

St Dunstons
Review

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Free to St. Dunstaners

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Cover Picture: *Happy New Year!* Bob Fearnley enjoying the Christmas Celebrations at Pearson House.



From the Chairman

At the turn of the year it is tempting to look back and review the previous twelve months. 1987 was certainly eventful but I prefer to look forward to St. Dunstan's 73rd year. The millenium of Dunstan, our patron saint by accidental adoption, will call for some commemoration, possibly to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Ian Fraser House in 1938. This new year will also see the completion of the refurbishing of Pearson House and a formal reopening will follow, (although, of course the work there has continued despite the upheavals of re-building and re-decoration).

The crowded calendar of events published with the *Review* last month shows that St. Dunstaners — and their wives — are as busy as ever in the activities of our societies. To all of you I wish success and enjoyment in whatever you undertake in 1988.

Henry Asch

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, Visiting Staff and those who have retired, 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 1988.

H.M.S. DAEDALUS CAMP 1988

The camp at *H.M.S. Daedalus* will take place from Friday August 12th until the morning of Saturday August 20th. Will all those wishing to attend please apply for a place to: Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG. Miss Grant would, however, prefer to make the arrangements by telephone, and can be reached on 0799 22874. **Please apply as soon as possible and in any case not later than Tuesday, May 3rd, 1988.**

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

David Bell successfully accomplished a 15 mile sponsored walk on September 13th from Henfield to Southwater and back in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The walk along an old disused railway was made under adverse conditions. David would like to thank all those St. Dunstaners and friends who gave generously to the appeal especially Gwen Obern of Aberdare, Miss Carlton of Canberra, Australia, the Thompsons of Tenerife and the Fleet Air Arm at H.M.S. Daedalus.

OIL CONSULTANT

Stewart Harris, the St. Dunstaner whose career in the higher levels of the oil industry the *Review* has reported from time to time, has been appointed full-time consultant to the Livanos Shipping Group and to Victor Gauntlett, Chairman of Aston Martin/Lagonda. He advises both on oil business in the United Kingdom.

AMENDMENTS TO THE 88 CALENDAR

The Calendar of events for 1988 published last month was in error in listing the **Autumn Gardening Week** at Ian Fraser House. Arrangements have been made for Club members to visit the Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester from September 13th — 20th, for a full programme prepared by Mr. Ray Churchill.

The Handless Deaf Reunion begins on the 22nd of September, not the 23rd as stated.

The Bridge Congress takes place from December 2nd — 5th, and not the 4th as reported.

Daedalus Camp dates also need amending from August 6th — 13th, the new dates being August 12th — 20th.

Brighton Club Dinner and Dance October 29th not November 29th.

LORD HUNT OF FAWLEY

We are very sorry to report the death, on December 28th, of Lord Hunt of Fawley, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.G.P., aged 82. John Hunt was involved with the work of St. Dunstan's for over 40 years. In 1946, on leaving the Royal Air Force, he became assistant to Dr. Bridges, then our Medical Officer. He was invited to become a consultant physician in 1948 and continued in this work until 1962 when he joined the Council of St. Dunstan's.

He served the Council for 23 years until, in 1985, failing health brought about his resignation and he was made a Vice-President.

Described as one of the most influential general practitioners in the world, John Hunt was a founder of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He was its first honorary Secretary and, in 1967, became President. In 1968 he was awarded the C.B.E. for services to general practice. He was made a Life Peer in 1973.

MRS. AVIS SPURWAY M.B.E.

As we go to press we are deeply sorry to report that Avis Spurway died peacefully on New Years Day. A full tribute will appear in our March Issue.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 8th OCTOBER 1987

A slightly chilly day rendered cooler by the news of Enniskillen. It is the one day when the nation comes together to remember and to count the cost of conflict — not to add to it.

This year, the coaches left the Russell Hotel with 80 St. Dunstaners on board for the Parade. It was good to meet up again with so many escorts and friends from *HMS Daedalus*, who provide many of the escorts. This year, it seemed quieter than ever at 11am. Not a helicopter stuttered overhead, not a bird called nor a cough stifled. It seemed in stark contrast later on to the sound on the radio of the rescuers scabbling in the rubble of Enniskillen after the bomb.

This year, during the pause between Her Majesty The Queen leaving and the march past commencing, BBC TV featured St. Dunstan's. There were scenes of Ian Fraser House and several individuals including Elsie Aldred, Bill Griffiths, John Cowan and Ray Hazan. It was an excellent 'advertisement' for St. Dunstan's. The same group were filmed by the cameras as they marched past the Cenotaph. The Chairman was escorted by our President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and John Cowan. The applause for the contingent was surpassed only by those for the members of BLESMA (British Limbless ex Servicemen's Association) in their electric wheelchairs.

A reception and luncheon was held afterwards at the Russell Hotel. The Chairman spoke on the theme of 'Lest we forget', ending by a reading of Rudyard Kipling's poem on the same theme. John Cowan responded on behalf of St. Dunstaners.

It was a memorable day in every sense. One reflects with sadness, however, that more deaths should have been added to all those we remember on such a day.

Ray Hazan

Wales Festival of Remembrance

I was privileged to be the standard bearer and to represent St. Dunstan's alongside

Trevor Tatchell and Gordon Pennington at St. David's Hall, Cardiff on October 31st, for the Wales Festival of Remembrance. The ceremonial proceedings were very colourful and it was gratifying to be present, particularly as this was the first time St. Dunstan's had been invited. We paraded at the end of the Royal British Legion Group and marched down the steps through the hall to take up position on the stage.

When all the contingents had assembled, the traditional memorial tributes were paid and hundreds of poppies showered down from above. In conclusion, the choir and band of the Coldstream Guards were joined by the audience in some great singing. This was a most impressive spectacle, charged with emotion, and one felt a great thrill in being part of it.

Norman Hopkins

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31st 1987, CARDIFF

The most prestigious Concert Hall in Wales, the St. Davids Hall, was the venue for the 1987 Remembrance Concert. The Hall is a new concept in that it has all the most modern acoustics and spacious accommodation. It is a magnificent building and is the envy of other capital cities.

For the past four years the Royal British Legion of Wales have held their Remembrance concerts at this splendid Hall. I understand this is the first time the St. Dunstan's standard and representatives were invited. Consequently, Messrs. Hopkins, Pennington, and Tatchell duly participated, Norman Hopkins being the standard bearer, and a very fine job he did. The rehearsals were somewhat monotonous and tiring, but at the evenings performance one could understand the thinking behind practising, as it all went off without a hitch.

Those who have attended the Albert Hall will know that each regiment or contingent is welcomed with their own regimental march. To my knowledge, St. Dunstan's does not have their own tune, so I wondered if, when we were announced, they would play 'Three Blind Mice,' as after all there were three of us.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

FIFTY YEARS ON

In 1937 I and two others got lost in the hills; mist, rain, incoming darkness, and if it hadn't been for a hut which loomed up in the last of the light, tin roof, plank walls and grit floor, we could as easily have died from exposure as survived this experience of ours in that kind of locality and that kind of weather. There is very little left of the hut now, just its tin roof sitting amongst boulders, and likely enough I'll never see that again, senescence being what it is, let alone the summit on whose remote shoulder it lies, the 5,268 foot Broad Cairn.

Lochnagar

All had gone well the previous day, hot October sunshine, a curlew calling, as the party made its way over the Capel track; and it was towards this same Capel track, which crosses the hill between Clova and Muick, that my wife Margaret and I bent

Remembrance Concert *continued*

The first half of the concert comprised top flight artistes accompanied by the Coldstream Guards Band. Also in attendance was a male voice choir of some 1,590 voices. The second half was the parade of all the contingents with their respective banners from all the services, all greeted with deafening applause. One can imagine the crescendo of sound with the choir, the band and the capacity audience when the old war tunes were sung in addition to the Welsh and English National anthems.

There were also local and national dignitaries present, and it was a truly moving and memorable experience. We were proud to witness this remembrance concert, a tribute to our Fallen Comrades.

Trevor Tatchell

our steps this past October, half a century after that weekend of old when three young lads would have a go at the hills. In those days you got up the Glen on the bike, but it was a Mini City Blue Margaret and I now left behind us in quitting the new fangled Forestry car park, trudged along the stony estate road, and got to the foot of a Capel Mount, nowadays heavily timbered, at least on its lower parts, with Sitka spruce. Beyond this a zig-zag track is much as it always was, climbing above the gully of the Capel burn deep down on your right, and here a raven croaked somewhere in the direction of Ferrowie, a lone, grassy summit nearby. Over the years I've had many adventures in these parts, midnight crossings in snow and the like, but now it was an ever more unadventurous elderly couple who got to the top at last, descended a little way on the other side, then sat down to eat their sandwiches in a wilderness of heather, boulders and peat-hags. Lochnagar rose to the north, Mount Keen to the east, and immediately to the west of us, an enormous accumulation of screes, the Skitters of Cairn Broadlands.

In the waste between us and Broad Cairn there echoed and re-echoed the weird bellowing of a stag. Then we were hailed by a human voice. 'What the hell,' it said, 'is that auld blind so-and-so wi' the lang staff daein' up here?' This made Margaret and me feel at home, for it was Willy Potts, the local deer-stalker, Willy and his wife Mary, bound on foot for an evening with Johnny Robertson, the deerstalker on the Glen Muick side of the hill. I was known to Willy's predecessor, Bert Henderson, to the lad before Bert, Archie Wilson, and before them all to old Alan Cameron, who had gillied for Queen Victoria in his day. We retraced our steps down the hill, Lochnagar, and the rest disappeared, and it was very complacently that I got into the car with Margaret that evening, as having properly celebrated a half-century in the hills.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Alexandra Fitzsimmonds, of Chichester — addressed to the *Chichester Observer*
Was it my imagination or was Sunday's memorial service at the Cenotaph more moving than ever?

It was good that we saw at St. Dunstan's men who were not only blinded in war, but also limbless. Can we imagine ourselves without hands? We would rather die I think; perhaps they felt that when they realised their plight.

All honour to those who have lived and done more in their lives than the rest of us could even contemplate. We are not worthy of them, as we have allowed our children to see scenes on television that should never have been polluting their minds.

Y.O. of Belgium

Like every year I have been watching the ceremonies at the Cenotaph on this Remembrance Day.

