlequin spider

Best Lady: Blodwyn Simon — Welsh lass  
 2nd Elsie Aldred — Christmas cracker  
 3rd Winnie Edwards — Roaring twenties

Best Gentleman: Peter McCormack — Egyptian Mummy  
 2nd Sid Doy — Customs Officer  
 3rd — Joe Walton — Mickey Mouse  
 Henry Turley — Donald Duck

Funniest: Joe Kibbler — Chest (full) of (ladies) drawers

The proceedings were enlivened, as usual, by Ernie Took and his Syncopated Hot Shots and the New Year was helped in by Scottish Pipes and Drums — and, of course, by Gino's formidable Hogmanay Punch!



Ron Bowles and Gladys standing in a sketch.

Duetists, Marnie Bennett and Harry Wheeler.



Gwendoline and Ernie Hannant with Phyllis Conway.

The Fancy Dress Parade.







## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

*On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.*

**Joshua Hall Callum**, of Peterborough, joined St. Dunstan's on October 30th.

Mr. Callum served with the 2nd Gordon Highlanders during the Second World War, and was a prisoner of the Japanese from 1942. After his discharge from the Army in 1946, Mr. Callum spent the remainder of his working life as a syphon attendant with the Northern Gas Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Callum have arranged to attend the 1987 POW Reunion, and ex-POW St. Dunstaners will have the pleasure of meeting them then.

**Glyndwr Shoesmith**, of Llanelli, joined St. Dunstan's on 17th December, 1986. He served with the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957. He is married and has a family.

**Arthur Slade**, of Heathfield, Sussex, joined St. Dunstan's on December 10th. Mr. Slade, who is 74, served as a Corporal in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, having enlisted in 1931. He was posted to Palestine, in 1936, and having been transferred to the Reserve, in 1938, was recalled to ser-

vice in 1939 and sent to Egypt. Our St. Dunstaner was discharged from the Army in 1942.

He and his wife, Gladys, have been married for 45 years.

**George Henry Wiles**, of Newquay, joined St. Dunstan's on November 17th.

Mr. Wiles, who is 64, served as a Stoker in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He and his wife, Kathleen, have been married for over 40 years and have three adult sons.

**James Wood**, of Orpington, Kent joined St. Dunstan's on December 9th.

Mr. Wood, who is 70, enlisted in the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers, in 1935, and served in Palestine, Singapore and India. He was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese, in Burma, in 1942, and as a result of the deprivation he suffered, his vision was affected.

Our St. Dunstaner and his wife, Eiddwen, have been married for 55 years.

neers not the Royal Corps of Engineers as in the December *Review*. This nice distinction is because each member of the Corps is considered to be a Royal Engineer, he tells us.

### NATIONAL METRO SPORTS

The 11th Annual National Metro Sports Competition for the Visually Handicapped will take place on Saturday 11th July at the New River Stadium, White Hart Lane, Haringey (nearest tube station Wood Green).

Application forms for participation in the sports competition will be available in April from Graham Salman, 15 Kenilworth Gardens, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3AG, telephone 01-508 7623.

### OBITUARY

#### Mr. Gareth Maynard

We are sorry to report the death of Mr. Gareth Alun Maynard, Chairman of St. Dunstan's (Zimbabwe) on 22nd October.

Mr. Maynard served with the Palestine Police in Southern Rhodesia. After retiring from the Police he entered business in the motor trade. In 1979 he took over the Chairmanship of St. Dunstan's in Southern Rhodesia, later Zimbabwe, and visited St. Dunstan's in Britain on a number of occasions. We send deep sympathy to his wife and members of his family.

### CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

Ken Revis points out that 'The Sappers' is correctly styled The Corps of Royal Engi-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From: D.S. Frape, Dining Room Steward, Pearson House

May I say as a member of staff, how interested I was to read the article by Leo Neasham in the November and December *Reviews*.

I sincerely hope that this will not be the last of this type of account of the First World War.

I have read a great deal about the Second World War, but very little of the personal accounts of the men of the Great War.

Perhaps you could persuade a few of the very few that are left to recount some of their experiences, before memories become too faded, not that any of them are likely to forget the hardships and injuries that they have suffered fighting and serving their country.

### From Sydney Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine

Bob Lloyd's funny experience, described in the December *Review*, has much in common with what happened to me at Battlefields, Church Stretton. As I lay in bed one night, my hands crossed on the quilt, I first felt my foot being touched and explored, then my right hand was lifted up and caressed by what seemed the plump, gloved hand of a gentle old lady. My hand was restored to its place, then Sammy Stinson, who shared my room, bawled, 'Who's there.' Having accomplished, perhaps what it came for the spirit of this benign old lady never in my experience manifested itself again.

### From Ray Vowles, Portsmouth

May I congratulate you on the clarity and presentation of the "*Review*". I find the contents very interesting when names are mentioned of men I met at Church Stretton in 1942/44. I have something rather pathetic but amusing to tell you.

In a former edition of the *Review* it was announced in the family news section that

my youngest daughter Julie had given birth to a baby girl. Listening with me was Julie's other daughter, Charlotte aged seven.

When it was finished I heard her gently sobbing and when I enquired what was wrong she said 'Well, the man spoke about Mummy, Daddy and our new baby but didn't mention *me*' I hastily assured her that, when the time came I would do what I could for her. That time has now arrived, for Charlotte has recently won a silver medal for tap-dancing at a local festival. She would be delighted to hear it mentioned of course with her full name which is Charlotte Victoria Rich.

### ARCHERY NEWS

St. Dunstan's archers were among 70 competitors ranging from beginners to internationals at the Inter-Services Tournament held on 7th December, at Bovington Army Camp, near Dorchester. Shooting against sighted archers, no member of our team won but Tommy Gaygan came third overall on handicap and won a bronze medal.

In a knock-out competition, the Marconi shoot-down, Norman Perry reached the last 16 and was just beaten by a fraction in his effort to make the quarter-finals.

Ted Bradford, Coach-in-charge told the *Review* 'Norman caused quite a stir and all our archers made a big impression.'

### H.M.S. DAEDALUS CAMP 1987

Will all those veteran campers and those wishing to come for the first time note that through the continued generosity of the Royal Navy the camp at H.M.S. Daedalus will take place from Friday, 7th August, 1987 until the morning of the 15th August.

Those who would like to apply to come should please contact Elspeth Grant (preferably by telephone — number 0799 22874) or if by letter then to High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB1 4XG as soon as possible and not later than **Saturday, 2nd May, 1987.**



# BOWLING

By Ted Brown

## Giving a helping hand in Guernsey

You have already read about the tense week we had at Southport in the English National Championships, and about the relaxing week at Queen's Park Brighton in July. It was during the first week of the latter that I received a letter from Guernsey asking if I could take a cross-section of bowlers to demonstrate the art of visually handicapped bowling — how we competed against the sighted clubs, and the most important thing, how and what our wives did during the game! I'm happy to say that this venture turned out to be very successful. Before I go any further I must thank Commander Conway and the transport section for their prompt co-operation before going and then on our return journey.

At first we didn't realise what type of programme they wanted from us, but after a couple of telephone calls and letters, we were able to leave knowing how much bowling they wanted us to do, and in the end things turned out satisfactorily for everyone.

After a short and comfortable journey we arrived at the airport in Guernsey where we were met by Ted Parks, the Rehabilitation Officer for the Guernsey Association for the Blind. As well as doing his own work, both he and his wife Jean helped us through the week, both in the bowls matches and on the social side, and I know everyone appreciated their efforts very much indeed.

Our first outside social activity was at a museum, unusual in as much as it was octagonal in shape. All the separate buildings were connected by passageways, and in the construction they had given much thought to the handicapped, especially those in wheelchairs. They had also thought of our visit very carefully. Knowing that we were all war disabled — with some much worse than others — they saved us all a long walk around the museum by bringing into one lecture

theatre a variety of items ranging from ancient and modern weapons to local rocks, marble, and various other pieces of material that were common to the island. Animals, butterflies and other insects as well as fish were also on display. We were very lucky to have had three very good lecturers who explained things very well. The Curator of the museum welcomed us and gave us a little history of the museum itself.

