



St Dunstons  
Review  
July 1987

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Cover picture: Don Planner, with his escort, running in the London Marathon. Don finished with a time of 4hrs 47mins. So far Don has raised £1443 of sponsorship money for the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead. The full amount will be published when it becomes known.



## From the Chairman

Last May, Mary and I paid a short visit to Canada at the invitation of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). In fact the idea had originated with Bill Mayne, President of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association (SAPA), who with his charming wife, Bicky, will be well known to many of you.

The retiring President of the CNIB, John Baker, was a Fleet Air Arm pilot during the Second World War and is the son of Colonel Eddie Baker — a St. Dunstaner of the First World War and a contemporary of Sir Arthur Pearson and of Lord and Lady Fraser. On his return to Canada he started SAPA and was an original founder of CNIB.

Today the CNIB is a thoroughly well run organisation caring for some 23,000 people spread throughout the vast sub-continent of Canada. Our Canadian cousins, SAPA, are a fairly integral part of it. Like us, the CNIB are served by an invaluable team of Voluntary Helpers as well as by a small dedicated Staff. The facilities at their National Headquarters in Toronto are similar to ours only of course on a much larger scale.

Everywhere we were treated with great friendliness, generosity and hospitality and we brought back many kind messages of goodwill.

There are many ties which link our two countries across the Atlantic: kinship, trade, defence, the democratic way of life, to name but a few. Transcending all these in its depth and sincerity is blindness.

*Henry Leach*

# REUNIONS

## SOUTHAMPTON, MAY 1st

There were 26 St. Dunstaners and 13 widows at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, to meet Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds, our President and his wife. With escorts, guests and staff the company numbered 88. The Southampton reunion always has a real family feeling about it and this year this was enhanced by the presence of many more widows.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds echoed this family feeling in his speech after luncheon when, after welcoming everyone on behalf of the Chairman and Council and referring specially to Mr. and Mrs. Fribbins attending their first reunion he said: 'My wife and I are very conscious of the family feeling of St. Dunstan's at this moment because it is only a fortnight today that we were standing at Perth Airport with the temperature up to 99 degrees having just been visiting the furthest away members of St. Dunstan's family. We had been to reunions in New Zealand and Australia.

'All our reunions are over quite a small area,' he continued, 'but when we got to New Zealand they draw their members from both islands and although there are 48 St. Dunstaners there, only 18 were able to travel to Christchurch to attend our reunion.'

In Australia, where distances are so great, the reunion was made up of representatives of the St. Dunstan's organisations in each of the six states explained Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, 'It was not so much a gathering of friends as a business function because ex-service people are looked after by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The Federal St. Dunstan's meets to discuss certain resolutions and afterwards the President, Laurie Greenham, will take the resolutions to Canberra to discuss them with the Minister of Veteran Affairs.

'Down-under we were very conscious of the large family of St. Dunstan's but one

realises how it is affected by the long distances and how difficult it is for those getting older to travel to keep the family together. Until going abroad like this we don't realise how fortunate we are to have St. Dunstan's as it is formed here. We have many more benefits here in England than they are able to provide in the Commonwealth countries — just take Ian Fraser House, Pearson House and the hostel at Broadhurst Gardens, now renamed Ansell House. It is good to know that the hostel now carries the name of so eminent a person as Sir Michael.'

Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds concluded by wishing everyone a happy afternoon and then introduced Mr. Arthur Lowe, who proposed the vote of thanks for St. Dunstaners. He said, 'I would like to welcome our new President here this afternoon in two ways. One as our new, worthy President visiting us for the first time and, of course, as a good old friend — a St. Dunstaner.'

He then went on to parody a song called 'No Charge' to describe the work of St. Dunstan's: 'To headaches and bandages and looking after us medically and in general — no charge; To the good ladies of our welfare section who travel the country and the work they put in reporting back to headquarters making sure we want for nothing — no charge; To the insurance around us of St. Dunstan's — no charge; to holidays, hobbies or sports at Ian Fraser House and the medical organisation behind us in case we overdo it at the bar! — no charge; and when we think of the guidance and help of our Council, who back us all the way — no charge; and, of course, I must say to our wives, and, dare I say, — no charge.'

Mr. Lowe concluded his speech with a word of welcome for the widows, 'I do thank them for coming along and helping to keep the names of their husbands among us,' and thanks to the staff of the Polygon Hotel.

Representing the widows, Mrs. E. Owens presented a bouquet to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds to conclude the formal part of the day. As usual the afternoon continued with many mini reunions among the guests until tea and the prize draw brought the proceedings to a close.

## NEWCASTLE, MAY 21st

The St. Dunstaners and other guests at the Newcastle Reunion at the Royal Station Hotel on May 21st had a price to pay for their luncheon. It was announced by Air Vice-Marshal Colahan, the Member of Council presiding, and it was that the company must hear his speech!

The price was an agreeable one because he very soon had his audience laughing heartily at some very good stories. He began with an expression of thanks to the hotel staff and continued: 'If everyone has turned up there should be 58 of us — 10 guests and staff, 14 St. Dunstaners and their escorts, 14 widows of St. Dunstaners and some escorts. Of the St. Dunstaners, 13 are World War Two and one after the war and I think this is, perhaps, the first reunion I can recall when there hasn't been at least one World War One St. Dunstaner.'

The Air Vice-Marshal welcomed the guests and retired members of staff on behalf of the Chairman and the Council and brought, 'affectionate greetings and a warm welcome to all St. Dunstaners and their wives or escorts. Finally on behalf of all of us the warmest of warm welcomes to the St. Dunstaners' widows. They are very

*Andrew Dugdale replying on behalf of St. Dunstaners. Air Vice-Marshal Colahan is seated beside him.*



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highly regarded members of the St. Dunstan's family and we are delighted that they are turning up in excellent numbers. It is very nice to see you.'

Explaining that he was standing in for Major Mervyn Sandys, who has recently undergone a serious heart operation, Air Vice-Marshal Colahan was able to tell everyone that the operation had been successful and that Major Sandys was recuperating well.

'I am glad to report,' he went on, 'that St. Dunstan's as an organisation is thriving under the wise direction of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach assisted, of course, by the members of the Council. We look forward to the future with confidence that the many services that are at the disposal of St. Dunstaners will continue for as long as they prove necessary.'

Air Vice-Marshal Colahan concluded his speech with the last of his stories: 'To end with a comment on someone, "He has occasional flashes of silence that make his conversation perfectly delightful." On that I will sit down.'

Andrew Dugdale rose to speak for St. Dunstaners and thank St. Dunstan's staff, especially Mrs. Inman, 'A friendly voice on the end of a telephone when trouble strikes and a welcome visitor.' Saying he envied those busy St. Dunstaners who say there are not enough hours in the day he gave his audience an insight into one day in his life, 'Like last Monday.'

'The propagator arrived in a box. Somebody took it out of the box — no plug! Here's a plug. Screw the thing off the top and you've got the wires there and they bend very easily — trying to get them into the little holes, get the screws down before they pop out — two hours and you think you're lucky. You've got to have it checked before you can put it on. You can hear someone plodding up the path. It's the next-door neighbour "Can I borrow a lettuce?" "Yes, dear, come back for the tomatoes in July! Would you like to look at this while you're here?" and she says, "Well, that's all right but you've got the brown wire all wrong." She puts it right, so that's that. You take your dust coat off in the garden shed, put your hand out and the hook is missing. You find an inch and a half nail and hammer and bang it in then jump out



*The 'Scottish table' enjoying a joke at their expense by Air Vice-Marshal Colahan.*

of the doorway and do a five-minute dance until the pain goes off!