Just like every year too I have felt envy at not being English. Such pride to have been saved by such a great people, love and thankfulness.

A few years ago we were in London to watch this ceremony and we were so moved to see you, the blind, marching in the dark on a gloriously sunny day.

Now at last I know where to address a very deep THANK YOU.

A long time has passed since the end of the war but I will never forget.

My grandmother used to tell me about the English, the British, during the First World War. She had not forgotten either. I was only a little girl when the Second World War broke out but, now in my fifties, I feel it is time to express my thankfulness directly beside praying.

MERCI. THANKS to all of you.

From Elsie Westmore of London

May I, through the *Review*, thank the readers of NUGGETS and other friends for their generous contribution to the collection recently made on my behalf. It was with great reluctance that I decided last June that the time had come for me to give up editing the magazine, something I had enjoyed for so long.

Now, instead, I have another pleasure — that of choosing a gift which will remind me (as though I shall need a reminder) of happy associations and many good friends. Thank you all.

From Lily Dakin of Lancashire

I am writing to say how much we appreciated the Armistice programme where St. Dunstan's was shown. My father was Harry Dakin, First World War blinded and had been a St. Dunstaner from early days until he passed away at the age of 82.

My sister and brother and their families were very interested and were pleased it was made. Thanks for your efforts.

From Syd Scroggie of Kirkton of Strathmartine

One of the company at Church Stretton recently, when the St. Dunstan's plaque was dedicated, was someone who was a junior member of staff there in now distant days, Kay Timmis. She has never lost touch with Roseangle, staying with us here on one occasion, and a year or two ago my wife Margaret and myself were Kay's guests in her charming St. David's home. We took in the cathedral when we were there, in whose affairs Kay is intimately involved, and here my attention was drawn to a row of carved faces on the wall. I asked what the medieval sculptor had sought to represent by their faces, and in Kay saying 'The seven deadly sins,' asked that their appearance individually should be described to me. I don't remember if it was Kay or Margaret who replied but, 'Funnily enough, Sydney,' she said, 'they all have a look of you,' then we moved on to the quaintly carved choir-stalls, some modern embroidery, and an eerie nook where the bones of St. David himself are preserved.

From Walter Bick, Leamington Spa

In the November issue of the *Review* I read a letter from Alf Bradley, and I am in full agreement with what he says. I am speaking on behalf of the older blind braille reader who would find it very hard to relearn the proposed new system.



Celia Ruston is presented with an original oil painting by St Dunstan's Secretary, Mr. William Weisblatt.

HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mrs. Celia Ruston celebrated her hundredth birthday on December 14th. She is the widow of St. Dunstaner Albert Ruston, who served with the Royal Army Service Corps from 1915 to 1918 and who died in 1967. Celia Ruston now lives at St. Martin's Home, Gillingham, Dorset, where Matron, Mrs. Mary Scott, organised a party.

Mr. William Weisblatt, St. Dunstan's Secretary, was there bringing a gift, an original oil painting by Mrs. Lurot Betjeman, of a floral arrangement. Celia was pleased to have this warm and sunny picture for her room among other gifts and flowers from friends and from the staff of St. Martin's including a bouquet from the Mayor and Council of Gillingham.

Mrs. Scott read a telegram from H.M. The Queen: 'I am very pleased to hear that you are celebrating your hundredth birthday. I send you my congratulations on this happy occasion and my good wishes for an enjoyable day. Elizabeth R.'

Celia certainly enjoyed her day, looking much younger than her years, in the company of guests and well-wishers, who included her son, Eric.

R.N.I.B. SPORT AND LEISURE PUBLICATION

A new book entitled 'Sport and Leisure for visually handicapped people' has recently been published by the R.N.I.B. The book will be of great use to many St. Dunstaners.

It is a very comprehensive guide, and can be considered as a central reference source for visually handicapped people interested in sport and leisure activities. The guide covers sports, games, other outdoor pursuits, arts and creative activities, holidays and other leisure pursuits, as well as extensive lists of addresses, books and films/videos for all activities.

Copies may be obtained by post from RNIB Book Sales Office; Public Affairs Department, 224 Great Portland Street, London. The price is £5 plus £1 postage and packing.

CONSTANTINE ROBERTS

Constantine Roberts would like to thank Commander Conway, members of staff and her many friends among St. Dunstaners for their kindness and sympathy.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

May I hope that you had a good Christmas and now hope that you will make a good start to the New Year. Get the lawn mower into the local shop to have repairs done and all the blades sharpened for the new season. There is not much one can do in the garden at the present time but do get catalogues of seed packages and bulbs which are to be grown in the new season. Some of the early items can be started off at the end of February, but the majority should be started in March. Don't try to plant any shrubs now especially if winter conditions are bad with lots of snow and frost around.

Vegetables

Get early potatoes in trays to start them off. Give them plenty of light and keep them away from frosts. Ensure that you have all the empty beds dug over when there are breaks in the winter conditions. Perhaps those of you in the deep south may be able to plant some broad beans and peas during the warmer spells but I don't think it would be advisable unless you have some spare seeds on hand which can be wasted should things go wrong. They can however be started in greenhouses which have some heating, or even frames in warm areas. Towards the end of February get the beds ready for the March seed sowing by digging over the beds and raking over the soil to make a nice tilth for the sowing of seeds and also add a sprinkling of general fertilizer.

Fruit

Not much can be done here now except complete the pruning which you may not have done because of bad weather. Sprinkle some sulphur over the thick pieces which were cut off where mould may come into affect. It might also be a good thing to treat the whole tree with an anti aphid and fungicide spray as they start the new season, but don't do it in frosty or snowy conditions. Don't plant any new trees but get the places well dug over early for the new trees later on in the

spring. Put some compost or manure round the roots of trees which will help as they begin their new life.

Flowers

Dig over the borders lightly so that the air can get in and perhaps dry things out a little after rain and snow is gone. The rake and the hoe can also be used to get the soil more pliable, and the addition of compost or manure round the perennials which may be starting life again at the end of February is advisable. Get some stakes in for the tall growers such as delphiniums. Tighten up the soil round roses as the roots can easily be loosened. Add some more soil then press in well with your feet. There may be some broken shoots so tidy them up by cutting a little below the break. Don't however do any pruning until later in the spring. Clear all the beds of any weeds which will have been growing all through the winter plus any broken pieces of shrubs and trees. Be careful when clearing up as there may be a lot of shoots from the bulbs which are very easily broken off and some shallow rooting items such as the crocus may be raked up altogether. Towards the end of February it may be a good thing to sprinkle some general fertilizer in powder form or granules of Growmore to give all the plants and bulbs a good start to the year.

Greenhouse

Keep the place as clean and dry as possible except for the pots of bulbs, growing plants and seeds which have grown a bit early. Get all the pots and trays that you will use shortly in to clean and dry condition. Make sure you have the seeds and composts on hand and keep them in the greenhouse as they may do better if the cold is taken out of them. See that the heat is going well by the end of February when one can start some of the tuberous items such as achimenes, begonias, gloxinia and dahlias. The tomato is one sort of seed which you can start off earlier, if placed close to the source of heat. Some veg-

etables such as broad beans and cabbages can also be started but at the cooler end of the greenhouse or on the floor. When growing well and of decent size they can be taken to a frame in a warm spot. Fuchsias and geraniums which you may have saved during the winter can now be started growing, and any shoots which you have already rooted should be put into

large containers to make better plants for the garden. The windows can be opened a little on fine sunny days but shut them early in the afternoon so that you don't lose any heat. Aphids and diseases of all kinds will be starting so get a combined smoke cone going as soon as possible as a protection.

JAM, JERUSALEM AND ME

by Shirley Gillberry

Shortly after I was registered blind my husband was posted to a new Unit in Dorset. This meant leaving the safety of an area in which I had lived for the previous four years and which I had known in my last three years of sight and the first year of incipient blindness.

Moving house is always traumatic but leaving a familiar house and area for one completely unknown to me was particularly so. I had had no time to develop those skills which make blindness easier to cope with. Our married quarters were a mile from the others so I did not enjoy the usual neighbourly visits.

I realised that if I did not do something quickly I would become desperately lonely and depressed so I took the plunge and joined the village Women's Institute. After the initial hurdle of walking into a hall with over 100 strangers in it I was quickly welcomed into their midst and very soon settled into happy membership which I enjoyed for the following three years. During this time I helped form and chaired a small literary discussion group. We met monthly at my home and I found this small group of about twelve ladies a most congenial one.

When in 1984 we moved to Shropshire, I made straight for the local W.I. It meets in a village two miles from my home but very quickly I was offered lifts to and from meetings. After a year I was asked to stand for the Committee and was duly elected. This meant meetings on one other evening a month and I found that in this smaller group of about a dozen Commit-

tee members I got to know the members very well. This added to my feeling of belonging. Nevertheless it was a tremendous surprise when, on the retirement of the President, I was invited to take over as President of the Institute. I felt that they were doing me a great honour in offering me this appointment and decided to accept. The members of the Committee assured me that they would undertake between them to help me get to all the extra meetings I would need to attend and to read me all the printed matter I needed. Since my election in November 1986 they have faithfully done these things and in addition they have offered me all the support and backing I needed. During the year I attended two Council meetings in Shrewsbury and was able to undertake the journey to London to attend the A.G.M. at the Royal Albert Hall. This rare privilege (only one Institute in two is able to send a delegate) I thoroughly enjoyed.

My year as President was a shot in the dark for the Institute and myself. That it has been successful for us all is surely indicated by the fact that at our Annual Meeting this month I was re-elected for another year.

JANET STEVENS

Janet Stevens would very much like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the letters and cards wishing her well in her new post. She wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

SOME IMPRESSIONS FROM A TRAVELLER'S JOURNAL

by Dr. S. Sosabowski

B.A. Boeing 737 touched down on the runway of the Warsaw Main Airport. Among the other passengers, there I was in the company of Dr. Roman J. the Hon. Sec. of the Association of the Polish Military Academy.