Afterwards we had a very pleasant surprise. We were given a tour of the grounds and when we returned we were taken into a side room where we were all introduced to members of the Guernsey tourist board. To our surprise and delight champagne and delicacies were supplied by the tourist board, and at the end of our little get-together the manager of the tourist board, Mike Burbridge, presented a plaque to me for all members of St Dunstan's from the people of Guernsey, which I accepted with pride. I thanked the people through Mike, and said I would present it at a suitable time.

We arrived back at the hotel to change into our whites for our first match which was against a ladies' team. Very good they were too. They were more interested in the different ways we stood and delivered our bowls, than they were in the result, and, believe me, we all had a very happy and enjoyable match. We were pleased that we would meet them again on the last day.

We bowled against the few visually handicapped on the island. They soon found out that we were getting better results by the way we delivered. They relied on sound from the front with someone clapping their hands behind the jack. I later explained to them that the best way is to think for themselves and not rely on sound, because if four games were being played at the same time there would be too much noise and they wouldn't be able



Home team and visitors in Guernsey. Photo: Guernsey Press Co. Ltd.

to hear any instructions at all. I'm sure they will do well in the future, but they will have to keep at it.

We had several other games against different teams of the club, and the best one I had was when partnering Percy. We were challenged to a game of two hours or twenty-one shots by the two young ladies who won the silver medal in the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh last year. As we did so well in the Third World Games they threw out the challenge, and what a game it turned out to be!

The match was a ding dong affair all the way through. They were very surprised when they were two or three behind at one time, but they began to show us how they won their silver medals by coming back very strongly. Not to be outdone, we retaliated and played the game of a lifetime. Believe me, they appreciated that. They saw for themselves how visually handicapped people in the club can bowl when they get the right people to help and back them, inside and outside.

An afternoon's outing to the Island of Herm, or should I have said, "Herm Island?", was organised by a lady we only know as Nina. She does most of the organising on the main island of Guernsey for the visually handicapped. When she heard how many different projects and

hobbies the St Dunstaner's undertook she was amazed. I assured her that her lads and lassies could do the same if they put their minds to it, and were helped by the people all around them when it is needed. I'm sure our visit has done a great deal for everyone involved on the island, and I know how much Nina appreciated it. She really couldn't do enough for us, and I would like to say thank you to her and all those who made it such a happy week.

The trip to Herm started by a coach arriving at our hotel and taking us to the dock area where we sat out in the sun until the boat was ready, and, would you believe, it happened to be the hottest day of their summer! The sea was very kind and we had a gentle crossing, arriving on the island to meet steep flights of steps and then concrete slopes. The climb was worth it in the end, but I can tell you it made me puff hard. The ladies went into the shops while we sat out in the sun and enjoyed every minute of the warm sunshine. After such bracing sea air I can assure you we were ready for dinner when we arrived back at our hotel.

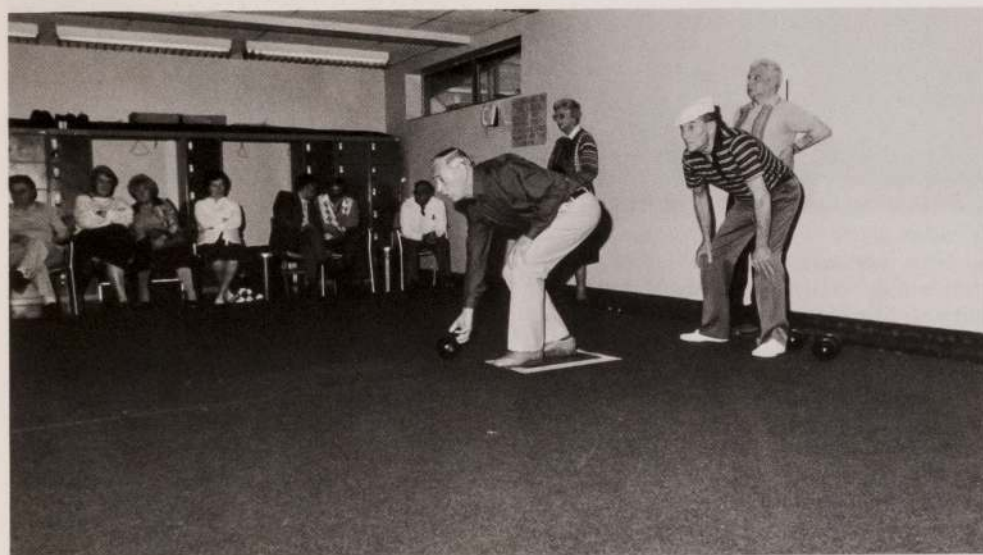
After our last match, which was against the President's team, another plaque was presented to St. Dunstan's National Bowling Club by the President of the Guernsey Indoor Bowling Club. I accepted the gift



on the club's behalf and gave a speech of thanks to those concerned.

As they say, all good things must come to an end, so we made our fond farewells to the hotel staff and many other friends we had made. Ted and Nina Elenor were there at the airport to see us off and after a short journey we arrived at Gatwick where we were met by Ben and the coach. After a few words with the security personnel we were allowed to be on our way back to Brighton and a welcome cup of tea at Ian Fraser House.

Before I close I would like to thank all the staff at Ian Fraser House for the help and co-operation they gave to us on our brief stay, especially Commander Conway for all his help with the transport, and for all his help during the year. Last but not least I must thank all those at Headquarters for the way in which they helped us all through. My personal thanks go to Mr. Weisblatt for the correspondence he has promptly answered, and for the interest he has shown in us for the past two years. Thank you once again, sir.



Tom Renshaw bowling against Harry Preedy. Photos: David Castleton.

## ST. DUNSTAN'S NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

It's never twelve months ago since we last held this championship is it? Well you had better believe it, because it's quite true.

The time goes so quickly from outdoor to indoor bowling that there is not even time to clean windows, never mind windows AND cut the grass, or haymaking in some cases, and on top of that, reports to be sent off for the *Review* as I think it is very important to let everyone know what you are doing and how you enjoy it or not.

This year more bowlers entered for the competition than before, but through some misjudgement somewhere along the line one or two couldn't get in the

house because it was full, but we will have to discuss these things later on.

But as was expected the programmes and charts that Jock made and sent out were soon rendered useless by men turning up not notifying the sports organiser of their intentions before arriving, and what with the cancellations poor old Jock had to do some quick work in producing the new programmes in time for the start. But as usual he was on time, and if I might just add something here, they wouldn't have been ready if he had not taken them home and finished them, thanks Jock you did a great job. But the alterations didn't

stop there, oh no; unfortunately three persons had to go to London for treatment so more changes had to be made, but with very good co-operation between the bowlers, matches were changed around to keep continuity going throughout the tournament. But after two matches of the totally blind section two bowlers had to drop out on doctor's advice but fortunately it didn't make a great deal of difference to the results. It's unfortunate but these things always seem to happen at the big occasions. Let us all hope we can get a good fortnight in March, and talking about the March tournament, please send in to the Sports Organiser Jock Carnochan in plenty of time, and in writing.

The tournament on the whole went off very well, apart from one little upset at the beginning, things settled down after the first week, and that was after the Annual General meeting which was held in the Winter Garden, a lot of views were expressed and aired, and after a lengthy discussion the new committee was formed.

### Improvement

The standard of bowling has certainly improved since our last indoor tournament, and the pleasing thing this time was the number of new bowlers and how well they bowled, and their determination in the amount of time they would like to put in is more than encouraging to the club as a whole. I know that one or two new ones will be going out on the circuit next year, and I'm sure they will enjoy that a lot more than indoors. But keep practising when and wherever you can, it will certainly be useful to you and the team.