'You think it's time to have a cup of tea — nice, sweet tea for the shock, you see. You find the sugar, you've got a round thing you stick on the cup that goes buzz when it's full. You switch the kettle on and there's a quiet little thump — it's the milk, a pint of milk down your shirt. You can hear the dog licking up the milk. You're an old Army man; you can hear the bugle — hasty retreat! You are at the door waiting for the wife who's on the telephone and as soon as the door opens the dog bolts out with me and once you are on the flat you start to weave a bit to dodge that flying tub that passes your left ear! Once you get into the greenhouse it's not so bad because there's nobody going to break their own glass is there?'

'Later on you say "Hello dear, I've put the harness on the dog to go down to the shop for some milk, I think we've run out." She says, "Well milk does run out when you kick it over." It's about nine o'clock. Your back aches, you've been in trouble, you'll go to bed. In the bathroom you find your toothbrush, put the tap on, press the tube of toothpaste and away you go. Terrible! The taste! You rinse your mouth out, go to the top of the stairs, "Hello, dear, is there a fish and chip taste to this toothpaste now?" "No, nothing like that. You know the chap that stayed overnight last

week. He forgot it. It was for . . . ."

'You get into bed and you look towards the ceiling and you say to him, "Look, mate, if you are looking after me tomorrow — get your finger out!" Turning from Monday, Andrew Dugdale finished by thanking the hotel staff for their kind attention and sat down to applause.

After those domestic scenes from life we are sure there were many more anecdotes exchanged as friend met friend and tea was taken and the prizes borne off by the lucky winners of the prize draw before another very agreeable Newcastle Reunion drew to a close.

*You meet some interesting people at reunions. Jane How, of the BBC TV serial EastEnders, happened to be at the hotel and gladly posed with her near namesake, Frank Howe.*



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*Ex-Prisoners of War who spent their captivity in Java.*

## Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion

By Alf Lockhart

Photos: John Barrow

Before I start the report on the ex-Prisoners of War Reunion, I must first say how sad we all were, to hear of the death of one of the best known, and well-liked St. Dunstaners, Wally Thomas. His obituary appeared in the June *Review*, but I must give this small tribute, as many ex-POW's were his friends of long-standing, and most who had arrived for the weekend attended the funeral service.

Once again the ex-POW reunion was honoured by the presence of a number of very distinguished guests. The impressive guest list included Major-General E. A. W. Williams, CB, CBE, MC, DL (who was guest speaker), the Rt. Rev. Bishop Suffragan of Sherwood and Mrs. Darby, Sir Henry and Lady Leach, Councillor and Mrs. Ian Moy-Louder, and a number of staff from the London HQ. We were pleasantly surprised to be able to welcome Anthony and Jean MacDonald to our reunion, for as you will know, Mrs. MacDo-

nald is the daughter of the late Lord Fraser.

We were very disappointed that Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme was unwell, and unable to attend. I think I am right in saying that this is the first time that Mr. Garnett-Orme has missed one of our reunions since they started some years ago, and we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery. A 'Get Well' card to this effect has been sent to him bearing as many of our signatures as the card would hold.

Although disappointed not to have our Chairman, Bill Griffiths, with us on this occasion, we were pleased to learn that he was in Thailand, to be at the founding of a Fellowship which had its origins in the Second World War and is called the Boon Pong/Weary Dunlop Medical Exchange Fellowship, and I expect Bill will let us know about it when he returns to England.

There were several first-timers at the

reunion, two of whom are of particular interest: Jim Woods, who was taken in Burma (Jim is the first man I have met who was taken in Burma), and Bill Anderson, who is a resident of the Chasely Homes in Eastbourne. Our special guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Bourne and Penelope Lord, the Welfare Superintendent. We are extremely grateful to them for the friendly and cheerful way they help us with our request for 'favours' and any odd jobs that need to be done. Two of our Honorary Members were also present: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Darby and Mrs. Darby, and Mrs. Daphne Ingram — our Hong Kong veteran and our only lady POW.

Bill Hefferman had found an old entertainment programme among his old relics of the German POW camps. This was of special interest as another St. Dunstaner is listed on the programme. After the usual 'Do you remember?' and the 'Were you at ...?' etc., we got down to the more serious business of drinking and dancing. The music was provided by Ernie Took and his band. It was cheerful, bright and toe-tapping — everybody had a marvellous time. During the evening, several group photographs were taken of men who had served in the same theatres of war. If anyone is interested in obtaining copies of these, I understand that they should contact John Barrow, through David Castleton, at HQ. As a point of general interest the lift is now in operation in the annexe, so enabling people in wheelchairs, or who have difficulty in climbing stairs, to have access to the club rooms and also the bar. Who the first person was to use the lift, I do not know. It was not I.

### AGM and Dinner

On Saturday morning we had our AGM. After the Exhortation we stood in silence for a minute in memory of the members who had passed away during the last year. Our President, Elizabeth Dacre, MBE, TD, JP, acted as Chairman, Bill Griffiths being on his peregrinations. Mrs. Dacre ran smoothly through the business of the day and both the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, were given invaluable

assistance by Mrs. Pat Stone, our young helper from Rottingdean.

All officers were re-elected, and following the Treasurer's report, the subscription was increased by £1. This increase reflected the escalating costs of telephoning and postal charges. There was reference made to the 'War Diaries of Weary Dunlop', a famous Australian doctor who saved many a prisoner of war from death or loss of limb by his skill and ability to work under the most adverse conditions. 'Weary' is, of course, Sir Edward Dunlop, the famous Australian surgeon. The meeting closed with the subs being collected by another of our stalwart helpers, Mary Stenning, also of Rottingdean. We seem to owe a great deal to Rottingdean! During pre-dinner drinks, everybody had a chance to meet our guests and to have an informal chat with them. Major-General Williams looked every inch a retired General. A really fine 'Old Soldier'.

We then went in to the reunion dinner. Once again Paul James had done us proud. I won't tell you what we had. It was such a fine meal that it would make your mouth water. In any case, there was none left over; we scoffed the lot. We must give full praise to the caterers for this magnificent meal. Beautifully cooked, and served to the high professional standards to which we have become accustomed from Paul James and his staff. Please give our compliments to the chef.

After dinner Major-General Williams gave a very interesting talk on logistics and was warmly applauded. In his reply, Tom Hart thanked the General for making the long journey from Dorchester to attend the reunion and giving us such an interesting talk. He then went on to thank Sir Henry Leach, St. Dunstan's Chairman, and also St. Dunstan's Secretary, Mr. William Weisblatt, for the generous help and hard work that is put in by the staff at the London HQ to make our reunions so successful. The staff at IFH also put in a massive effort to make things run smoothly and to make us welcome. This year, the welcome was even warmer than usual. Commander Conway deserves the highest acclaim for the way that he manages to run that very large building



Singapore Ex-Prisoners of War.

when it is so full of people. As does Sheila Morris for finding escorts for those of us, who for one reason or another, are unable to bring their wife. We finished off the Saturday by having a dance in the annexe, Ernie Took once again obliging.