We had left Heathrow London Airport only two hours and twenty minutes ago. A comparatively short time but two different worlds. The familiar sound of the Polish language spoken by everybody, the smell of the cheap cigarettes, unfortunately smoked by everybody, and a lot of noise. I was met by a special reception Committee — two greatest friends of mine — Doctors Andy and George and three ladies I have known a good forty years and longer — Dana, Eileen and Anna. We travelled across Warsaw to the garden city suburb where Andy and his wife Christina, my hosts, live in a very comfortable villa. I was their guests exactly two years ago. My programme for the next two weeks appeared to be very exhausting. The main purpose of the visit was the 65th Anniversary of the foundation of the Polish Medical Military Academy of which I am honoured to be a member.

And now it might be the time to say a few words about this distinguished Institution. In the year 1922 when the new Polish State rose as a phoenix from the ashes of the First World War and a modern Polish Army was re-organised after the victory over the Red Bolshevik Army in the Battle of Warsaw, (looking back in time this is the only defeat the Red Army ever suffered). In the frame of this re-organisation a unique unit was created. This was called the Officers' Medical School, later on re-named the Medical Military Academy.

After a selection board and short listing, the suitable young men were subjected to a very stiff competitive examination and the top fortunate few dozen entered the Medical Military Academy as officer cad-

ets. After taking the 'resident's shilling' they entered the Medical Military Academy for six years training. Everything including the uniform was free, supplied by the tax payer and there was also a small amount of pocket money every week.

They had to live in the barracks, being part of the Centre of the Medical Military Training in Warsaw and wear the uniform all the time, attend the study of medicine in the Warsaw University, always in uniform and side by side with the civilian colleagues. During the week-ends and the long academic vacations they were subjected to vigorous military training in preparation for the job as future medical officers. After obtaining the diploma and commissioned as officers of the Army Medical Corps, they had to serve three years for every year of the initial training in one of the Armed Forces.

19th September 9 a.m. Over 120 of the members of the Military Academy are present at the Solemn Mass at the Garrison Church of the Virgin Mary, the Queen of the Polish Crown.

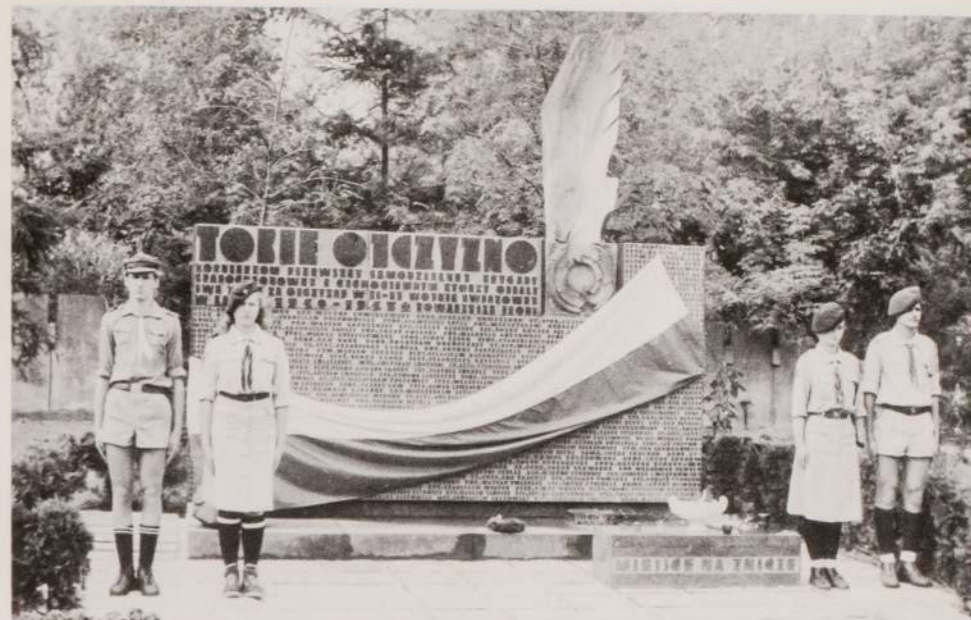
For some of us coming from the West this was somewhat confusing. Here we are in a State ruled by the Communist Government and the People's Army are supposed to be anti-religious, and yet this Church is a Garrison Church and the Mass is celebrated by the priest, who wears a dog collar and has the rank of major.

I notice (in the vestibule a number of bronze tablets with the names of distinguished officers from the last war and amongst those the name of my late father.

At the end of the Mass the old anthem is sung ending with the words "the freedom of the country give us back, O Lord."

Now Dr. Rowan J. our Hon. Sec. reads the endless roll call of the dead comrades — over 500.

11 a.m. We meet again in the anatomical lecture theatre at the University. There



The restored monument to the Fallen of the First Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group and S.O.E.

are over 120 of us, the youngest 65, the oldest 92. Amongst this number 12 are from overseas. During the period from 1922-1939 over 720 entered this noble institution. During the last war 210 died or were lost without trace, in particular 45 fallen on the battlefield, 75 died in concentration camps — both Soviet and Nazi and were liquidated by the K.G.B. in Katyn. The remaining 90 were lost without trace.

The official procedure started with a short address from our Chairman, followed by the welcome address. Major General Professor Doctor W.L., retired Commandant of the present resurrected Military Medical Academy. He entered our School in 1932 and graduated in 1939 winning the golden sword of honour. His address was very brief, well spoken, sincere and to the point and he made a great impression on all of us. Next, one minute's silence then we sang the old medieval academical anthem 'Gaudeamus Igitur' 'Let us rejoice ...'

This was followed by a number of speakers, 10 altogether, giving the history of our school, achievement in medicine by her members and the history of the old

castle, which was part of the barracks of our Academy, whose foundations were erected in the 10th Century.

From this castle led a labyrinth of underground passages where the secret hospital was housed during the war and a number of escaped fugitives, amongst them quite a few Jews, obtained asylum.

The hospital director Dr. L. and some of the nursing personnel received from the grateful state of Israel a special title — 'Yad Hashen' — greatly merited friend of Israel.

Dr. L. gave a brief description of his interesting and dangerous work.

The official part was concluded by the speech of our Hon. Sec. Dr. R. This was very moving, warm and short. Everyone applauded at the end.

A selected part of the procedure was televised by the Warsaw Television.

At four o'clock everybody moved on to the Restaurant 'Adria', a very familiar name to the citizens of Warsaw. It used to be a famous night club before 1939.

The Banquet was really on a European scale, spotless linen, silver, candlelight, excellent food including salmon and wine and champagne.

Sunday 20th September Five to ten o'clock. Before the war the Marshal Pilsudski Square, now the Victory Square.

This is a huge square right in the middle of Warsaw and opens on to the Western side the park separated from it by columns and an arch under which a big black basalt slab rests with the words:— 'The Unknown Warrior.' Underneath the slab lie the remains of an unknown soldier killed during the war against the Soviet Union in 1920. The tomb also contains soil from countless other battlefields from Stalino, Berlin, Monte Cassino, Tobruk, Narvik and Arnhem, to mention only a few. Those columns are the only ones that have survived of the beautiful Baroque Palace completely destroyed by the Nazi barbarians.

In front of the tomb smart guards in dress uniform with rifles marching like marionettes raising their legs practically to the horizontal position in the Soviet manner. Nevertheless it looks very spectacular.

All of us face the monument and a wreath is laid by a representation of four of us marching to a ceremonial beat of the drums. A minute's silence. Then we travel to the place where used to be the centre of Medical Military Training. This is in a fashionable part of Warsaw surrounded by parks and at present housing foreign embassies.

Of the Military Hospital which used to be part of the Centre, there remains only two red Victorian Pavilions. The modern barracks were razed to the ground but the old castle which survived the war but was dismantled in the late 50's by Comrade W. Rokosowski of the Red Army, overall Commander of the Polish People's Army and an honorary Pole, by the courtesy of the Soviet Union, who wanted to build on this place in a good Russian style something for his own purpose. Fortunately he lost his position and disappeared completely. At present the castle is practically rebuilt in an early baroque style, the building rectangular in shape and four octagonal towers at each corner. We visit the castle and some of us even notice the rooms in which we used to live half a century ago.

We travelled back to the suite of the Pol-

ish Medical Association where we were served cocktails and tit-bits and we were engaged for many happy moments in conversation and good old nostalgic memories. This was the end of our meeting. It is not very likely that we will ever meet again.

23rd September. The square in Warsaw old city — the time is 5 o'clock in the afternoon. This old city goes back in history to the 12th Century and was completely destroyed by the Germans. It was rebuilt with the greatest care brick by brick following the old sketches by Canaletto, the younger, and the result is really spectacular. No motorised traffic is allowed to enter this particular quarter of the town except a few horse drawn carriages. The streets are, of course, paved with cobble stones and very narrow tall buildings are brightly painted in the medieval fashion. In one of these old houses there took place a meeting of the historical section of the Polish Academy of Science.

This was to commemorate the recent death of Professor and Doctor of Philosophy Joseph R., temporary Colonel in the Polish Armed Forces during the War, a friend of my father and mine and my commanding officer in the Polish Armed Forces during the occupation by the Nazis.

The small room was packed with everybody who knew him including his daughter and son and some of those present were arrested with him and sent to prison between 1945 and 1952 during the Stalin persecution.

Numerous speeches by the historians follow, and I am asked to say a few words. As a young officer in 1938 I met him for the first time as a guest in my family home. In the town where my late father was Colonel of the 9th Regiment of Foot and he was the headmaster of the local big grammar school. Both he and my father were engaged in social work.

Soon after 7 o'clock at the end of the proceedings, some of us including the family of the late Doctor adjourned to the old fashioned cafe 'The Basylysk' for some well deserved coffee and ice cream.

27th September. Half past ten. The Church of St. Martin in the old city. This time a Solemn Requiem Mass to com-



Stan Sozabowski with Major G. D. examining the new headstone at his family tomb.

memorate the fallen members of the First Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group and the S.O.E. as well as the 20th anniversary of the death of my father. This Church commemorates the martyrdom of the last war and the two occupations. After the Mass we, that is to say:—

- 1) 250 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from 42 different parachute Scout troops, all in red berets, these young people came from all over Poland specially for this occasion.
- 2) Ex-paratroopers of the Brigade from Poland as well as from overseas, the number exceeding 120.
- 3) Families and sympathisers.

The whole crowd was over 600. After the Mass we all travelled to the Warsaw Military Cemetery on the West side of the city. After forming into a procession by the gate we marched along the broad alley towards the Airborne Forces Memorial.