At this point I would like to say to anyone who is a St. Dunstaner and would like to start bowling when they go down to Ian Fraser House at any time of the year you can do so if you wish. There are two members of the committee living in the area, and the telephone numbers will be put in at the end, and also if I might add that you make yourselves known at the Brighton Sports and Social Club which is on every Wednesday afternoon, you will be made very welcome I'm sure, and with them you



Alan Mitchell and Ron Freer admiring a good end.

might get a little more bowling on their days, it's worth thinking about. I'm sure that anyone in the house who is interested in bowling will always be willing to give you a game.

The results of the tournament were very encouraging again, we had another triple winner this time in Tom Renshaw, well done Tom, he tied with Percy in the

Geoff Bunting receives his trophy from Simon Conway.





totally blind section the same number of points and the same number of shots, so one more end had to be played to decide the winner. Percy was runner up, well done matey.

Elmer Richards helped Tom to win the pairs, Elmer also helped Tom and Jackie Pryor to win the triples. Keep trying, the runners up will have it next year, with a bit of luck. The partially sighted singles was won by Ron Freer and the runner up Colwyn Lloyd. But I must say very well done to Alan Mitchell and to the wheelchair star, our Geoffrey Arnold Bunting, who got into the last four. The pairs was won by Walford Davies and Ernie Hannant, and the runners up were Harry Davies and Ted Brown, and may I say very well done Harry — the time is near for your first win so keep it up boyo. There is one more person who I think should be mentioned for effort given in the tournament this time and that is our Champ Vi, Vi who? Vi Delaney of course, she has tried every game and given her all each time, and it was so nice to see her win a couple of games, and that has got to be encouraging for any new bowler, well done champ, and I mean that Vi.

We had a very nice change half way through the tournament, thanks to the efforts of the Brighton Club who put the annual dinner and dance on while we were all down and may I thank the few

responsible for all the hard work they put in it as it was a mammoth job, and the Winter Garden just couldn't take any more, thanks a lot Joan and your worthy band of helpers.

Getting towards the end of the tournament, and during waiting spells between matches it became abundantly clear that we could do with extra bowling facilities for all purposes, and if I am any judge at all we will be getting quite a few more bowlers very soon, and I would like to see husband and wife competitions, ladies against the men, and I'm sure it will do a vast amount of good to get more husbands and wives doing something else together, it could be so much fun. Expensive? of course; no massed fun games are cheap today, but it had better be soon while we are still here to enjoy it.

This is the spot where I would like to give my thanks on behalf of all the St. Dunstaners and their wives, firstly to the Homes and Booking office at Headquarters, you are doing a great job as usual and that goes for a large number up there that are never mentioned but thank you very much all the same. My thanks to Major Neve and his staff for the attention given however small, we appreciate it very much, for the catering staff who really take some stick from us, but I can assure you it's all in good clean fun. I must once more mention two ladies by name, Joyce

*Bob Forshaw, Ron Freer and Jesse Mills, winners of the Percy Acton Trophy.*



*Parade of the prizewinners.*

in the transport office for the hard work again, and especially to Barbara for keeping the idle hands of the bowlers busy, by getting them fitted in up in the hobbies room, well done both. The next man to thank should be easy, we all know what he does but not how he does it, but he has certainly done it again this time, yes I mean Jock Carnochan, he must hate the sight of some of the bowlers, not many, but honestly Jock you've cracked it again, and what else can I say except thanks very much indeed.

Without delay I must say thanks and a very big thanks to those helpers who came in from Brighton and Hove to help out with the marking and other little jobs. Now comes a very difficult thank you, but I would like you all to know how much I appreciated all those who gave, and all those who sold raffle tickets, and believe me without the old brigade things wouldn't be the same, so thanks once again all of you.

At our end of the tournament dance, we were graced by the presence of Comman-

der Conway and his wife, who so graciously drew out the tickets for the raffle. Also present on invitation was Major Neve who did his usual round the Annexe trip chatting to most people.

Before the dancing started the trophies were presented by Commander Conway, and at the end of the presentation it was my pleasing duty to present the two plaques to him on our behalf and on behalf of the people of Guernsey, and they are both hanging up in the bar with all the other plaques. A very good night was had by all, and the buffet laid on by the Commander, and delightfully presented by Paul and Billy, and as usual they surpassed themselves once again, and thanks to the waiters who looked after us all during the dance, thanks everybody you have all been wonderful once again, keep it up.

Percy and I had to go to London early Saturday morning to an Executive meeting, so we still keep busy when we are not bowling, anyway folks and lady folks, I'll say cheerio all, keep bowling and see you all in the new year.



# National Bridge Congress 1986

By Reg Goding

The Congress was held at Ian Fraser House from 5th to 8th December. After an introductory talk by Geoff Connell, the Tournament Director, we all got down to business. Matches being played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a Drive in two parts on Monday, including St. Dunstaners, Markers and others.

The A.G.M. was held on Friday evening, Chaired by Commander Conway. After the Minutes had been read and approved and points raised and discussed, we then proceeded to elect the National Bridge Committee: Captain: B. Phillips, Secretary: R. Goding, Treasurer: A. Dodgson, the previous Treasurer having resigned, R. Fullard, to whom we expressed our thanks and appreciation for the way he had carried out his duties in preceding years. The Committee consists of: R. Evans, W. Lethbridge, F. Dickerson and V. Delaney.

The results of the various competitions will follow this report. At the conclusion of the Congress various prizes for the competition winners were presented by Miss Jean Bryson, who at the time was celebrating her own birthday, and we wish her well on her forthcoming retirement. We also thanked Geoff Connell and his wife, Enid and Roly for organising and running the competitions. Their assistance was very much appreciated and expressed by all. Geoff and Roly were presented with token gifts. Many thanks to Commander Conway and his staff, also congratulations to the Red Ball staff for the catering and for the excellent meal in the Winter Garden. Thanks go, also, to Maurice Dance and all the Markers for their help and assistance during the whole of the Congress.

Bridge players please note that we have had an invitation to play in the Channel Islands. I have been in contact with the Bridge Secretary there to fix dates and I have confirmed with the Committee at

our meeting on 13th December that a hotel in Guernsey has been provisionally booked for one week from Thursday 23rd to Thursday 30th April, 1987. Will all interested please discuss with Ian Dickson at H.Q., who will shortly have prices etc.

Here are the results of the 1986 Congress:

## Sir Arthur Pearson Pairs Championships

- |     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Harry Meleson and Jim Padley   |
| 2nd | Joe Carney and Peter McCormack |
| 3rd | Bill Allen and Ron Freer       |

## Paul Nuyens Teams of Four

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1st | Bob Fullard, Mike Tybinski, Reg Goding and George Hudson |
| 2nd | Bill Allen, Ron Freer, Ralph Pacitti and Alf Dodgson     |

Consolation prizes: Bill Miller and Reg Palmer with sighted players

## Alf Field Memorial Trophy — Datum Pairs

- |     |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1st | Wally Lethbridge and Vi Delaney |
| 2nd | Bob Fullard and Mike Tybinski   |
| 3rd | Bill Phillips and Bob Evans     |
| 4th | Joe Carney and Peter McCormack  |

## Lord Fraser Cup for Individual Championship

- |     |                                   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Harold King<br>— Bob Fullard      |
| 2nd | — Ron Freer<br>— Wally Lethbridge |
| 5th | Reg Goding                        |

## Teams of Four Championships for Sir Arthur Pearson Cup

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1st | Alf Dodgson, Ralph Pacitti, Reg Goding and Bill Miller          |
| 2nd | Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Joe Carney and Peter McCormack    |
| 3rd | Johnny Whitcomb, Freddie Dickerson, Bob Evans and Bill Phillips |

## Drummer Downs (Match Pointed)

- |     |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1st | Bob Fullard and Jim Padley      |
| 2nd | Ralph Pacitti and Mike Tybinski |
| 3rd | Ron Freer and Reg Goding        |

Consolation prize with sighted partner:  
Bob Evans

## Gover Cups

London: Wally Lethbridge  
Brighton: Bob Evans

## Monday 8 December

To round off the Bridge Congress a Bridge Drive was held attended by St. Dunstaners and Markers — The results were:—

- |     |                                    |      |
|-----|------------------------------------|------|
| 1st | R. Pacitti and Miss C. Sturdy      | 3200 |
| 2nd | H. Meleson and Mrs. Meleson        | 2020 |
| 3rd | R. Freer and Jim Whitley           | 1950 |
| 4th | M. Tybinski and Miss Stenn-<br>ing | 1730 |

Freddie Dickerson and Dr. Jane Goodlad won the Bridge Little Slam.