On Sunday morning we had the ex-POW's Memorial Service. The Rev. Bootes took the service, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Suffragan of Sherwood, clad in his full pastoral regalia. The lesson was read by George Jakins, who, reading from a braille Bible made a remarkably fine job of it. The Bishop then delivered his sermon. The Bishop's sermons have to be listened to, to be fully appreciated, but I can assure you that it was up to his usual standard.

Sunday evening was taken over by the Brighton Musical Comedy Company. This talented group of singers seem to make a

really special effort for us ex-prisoners of war. The lounge was absolutely filled with people on Sunday evening, nor were they disappointed. The singers quickly established a rapport with their audience and gave a couple of hours of beautiful singing and top class entertainment. The audience responded well, and it was to deafening applause that the Brighton Musical Comedy Company brought the St. Dunstan's ex-POW weekend to a close.

There are very many people whom we have to thank for these marvellous reunions: the staff at London HQ and at IFH, Elizabeth Dacre and her 'ladies of Rottingdean', caterers, the committee of St. Dunstan's ex-POW's and many, many others. And was it worth all the effort? The answer is an unqualified YES. Thank you everybody. The date of next year's reunion will be published in the *Review* when it becomes available.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mrs G. Birchall, widow of the late Mr. R. Birchall, Bearsted

Thank you for the paragraphs written in the May *Review* in the memory of my husband, Bob. Actually, as well as amputation of one arm he suffered loss of part of three fingers of his right hand. More important, he lost one eye and was blinded in the remaining eye, resulting in his admission to St. Dunstan's at Church Stretton in May 1943. His accident was on April 1st 1943 and he was in Canterbury Hospital for six weeks before being transferred to St. Dunstan's. Here he learnt braille, but he was fortunate and gradually his sight returned, although not perfect. He was, of course, then discharged from St. Dunstan's. In fact, in spite of his disabilities, he was able to drive a car for about 25 years. This was, of course, modified to suit his capabilities. Only for the last seven years or so, when Bob's sight deteriorated, did I take over all the driving. He subsequently rejoined St. Dunstan's in 1984. I have mentioned the above in case you did not realise he had been a St. Dunstaner in 1943 — not quite sure how long — some months, possibly until his discharge in 1944. Thank you St. Dunstan's for all you did for Bob and your kindness now to me.

### From Mrs M.W. Rushton, widow

Just a few lines to say thank you to the wonderful staff of St. Dunstan's for the lovely time we had at the Liverpool reunion. Everyone was so kind and we had such a lovely meal. It's nice to meet old friends and make new ones. God bless them all.

### From Bill Shea, Huntingdon

I recently received a St. Dunstan's plaque with the following inscription: "Presented to Bill Shea MCSP by his physiotherapy colleagues for 31 years loyal service on the St. Dunstan's P.A.C."

I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman, Des Coupe, and members of the St. Dunstan's Physio-

therapy Advisory Committee, for this very kind gesture. It was a great privilege to serve on this committee, and to work with so many fellow St. Dunstan's physiotherapists. I am also very grateful for the support I received from the committee when I was in the Chair.

### From Syd Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine

When Jerry bombers attacked British Naval units in the Forth in October 1939 (and a glorious sunny day they had for it), they were intercepted by Spitfires of the City of Glasgow Squadron and a number of the raiders were shot down. 40 years later one of the successful Spitfire pilots, a Highlander, was interviewed on Radio Scotland. 'Did it not bother you,' ran one of the questions, 'the act of aiming your guns at that bomber, crewed with fellow human beings as it were, then pressing the button?' The ex-Spitfire pilot paused for reflection, then gave his answer. 'They shouldn't have been there,' he said.

These Jerries shouldn't have been over Scottish territory, and by the same token Hitler's minions had no business to be in all the countries they over-ran during the war. Neither had the Luftwaffe any business to be ranging other people's air space, nor Doenitz to have his units hovering around non-German territorial waters. They shouldn't have been there and if they got shot down or sunk there was no one to blame but themselves. What was true of Germans between 1939 and 1945 was true also of the Argentinians during the Falklands war, and I agree with our Chairman, being interviewed on Radio 4, when he described the sinking of the *Belgrano* not only as a legitimate but also a necessary act of war. In effect, Sir Henry echoed the words of that ageing Spitfire pilot reflecting on the demise of a Jerry bomber which having failed in its attempt to sink the cruiser Southampton, fell victim to its own arrogance and impudence. 'It shouldn't have been there.'

## BOWLING AT WESTON-SUPER-MARE

By Ted Brown

On May 8th some of the bowlers and their wives arrived at IFH for a practice roll-up before Saturday. The rest of the party arrived on Saturday at about 11 o'clock in the morning and by the time all the gear was put on the coach it was near 12 noon, and then it was wagons roll. We left in lovely sunshine, and it was nice all the way which makes a change. We stopped at one of the service stations where we had our packed lunches, tea and coffee, and a quick visit to the house of relief before we went on our merry way.

This tournament alternates between Clarence Park and Ashcombe Park, and this year it was at Ashcombe Park. On arrival we all went to our respective hotels, unpacked, freshened up, and after dinner we gathered at the bowling club's social club, where we met old friends and acquaintances and talked over what we had been doing during the winter months. Everyone was of the same opinion — we were glad to go outside bowling in the fresh air again, which actually proved to be much fresher than we would have liked it. But like all good troopers we took it in our stride, 'says he.'

We had a practice roll-up on the Sunday morning, and the greens were in very good condition, much better than last year. We found out they had a beautiful week's sunshine — just the opposite to last year, but conditions change so quickly at Weston as we all know so well, and it wasn't long before we all found out how really cold it can get in a very short time. The tournament went off very well considering the usual organiser had died suddenly. Another member of the club took over the helm and guided the tournament on the right course, and it finished up earlier than ever before. On the last morning though, we had to start at 8.30 a.m. — not the ideal time to start semi-finals and finals, but I suppose better than playing till seven or eight-thirty at night which we

have done for the past four years.

Quite a number of new clubs came this year. How nice it is to see new faces and to make more friends, as I'm sure everyone did again this time. The quality of the bowling never ceases to amaze me, the people that come and watch can't believe it either. The reason in a lot of cases is that they have been bowling indoors during the winter months and that makes all the difference in the world.

Only eight bowlers went this year, ably assisted by their wives, one helper and the driver. We came away with five trophies — not bad in anybody's language. I would like to have seen more bowlers at Weston because participation is the most important thing of all, winning is an added bonus. It may surprise a number of readers that our bowlers were still bowling in the tournament at the end of the fourth day which is very good; that is why we had to start so early on the morning of the last day.