This memorial which I saw two years ago in a state of great disrepair has been completely rebuilt through the donations of the paratroopers from Poland and overseas, as well as sympathisers and was going to be unveiled. The troops of Scouts were formed round the Monument still draped in the red and white Polish flag — the paratroopers including me, facing the Monument. The speech was read by Colonel S. giving a brief history of the Bri-

gade and its achievements. His speech followed by the representatives of the S.O.E. This was a very thrilling speech starting with the words, 'This all started in August 1939 when the two allies, the Soviet Union and Germany drafted the infamous pact signed by Ribbentrop and Molotov which gave the green light for the beginning of the 2nd World War.' The Monument was unveiled by the present Chairman, S.Z. The old ruined sandstone Monument has been completely recovered with black shiny basalt slabs. After engraving the inscription "For you my country" and over 100 names of the fallen paratroopers the frontal slab was blasted with silicon sand under pressure giving a spectacular effect — dark shiny letters on a lighter background.

A minute's silence. The wreaths were solemnly laid by different representatives of the regions and colleagues from abroad and I also laid a bunch of flowers. The long roll call of the names was read and Mrs. Mary K., one of the Polish women who embroidered the regimental colours remembered how the colours were created during the German occupation and taken by special courier through occupied Europe to Britain to be handed to the Brigade.

Finally the young Boy Scouts and the

Girl Guides take their solemn promise. I am one of those people who is asked to receive them. I used the old version which I had said myself sixty years before. The present modern text contains the words 'socialism and the People's Republic.' I said to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to repeat after me 'I solemnly promise all my life to serve God and my country, Poland, to willingly help my neighbour and obey the Scout's law.' This was accepted by the congregation with muted applause. This was the end of the ceremony. On the way back we stopped by my family tomb where I and my late father's adjutant Major D. unveiled the new black slab with the parachute eagle and the name of my late father. This is where his ashes rest.

Now we were supposed to go to the social meeting and have refreshments. In my case I went home with my escort George. I had about enough. I was exhausted physically and emotionally.

Two days later I was flying hom in a good old Boeing — nice to be back in Britain.

ST. DUNSTANER HONOURED

Lieutenant Colonel Noel Cowley has been appointed an honorary member of the Hungarian Order of Chivalry, the Knightly Order of Vitez.

Throughout the centuries the Kings of Hungary have awarded acts of chivalry and outstanding merit with grants of land and titles, and at the time of the First World War these traditions and customs were consolidated to found the Knightly Order of Vitez. This order has been continued in exile since Hungary was overrun and occupied by the military forces of the Soviet Union after the Second World War.

The honour is conferred on Noel Cowley for his contribution to the Hungarian cause during the uprising in 1956. He was the British Military attache in Budapest at the time and readers will recall his articles in the March and April 1987 issues of the *Review*.

Noel Cowley did not mention that he was front page news when — after the suppression of the uprising by the Russians —

Random Observations. My two weeks stay was very brief. Therefore the following observations are possibly very superficial.

1) There appears to be complete freedom of speech, even in public places, and some relaxation of censorship of the press — for instance the circulation of typed newsletters and theatre programmes.

2) A much lower standard of living in comparison with 1985, (my last visit) Shops practically empty of everyday goods.

The explanation by the locals is the Big Brother is trying to improve the standard of living of its own citizens and is squeezing all from the reluctant partners.

3) I was told that the streets of Warsaw are quite safe at night, practically no mugging at all. The explanation is that there is nothing to steal. Also there are physical punishments inflicted on the hooligans by the police.

4) I was greatly impressed by the younger generation. They are working sensibly, searching for spiritual values and never bored with life.

the new communist government expelled him alleging he had been helping the 'counter-revolution' as he moved around the city observing the fighting.

Noel Cowley was unable to attend the conferrment ceremony which was held in Munich. Part of a letter from the Captain of the Order reads: 'You have contributed a great deal to the Hungarian cause with your splendid service during your stay in Budapest in 1956.'

TELECOM GUIDE FOR DISABLED CUSTOMERS

New services and equipment to help disabled customers use the telephone are featured in the revised Telecom 'Blue Guide,' published in December. It is designed to assist disabled customers in choosing the most suitable product for their needs, and contains a number of useful sections. The revised 'Blue Guide' is available free of charge from all British Telecom sales offices.



Mrs. Lauraine Jones, Mrs. Nora Norman, The Reverend Michael Norman and Ros and Bob Wigmore.

ST. DUNSTAN'S IN SOUTH AFRICA

by The Reverend Michael Norman

At the beginning of November 1987 Mr. Bob Wigmore of the London Headquarters' Staff and his wife Ros called at our offices in Cape Town. Bob and his wife had come out to South Africa to visit his brother. He took the opportunity during his stay to visit our office to present us with a very beautiful plaque of the crest of St. Dunstan's which we will hang in our Board Room. He also took the opportunity of asking me to write a short article for the *Review*.

Shortly after his visit, my wife and I, and the General Secretary Mrs. Lauraine Jones, entertained the Wigmores to lunch. He told us all about the very successful Reunion at Church Stretton. We would have loved to have been with you at this Reunion, especially my wife Nora, who nursed at Tiger Hall during the first half of 1945.

We in South Africa have had three generations of St. Dunstaners. At present we no longer have any of our First War St. Dunstaners, although we still have two of their widows, Mrs. Elisabeth Alexander and Mrs. Peter Stayt. As in England, the number of our Second-Generation St. Dunstaners is slowly diminishing. However, in the past ten years we have had to admit to our ranks twenty Third-Generation men. Our ranks remain open to all races as we are 'colour blind'. One interest-

ing fact is that four of our St. Dunstaners (three of whom lost their sight in the present conflict,) have retained their previous permanent posts within the Defence Force and are still employed in the Forces. We are of course faced with the problem of finding employment for our other new generation St. Dunstaners but so far we have been very fortunate and most of our men are usefully and gainfully employed.

The numbers of men joining our ranks is too small to permit us to run our own Rehabilitation and Training Centre, and we have been relying upon the facilities offered by the South African National Council for the Blind. They have generously offered to take our men as soon as they are discharged from the military hospital. Here they receive a very excellent basic training in blind skills. It is wonderful to see the way in which the guidelines laid down by Sir Arthur Pearson and Lord Fraser have now been generally accepted by all who have to deal with the physically disabled. We are of course very deeply grateful to our counterpart in England for the help and encouragement which has always been so generously offered.

We in South Africa salute our brethren in England and take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude for the encouragement and inspiration which you give us.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lowe playing cops and robbers.



Auld Lang Syne.



The assembled cast and crew at Pearson House.



Mrs. Sally Slade clowning around!



Piped Music St. Dunstan's style!!



Derek Frape and Bob Fearnley 'underneath the arches.'

Christmas at the Brighton Homes

by Simon Conway

A full programme at the Brighton Homes began with a delightful carol service at Pearson House, much helped by Father Michael Bootes bringing the Ovingdean Sunday School whose youthful voices were much admired, both in singing and in fault-free reading of Lessons.

Then on Tuesday 22nd December, the Pearson House concert. Back in the Winter Garden again it had a splendidly professional stage with new curtains and backcloth and a compere, Adrian Elliott, to match. An excellent in-house cast was joined by some top class artistes from elsewhere. Dick Hall (of Red Ball fame) and his wife, Bett, were prominent among the visiting talent. A great afternoon's entertainment.

The Ian Fraser House concert was a later affair on Christmas Eve, much enjoyed by the cast of St. Dunstaners and staff, and, hopefully, most of the audience. The mini-panto *Red Hot Cinders*, a classic of its kind, has been performed so often that many watching knew the parts better than the multi-talented and dedicated team who made up the cast — and most of the words as they went along. As usual the show was 'made' by our indomitable music director, Beattie Wright, at the piano.

Because the chapel is still suffering

from hurricane damage, the Christmas Service was held in the Winter Garden — a very nice service and a large congregation.

The New Year was heralded in with the Fancy Dress Ball — music by *Ernie Took's Swinging Syncopators* (augmented by Bob Forshaw) and the now almost traditional Pipes and Drums. The fancy dresses were, as usual, very hard to judge. The eventual winners were:—

Best Lady: Mrs. Sally Slade — Clown
Second Equal: Mrs. Dolly Mantle — Flapper and Mrs. Marjorie Miller — New Year Belle

Fourth: Mrs. Lee James — Nell Gwynne
Best Gentleman: Peter Surrige — The Gal with the Mostest

Second: Sobki Khabbazi — Mufti Wufi
Best Couple: Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Hannant — Pearly King and Queen

Second: Sid Jones and Enid — St. Dunstan's Bridge Learners

Third: Mr. & Mrs. David Taylor — Merlin and Gypsy Rose Lee

Fourth: Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lowe — Cop and Robber

Funniest: Jack Boorman — Oil Shake (Sheik — Geddit?)

Second: George Cole — Dame Edna Everidge



A rousing chorus from the cast at Ian Fraser House.



Pearl Smethurst and Simon Conway serenade the audience.

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.

Robert K. Booth, of Middleton, Manchester, who joined on November 4th.

Mr. Booth served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a Staff Sergeant during the Second World War and was wounded in the Middle East in 1943 while disarming a mine. It is just recently that, because of his total loss of sight, he had to retire from a post as a consultant in Occupational Pensions Schemes. Mr. Booth is married and has one son.

Ernest Frederick Brown, of Rushden, Northants, who joined on November 16th.

Mr. Brown served in the Royal Artillery between 1941 and 1945, and following his discharge worked as a boot and shoe operative until retirement. He is married with one son.

Ronald Edwin Cattell, of Tottenham, London, who joined on December 8th.

Mr. Cattell served in the Royal Artillery with the rank of Lance Bombardier from 1939 to 1946. He served in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. In 1941 he was sent to the Far East and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in December of 1941. Following the war he worked for the London Electricity Board dealing with properties and insurance until his retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Cattell live in North London.

Norman Drew, of Brixham, Devon, who joined on November 16th.

Mr. Drew served as a Corporal in the First Paratroop Regiment from 1942 to 1948. He was in North Africa and Italy before taking part in the Battle of Arnhem when he suffered gunshot wounds and lost the vision in his left eye. He is married with two sons and a daughter.

Claude James Powter-Robinson, of Norwich, who joined on November 16th.