## Brighton Club Christmas Drive was held on Sunday 13 December, 1986.

20 Players took part and the winners were:—

- |     |                                    |     |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1st | Mrs. Buller-King<br>Miss C. Sturdy | 910 |
| 2nd | Mrs. Andrews<br>Mrs. Tebbit        | 750 |
| 3rd | Bob Evans<br>Dr. J. Goodlad        | 600 |
| 4th | Mr. & Mrs. R. Pacitti              | 350 |

## D.F. Robinson's

### GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and Happy New Year with plenty of presents for the garden and greenhouse. May the weather be nice and sunny with not too much snow or frost.

Try and get all the digging completed before the end of February plus the clearing of weeds from the beds but only do this when the beds are solid with frost or piles of snow. Keep off the beds when the soil is very heavy with mud.

When you have had strong gales check over the tall shrubs in case they have been lifted and some of the roots have come near the top. Tread in firmly again and

add some more soil plus stakes to ensure them being tightly held.

Get all the flower seeds ordered at once, plus some of the summer flowering bulbs and tubers. Ensure that all the garden tools are in good shape plus the mower and if you have forgotten to get this serviced get it done at once. Most of the garden shops will collect mowers and deliver them back after service.

## Vegetables

Get all the beds cleared of remaining plants which have given their best. Dig over the beds and leave fallow for a while so that the frosts can break up the lumps. Spread some lime over most areas, giving large amounts to the places you are going to use for your cabbage family.

Check over the canes plus the runner bean poles and if they are not up to standard order some more. The smaller canes can be used for the broad beans and peas. Get in some plastic netting to go over the ground where you are to set the vegetable seeds and the peas for the later stages so the birds don't strip the flowers or early pods.

Towards the end of February dig in compost or well rotted manure to give all the plants a good start. Remember to have in store some soil pest removers in powder form to put in the rows where the plants are to be grown.

Get all the seed potato tubers set into place in some boxes or trays with growing ends to the top and place in good light by a window in frost free sheds or garages. Where you are having some very frosty nights, it would be a good thing to cover in the evenings as some protection.

Some broad bean and pea seeds can be sown at the end of the month in the warmer areas, but it might be a good thing to keep them in their seed packages till March.

## Fruit

Make certain that you get all the pruning of hard fruits completed by the end of February. At this later month get all the damsons, pear and plums pruned well but not so hard as the apples unless you wish to reduce the size of the trees both upward and sideways.



I have found that pears give a better crop when pruned hard and kept to a smaller size.

Give all the beds of the trees a good covering of compost or manure as this will contain the moisture well and give the roots a good feed as time goes on. Remove all bark which comes away easily.

New strawberry roots can be made in February. Check the grease bands and replace any which are wasting away. Give main stems a spray of combined spray of weed killer and anti-disease solution.

### Lawns

There is little to be done now though some growth will start by the end of February. A bit of spiking to let the air in and also raking to get any rubbish out in piles and then picked up. A good brushing at the same time will get the remnants of the raking away.

Ensure that you have some fertiliser in stock plus weed killer if you have daisies and other perennial weeds. The fertiliser and weed killer can be used at the end of February or beginning of March.

Keep the edges of the lawn tidy by regular cutting. Do get the mowers into the garden shops at once to get them serviced if not already done so.

### Flowers

Get all the borders cleared of any dead items and fork over lightly in case you move out spring bulbs which are not already showing. Give a good top dressing of manure or compost at the same time and make sure to give the roots of the shrubs and perennials an extra covering of soil.

Check that these items are given stakes to protect them against the high winds especially in coastal areas. Cut away any broken shoots. Prune some of the deciduous shrubs but don't overdo the operation.

Hedges of beech, hawthorn and privet can be pruned to give a good shape and faster and thicker growth.

Rose bushes will do better in the summer if you give them a dose of manure at

root level and stake any which have a tendency to rock and a shovel of soil at root level and then heeled into place well. A spray of Black Spot solution over the plants and down at root level may help to stop the trouble as a start to the season.

Order all the seeds of annuals you will be needing for the season and try some of the newer varieties but don't sow until spring unless you have a greenhouse with some heat. Where you are wanting only a few try to warm in the airing cupboard at the end of February and transfer to a frame later on when the seedlings are a good size.

When you have some sun about there is a tendency for the weeds to start up, so get the hoe going regularly.

I have found that busy lizzies and begonias both tuberous and fibrous rooted plus salvias make a wonderful show in troughs and and urns even those hanging baskets. These will go on all through the summer and well into the autumn.

### Greenhouse

Get the heating up a bit if you are starting the seeds or the growth of some of the plants from cuttings. Keep all the floors and stagings clean and dry, plus get some of the smokes burning to try and keep the insects and diseases to a minimum.

When you get some nice sunny days it would be a good thing to open up the ventilators but do close down in early afternoon as the temperatures do fall very rapidly.

Many of the pot plants of bulbs such as daffodils, narcissus, crocus which are starting to show signs of flowering stems arriving should be given extra warmth and water. The best ones can be taken in the house, place near the window in warm rooms.

Pot up some of the fuchsias, regal pelargoniums and hydrangeas to give early flowers.

In February many tuberous items which you kept dry from last season can now be started off near the source of heat. These are achimenes, begonias, gloxinias, dahlias. Set them in peat in deep seed boxes where you have a number or in pots when single.

Annual bedding plants can be started at the end of February from seed, many have seed like dust and should be sown on the surface of your compost and no covering. It is best to put some fine sand in the seed packet, mix up and then sow. Quite a number of greenhouse items are the same such as begonia, gloxinia, streptocarpus etc. Temperature needs to be fairly high until these seeds have germinated and carried on till they have really grown.

Do remember when sowing any seeds to have the compost flat, pressed down with a piece of wood or the base of another box. Soak in water till it is wet at the top and then drain off. This will be ready for sowing.

### MODEL OF CENOTAPH

St. Dunstan, Mr. R. Thorne, who lives in the War Memorial Village, Allenton, recently had a good idea regarding the annual British Legion Poppy Week for which he provides assistance every year. The British Legion usually issues cardboard models of the Cenotaph for collecting money in. Mr. Thorne noticed they were rather difficult to assemble and handle, especially for a blind person, and made a request to the staff in our woodwork department at HQ whether they could perhaps make a wooden model/moneybox of the Cenotaph if they had time. Which they duly did, and most ably so, as you can see from the photograph.

The model stands about two and a half feet high and bears a perfect resemblance to the 'real' Cenotaph monument. It is hollow inside, there is a groove on the top for dropping money into it, and a little door at the back with a lock and key for removing the money when it is full.

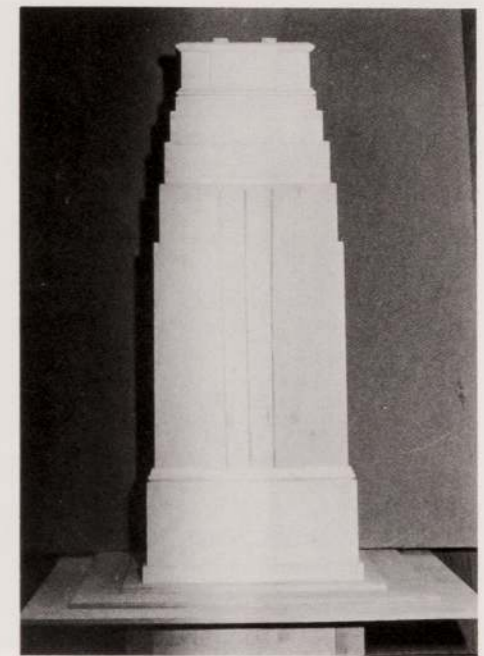
Mr. Thorne says it was too late for Poppy Week this year, but it has been put on display at the Allenton British Legion, where people can drop coins in if they wish, until June 1987, when the collection closes.