The totally blind section won four trophies, and the other was won by the partially sighted, so congratulations to all those winners and well done to all those who took part. I would like to mention one bowler in particular, Harry Davies, a newcomer and at his first outside tournament. Both he and his partner reached the semi-final of the pairs, and only lost it on the last but one end. Well done Harry, I'm sure you'll go a long way if you can keep that standard up throughout the season. I would also like to mention one team before I close this article, and that is Cheltenham and Gloucester. The lady that started the clubs is a Mrs Jarvis; we met her out in Australia in 1985 whilst we were taking part in the Third World Bowls — she was the Manager of the Hong Kong team. After her husband returned to England, they immediately started to form a club for visually handicapped bowlers, and believe it or not, they were the largest contingent at Weston. They showed everyone that they were going to participate whatever happened and they really enjoyed themselves, I'm sure they will be doing a lot better next time. Well done Cheltenham.

On the final afternoon the presentation was held inside the clubhouse as it sud-

denly went cold again — as a matter of fact, that was the first time I've ever played in a hail storm, and believe me it wasn't very pleasant at all, it was almost like curling. Thank goodness it didn't last very long. We spent the evening at the club having a drink, talking about what might have happened if . . . After a good old sing song, we went our separate ways and are looking forward to the next tournament which will be the English Nationals at Cliftonville.

At this juncture I should be doing the thankyou's, but I have to make two apologies from the last report of mine: I forgot to mention two persons. The one was accidental — that was Jock Carnochan, who had as usual worked so hard on the charts for the March Handicap — the most we have ever had — but he made out the chart to cover every eventuality. Swops had to be made all through the tournament but it finished on time and without a lot of bother. So if I'm not too late Jock I would like to thank you very much for all your hard work. The other person I left out, but on purpose this time, was you Katie. I didn't want to put in the *Review* how ill you were and why you hadn't been around. Most people knew and were very sorry you couldn't be with us. I would like to say now Katie, how nice it was once again to see you on the mat with the lads. Take great care of yourself as there are plenty of mats and chaps left waiting to have a go — well at least you know what I mean, don't you? Keep your pecker up and we will all see you soon.

Now I will end this report with one or two words of thanks, not in any particular order, and I hope I don't leave anybody off this time. If I do you will have to forgive me. On behalf of all the bowlers, their wives, helpers and friends, I would like to thank the personnel at London HQ in all departments for the hard work they put in every time we have a competition, especially the three drivers who must wonder sometimes how they manage to get us from one station to another, but they do it after a lot of hard work. Well done Charlie, Terry and Frank. Thanks to everyone at IFH. I will start first with the persons we meet first at Brighton, that is, the drivers from the transport section and Tom

Murray for driving us to and back from the tournament; then to the orderlies who help us to get our gear into our quarters; which brings me to the domestic on the wings — they are continually changing and keeping the rooms up to standard and ready for occupation, and also cleaning each day — you are all doing a fine job. The catering staff as usual are worked off their feet every day, how they do it I'll never know, but keep dishing it up girls and chaps. Thank you once again Joyce and Barbara for keeping us all on our toes about the return transport, we would all be lost without you.

Last but not least, I must thank Commander Conway, Major Neve and all the care assistants for their help which makes everything run smoothly — a smooth-running ship is a happy ship, so I'll sign off before I rock the boat. So, until we meet again, good bowling or whatever you may be interested in.

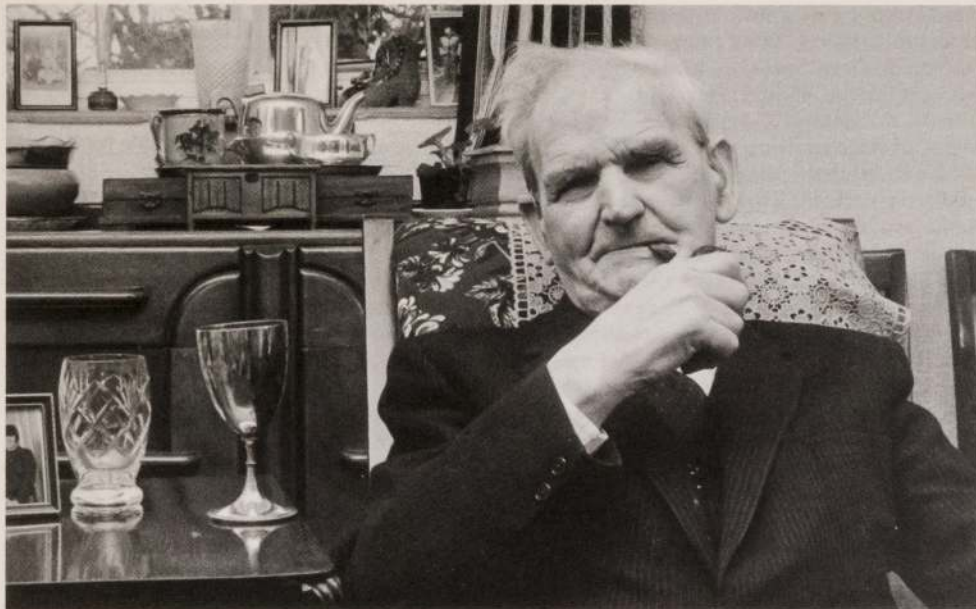
### BRITISH RAIL CONCESSIONS

British Rail have recently issued two leaflets for the information of disabled persons. One is called British Rail and Disabled Travellers and lists all the station, train and fare facilities available. The other tells you about the Disabled Persons Railcard and how to obtain it. Fare rules for non-card holding blind persons have now changed slightly. Old rules for bus or travel purposes allowed a blind person and escort to travel for one fare. It is now possible for a blind person and escort to make any journey on concession rates, which vary from 1/3 off to 1/2 off, depending on the type of ticket purchased. For the leaflets, which cover all details, write to one of the following addresses, depending on which area you live in:

Regional Bills Store, British Rail Headquarters, Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE. Tel: 01-928 5151 ext.3726

Regional Bills Store, British Rail Headquarters, Eastern Region, York YO1 1HR. Tel: (0904) 53022 ext. 2588

Regional Bills Store, British Rail Headquarters, ScotRail House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HG. Tel: 041-332 9811 ext. 4216



Harry Perrett at home in Devizes. Beside him is the cup he won at Regent's Park for tug of war. Photo: Carolyn Howell.

## MEMORIES OF REGENT'S PARK

Article by Carolyn Howell

Mr. Harry Perrett, of Devizes in Wiltshire, has been a St. Dunstaner for nearly 70 years and he's still pretty busy. He tends his garden and has a greenhouse, every Monday afternoon goes to the local Blind Club for 'a couple of hours cribbage' or on outings in summer, every Wednesday evening he has dinner at a club for the elderly, and regularly attends church on Sunday. Word of his prodigious memory reached the *Review* office by way of the Welfare grapevine, and we thought it would be interesting to meet Mr. Perrett and hear about his experiences during the war and his memories of the early days at Regent's Park.

After a train journey to Chichester and then a bus ride through green countryside, I found a cheerful Mr. Perrett awaiting me in his sunny cottage in Devizes. As Mr. Perrett was born and grew up in Devizes, I thought there was no better place to start than at the beginning. He told me how he was working as a groom

before enlisting, at the age of 17, on April 6th 1915, in the 6th Wiltshire Regiment. 'All the young people were very eager to join at that time — we didn't know what was on the end of it then.' Following a period of training at Trowbridge and then at Bovington in Dorset, the regiment left for France on September 9th and had reached the frontline by the 11th where, 'with the bullets flying around, we soon realised what we'd come into', he adds. These young lads, after only two or three months' training were dropped straight into the trenches. 'We were there about two weeks, and then immediately into the Battle of Loos on September 25th. That was terrible, just terrible. The comradeship was wonderful, but the experience was ... indescribable really.'