Mr. Powter-Robinson served in the Royal Navy as a Leading Stores Assistant between 1944 and 1947, and then, following his discharge from the Navy, he worked as a National Health Service Administrator until retirement age. Mr. Powter-Robinson is married with three sons.

Mrs. Amy Robinson, of Croydon, widow of the late Alfred Henry Robinson, who died in 1957, became a St. Dunstaner herself on November 13th. She received injuries to her eyes in an air-raid while serving as a nurse in 1941. Her sight has deteriorated as a result.

Albert Edward Statham, of Barking, Essex, who joined on November 17th.

Mr. Statham enlisted as a Private in the Sherwood Foresters in August 1939 and also served in the Suffolk Regiment. He suffered shrapnel wounds at Dunkirk and was later transferred to the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. He took part in the D-Day landings. Mr. Statham is married and has three sons.

John Henry Wellings, of Neston, South Wirral, who joined on November 24th.

Mr. Wellings served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery between 1941 and 1942. Mr. Wellings is married with a family.

TEMBANI REUNION

Tembani is the name of the house in South Africa that St. Dunstan's took over during the war, and a number of newly-blinded men from the British Forces spent a few months there before returning home. I was one of them and can testify that our stay there was an unforgettable experience — the sunshine, good food and devoted care we received there, together with the kindness of the local South Africans built us up in mind and body and gave us hope.

On Saturday November 28th at Ian Fra-

ser House, a reunion was held for the men that stayed at Tembani during the war years and for their wives and escorts. We were honoured to have at the reunion two of the South African girls who were on the staff of Tembani in those days. They were: Peggy Brown, now Mrs. Loman, and Joan Clements, now Mrs. Ash, wife of St. Dunstaner Max Ash.

On the Saturday morning David Bell opened the proceedings with a few words of welcome. These were followed by a talk from Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, sister of Lord Fraser, on the Fraser family and its connections with South Africa. In the evening St. Dunstan's catering staff laid on an excellent dinner with South African dishes and South African wines to the accompaniment of Afrikaans music familiar to us from Tembani days. There were short speeches from David Bell and Mrs. Loman, and David's wife Sybil read a letter

from South Africa conveying good wishes from St. Dunstaners there.

On the Sunday morning we had a farewell meeting. It was regretted that some men had been unable to attend and it was hoped that they would come to the next reunion. It was suggested that we might hold the next one in South Africa and visit the actual house in Wynberg again. Louise, St. Dunstaner Joe Weeks wife, who has lived in South Africa and was a frequent visitor to Tembani during the time we were there, assured us that the old house is still there. I should find it a very moving experience, visiting that house again, sitting on the step that overlooked the peaceful, exotic garden — I wonder if it would still hold the same enchantment?

I would like to voice our thanks to St. Dunstan's and the staff at Ovingdean for the first rate accommodation and hospitality they provided throughout the week.

ELECTRONIC ORGAN WEEKEND

by Stan Coe

The Electronic Organ Weekend commenced on Friday morning. We met in the Winter Gardens where we were addressed by the Chairman, Mr Jim Padley. There were 18 of us who began discussing the year that had passed and all that it achieved. We then got down to the forthcoming year and what would be arranged if possible. The main reason for this meeting was to let us all know what visiting organists we would be having and any visits we would make in the area. By twelve noon we all had a good idea of what was to take place on the ensuing days and our first meeting came to an end.

As we had a free afternoon, those who wished went on the coach outing to The Barn Owl at Pulborough. In the evening we were joined by the archers in the Annexe, where we listened to Mrs. Audrey Stuff, who gave us a very interesting talk, accompanied by tapes. Mrs. Stuff is the organizer of a Home Organist Tape Club. This club enables people from all over the country to send tapes of their favourite organ music to each other. We were introduced by Audrey to multi-recording,

which was a very interesting subject and she played us tapes of all kinds that had been circulated.

In the evening we had our Annual Dinner in the Winter Garden. Special Guests invited were; Commander Conway and his wife, Douglas Reeve and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Took. We all enjoyed the usual splendid meal which was laid on by the Red Ball catering company. When the meal was over we all retired to the Annexe where we enjoyed dancing to Ernie Took and his ensemble.

On the Sunday morning a group went to St. John the Baptist Church. After the Service they met the organist who allowed them to play his instrument, whilst afterwards, everyone enjoyed a sherry. In the afternoon, we gathered in the Winter Garden, where we were entertained, in his usual witty style, by Mr. Ted Norris, who gave us two hours of sheer enjoyment. After dinner the house in general congregated in the main lounge where we were given a thoroughly happy evening by The Stomping Four. This group shone with individual virtuosity and we all clapped

and stamped our feet with great pleasure.

Monday morning found us once more in the annexe, where Ernie Took put us through our paces getting to know the keyboard. He demonstrated his two casio organs and had a great patience in giving us tuition. After lunch Ernie once more gave his time to us by some brisk entertainment in the lounge, where he invited people to go up and have a try under his supervision. In the evening of the same day we had our usual dance in the Annexe, where Ernie once more provided the music, and Sheila Morris and Ken Revis once again sang some popular numbers.

Tuesday morning arrived where we all met in the Annexe for our final meeting. Many suggestions were proffered for next year and it was agreed that we had all enjoyed the 1987 Organ Weekend, which would not have taken place without the generous help of Sheila Morris.

On our last afternoon we were taken by coach to Lancing College. We assembled in the Chapel where we were given some exciting demonstrations by Neil Cox on the mighty organ which has 3,500 pipes. He also played, giving varied musical exploits, on the electronic organ. He demonstrated power as well as minute tremulous notes which had us all spell-bound. We were then taken to the boys dining area where we were given afternoon tea and biscuits. Three of the boys ushered us about, taking good care of us and we left the College having had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our organ weekend, which had been very successful, came to an end and I'm sure that our group will have gone home having learnt quite a lot from the people who gave us their time, demonstrating and entertaining us.

Double Tribute

Obituary notices in the *In Memoriam* section of this issue record the deaths of our oldest lady St. Dunstaner and our oldest man, Blodwyn Simon and Tommy Rogers. Both were First War St. Dunstaners who

gave of themselves to help their colleagues from the Second War.

Tommy was an instructor in typewriting at Church Stretton and Ovingdean. At Stretton he also took part in the entertainments and he was a leading light in the Salopian Alpine Club — a hill walking group of St. Dunstaners. After his retirement in 1953, Tommy's name appeared frequently in the *Review* under articles and poems — always thought provoking and well written. He died just a few months short of his century. What a splendid opportunity that would have been to pay tribute to an outstanding St. Dunstaner, a man who, in his own blindness, did so much to help his fellows. Blodwyn Simon's tribute comes from another lady St. Dunstaner and an old friend, Gwen Obern:

MY TRIBUTE TO BLODWYN SIMON

by Gwen Obern

It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing away of Blodwyn on December 22nd. I will always remember and appreciate everything she did to help me and many others to come to terms with our blindness and other disabilities. She was blinded herself in the First World War, yet this in no way impeded her goodwill and generosity of spirit to those about her in a similar condition, who I know have been very grateful for all she did.

She was an outgoing, caring and considerate lady with a wonderful personality, always full of fun because of the great capacity she had for enjoyment of life. She was clever with her knitting and crochet work and was an intelligent chess and bridge player.

If I had the space I could write volumes about Blodwyn, a smart, upright lady, and one who would never have been taken for the wonderful age she was.

She achieved so much in her time, and gave so much despite her handicap, that she was a legend for St. Dunstan's, and the fellowship of lady St. Dunstaners is all the poorer for her passing. Let our memories be sustained by the warm, loving memories we will have of dear Blodwyn.

There and Black again?

by Bill and Betty Black

On September 15th 1987 we left Christchurch Airport flying with Air New Zealand for our flight to London. After a stop over for two nights at Los Angeles, and wonderful care and attention from the Air New Zealand flight crew, we touched down at Gatwick Airport on time, where we were met by transport staff member Keith, from Ian Fraser House.

On arrival at the House we were met and made welcome by Commander Conway and Major Neve — we felt we had come to a very special place. Our reunion for the Handless St. Dunstaners started on September 24th. We met all the members in the club rooms in the evening which was very pleasant. All the functions were just wonderful: The visit to the House of Lords, the dinner of the Worshipful Innkeepers, the dining and dancing at Herstmonceux Castle, dinner at Ye Olde Place in Rottingdean, were all very happy and intimate occasions. The Service at Lancing college chapel, and meeting the master and pupils for coffee were something to be remembered.

The farewell dinner on the Monday night in the Winter Garden was a special occasion for us, presenting ties to members of St. Dunstan's from our Christchurch Commercial Traveller's and Warehousemen's Association, who have given great support to blinded servicemen in New Zealand since the First World War. For us, however, the most pleasurable of all the reunions was meeting all the Handless members and their lovely devoted partners, we felt very close to them all. It was also a great delight to meet dear Winnie and Gwen, and we admired them for their great courage.

We visited London for five days, staying at Ansell House, where we were so well cared for by Nancy and Ian Dickson. While there we met and enjoyed the company of Louis and Len Curnow from Cornwall, especially when we visited the 'We Done Our Bit Club' with them. It was

good to meet Ray Hazan while at Ansell House — we had a nice chat with him over supper in the kitchen one night. Headquarters made us very welcome, Ernie Rous and the transport staff were most kind and helpful, so a special thank you to them. Jean Collyer, of the dining room staff, could not have done enough for us, her kindness was greatly appreciated. A kiss for her from us. After our stay in London, we returned to Ian Fraser House, and it was like going home back to our own room. The companionship on the dining room was great, the staff gave the best attention to us at all times. We visited the bar on quite a few occasions, and the barmen Nick and Geno making everyone feel welcome. Last but not least we mention the dances with Ernie Took's band playing the music, and Monday night was something we looked forward to very much indeed.

Thank you Simon and staff for the farewell evening you gave us, it is something we will remember always. When we look at the gifts you gave us we think of all of you very fondly, and feel a little sad — we live so far away from such lovely friendly people. Our holiday with you all was the best one we have ever had.

Thank you.

METRO SPORTS 1988

The 12th Annual National Metro Sports for the visually handicapped will take place on Saturday July 9th at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Donkey Lane, Enfield, Middlesex (off the A10).