'Everyone said it was beautiful and they are very pleased with it,' he adds. So, well done Mr. Thorne for a good idea, and thanks to the staff who made it — here's hoping it collects lots of money for the British Legion!

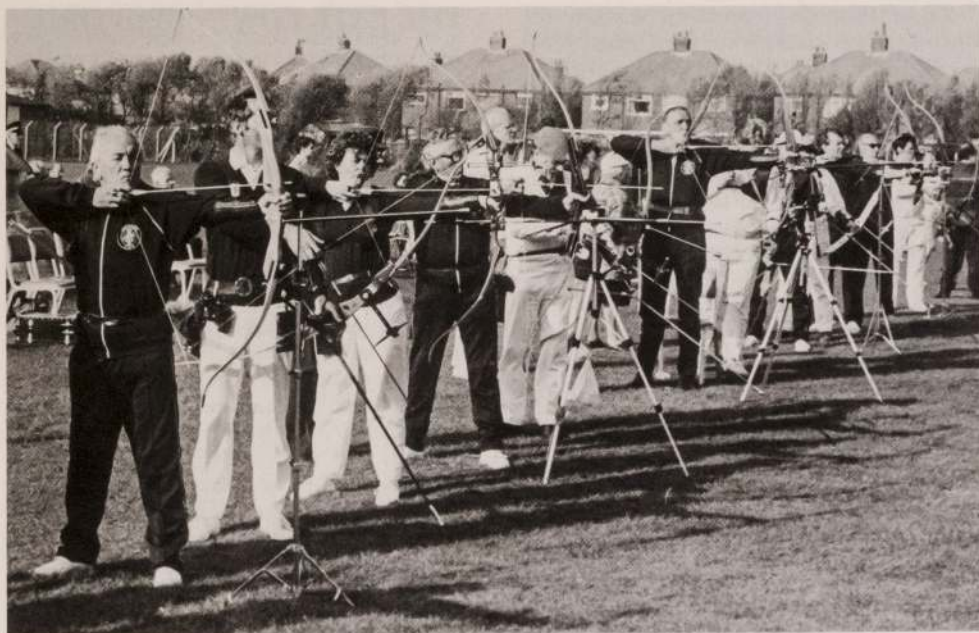
### THE LATE EDWIN BEDFORD

About as far away as you can get from Harcourt Street, London, and still be in the British Isles is the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides, yet it was in a hotel here that someone touched me on the arm and a girl's voice spoke. 'Did I hear you say St. Dunstan's,' she said; I'm the step-daughter of a St. Dunstan, Eddie Bedford. My wife Margaret and I got to know Carol Muldoon and her husband Ian thereafter, and will always associate the little village of Tarbert with pleasant hours spent in their company. Here the surf rolls on to golden sands, there are eagles to be seen, and a multitude of Neolithic monuments remind the visitor of time's inexorable progress, one state of things being replaced by another as the old and familiar gives way to the new and unknown. Edwin Bedford is no longer with us, we ourselves have but a brief hold on what life remains to us, and like Eddie will some day be remembered folk only, our name on a stone, our character and personality gradually fading in the remembrance of men.

Sydney Scroggie







*The shooting line during the match at Blackpool.*

## BLACKPOOL ARCHERY

By Ted Bradford

The 1986 Winter Archery Week had to be cut to four days this year to allow for a team of eight archers, their escorts/spot-ers and two coaches to travel north to Blackpool for a weekend of demonstrations and a match against three sighted clubs and one other visually-handicapped club.

Our 'week' of coaching at the Worthing Leisure Centre, although shorter than normal, was successful and some good results were achieved, Jerry Lynch possibly being the biggest improver of the period. However, after the last arrows were shot on Thursday the Display Team for the weekend consisting of Tommy and Audrey Gaygan, Norman and Ina Perry, Eric and Gwen Bradshaw, Jerry and Pat Lynch, Walford Davies and Nancy Bickley, George Allen and Charlie McConaghy, prepared to leave for the north. Also in the party to leave IFH were in-house

coach, Laurie Austin and his wife and, in charge of the party, Chief Coach Ted Bradford together with his wife. The other member of the team was Joe Prendergast who would be meeting up with the party at the hotel, as would Lottie McConaghy, who was to fly into Blackpool from Belfast.

Early Friday morning IFH saw the comings and goings of the party as they brought their first few belongings to be loaded into the coach and shortly after 07.30 hrs the coach, with a cheery wave and best wishes from Major Neve, pulled away from the entrance.

It was Tommy Gaygan's birthday and as the coach passed through the gateway to the road it was filled with the sound of his friends wishing him a Happy Birthday, then came the familiar birthday song. There were many cards to be read and presents for him, but one, a blow-up lady's

leg, brought a great deal of laughter. This turned almost to hysterics as Tommy felt all over it in an effort to discover what it was!

A better start to the long drive north to Blackpool (made longer by the delays caused by broken-down vehicles and roadworks) would be hard to imagine and it put all in good humour which augured well for the weekend. Somewhere around 16.30 hrs, the coach pulled up at the main entrance to the hotel at which the party were to stay. The team members were met by Eric Ward-Rowe, the organiser of the weekend's activities and while the rest of the team went to rest and refresh the Chief Coach was given a programme briefing of the weekend's activities.

A cocktail party was held at 18.30 hrs and the team welcomed by the Mayor of Blackpool who opened the proceedings by telling all present how proud Blackpool was to receive such noted guests as the St. Dunstan's Archery Team. After the formal speeches of welcome the team were asked to pose for photographs and

Tommy Gaygan and the Chief Coach were interviewed by the local talking newspaper editor. Shortly after 7.30 p.m. the SDAC party were called in to the main dining room for dinner. Following this the evening was given over to personal choice — most taking the opportunity of an 'early night.'

The team left the hotel on Saturday morning and arrived at the venue for the weekend's archery demonstrations at 09.30. They were met by members of the Blackpool Bowmen who were hosting the event and who prepared the field for the team to give their shooting display. A three-hour demonstration of archery was given for the public after which the team were taken back to the Harold Hoyle Home for the Blind where free drinks were on offer. It was a little before lunch that the St. Dunstan's party was joined by the mayors of the three local towns, together with members of their councils. More speeches of welcome were given before going into a superb buffet lunch.

*Members of St. Dunstan's team with the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress and Mrs Josephine Stebbing.*







Mayoral interest in the archery display.

Prior to returning to the archery field Eric Ward-Rowe explained the set-up and working of the local blind welfare society, this was followed by a few words by the Chief Coach on behalf of the team. Returning to the field, this time accompanied by the civic dignitaries, shooting recommenced, watched very closely by these same people. It wasn't long before two of the mayors (both ladies) and a mayoress were asking to 'have a go.' Ted Bradford explained how to shoot and the first lady stepped up to try her hand. When it was pointed out to her that it could be costly, if not dangerous, to shoot a bow and arrow with a chain of office around her neck, the lady just threw the front end back over her head and let the chain hang down her back, supported only by safety pins at her shoulders.

Shooting a few arrows without actually hitting the target (some 40 yards away), the first mayor handed the bow to the next — who followed suit in disposing of the chain's menace and shot her arrows — one of which hit the gold, albeit on a target about eight feet from where she was actually aiming! The last lady had a go but again with no luck. This brought home to all the spectators and guests that shooting

a bow and arrow is not as easy as members of the St. Dunstan's Team make it appear. It then had to be explained that it had taken many hours of practice to reach the team's standard of archery.