'We then moved our position a mile or so to the right and took over the guards' division at Givenchy. They had all the cylinders ready there, to use gas for the first time, but the wind was the wrong way.

After that we moved here, there and everywhere. In those days you were in the trenches for three to four weeks at a stretch. That was the routine until the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and I got through that all right. We did a long spell on the Somme. The first battle was terrific. We were supporting another division in the trenches from mid-Saturday morning until Sunday lunchtime. They fell and then we moved up to the frontline and were over the top, at the village of La Boisselle by 4 o'clock that afternoon. It was terrible really. We had 48 hours' terrific battle there. There were Germans in every creek. They named us "wincklepickers" that day — we had to winckle the Germans out. Ten days later we went up to Mametz Wood, what they call Death Valley, and we had to go over the top again.'

After a bit of respite on a quieter part of the line, Mr. Perrett with his regiment were moved up into Belgium for a month, back to the Somme for the whole winter and then to Belgium again, 'to what was known as the Tommy-Dickey-Bush, near where the Old Hill 60 is now. We were supporting two companies on the frontline. One morning we moved up to take over from the previous company and that night, April 4th 1917, the Germans put me out with a trench mortar. We were only about 90 yards from the Germans and they had the advantage because the ground rose, of course they fired these

things and they'd go up and come down. In the daytime you could dodge them because you could see them, but this was about 9 o'clock at night. I walked out of the trench to our battalion dressing station wounded in the face and left arm. They got me back to the village and then I started feeling things were wrong and lay down. The ambulance men put me on a stretcher and gave me an injection. I couldn't remember anything after that.

'I arrived in London on April 9th. After two weeks someone came to visit and told me about St. Dunstan's, and then a lady came to teach me how to make string bags, while I was still in bed! One or two St. Dunstaners visited me too. I didn't think too much on the blindness at that stage — I didn't know what was going to happen and well, to put it bluntly, about the war, the whole thing out there was absolute hell, you know, and I was happy to be away from it. I was glad to be out of it.'

'Anyhow, on October 27th I was discharged from hospital at 2 o'clock and then I saw Dr. Lawson and at 4 o'clock I was a St. Dunstaner!' Mr. Perrett then went home for a month and did not start training until the next year. But he did go to Regent's Park for a fortnight during that time, and it was then that he first met Sir Arthur Pearson. 'An amazing man, a wonderful man he was,' recalls Mr. Perrett, 'I was sitting on the couch in his study with him and Mrs. Bates, his secretary, and the

A tug of war team bracing for action at Regent's Park.



amazing thing was, Sir Arthur walked straight across the room to where I was and sat down by me. He started talking to me quietly, putting me at ease. I've never met a man like him really, awfully nice man. Then he talked about different things, where I came from and such-like, and Mrs. Bates read me some things and then he said, "I think you'd better go boot repairing." You didn't get as much choice as you do these days, there were so many of us then! So I did boot training and was there until February 1919.

"The training was wonderful, the comradeship of all the men, you knew everybody. And the discipline, it was just as though you were in the Army. I also learnt braille, typewriting, netting and matmaking. And we had a good time after classes too. In 1918 I won a cup with the Bungalow 18 team at Tug of War. And rowing was lovely on the lake — the winners got to go to Putney every spring, and that was a great day too. We were rowing in pairs once, me and another man. He was a big fella and I was a big fella and we were going in a straight line. The cox said, "You're well away, probably six lengths ahead." Just as he said that someone caught a crab and lost his oar! Before he could recover, the others came up and



Sir Arthur Pearson, *Bl.*

beat us. Those were good times, yes.

"A very nice thing during our training was Sir Arthur Pearson. He always gave us a lecture once a month in the big lounge at the house. That's how the men in those days learnt the way to be blind, by his lectures. Wonderful. I always remember, it was so funny really... he was talking about when you meet your young lady. He said, "Your young lady will be as you think she is." He said, "If you think she's got a Roman nose, she's got a Roman nose!"



### Remembering Sir Arthur...

Another person who still has a vivid memory of Sir Arthur Pearson is Mrs. E.M. Lomas, aged 91, of Walthamstow in London. Mrs. Lomas is the widow of the late

Mr. John Lomas, a Sergeant in the 4th Royal Fusiliers who became a St. Dunstanian in 1916.

After being blinded in action in France during the First World War and having returned home to his wife, Mr. Lomas was invited by Sir Arthur to come for an interview. Mrs. Lomas recalls, "We both went and I had my baby — my eldest daughter born on February 2nd 1915. Now that daughter is 72! Anyway, we went to see Sir Arthur. Sir Arthur came and took my baby out of my arms and held her for quite a while! He was a dear, he was like me Dad! He and my husband got talking about business and became good friends. When we came away my husband was fully prepared to go into St. Dunstan's. That's how it happened. He was beautiful, Sir Arthur, such a gentle man."



The boot repairing workshop at Regent's Park.

Ever so funny really. Our training days were absolutely wonderful. I was there till February 1919, about 15 months. Once you'd passed all your work — braille, typing, netting, matmaking, boot repairing — you got a certificate."

Mr. Perrett then returned to Devizes and took up employment as a boot repairer, but didn't find it very easy in the beginning. "It was grim and hard after Regent's Park, I was like someone in the wilderness. A blind person was looked upon as a poor and simple mortal in those days. You were on your own. Only two or three years after the war, did people start to realise — and that's when life started for the blind really."

Things took a turn for the better when he met his wife to be. "She was working at the same place as me. I was out walking with a pal and he spotted them — she was with her sister, and he spoke to them. I walked back to work with her and it built up from there. Lucky day for me! They married in July 1921 and soon started a family."

Mr. Perrett wasn't too happy with boot repairing and spent some time during the Second World War making camouflage

Mr. and Mrs. Perrett on their wedding day.







Gardening at Regent's Park.

nets at Church Stretton. Then, later at Ovingdean, he learnt rugmaking and this took off as a subsequent career. He began to work privately and continued making rugs until he was 73, selling them locally and to St. Dunstan's — he must have made hundreds he says!

His love of gardening was also initiated during his days at Regent's Park. 'There were a couple of braille teachers, ladies, who got authority to dig up a nice big lawn there to grow vegetables. They asked for anyone used to doing a bit of gardening, so about a dozen of us volunteered, and there you are — that's how they started blind gardening! We learnt everything and grew all kinds of vegetables. One night, somebody left the garden gate open and the sheep in Regent's Park got in and had a good feed, they ate the lot!' Mrs. Perrett was also fond of gardening, so they soon got busy in their own garden and did quite well, says Mr. Perrett.

Mr. and Mrs. Perrett were lucky in enjoying a long and happy marriage. They had two children, and then three grandchildren and now Mr. Perrett is very proud of his six great grandchildren! In 1981 they celebrated their Golden Wedding

Anniversary, 'It was on the same day as the Bristol reunion,' he says, 'So we went to the reunion and came back to a party the family had organised for us.' Two days later, they were greeted with a further surprise to celebrate the occasion — a sit-down meal for 100 guests in their honour. And visited by the Mayor. Sadly, Mrs. Perrett passed away last year, in March 1986.