Accommodation is at the All Saints Halls of Residence, Middlesex Polytechnic, White Hart Lane, Harringay, N22. Application forms for participation will be available in April from; Graham Salaman, Vice-President, Metro Sports, 15 Kenilworth Gardens, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3AG. Telephone 01-508 7623, or Jimmy Wright on 0932 225 950.



A group of competitors and helpers after the mixed doubles competition.

St. Dunstan's Indoor National Bowls Championships 1987

by Ted Brown

The 'straightforward' mixed fours.
(Photo Mrs. T. Muga).



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How time flies! I just can't believe that it's 12 months since the last November tournament took place, but it's certainly true. This year's tournament was certainly a very unusual tournament right from the beginning...

Following the recent hurricane it didn't seem possible that many of the bowlers would be able to get through, but I was wrong as a matter of fact - two bowlers turned up who hadn't entered for this particular tournament. Coupled with another reunion that was going on elsewhere, we had to scrap the original plan, and start with a completely new one, which turned out to be very good, but a lot of extra work. Nine periods a day were played for the first fortnight, which we had to do whilst being in the fortunate position of getting the help we needed.

Half way through the tournament, things were going so well that it was suggested that the sixteen bowlers who didn't reach the final six would have their names put in a hat and drawn out to make a small competition of fours. The wives names were then put into a hat and drawn out to make mixed fours, which turned out to be a howling success, in more ways than one. Let me explain. This competition was to have been a straightforward mixed fours competition, but some of the players thought otherwise. When the bowlers were called to play, one was wearing a mini mini-dress with very little else, another was dressed as if about to have a baby and another like one of the little angels from St. Trinian's. And this was the men!!! The ladies came in with one wearing a two

piece swim suit and sweat band, one looking like a little snowman, and one like a Spanish Toreador, and believe me it certainly livened up the proceedings for the rest of that day.

The tournament was in the usual two categories, totally blind and partially sighted. The competitions were the same in each category, these being singles, pairs and triples. What a wonderful thing it was to see four bowlers who had never won anything before get a trophy this time, what a lovely present to take home as well. They were Alan Mitchell, Jack Price, Arthur Whittington and Mansell Lewis. Keep up the good work, and who knows, you may do better next time. Thanks to all those who took part, and congratulations to all those who were successful.

Jackie Pryor and Tom Renshaw with Arthur Neve. Proudly holding the trophy is Carolyn Osborne.

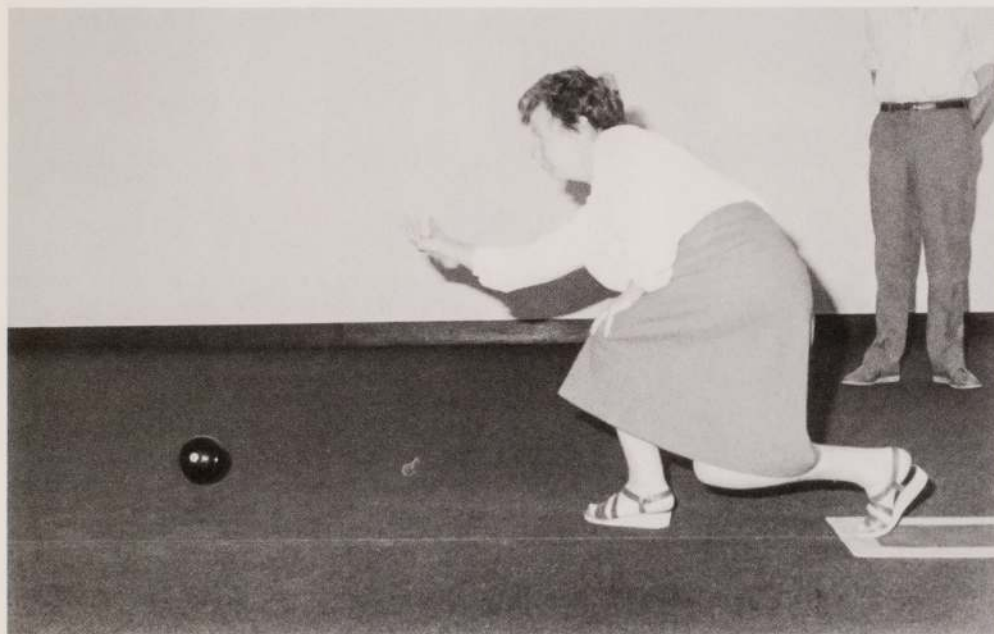


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Bob Osborne and Percy Stubbs admiring a good end.

Joan Osborne competing in the mixed doubles.



The second Sunday morning was taken up with the committee meeting in the Wintergarden, which was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which was well attended and very constructive. The new chairman and committee were elected, a list of which is included at the end of the report. The last Saturday in October was another very good evening, which was the Brighton Club dinner and dance, and what a night. A marvellous meal and a very good time was had by all in the ballroom, but by the end of the evening knees began to sag as a lot of people began to wilt under the strain, so it was off to bed hoping for a good nights sleep.

After another heavy going week the time came for our first trip out in the evening. We went out to the Brighton Dog Stadium Restaurant for dinner, and what a time we had there; after a very nice meal, drinks were served and we sat back and had a very exciting night betting on the dogs. A young lady came round at the beginning of each race and took the bet, and for all the lucky ones she brought back the winnings. This went on for ten races, and I know several of our party

came away a few pounds better off. We left at about eleven o'clock and we were more than ready for bed by the time we got back. The following Friday was finals and presentation night, which consisted of a dance and a bumper raffle which broke all records. The Friday night dance went off well. The display of presents looked wonderful side by side with the trophies, and I'm sure that all those who had one preferred that to a little replica which they received in the past.

Now I must start my usual string of thanks which must always be done. Thanks to Jackie Pryor and Joan Osborne and the bowlers for the help with the rearranging, Mrs. Katie Stubbs and Mrs. Rae Brown, Reg and Vi Bradford and Mrs. Bridge. Thanks are also due to Audrey

Perfect, Grace Renshaw, Ann Moore and Fred for the raffle. Thank you all at Headquarters, everyone at Ian Fraser House, including the drivers and Joyce and Barbara. Thanks are also due to Rita and Joan for their time, the C.A.s, the caterers and the domestics, and last but not least Commander Conway for all his time and effort.

The St. Dunstan's National Bowling Club Committee.

Chairman. R. Osborne
 Vice Chairman. E. Brown
 Hon. Secretary. Mrs. R. Pryor
 Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. J. Osborne
 H. Davies
 C. Lloyd
 J. Pryor
 T. Renshaw
 P. Stubbs

CLUB NEWS

NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB

CAPTAINS REPORT A.G.M. DECEMBER 4th 1987

On opening my report I must first refer to the sad loss of our colleague Joe Carney. Our condolences to his wife Alice. Joe will be sadly missed. Suffering from extreme bad health and discomfort Joe travelled many miles to play the game he loved with his friends — personally remembered with affection as 'Partner' by myself in Guernsey.

Among our activities during the year we participated in a most enjoyable Bridge Competition for one week in Guernsey. This was a new venture for us — we shall repeat this in 1988. Next year's visit will be April 21st — 24th. If you wish to attend please contact the Secretary of the Bridge Club or Mr. Ian Dickson at London Headquarters. The trip to Har-

rogate this year was a huge success and our first year in a new hotel, and everyone who attended agreed it was superb. If you wish to attend the Harrogate week apply to Mr. Ian Dickson and do try to arrange for a partner if possible — all will be welcome.

After many years of faithful service Norman Smith was taken ill last year and is not able to attend Harrogate again. Norman will be sadly missed by his friends in Harrogate and his 'boys' as he referred to his St. Dunstan's friends. We shall be presenting, with your Committee's consent and enthusiasm, a set of crystal glasses with St. Dunstan's motif on them to Norman as thanks, and best wishes for his future health from all his 'boys'. I must mention Norman's place was, and will in future we hope, be filled by another good friend of St. Dunstan's — Mr. Jock Carnochan. Thank You Jock.

Congratulations to the winners of our Individual and Pairs Competitions, the Gover Cup London, and Pairs Competition Brighton — both were won by Walter Lethbridge. Well done Wally. The Gover

Cup Brighton was won by Ralph Pacitti for the Individuals — also well done Ralph.

The Three Way Competition held in the Spring was won by Bill Allen's London team. Provinces came second, and Brighton third. Next year's Three Way Competition will be held on the weekend of April 30th — May 1st. Please book early.

Our gratitude to Commander Conway and all his staff who really do so much behind the scenes to make our stay for the Competitions and Instruction so comfortable and enjoyable. We owe so much to so many people — Mr. G. Connell and his wife Enid, Roland Bolton, Maurice Douse, Bob Goodlad, Enid Otton, Joyce Horrex and all the staff in the Dining Rooms and Lounges, Bedrooms — goodness, everyone — the Markers, God Bless them, we are always conscious of what we owe to you all and we are truly grateful.

Now fellow bridge players may I get back to my hobby horse, hoping not to bore you, but asking very humbly that as Enid Connell has been kind enough to start the teaching for beginners and we have some volunteers, can I beg you to play a few games with them when they are in the building so that they can have some practice. We all had to start once and these new members could be the new life blood we need to keep our club going.

So fellow bridge players I thank you for your support and feel sure I can rely on you to continue.

May the committee and I wish you plenty of health for the New Year to enjoy your bridge in 1988.

Your Captain, Bill Phillips.

BRIGHTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

October 31st. The Annual dinner and dance for the sports and social club was held in the Winter Garden at IFH. 82 members were present, and our guests included the Right Honourable Andrew Bowden M.P., Mr. and Mrs. K. Drew, Mrs. Barbara Wood with her husband and Commander and Mrs. Conway. These guests were greeted by Mrs. Dacre and Joan Osborne, and sherry was available for all. Dr. John O'Hara said Grace, and we all enjoyed a splendid dinner, each lady

finding a perfumed parasol at her place.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Ted Brown. Mrs. Dacre introduced Mr. Bowden, the Member of Parliament for Kempton, to the members, with a resume of our many varied activities. Mr. Bowden gave a very moving speech, thanking Mrs. Dacre for the opportunity of getting to know us.