The civic parties were expected to stay for only a short while but they were so impressed at the team's shooting they found it hard to return to their other duties. The chauffeur of one, literally had to take his mayor by the arm and gently push/pull her to her limousine. After their departure the team carried on with their normal demonstration until it was time to return to the hotel. After dinner those who wished to boarded the coach for a tour of the famous Blackpool lights — a trip of some six miles which took over four hours.

The following day was for the tournament. The team were the first to arrive on the field and while they were setting up their equipment the archers from the other clubs arrived and introductions were made. Eventually the shooting began, under the control of the St. Dunstan's Chief Coach. A very tight schedule had been arranged so shooting had to be at a rather speedy rate.

Archers from all teams were able to

keep to a good rate of shooting but the Lancashire Visually-Handicapped Club seemed to find it rather hard to hit the targets and a fair amount of time was spent looking for their arrows behind the targets. Even so all the archers were back at the Harold Hoyle Home in time for the superb buffet which St. Dunstan's had financed and the Local Blind Welfare Society had prepared. The teams were again joined by a mayor and other councillors and a further speech or two made. Before returning to the field Ted Bradford was interviewed by the Chief Feature Writer for the local newspaper who wished to know more about St. Dunstan's archery.

The afternoon's shooting passed without incident, apart from a little boy running behind the targets to play football, and after the tournament was over the archers returned to the Home for the prizegiving. Mrs. Josephine Stebbing, the Chairman of the Blackpool & Fylde Blind Welfare Society, was asked to be Lady Paramount for the occasion and it was this gracious lady who handed the team first prize, on adjusted scores, to Blackpool Bowmen who had just pipped the St. Dunstan's team. However, when it came to the individual scores Tommy Gaygan was undisputed Champion, and it was obvious by the applause from the assembled archers that he was a popular winner.

Eric Ward-Rowe, who had so ably organised the weekend, wound up the proceedings by thanking all present for attending and helping to make the event such a tremendous success, and informing all that it was hoped a similar event might be held in 1987. This was received with much approval.

The team returned to dinner and afterwards were left to their own devices, some meeting in the lounge to chat over the past few hours among themselves and with the organiser, Eric Ward-Rowe — everyone agreeing that he had done a superb job in arranging the weekend to perfection, including the weather.

Next morning Eric was at the hotel to see the team off on their journey back to Brighton and to pick up Charlie and Lottie McConaghy who were to be his and his wife, Edna's guests until their plane left for Belfast.

## ARCHERS' BLACKPOOL BULLSEYE?

By Barry McLoughlin  
Chief Reporter, *Evening Gazette*, Blackpool

The day dawned crisp and clear... perfect conditions for an autumn archery tournament. As Britain's biggest holiday resort, Blackpool has witnessed many extraordinary events — but none more remarkable than a contest between blind bowmen from St. Dunstan's and local teams of sighted archers. Eight members of the St. Dunstan's archery squad spent three hectic days in the resort, taking part in a busy programme of displays and exhibition matches.

The visit was organised by a new national charity, Disabled '86, in conjunction with Blackpool and Fylde Society for the Blind and Blackpool Archery Club. Disabled '86 was set up by St. Dunstan Mr. Eric Ward-Rowe, who lives in Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, and who has been campaigning for a fairer deal for Britain's civilian blind and disabled.

The St. Dunstan's team was given a warm welcome by civic heads from all three Fylde Coast boroughs — Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde. After arriving in the resort, in the middle of the town's famous *Illumination* season, they were given a civic reception at the Cliffs, one of Blackpool's leading hotels. Guests at the reception included the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool, Councillor and Mrs. Leo Pomfret; Blackpool's Council Leader, Councillor Tom Percival; County Councillor Len Broughton; the Chairman of Blackpool and Fylde Blind Society, Mrs. Josephine Stebbing; former Mayor of Wyre and a member of the District Health Authority, Councillor Charles Stebbings; and the 1987 Mayor of Wyre, Councillor Stan Bennett of the Fylde Authority.

The following day, the St. Dunstaners gave an exhibition at Blackpool Archery Club's ground in Norbreck, near Blackpool. The blind bowmen use a simple aiming 'sight' on an adjustable stand. The back of the hand holding the bow brushes against the 'sight', giving the archer direction and height.





Norman Perry speaks for St. Dunstan's archers.

Guests at a magnificent buffet lunch at the Harold Hoyle Centre for the Blind included Councillor and Mrs. Pomfret, Councillor and Mrs. Stebbings, Councillor Stan Bennett, Councillor Lilian Anderson, Mrs. Joan Limb, and the Deputy Mayoress of Fylde, Councillor Eileen Hall, with her husband, Alan. Also present were Mr. Ward-Rowe and his wife, Edna, Mrs. Stebbing, Mr. Trevor Colloby, General Manager of the Blind Society, and Mr. John Allen, a former Chairman of the organisation.

The St. Dunstan's archery coach, Mr. Ted Bradford, paid tribute to the hospitality that had been shown to them by their hosts. Mr. Ward-Rowe, instigator of the archery weekend, said, 'The archers are a glorious example of the fact that disabled people are no different from anyone else if they are given the right opportunities and encouragement.'

On the final day of the visit, the St. Dunstaners took part in a match against a visually handicapped team from Preston

Institute for the Blind and sighted squads from the Blackpool Bowmen, John of Gaunt's Club in Lancaster and the Pendle and Samlesbury Club. The contest, which attracted 70 archers, was narrowly won by Blackpool Bowmen. The individual award (handicap-adjusted) went to St. Dunstaner Mr. Tommy Gaygan, who is both blind and handless, while the award for the highest actual score was won by Steve Titterington, from John of Gaunt's Club. The trophies were handed over by Mrs. Stebbing at a presentation ceremony at the Harold Hoyle Centre.

As the St. Dunstan's bus pulled out of Blackpool for the journey home, it was clear that the archers had hit their twin targets: excellence in archery and comradeship between the disabled and able-bodied.

After the event, tributes were paid to the organisers by Mr. William C. Weisblatt, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, and Mr. J.A. Prendergast, Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Archery Club.

## CLUB NEWS

### NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT YEAR 1986

Sad to relate we have lost two more of our Bridge players during the last year. One of the original members, Mr. F. Matthewman died during the summer, the other being Mr. F. Hamilton who was a recent member, he passed away a short time ago.

Members will realise our numbers are slowly diminishing, so I would like to point out how important it is that remaining members continue to support the club as they do at present and emphasise that we are extremely grateful for your excellent support.

I personally as Captain would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and commitment during the past year.

During this last year's tournaments congratulations are extended to Bob Evans on winning the Gover Cup (Brighton) Section, also to Walter Lethbridge on winning the Gover Cup (London) Section. Wally is also to be congratulated for winning the Dacre Cup in the Brighton Pairs Competition.

I think a word of merit must be given to the Brighton teams of eight in the West Sussex League for reaching the finals, although they didn't win it outright they got to the finals and it was a magnificent effort by all the team.

In the London teams of four they showed their usual skill in the London business house League. Well done.

Our trip to Harrogate was very enjoyable although we didn't manage last year's results, nevertheless it was a good effort.

Our thanks as usual to Ian Dickson and his two stalwart assistants, Mr. N. Smith and Mr. S. Hedcroft. We were shocked during the middle of the week as Norman was rushed into Hospital, Ian and Stan held the fort and we are pleased to say Norman is progressing very well.

The three way Competition in May held at Ian Fraser House resulted in a win for London, the Provinces came second, Brighton third. Congratulations to London. This event, the three way

Competition, was run with great efficiency by Mr. M. Douse, assisted by Mr. R. Goodlad. Also Mr. Jeff Connell and Mr. Roland Bolton expertly coped with the December Congress and Mr. Douse ran the rubber bridge competition for us. Thanks seem inadequate for all their hard work, but nevertheless we do sincerely thank them. And we must not forget our wonderful band of Markers and Players who step in to help with their expertise so often and many times at such short notice — what would we do without all these wonderful people?