As I take my leave of Mr. Perrett, now at the grand age of 89, he says of being blind: 'Despite the disadvantages blindness means a new life; you do so many things sighted people don't do. You educate yourself and improve your memory. Blindness made me think deeper. It's the brain that overcomes blindness really.' As a sighted person, my morning with Mr. Perrett certainly made me reconsider deeply two things, and for this I thank Mr. Perrett. Firstly, how important is our *attitude* towards anything we undertake, and it boils down to how much we believe in ourselves really. If we let go of the limitations we impose on ourselves, we can be capable of so much. And secondly, we receive much more than adequate assistance from the five senses with which we are equipped — let us never take them for granted!

## NATIONAL TRUST FACILITIES BOOKLET

The National Trust have recently issued their latest guide booklet of 'Facilities for Disabled and Visually Handicapped Visitors' in England. The guide lists all places of interest, including manor houses, castles, parks and gardens, and farms and gives details of the facilities provided. For a free copy of the booklet, write to the National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

## 'TALKING' TELEPHONE BILLS

British Telecom are introducing 'talking' telephone bills for blind and visually impaired customers. Bills will be sent to local area offices who will phone the customer, give details of the bill and advise on the ways of paying it. The bill will then be forwarded to the customer by post.

If you would like to take advantage of this new arrangement, contact your local district accounts group and ask to be included on the scheme. You will find the telephone number for your district office on telephone bills and in all phone books or from Directory Enquiries.

## ARE YOU GETTING YOUR FULL BENEFITS?

Find out in the latest editions of the RNIB 'Your Benefit' guides to weekly social security benefits for visually handicapped people. The benefits detailed include supplementary benefit, housing benefit and attendance allowance. Entitled, 'Your Benefit: Pensioners' and 'Your Benefit: Working Age', both guides are available in tape, braille, Moon and large print, costing 75p each. Copies can be obtained from 'Your Benefit', 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Please state version and format required and enclose money with order.

## READING TIME

by Phillip Wood

Cat. No. 576

**Colonel Sun**

By Robert Markham

Read by John Graham

Reading Time 8½ hrs.

James Bond goes to visit his chief 'M' at his country retreat and walks straight into an ambush. The usual gun-fight follows and he is captured. He manages to escape but 'M' is kidnapped.

Clues left behind by the gang lead 007 to Athens where he meets a beautiful girl who is patently working for the 'other side'. She lures him to the Acropolis where the gang is lying in wait. At the very last second she realises that they are not her lot and the pair beat a hasty retreat. It is now obvious that our hero has been pitchforked into two separate conspiracies.

The girl takes Bond to her leader who is a very nice Russian gentleman and they decide to join forces against the other lot. This bunch of nasties is led by the fanatical Colonel Sun of the People's Liberation Army of China (to me he sounds rather like a comic updated version of Dr. Fu Man Chu). The nice Russian and his men are killed, which leaves our James to deal with the baddies. This he does. There is a satisfying amount of violence and blood-letting before he finally wins through and 'M' is safely returned to the fold...

Run-of-the-mill Bond yarn, reasonably entertaining.

## ADDITIONS TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

**SD47 C90 Guide to Southwark Cathedral.** Shirley Gillberry helped to compile and produce this tape to help blind and visually handicapped visitors enjoy a multi-sensory experience of many of the features of the Cathedral. It includes full mobility instructions and comments from the staff at the Cathedral and the Bishop of Southwark.

**R75 C90 Ragchew No. 23, April 1987.**

## D.F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope you will have a fine show of colour from all plants, if there has been plenty of sun and some rain at times or if you have been short of moisture that you have been able to use the hose liberally. Give some feed in the shape of Growmore pellets, at the rate of about 2 ozs per square yard, sprinkled around with your hand. At this time of the year one is thinking of taking a holiday, so try and get neighbours or relatives who may live in the area to look after the place. Not much attention is needed outdoors but if you have a greenhouse with plants growing for the winter show, plus tomatoes and cucumbers, instruct them what to do and see that you have given the plants a dose of insecticide which should last till you come back.

### Vegetables

Keep the hoe going regularly so that weeds are kept to a minimum and hose the whole lot in very dry spells. Clear beds where plants have finished and then fork over lightly. Main crop potatoes will be growing well, so give them a last earthing up. Ensure that you have tall canes and strings ready for runner beans to climb — it is a good idea to tie in early growths or twine them around the canes or strings to give them a good start. Keep them well watered and if there is any sign of insects about give them a spray.

Outdoor tomatoes will have grown well so stop the main growth and don't let side shoots get too long. Give a spray of water to flowers in dry conditions so the fruit sets. Give plenty of water and feed at root level. Marrows will also need plenty of water. Some late cabbages and turnips can be sown, plus regular small quantities of lettuce and radish seed to keep the salad items going. Sprouts and early cabbages will have grown well. There may be some insect pests on them so spray regularly, and where you have strong winds heel in the sprouts very firmly or even put in some small canes.

### Fruit

Make certain all fruit trees and bushes are kept moist at root level whilst the fruit is growing in size and if there are signs of insects and mildew give a dose of combined spray. There are quite a number of these about. Where you have a rather heavy crop, especially on overcrowded trees, thin out fruit and cut away some shoots which are stopping the light and air getting in and have no signs of fruit on them. Early raspberries will have ripe fruit on them, so pick regularly, in order to have some later fruit. Crops of gooseberries and varieties of the currant family should be gathered as soon as they ripen. Some strawberries can be layered for next year's plants but don't overdo this.

### Flowers

Hoe all beds regularly to keep soil open and cut down weeds. Sprinkle some Growmore fertiliser around as all plants will be growing well and need a boost to keep them at a high level. Cut away dead blooms and stake up items which are growing a bit tall, especially in windy areas. Give geraniums, dahlias and chrysanthemums plenty of water plus extra fertiliser, especially when the blooms are starting off. Stop the top growth of chrysanthemums to give more flowers. Dahlias could do with a mulch of manure or compost to keep the root system moist. Don't forget to stake taller growing varieties, so you don't lose the mammoth blooms.

Any bedding plants you had as reserves should be planted out and given a dose of water when planted. See to roses and give them a good watering and spray two or three times with an insect/mildew spray. These combined sprays can be bought at all garden shops and they also give a special rose feed. These will also keep down black spot. It is a good idea to add some fertiliser at root level to make sure that you get flowers. Do cut away all dead flow-

ers to ensure more blooms. Seeds of biennials and perennials can be sown now to give good plants for next season.

### Greenhouse

This is the time of year when you don't have to worry about any heat and windows will need to be open all day and night in very warm weather. However, if the wind is strong on one side close the ventilator. As usual, light smoke cones a couple of times as a precaution against insects and diseases of all kinds. Most benches and other parts will be free now so give them a good cleaning over, adding some disinfectant. Pot plants for winter show should be moved away for the time being.

Cyclamen and cineraria will be growing well so give them plenty of water and occasional feeds. Other items such as pot

primulas for Xmas show should be put in their flowering containers. Chrysanthemums will probably need staking and some of the side shoots stopped to get really good flowers. Gloxinias and tuberous begonias will be starting to show their colour so give extra water and feeds. Begonias tend to have one large flower and two smaller ones at the side. These are female ones and are single so nip them off to improve the larger flowers.