During his speech Bob Osborne thanked Commander Conway, the catering staff, Mrs. Wood, and all who help to make the sections of the club run so smoothly. We adjourned to the ballroom for dancing to Tony Ross, and there was a super array of prizes to be won in the raffle, for which Mrs. Conway kindly consented to pick the winners. As Vi Delaney will not be with us for December 19th, Commander Conway kindly presented her with the trophy for the largest catch of fish. Everyone enjoyed a very happy social evening.

Bridge Results

Individual Competition November 14th 1987

1st Mrs. Pacitti	69.0%
2nd Ralph Pacitti	59.5%
3rd Bob Evans	54.8%
and Miss Stenning	54.8%
5th Bill Phillips	50.0%
6th W. Lethbridge	45.2%
7th Mrs. Clements	35.7%
8th Miss Sturdy	31.0%

Horsham — November 22nd

The annual fixture at Horsham took place on November 22nd, and as usual Horsham made us very welcome and we all enjoyed ourselves, even though Horsham did win by a large margin of 87 points

Our team consisted of Wally Lethbridge, Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Ralph Pacitti, Alf Dodgson, Bill Allen, Bob Fullard, Ron Freer, Mrs. Pacitti, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Clements and Mrs. Douse.

Individuals — November 28th

1st R. Pacitti	62.5%
2nd Mrs Douse	59.1%
3rd Mrs. Pacitti	55.7%
4th R. Fullard	52.3%
5th R. Palmer	51.1%

6th Mr. Douse	50.0%
7th W. Phillips	48.9%
and R. Evans	48.9%
9th Mrs. Buller-King	45.4%
and Mrs. A. Clements	45.4%
11th Miss Stenning	43.2%
12th W. Lethbridge	37.5%

Individual Competition Results 1987

Although some 15 members took part in 1987 only four completed the necessary five rounds. Jim Padley and Bill Allen completed four rounds and the remainder three or less.

1st R. Pacitti	291.7%
2nd W. Lethbridge	259.1%
3rd W. Phillips	258.3%
4th R. Evans	256.2%
5th J. Padley	243.8%
6th B. Allen	206.9%

LONDON

The winner of the Gover Cup C London section with a clear lead of 32 points for 1987 is W. Lethbridge.

The full results are as follows:

1st W. Lethbridge	357 Points
2nd R. Evans	325 Points
3rd V. Delaney	317 Points
and B. Allen	317 Points
5th F. Dickerson	311 Points
6th B. Hiller	297 Points
and H. Meleson	297 Points

The London Bridge Club are most grateful to Mrs. S. Meleson for participating in this monthly function and record the fact that her total score was 339 points. Thank you Sylvia and our most helpful scorers Holly and Aileen with whose help this competition continues.

R. Goding, Secretary.

National Congress Results

December 4th-7th

Sir Arthur Pearson Pairs Championship

1st Bill Allen and Ron Freer
2nd Bill Phillips and Bob Evans
3rd Bob Fullard and Mike Tybinski

Paul Nuyens Teams of Four

- 1st Bob Fullard, Mike Tybinski, Reg Palmer and marker.
 2nd Bill Allen, Ron Feer, Bill Miller and Peter Surridge.
 3rd Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Johnny Witcombe and Freddie Dickerson.

Alf Field Memorial

Trophy — Datum Pairs

- 1st Ralph Pacitti and Alf Dodgson
 2nd Bob Fullard and Mike Tybinski
 3rd Bob Evans and Bill Phillips
 4th Bill Allen and Ron Freer

Lord Fraser Cup For Individual Championships

- 1st Reg Goding
 2nd Alf Dodgson and Ron Freer and Bob Evans
 5th Wally Lethbridge

Teams of Four Championship for Sir Arthur Pearson Cup

- 1st Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Johnny Witcombe and Freddie Dickerson
 2nd Bob Fullard, Mike Tybinski, Harry Meleson and Jim Padley
 3rd Harold King, Bert Ward, Alf Dodgson and Ralph Pacitti

Drummer Downs (Match Pointed)

- 1st Vi Delaney and Reg Palmer
 2nd Bill Phillips and Jim Padley
 3rd Bob Evans and Alf Dodgson

Gover Cups

London — Wally Lethbridge
 Brighton — Ralph Pacitti

1987 NATIONAL BRIDGE CONGRESS

The Congress began on Friday December 4th in the Winter Garden of Ian Fraser House, and play began after an introductory talk by Geoff Connell on tournament direction. This year we had the pleasure of the company of Enid Connell who took

out a teach-in of three St. Dunstaners and three wives, who were complete beginners. We are very grateful to Enid for the work she has put in teaching her pupils the six beginners, namely Mr. and Mrs. David Jennings, Sid Jones, Alan Mitchell, Eileen Goding and Marie Blackie. The beginners were a little bewildered at first, but thoroughly enjoyed the three days teach-in and are looking forward to more lessons, but also any help St. Dunstaners can give when they are down at I.F.H.

The A.G.M. on Friday evening was chaired by Commander Conway. After the minutes had been read and approved, we then proceeded to elect the National Bridge Committee: Captain — B. Phillips, Secretary — R. Goding, Treasurer — A. Dodgson, Committee — R. Evans, W. Lethbridge, F. Dickerson and V. Delaney. Dates were given out for the Spring tournament in Guernsey and the Autumn tournament in Harrogate.

Our Dinner Dance on Saturday evening went with full swing, and was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Commander Conway, his staff and the Red Ball Staff for an excellent dinner. On Sunday the various prizes for the competition winners were presented by Mrs. Sue Reynolds, and our thanks to Geoff Connell and his wife Enid and Roly for organising and running the competition. Geoff was presented with a travelling clock, his wife with chocolates and Roly with an umbrella. A very big thank you Maurice Dance, and all our markers — where would we be without you.

Secretary, Reg Goding

BRIGHTON ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION

On Wednesday December 16th we held our Christmas Party, and we welcomed Mrs. Flo Pyke and Mrs. Hilda Webster, who are not able to attend the regular meetings. The domino drive was a great success, followed by bingo for small prizes. We would like to thank Commander Conway and Major Neve for a delightful tea, and also for the transport arrangements.

December 19th was the evening of the Christmas Dance, and the trophies for the tournaments played on Wednesdays were

presented by Commander Conway. This year a special trophy for bowls, given by the family of the late Tim Kirk who live in Canada and America, was presented by his son Tim Kirk to Bob Osborne. Mrs. Conway kindly agreed to draw the raffle tickets. The Wednesday Tournament prize winners are listed below.

Mens Darts

Winner J. Pryor
 Runner up B. Osborne
 Beaten Semi finalists: F. Bentley and A. Dodgson.

Ladies Darts

Winner J. Dodgson
 Runner up J. Osborne
 Beaten Semi Finalists: K Pacitti and R. Pryor.

Mens Cribbage

Winner T. Giles
 Runner up J. Pryor
 Beaten Semi Finalists: B. Cunningham and A. Dodgson.

Ladies Cribbage

Winner J. Dodgson
 Runner up J. Osborne
 Beaten Semi Finalists: R. Pryor and P. O'Kelly.

Joe Walch Trophy Fives and Threes

Winner B. Osborne
 Runner Up F. Bentley
 Beaten Semi Finalists: J. Pryor and T. Giles.

Ladies Fives and Threes

Winner P. Padley
 Runner up R. Pryor
 Beaten Semi Finalists: J. Waters and P. O'Kelly.

Mens Whist

1st T. Giles
 2nd J. Pryor
 3rd H. Preedy
 4th B. Evans

Ladies Whist

1st P. O'Kelly
 2nd J. Osborne
 3rd J. Walters
 4th M. Blacker

Mens Dominoes Aggregate

1st T. Giles
 2nd E. Allchin

3rd F. Bentley
 4th B. Cunningham

Ladies Dominoes Aggregate

1st P. O'Kelly
 2nd M. Blacker
 3rd J. Walters
 4th B. Bentley

The trophy for the ladies overall winner, the Pat Cunningham Vase, was presented to P. O'Kelly. Our thanks are due to Bob and Joan Osborne for the lovely evening and Commander Conway for presenting the prizes, and also for the transport arrangements. We also thank Ernie Took for music. The evening was enjoyed by everyone. All members visiting the house are welcome to join us on Wednesdays.

P. O'Kelly

FAMILY NEWS

APOLOGY

We apologise to Mr. and Mrs. S.D.W. Blackmore of Fareham (not Cardiff) whose son Paul was married to Susan Shergold at Fareham Methodist Church on June 6th.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Barry Coupe, the son of St. Dunstaner *Des Coupe*, is head of Forum Architects, a successful practice based in Cambridge. His firm has now opened offices in London and he has just heard that the American Army Air Force in Europe has made two design awards for work for U.S.A.A.F. bases in Europe. Last year Forum Architects received one award and Barry Coupe is particularly proud to have a double success this year.

Louisa Joy, grand-daughter of *John and Audrey Perfect* of Yealhampton, who has recently passed the following examinations: Grade 5 Cello, Grade 5 Theory and Grade 4 Singing. She is presently studying for her Grade 6 Piano, and is cur-

rently a boarder at Harrogate Ladies College, where she was accepted into the choir during her first term — a particular distinction.

Rosalind, daughter of *Peter and Eileen Jones* of Sheffield on obtaining her M.A. Degree. Rosalind is a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, reading Modern Languages.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Susan Tetley, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tetley* of St. Albans, on her marriage to Richard Black at St. Peter's Church, on September 19th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cox, of Bristol, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding anniversary which they celebrated on November 22nd.

Allen and Lela Vickers of Kirkham, Lancashire, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on November 11th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chappell on the birth of a grandson to their daughter, Tessa, and her husband, Dr. Stuart Lake. We apologise to Mrs. Tessa Lake, incorrectly named as Tessa Chappell in the December *Review*.

Jim and Gloria Conroy, of Middlesborough, on the birth of their grand-daughter Hannah Louise to their son Gerarde and his wife Diane, on October 30th.

Frank and Margaret Cross, of Birmingham, who are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandchild, James Harry, born to their daughter Alex and son-in-law David Hiam, on October 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansel Lewis, on the birth of a grandchild, Elisabeth, born to their daughter Ann Marie and her husband, on July 16th last.