Please, I know I repeat this all the time but it's so important, I and the Secretary and committee beg you to support *YOUR* Bridge Club as you have been doing 100%. Thank you ALL.

It's a pleasure to be your Captain — remember without you there is no Bridge Club.

**W.G. Phillips**  
Captain

### BRIGHTON — Bridge

At the Brighton Christmas Dance the prizes for the two Bridge Competitions played throughout the past year were presented by the President of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C.

The winner of the Pairs Competition was *W. Lethbridge* who also receives the Dacre Rose Bowl.

2nd R. Pacitti  
3rd R. Evans  
4th — A. Dodgson  
— G. Hudson

### The winners of prizes in the individual competition:—

1st R. Evans  
2nd R. Goding  
3rd W. Phillips  
4th R. Pacitti

### Entertainment Section

On November 1st the Annual Dinner and Dance was held at Ian Fraser House by kind permission of Commander Conway. The President welcomed our guests, General Sir Maurice Johnston and his wife,



### Entertainment Section *continued*

and after many introductions to members, plus a sherry or two, we all made our way to the Winter Garden for a very delightful dinner, our thanks to Paul James, Billy Rundle and staff.

Mrs. Dacre gave her usual short speech on the health of the club. Our guest, General Sir Maurice Johnston thanked Mrs. Dacre and Bob Osborne for inviting him and his good lady, and gave us a short and witty speech. This was followed by an even shorter speech from the Chairman, Bob

Osborne. After this, orchids were presented to Lady Johnston, Mrs. Dacre, Miss Stenning and Mrs. Franklin, our Honorary Auditor's wife.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the ballroom, with a lively band, a vocalist and dancing. Everyone wished Tommy and Theresa Muga *bon voyage* on their trip to Australia in November 3rd. It was a very happy occasion ending at 11.30. We offer our thanks to Commander Conway for the transport and all his help.

Phyllis O'Kelly

## FAMILY NEWS

### CORRECTION

Apologies to *Mr. and Mrs. E. Cookson*, of Selsey — in our congratulations to them in the November *Review*, on the birth of their two grandchildren, we got rather mixed up about the name of the second little one. He is Thomas Robert Cave, born on May 8th in Guildford to their son, Robert Cookson, and his wife, Kirsten.

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Yvette, youngest daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. G. Brereton*, of East Molesey, who recently qualified as a State Certified Midwife.

Nicola Bull, wife of *Mr. A. Bull*, of Ebbw Vale, on passing her S.R.N. examination recently.

*Barry Coupe*, architect son of our *St. Dunstaner Des Coupe*, who has won an award for the best internal design for a United States Army Air Force base in Europe.

*Mr. A.L. Fleet*, of Paignton, who won First Prize at the Devon County Show of Handicrafts for the Blind, for his scones and leather moccasins.

*St. Dunstaner Hugh Lofthouse*, who, as an organiser of sales on Poppy Day in Tenerife, has received a letter of thanks from The Royal British Legion for his help in raising no less than £953.58 for the 1986 Appeal.

Joe Maguire, grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. W. Marsh*, of Hartlepool, on being awarded the Bryan Cup for the Outstanding Cadet of the year at the Honiton St. John Ambulance annual inspection. Joe is only seven years old.

*Joe Nicol*, of Cottingham, N. Humberside, on winning first and second prizes for his wrought-iron work at an exhibition in Leeds.

Mrs. Barbara Pepper, wife of *Mr. E.G. Pepper*, of Coggeshall, near Colchester, whose Shetland Sheepdog, Lassie, aged two years, came first in the Obedience Trial, Intermediate Class, and third in the Novice Section at the Withan Dog Club Essex County Show on November 16th. For coming first in the Intermediate Class, Lassie was awarded the Withan Trophy — an engraved shield and rosette — and then received another rosette for coming third in the Novice Section.

David, eldest son of *Mr. and Mrs. John Perfect*, of Yealmpton, Devon, on his appointment as Commanding Officer of

H.M. Submarine *Sceptre*. He was promoted to the rank of Commander last year and had formerly been in command of H.M.S. *Osiris*.

Louisa Joy, daughter of David Perfect and grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. John Perfect*, of Yealmpton, Devon, who has passed her Associated Board Piano Examination, Grade 5, with distinction. Louisa also plays the cello in the Ulverston Youth Orchestra.

Charlotte Victoria Rich, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. R. Vowles*, of Portsmouth, on receiving a silver medal for tap dancing at a local festival.

### MARRIAGE

#### Congratulations to:

*Mrs. M. Millen*, widow of our late *St. Dunstaner*, *Mr. G.A. Millen*, of Birchington, on the marriage of her only grandchild, Michaela Millen to *Mr. Robin McGregor* on 27th September, 1986 at *St. Peter's Church*, Broadstairs.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. G. Cooke*, of Crewe, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 14th December, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. Des Coupe*, of Bournemouth, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 12th, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. D.D. Fleisig*, of Sevenoaks, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 30th, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Mantle*, of Selsdon, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 7th, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. William Shea*, of Brampton, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on 28th December, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Wake*, of Barrow-in-Furness, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 16th December, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. D. Watkins*, of New Zealand, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 21st December, 1986 while on holiday in the U.K.

*Mr. and Mrs. John White* of Burton-on-Trent on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on 28th December, 1986.

*Mr. and Mrs. H. Windley*, of Irlam, Manchester, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 21st December, 1986.

### SILVER WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Pownall*, of Old Coulsdon, on their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 28th December 1986.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Captain and Mrs. T. Tweedie*, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 1st, 1986. They were married in Hong Kong.

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. A. Bull*, of Ebbw Vale, on the birth of their first baby, a little boy, Benjamin Andrew, who was born on November 16th, 1986.

*Des and Elizabeth Chandler*, of Lewes, whose daughter, Tania, was born on 18th November, 1986, a welcome sister for David.

*Mark and Diane Pilbeam*, of Aberdeen, on the birth of their first baby — a little girl, Ann Sarah, born on 16th September, 1986.



## GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Bradshaw*, of Northampton, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Rachel born on November 14th, 1986 to their daughter, Marian, and, son-in-law, Graham.

*Mr. and Mrs. F. Hawes*, of Birchington, on the birth of a grandson, on 2nd December, 1986 Alister David Miller to their daughter, Bryony and son-in-law, Raymond Caron, who live in Belgium.

*Mr. and Mrs. G. Holland*, of Newton Abbot, on the arrival of their seventh grandchild, Robert Jamie, born 14th December, 1986 to Jeremy and Frances Holland.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Spence*, of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Rhonda, born to their daughter Heather, and her husband, Desmond Simpson.

*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Steer*, of Billingham, on the birth of another grandson, Matthew Gary, born on 27th November, 1986, to their daughter, Jane, and son-in-law, Phillip.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

*Mr. E.W. Bull*, of Southampton, on the birth of his second great grandchild, Craig, born on 18th September, 1986, to David and Sonia Johnson.

## 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.

### T. Aspinall, Royal Engineers

Thomas Aspinall, of St. Helens, passed away in hospital on 3rd December. He was 67. Although not in good health for some time, his death was unexpected.

*Mr. C.E.V. Dale*, of Worthing, on the arrival of a great grand-daughter, Laura Claire, born on 1st December, 1986 to his grandson, Joe and his wife, Helen.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harding*, of Taunton, on the birth of a great grandson, Christopher Stuart, on 22nd November, 1986 to their grandson, Stuart and his wife, Vickie.

## DEATHS

### We offer sympathy to:

*Mr. and Mrs. F. Boughton*, of Old Duston, Northampton, and to their son, Richard and his family on the death of Richard's wife, Jean, who died very suddenly on 19th December, 1986 at the age of 39.

*Mr. W.H. Duerden*, of Burnley, who mourns the very sad loss of his daughter, Thelma, who died suddenly in October.

Mrs. Irene Edwards, wife of *Mr. J.L. Edwards*, of Coventry, whose father, Thomas Wilfred Thorneycroft, died on November 19th, 1986.