Tomatoes will be in full growth and giving good fruit. Pick off any side shoots and tie in to canes or strings regularly. It is often a good idea to use a fine spray of water over the flowers to give a good set. Water regularly and use fertiliser every other time when watering. Stop the main growth when it reaches the top of the greenhouse.

## REUNION AT CHURCH STRETTON

### Calling those who trained there . . .

It is planned to hold a reunion at Church Stretton over the weekend of October 17th and 18th on the occasion of the installation of a commemorative plaque in the Parish Church of St. Laurence.

The plaque records the six years during the Second World War when St. Dunstan's 'occupied' the town.

Those who trained or worked there and would be interested to attend this event are invited to apply to Mr. William Weisblatt at HQ no later than the end of July. It is not yet known how much accommodation can be provided and it may be necessary to hold a ballot for places.

## IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND

St. Dunstaner, David Bell is entering a sponsored walk on September 13th for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Keymer and Clayton Branch. He hopes to walk 15 miles. Anyone who would like to sponsor him with a donation, please send it to c/o the Editor, HQ.

## A HOME FOR JOEY

*This photograph shows the late George Reed, of Farnham, with his dummy, Joey. Mr. Reed continued to practise ventriloquism for quite a while after becoming a St. Dunstaner. His dummy, Joey, was handed down from his father who was also a ventriloquist and who served with Joey in the First World War. Mrs. Reed writes to tell us that she has managed to have Joey put in the Aldershot Military Museum, where he has a place of honour. 'Both George and his father would be happy to know he has a good home,' she says.*





Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Holmes enjoying the comfort of the newly refurbished lounge at Ansell House.

## WELCOME TO ANSELL HOUSE

Broadhurst Gardens, recently renamed Ansell House in honour of Colonel Sir Mike Ansell, has been completely refurbished and is now looking brand new and spick and span, waiting to welcome St. Dunstaners and their wives for their stopovers in London.

The whole building has been repainted and recarpeted throughout. All the furniture has been replaced and heating has been installed, with double glazing on the windows. The kitchen is completely modernised and bathrooms renovated to include showers. All the stairs now have bannisters to aid mobility and finally to make sure that St. Dunstaners will be completely safe as well as happy, the fire detection system has been fully serviced

and security greatly improved with double locks, grilles etc.

Sounds inviting? Arthur Holmes, of Southampton, who stayed recently with his wife, had this to say: 'It's a lot better. More comfortable, a big improvement all round in every way. My wife says it has a lighter atmosphere with the windows and new furniture. We enjoyed our stay there, didn't want to leave.' Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morgan, of Bristol, also recently tried it out. He says, 'It was most comfortable, very nice. The bathrooms are convenient and close to the bedrooms. The food is good, the service is good and the accommodation very good. What more can one say?'

See you there!

### TEMBANI REUNION

The Tembani reunion will be taking place at Ian Fraser House over the weekend of November 28th and 29th. Would anyone who would like to attend please make the necessary arrangements through Mrs. Alison Johnson, Homes Bookings, HQ.

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### CAN ANYONE HELP?

A widow of a St. Dunstaner would like to obtain a copy of *The Edge of the Sword* (print version), by Captain Farrar-Hockley. If anyone can help, please contact the Editor, St. Dunstan's Review, at Headquarters, 12-14 Harcourt Street, W1A 4XB.

## SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

This year 3,405 Derby Sweepstake tickets were sold and the total prize money, less the cost of printing the tickets, amounted to £592.91.

There were 19 runners this year and the payout was as follows:

1st Prize £296 — **W. Young** —  
Reference Point, Ticket No. 2639.

2nd Prize £118 — **D.E. Taylor** — Most Welcome, Ticket No. 3275.  
3rd Prize £59 — **Mrs. C.G.E. Weeks** — Bellotto, Ticket No. 2060.

The rest of the prize money was divided equally between all those who held tickets for the remaining 16 runners.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIDGE IN THE SUN By Alf Dodgson

On St. George's Day, April 23rd, a party of bridge players — 11 St. Dunstaners with wives and supporting cast, Ian Dickson and Stan Metcroft — took off from Gatwick into the blue yonder heading for Guernsey. This was a new venture for our Bridge Club which was a great success and a good time was had by all.

Our hotel, the Mayfield, was first class with good food and accommodation. Our hosts, Richard and Jane Fitzpatrick, also Alf and Pauline Wallew, gave us hospitality in abundance both in their hotel and outside at our bridge matches which were played at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre. I cannot express enough the kindness shown to us all by these four people which we all appreciated very much indeed.

The sighted opposition at the Leisure Centre were amazed and enthralled by our bridge and it certainly was an experience for them to play against a team of blind people. Some of our outstanding bridge players at the table were Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Bill Phillips, Joe Carney, Jim and Pat Padley. The sun shone on us all week enabling us to explore during the day the beautiful island of interest and intrigue.

Last but not least I must mention Dick Langham for organising our bridge fixtures — as a Bridge Director he fulfilled this task admirably — thanks from us all Dick, and hopefully if we visit Guernsey again which I feel sure we will, you will do the same for us once more.



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## BRIGHTON

### Bridge

#### 3-Way Competition — May 2nd/3rd

London	121
Provinces	86
Brighton	72

#### Teams:

*London* — W. Allen (Capt.), W. Miller, R. Fullard, R. Palmer, Mr. & Mrs H. King and Mr. and Mrs. H. Meleson.

*Provinces* — Mrs. Vi Delaney (Capt.), P. McCormack, J. Carney, H. Ward, M. Tybinski, G. Hudson, P. Surridge and F. Dickerson.

*Brighton* — W. Phillips (Capt.), E. McMillan, W. Lethbridge, J. Padley, A. Dodgson, J. Whitcombe, R. Freer and R. Goding.

#### Bridge Drive — May 3rd

M. Tybinski & Mrs. McPherson	1970
W. Phillips & Miss Byrne	1780
Mr. & Mrs. H. Meleson	1220
G. Hudson & J. Carney	1100
<i>Score nearest zero</i>	
P. McCormack	
Mrs. Phillips	-30

#### Pairs — May 10th

R. Fullard & Mrs. A. Clements	59.7
A. Dodgson & Mrs. Douse	56.3
R. Evans & Mrs. Holborow	54.9
Mr. & Mrs. J. Padley	52.1
W. Lethbridge & Mrs. V. MacPherson	47.9
Mr. & Mrs. R. Pacitti	45.1
R. Goding & Miss Stenning	45.1
Mr. & Mrs. W. Phillips	38.9

#### Individuals — May 30th

J. Padley	64.0
W. Phillips	54.8
R. Evans	54.8
Miss Sturdy	54.8
W. Lethbridge	45.2
Mrs. Pacitti	45.2
Mrs. A. Clements	45.2
R. Pacitti	35.7

## Entertainment Section

On May 7th a party of St. Dunstaners, wives and escorts made the coach trip to the Princess Marina Convalescent Home, Rustington, for the annual visit arranged for us by the 'Not Forgotten' Association.