Family News *continued*

Edward and Mary Quinn, on the birth of their grandson, George, born in Hong Kong to their son, Mark, and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Smith, of Worcester, on the birth of two new grand-daughters. Jenna Leanne was born on October 23rd to their daughter Heather, and Melissa Ruth was born on November 11th to their daughter Karen and her husband Colin.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. W. H. Wainman of Sheffield, on the birth of a new great-grandson, Martyn John, born on November 25th, to his grandson Malcolm Moody and his wife.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

The family of *Mrs. M. R. Barber*, widow of the late *Ernest Barber*, who passed away on November 29th, aged 67.

Mrs. V. Jerome of Cookham, widow of *Mr. S. K. Jerome*, whose sister died recently in Australia.

The family of *Mrs. Noel Blagrove-Ellis*, widow of the late *Captain Jack Blagrove*.

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.

D. Atkins, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Artillery

Douglas Atkins, of Hemel Hempstead, passed away on November 28th, aged 63. He has been a St. Dunstaner since 1948.

Mr. Atkin worked as an Assembly Pyro-technician before the war and then served in the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Artillery. He was wounded whilst in Italy which resulted in his blindness. On becoming a St. Dunstaner *Mr. Atkins* was trained as a Capstan Lathe Operator at Ovingdean initially and worked in industry in various jobs until he retired on health grounds in 1969. His hobbies were carpentry and CB radio.

Ellis, who died on November 28th in her 90th year.

The daughter and family of *Mrs. Alice Hamlett*, widow of the late *Arthur Hamlett* who passed away on November 14th at the age of 95.

Mrs. Dorothy Martin and her husband, of Emsworth, on the recent death of *Mr. Martin's* sister.

Mrs. A. H. Nobbs of Portsmouth, widow of *Mr. B. C. Nobbs*, whose younger son, *Ronald*, died suddenly on November 9th, aged 64.

The family of *Annie Smith*, widow of the late *Sydney Smith*, who passed away on November 30th, aged 92.

Mr. Frederick Sunderland, on the death of his sister, *Emily Rebecca*, on October 23rd, at 81 years of age.

The family and friends of *Mrs. Edith Walton* who, with her accordian band concert party, entertained St. Dunstaners based at Church Stretton during the war years.

Robert Young, who mourns the loss of his wife, *Catherine*, who died on November 11th.

Mr. Atkins leaves a widow, *Dorothy Mary*, to whom he was married for 40 years, and a daughter, *Linda*.

G. W. Cattell, Royal Navy

George William Cattell, of Northampton, passed away on October 22nd, aged 66. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1963.

Mr. Cattell served with the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1953, and it was during this time that he developed problems with his eyesight, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1963. After a period of Occupational Training *Mr. Cattell* took up employment as a telephonist in Northampton, and he worked happily and efficiently in this

capacity until 1977, when unfortunately he had to resign for health reasons. In early retirement he was able to enjoy his garden and greenhouse, but two years ago, after a sudden and serious illness, he had to suffer the shock of having a leg amputated above the knee. However, *Mr. Cattell* bravely overcame this further disability, and with his wife was able to enjoy many happy holidays at *Ian Fraser House*.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, *Josie*, and their daughters *Lesley* and *Jayne* and their families.

L. E. Clee, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Leonard Ernest Clee, of Birmingham, passed away in hospital on December 1st, aged 77, having been in poor health for some time, although he bore his disabilities with great fortitude. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1986.

Having enlisted in 1940, *Mr. Clee* joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and, whilst on active service in the Middle East, was wounded shortly after the Battle of Alamein and lost his left eye. Until eight years ago, *Mr. Clee* was able to work as a chargehand mechanic with a Midland bus company. Unfortunately, just over a year ago, the remaining sight in his other eye failed completely by which time he was suffering serious health problems.

We console with his widow, *Violet*, to whom he was married for over 50 years, and their son, *Phillip* and family who has been a constant support to them both. Our St. Dunstaner will also be greatly missed by their good friend and neighbour, *Mrs. Mason*.

C. E. Davies, Royal Air Force

After many years of ill-health borne with great courage and cheerfulness, *Clement Ernest Davies*, of Church Stretton, passed away in hospital on November 4th, aged 77. He has been a St. Dunstaner since 1980.

During the Second World War, *Mr. Davies* served as a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1941 until 1946 when he was discharged, having lost an eye following a mine explosion. For many years, *Mr. Davies* was a tenant hill-farmer ably assisted by his wife *Edna* with whom he spent 55 happy years, and who nursed him so devotedly.

He will also be greatly missed by their five daughters, two sons and their families, who provided loving support and care over many years.

F. A. Hawes, Royal Tank Regiment

Francis Hawes, of Birchington, passed away in

hospital on November 28th, aged 66. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Mr. Hawes enlisted at the age of 18 and was wounded by an anti-tank shell whilst in action in Belgium. This resulted in his blindness and, in later years, some deterioration in his hearing. He trained at Church Stretton and worked for some time as Appeals Organiser for Derbyshire for the RNIB. His main interest was gardening, at which he became very expert, and also enjoyed many walking holidays touring European countries with his wife.

He leaves a widow, *June Lilian (Judy)* and two grown up children by his first marriage, a son *Beverly*, and daughter *Bryony*.

A. Key, Reconnaissance Corps

Alan Key, of Dartford, died in hospital on December 5th following a short illness, at the age of 67. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 46 years.

Mr. Key enlisted in the Reconnaissance Corps in 1940 at the age of 20 and served for 18 months before he was blinded whilst on manoeuvres. On admission to St. Dunstan's in 1941 he trained as a capstan operator, and worked in Nottingham for several years before moving to Dartford. He had a splendid work record and was always ready to crack a joke with all and sundry at the works. He retired in 1982 after 37 years with the same firm. He was a keen drummer when young and after his retirement added wrought iron work to his hobby of music.

He was twice married and is survived by his son, *Malcolm*, who lives in Canada. We extend our sympathy also to *Mrs. Sharp* with whom he lodged for many years.

J. Muir, Royal Air Force

John Muir, of Blackpool, passed away unexpectedly in hospital on December 20th following a short illness, aged 64. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1964.

Mr. Muir was an Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War but was discharged in 1942 due to a serious eye problem attributable to his service. Nevertheless, for 17 years he was able to work for Vernons Pools, but his remaining sight was deteriorating and he was forced to retire. Subsequently, *Mr. Muir* completed a period of industrial training and was employed as an inspector by the Bristol Aircraft Company for two years when, unfortunately, he had to give up work due to health problems. In retirement, he was able to undertake some hobby work, including joinery and rugmaking.

Mr. Muir leaves a widow, *Jean*, to whom he

In Memory *continued*

was married for 39 years, two daughters, two sons, grandchildren and other members of his family who will miss him very much.

D. Rivers, South Staffordshire Regiment

Daniel Rivers, of Birmingham, passed away at his home on October 31st, aged 60. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1981.

Although he had lost the sight of one eye in a childhood accident, Mr. Rivers joined the Army in February 1944, only 11 days after his 17th birthday, and served as a Private in the South Staffordshire Regiment until he was discharged in 1948, following an injury to his remaining eye. Upon coming to St. Dunstan's he was already retired because of ill health, but was able to take part in and enjoy one of our toy making courses and earlier in 1987 had some hobby training in leatherwork.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, Dorothy, and all their sons and daughters.

T. Rogers, 25th Machine Gun Corps

Tommy Rogers, who was our oldest surviving St. Dunstaner, passed away at Pearson House on December 13th at the age of 99.

Tommy served with the 25th Machine Gun Corps from March 1917, and was wounded near Amiens in May 1918 when he suffered not only the loss of his sight but damage to his hearing. He came to St. Dunstan's in February 1919, at the time of his discharge from the Army, and in June 1927 became a member of our Brighton Staff as a teacher of typing. In this capacity he transferred to Church Stretton when our establishment moved there during the Second World War and finally took his retirement in July 1953. Tommy thus became known so well to so many of our trainees from the 1939-45 War and to many of the 1914-18 War as well and will also be remembered for his ability in compering the end-of-term concerts and as a very competent member of the darts team during those years. He was gifted as a writer, having several poems and articles published in the *Review* over the years and also on one occasion broadcast by the B.B.C. In 1961 he was made a Life Member of the Stonemasons Union, this having been his occupation before joining the Army. In retirement Tommy returned to his native Huddersfield to live with his sister and brother-in-law and then from 1963 with his devoted niece, Agnes North.

It was in 1981 that his health began to fail and he returned to Brighton where he settled happily as a permanent resident.

Our sympathy goes to Miss Agnes North, to

his great-nephew, Christopher, and all other members of the family.

Blodwyn Brooks Simon

It is with the greatest regret that we announce the death of Blodwyn Brooks Simon, our most senior lady St. Dunstaner, who passed away very peacefully at Pearson House on December 22nd, aged 88. Blodwyn will always be remembered with much love and affection by so very many, not only the other 'girls' but by all those to whom she was such a splendid example and source of help and encouragement over so many years.

It was while working in an Ordnance Factory in Coventry in June 1918 that Blodwyn, then 19, suffered the loss of her sight through an explosion. She went first to Henshaws where she learned basket and stocking-making as well as braille, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1924.

During her long and active life and while living at home with her family — her mother, sister and brother-in-law — in Ruthin, Blodwyn worked very busily and skilfully at basket making and knitting, done by both hand and machine, and some weaving. At one stage she served for a while as Secretary of the North Wales Blind Society. In later life her beautiful knitting kept her happily occupied and she became an enthusiastic Bridge player. Blodwyn's mother died in 1949 and her sister 20 years later but even so, Blodwyn remained at home caring for her brother-in-law until 1972 when, for the sake of her own health, she went to live permanently at Brighton. It was a very proud moment for Blodwyn when she presented a posy to H.M. the Queen upon the occasion of the last Royal Visit to Ian Fraser House in July, 1985.

In the midst of our own sense of loss we send our deepest sympathy to Blodwyn's devoted nieces, Mrs. Pat Scaife and Mrs. Molly Davies, and all members of the family.

Captain T. Tweedie, Merchant Marine

Captain Thomas Tweedie passed away in hospital on November 18th, aged 82. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1972.

Captain Tweedie was a Merchant Marine Master on the Far East, and on December 13th 1941 he scuttled his vessel, the *Nanning*, in Hong Kong harbour to avoid its capture, but on Christmas Day 1941 he became a Japanese Prisoner of War and as a result sustained severe loss of sight.

He leaves a widow, Denise, to whom he was married for nearly 51 years, and two sons, to whom we send our condolences.