St. Dunstaner *Mr. R.B. Thurston* and his sister, Mrs. L.F. Chapman, who is the widow of our late St. Dunstaner, Mr. R.M. Chapman, on the death of their elder sister, Win, on 17th December, 1986.

*Mr. F.H. Wareham*, of Ian Fraser House, whose sister died on November 16th, 1986.

blinded in one eye as well as burns to his face. He was never able to work again. Over the years, the sight in his remaining eye deteriorated but he was devotedly cared for by his mother until her death in 1975 and afterwards by his sister, brother and all members of his close-knit family. Although he was unable to venture far, our St. Dunstaner greatly enjoyed listening to his radio and commentaries on television so retaining an active and intelligent interest in current affairs.

### P. Armstrong, Royal Air Force

Patrick John Armstrong, of Formby, affectionately known as Pat, passed away in hospital on 12th December. He was 67 and had been a St. Dunstaner since October 1977.

He was injured and suffered burns which seriously impaired his vision in 1956 whilst taking part in H-bomb tests on Christmas Island in the Pacific. At the time he was a senior aircraftsman, having rejoined the R.A.F. in 1953 following his service in the Second World War. In 1983 our St. Dunstaner joined the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association to support other servicemen who may have been affected by the nuclear tests on Christmas Island.

Mr. Armstrong successfully mastered our use of tools course and toy-making, which he enjoyed as a hobby. Despite a severe skin condition which he suffered over the years and other side-effects, our St. Dunstaner remained remarkably cheerful and optimistic with the loving support and care of his wife and children.

He leaves a widow, Mary, to whom he was married for 45 years, a daughter, two sons and their families.

### A. Clarke, Royal Flying Corps

Arnold Clarke, of Blackpool, passed away peacefully at home on 13th November following a prolonged period of ill-health borne with great fortitude. He was 89 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945. Soon after the commencement of the First World War, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps. He was on active service overseas and was discharged in 1918.

On becoming a St. Dunstaner, Mr. Clarke undertook training in braille, typing, rug-making and basketry but, by that time, was not sufficiently robust to take up employment. Nevertheless, he had several interests mainly concerned with music and played the cornet in earlier years. Subsequently he mastered the harmonica and gave a great deal of pleasure to audiences at a local hotel. His greatest hobby,

shared with his wife, was ballroom dancing and they took part in many competitive events with success. Our St. Dunstaner was also greatly interested in darts and avidly followed any items concerning this sport.

In 1985, Arnold Clarke and his wife, Lily, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with a family party and received a telegram from H.M. The Queen.

He leaves a widow who cared for him devotedly, a daughter, son, grandchildren and great grandchildren and will be greatly missed by them all.

### A Ketteringham, Royal Norfolk Regiment

Arthur Ketteringham passed away at Pearson House on December 23rd, at the age of 77. He joined the Territorial Army in 1936 and served in the Second World War as a private in the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He was taken prisoner of war in Singapore in February 1942 and forced to work on the notorious Burma railway. It was the privation during his captivity that caused the deterioration of his sight and he became a St. Dunstaner in July 1980. Prior to this and the failure of his health, Mr. Ketteringham had worked as a male orderly at a residential home in Norwich. He became a permanent resident at Pearson House on the death of his wife in 1982. He settled there very happily and was held in much affection by Matron and all the staff. He leaves brothers and sisters.

### J.T. Daborn, Royal Hampshire Regiment

John Thomas Daborn, of Barnstaple, died at home on 10th December, 1986, after a short illness, bravely borne. He was 69 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Tom served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment and was wounded whilst serving in Italy, in 1944, and was totally blinded. He trained as a shopkeeper after becoming a St. Dunstaner and for many years ran a successful business in Bexleyheath, with the help of his wife, Emma. They retired to Devon, in 1971, and spent ten happy years at their home in the Heddon Valley, where Tom was able to indulge his passion for fishing, both in the river which ran past his garden and at sea. He also became a true craftsman with wood, making beautiful salad bowls and servers for which he once won first prize at the Exeter Craft Exhibition.

He was involved with the Masonic movement for many years and became Grand Master of his Lodge. In April 1986, he was inducted as Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon at the University of Exeter, an honour which crowned his Masonic career.



## In Memory *continued*

Readers of the *Review* will also remember Tom's description of a recent trip made with his wife to Canada and to Florida, in the United States. They both always welcomed the return visits of friends and relatives from abroad.

Tom's great characteristic was his zest for life which was apparent in all he did. He will be sadly missed and long remembered by his many friends both in and outside St. Dunstan's. He leaves his widow, Emma, their son and daughter, and much loved grandchildren.

### **D.E. McCarthy, 3rd Monmouth Regiment**

Following a period of ill-health borne with great courage, Daniel Edward McCarthy of Northampton died on 9th December, aged 67. Danny, as he was affectionately known, had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Just before his 20th birthday our St. Dunstaner joined the 3rd Monmouth Regiment as a private. He was serving on the Netherlands-German frontier when he was seriously wounded by a phosphorous bomb in 1944. He was discharged the following year and admitted to St. Dunstan's. After a period of training for industry as well as braille, typing and handicrafts, which he mastered efficiently despite a damaged hand he took over a tobacco and confectionery business in 1946. Six years later he gave up shopkeeping to retrain for industry and was employed at a Rushden factory for sixteen years until retirement on health grounds. He was a popular and valued employee and in 1955 was the subject of an article in the Company's house magazine. In 1983 our St. Dunstaner and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

He is survived by his widow and family of three daughters and one son as well as grandchildren.

### **J.J. Medway, Royal Navy**

John Joseph Medway, of Chiswick, died in hospital on Christmas Day. He was 79 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1955. He served as a Telegraphist in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War. He was discharged in 1945 and at the time of his admission to St. Dunstan's, was working at Hammersmith Hospital. He was employed as a dark-room assistant and was able to continue working until three years ago, latterly in a part-time capacity. In 1971 the hospital authorities presented him with a splendid clock to commemorate 25 years' service. Mr. Medway greatly enjoyed holidays

abroad with his wife and was a very keen radio listener. He was also interested in gardening and was a very efficient typist and so able to deal with his own correspondence.

He leaves a widow, Winifred, with whom he celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1981, his son, Anthony, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

### **E. Richards, 1st King's Dragoon Guards**

Elmer Richards, formerly of South Wales but resident at Ian Fraser House for the past ten years, died there on the 16th November, aged 74. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

At the age of 18 he joined the 1st King's Dragoon Guards with the rank of trooper and saw active service during the Second World War. He was discharged in 1944 having been totally blinded in action in Italy. On admission to St. Dunstan's he was trained in basket-making and rug work and took courses in braille and typing. In earlier years he played the accordion and enjoyed carpentry. Our St. Dunstaner was also a great animal lover and champion of their causes. In the early sixties Mr. Richards took over a farm in Wales where he raised pigs, sheep and poultry as well as cultivating vegetable crops. However, with increased age he was finding the farm difficult to manage and the reins were taken over by his son, Billy and his wife, while our St. Dunstaner became a permanent resident at Ovingdean.

Elmer Richards was a man of strong personality and determined views and will be long remembered by all the staff at Ian Fraser House and many fellow St. Dunstaners. He leaves two sons, Billy and Arthur and other members of the family.

### **G.H. Sinclair, Royal Engineers**

George Henry Sinclair, of Eastbourne, passed away on November 9th following a minor operation. He was 65 and had been a St. Dunstaner since January 1986.

Mr. Sinclair enlisted in the Army in 1937 at the age of 16, and was taken prisoner in Crete in 1941. Following his discharge after the war, he re-enlisted and served as a Warrant Officer 2 in the Royal Engineers until 1959. He suffered from disseminated sclerosis and in 1972 both his legs were amputated. Due to his multiple disabilities he became a resident at Chaseley, Eastbourne, where he was cared for by a devoted staff over 18 years. He greatly enjoyed his first reunion at Brighton and was looking forward to staying at Pearson House.

He was a widower and leaves one son and one daughter.