We were greeted by Mrs. Giles, Wing Commander Carvosso, Colonel Bennett and the deputy Matron. After the usual icecream cornet many took a walk along the sea front as it was superb weather. Others chose to stay and chat to residents. Mrs. Dacre and Miss Stenning joined us for tea which, as everyone knows who has been there before, is a boiled egg. When everyone had finished their tea, the tables were cleared and the floor space filled with chairs for the concert.

The pianist, Les Brown, introduced the concert and he was accompanied by singers, Joan Hanning, a soprano, and David Capri, tenor, who entertained us with songs we liked, and they were supported by some of the men. Then came Vince Stair and Rita who sang Old Tyme songs, each played a trumpet. Vince then entertained us to some stories, while Rita changed into Scottish costume and played Scottish tunes on the bagpipes, and together on the trumpets they played Amazing Grace.

When the concert came to an end, Mrs. Dacre thanked Wing Commander Carvosso for a wonderful afternoon, and presented him with an I.O.U. as she had only just heard that he was retiring, with a promise that a suitable gift would be sought for him. Because of ill-health the Chairman of the Entertainment Section was unable to be with us, so Bob Osborne expressed our thanks to Miss Giles and presented her with a lovely tray made by a St. Dunstaner — Bob says he only goes for the kisses he gets!

The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the entertainment to an end, and after all the farewells we boarded the coach and arrived safely home a little after seven p.m. We wish Bob Cunningham a speedy recovery.

*Phyllis O'Kelly*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

*Joe Humphrey*, of Belfast, who is Founder President of the Royal Marine Association formed recently in Belfast. The Association is growing, and has 20 members at present.

*Alan Williams*, of Newport, who successfully completed his Law Society Finals and has obtained a position with the Gwent County Council, articulated to the Chief Executive's Department.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Paul, son of *Mr. and Mrs. S.D.W. Blackmore*, of Grangetown, Cardiff, on his marriage to Susan Shergold on June 6th.

Vincent, youngest son of *Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Craddock*, of Warrington, who married Janice Bradley on July 4th.

Sarah, daughter of *Mrs. K. Higgins* and the late *Mr. T.W. Higgins*, of Hemel Hempstead, on her marriage to David Hobbs on September 27th 1986.

Alison Elizabeth, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. F.R. Mills*, of Tavistock on her marriage to Andrew Wise on May 30th.

*Mr. E.J. Paris*, of New Malden, on the occasion of his marriage to Janet Billenness on May 23rd.

Roberta (Robbie), daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. E. Slater*, of Leyland, on her marriage to Nigel J. Maddock on July 4th.

### SILVER WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. W. Griffiths*, of Blackpool, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on May 26th.

### RUBY WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. A. Waddington*, of Burnley, Lancs., on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on May 31st.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. R. Bailey*, of Southampton, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on May 15th.

*Mr. and Mrs. G. Young*, of Old Coulsdon, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 26th.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. H. Davies*, of Llanelli, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Hannah Cathryn, born recently to their daughter and son-in-law, Angela and Philip Davies.

*Mrs. K. Higgins*, widow of the late *Mr. T.W. Higgins*, of Hemel Hempstead, on the birth of her grand-daughter, Rebecca Kate, born to Susan and her husband on April 30th.

*Mr. and Mrs. P. Logan*, of Midsomer Norton, on the birth of their ninth grandchild, Candice, born on April 28th to their youngest daughter, Sonia, and her husband.

*Mr. and Mrs. A. Naylor*, of Mansfield Woodhouse, on the birth of their 13th grandchild, Lecanna Jane, born on April 13th to their daughter, Joanna and her husband, Gary Blyton.

*Mrs. E. Simpson*, widow of the late *Mr. J.A. Simpson*, of Peacehaven, on the birth of her 12th grandchild, Cassandra Elizabeth, born on December 3rd 1986 to her daughter, Marie and husband, John Wheeler.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. G. Brooks*, of Brighton, on the arrival of their second great grandchild, Katie Louise Sherrer, born on April 24th to their grand-daughter, Julie, and her husband, John.

*Mr. and Mrs. S. Moseley*, of Poulton-le-Fylde, on the birth of their fifth great grandchild, Kristina Victoria, born on February 28th to their grand-daughter, Kay Beverley, and her husband, Ian.

## DEATHS

### We offer sympathy to:

*A.F.G. Clarke*, of Folkestone, whose mother died in hospital on May 4th after a short illness.

*Mrs. M. Fenny*, widow of the late *Mr. J. Fenny* of Chester-le-Street, who mourns

the death of their only daughter, Kathleen, aged 45.

*Mrs. C.V. Jones*, of Tiverton, Devon, on the death of her mother, *Mrs. D. Cole*, widow of the late *Mr. B.R. Cole*, on May 22nd.

*Bridgette*, wife of *Mr. G. Nolan*, of Great Sutton, South Wirral, who mourns the death of her brother, *Thomas Gormley*, on May 18th, aged 71. *Mr. Gormley* served in the Gordon Highlanders and was wounded in France, losing the sight of one eye, but was able to work until retirement age.

*W.S. Parish*, of Norwich, whose sister, *Agnes Parish*, passed away suddenly on April 24th.

*Mrs. J. Watts*, of Chippenham, niece of the late *Mr. E.L. Woods*, of Malmesbury, on the death of her aunt, *Mrs. M.E. Woods* on May 17th, aged 87.

## In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

### *H. Bowen, Royal Welsh Fusilliers*

*Henry Bowen*, of Conover, Shrewsbury, passed away at his home on May 5th after some months of failing health, aged 89.

*Mr. Bowen* served in the Royal Welsh Fusilliers from January 1916 to November 1918. He was wounded at Passchendaele in October 1917 suffering injuries which included the loss of one eye. Nevertheless he was able to work for many years as a farmer and during the Second World War as a driver for the local council — in the course of this work he made regular visits to our establishment at Church Stretton. After retiring from farming at the age of 65 he tended an extensive vegetable garden.

With the failure of his remaining vision, *Mr. Bowen* became a St. Dunstaner in 1979. Sadly, his wife died two years later, but even in spite of his health problems, *Mr. Bowen* was able to remain in his own home where he received wonderful help and support from the many members of the family living close by and he enjoyed many holidays with us at Ian Fraser House.

He leaves his sons and daughter and their families.

### *Lt. Col. T.L. Pilkington, Royal Irish Regiment & Indian Army*

*Lieut. Colonel Thomas Lionel Pilkington*, of Surbiton, passed away on May 17th in a Surrey nursing home, aged 91. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1978 and was born in County Clare.

After being commissioned from Sandhurst in January 1915, *Colonel Pilkington* served with the Royal Irish Regiment on the continent and received a shoulder wound on the Somme followed by an injury to his other shoulder later at Ypres, during the First World War. In 1919 he transferred to the Indian Army and was with the B.E.F. in Turkey until 1922. He then served with various Indian regiments until 1937 when he had to break his service because of defective vision but he was recalled to the Colours in the Second World War and served with the Indian Army until his discharge in December 1943.

Despite advancing years, *Colonel Pilkington* retained his sense of humour and great awareness of all that was going on around him. He was always a welcome guest at our officers' reunions and will be greatly missed. "Tom" as he was affectionately known, leaves a son, *Thomas*, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.