

**St Dunstons
Review
July 1988**

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Cover Picture: Colonel Sir
Michael Ansell re-opens Ansell
House. See page 5.

From the Chairman

This year we commemorate the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It was a famous victory. Who won it?

'History is bunk' once declared Henry Ford. He was wrong. But in recent years it has become increasingly fashionable to debunk a number of those classic tales of valour which inspired us all at school — and later. It is not my purpose to follow that fashion here.

Three things combined to defeat that huge assembly of ships and men. First, the inadequate provisioning of the ships for an operation destined to drag on for more than five months.

Second, the bold initiative and offensive spirit in the constant harrying by the British Fleet under Howard and perhaps especially by the Squadron commanded by Drake.

Third, and above all, the weather. I do not know (and nor does anyone else) whether Drake played bowls on Plymouth Hoe but it is certain that the wind and tide were such that he could not sail earlier. Later, off Calais Roads, his luck turned and the wind blew fair for him to send in his first ships with devastating results. In those days it took hundreds of men several hours to weigh anchor and the Spanish had no option but to slip their cables and escape as best they could. Thereafter they were compelled to go where the wind blew them — the North Sea, round the coast of Scotland, down the west of Ireland and, eventually, back to Spain. Having lost the ability to anchor they could seek neither shelter nor respite. And the roundabout route, never contemplated, enormously prolonged the campaign. Fatigue, sickness, disease, starvation and privation did the rest.

Which brings me back to St. Dunstan's. You, my friends, have fought two campaigns. In the first you lost your sight. In the second you regained a useful, constructive life in which you continued to be an example to all. I hope you do not now suffer avoidably from sickness, disease or lack of provisions.

CONTENTS INSURANCE FOR WIDOWS

Where appropriate St. Dunstan's widows have been notified by Mr. Lloyd, our Estate Manager, about the new scheme, proposed by the Sun Alliance for Contents Insurance Cover. This is a blanket scheme so all those widows who have been informed personally will be covered unless they ask to be excluded. If you are in any doubt about whether you should seek exclusion, please contact your welfare visitor or area surveyor, or Mr. Cheong at Headquarters.

TALL SHIP SAILING

The Jubilee Sailing Trust is once again organising a number of voyages on Tall Ships which include special facilities for physically handicapped people. Duration of voyages is from one to nine days, departing from a number of British Ports and on the continent, with prices from £30 per day.

For more details of this unique opportunity to share in the challenge of crewing a ship at sea, write to The Jubilee Sailing Trust, Test Road, East Docks, Southampton, SO9 1GG., or telephone 0703 631 395.

Sheila Macleod

I am one of the very few 'Lee Campers' who remember Sheila Macleod as she was before the illness which handicapped her for years before her death.

Sheila called at Titchfield Vicarage to see Frank one day during the war. He was out, but Avis seeing (I quote a speech of hers) 'A very pretty girl on the doorstep' promptly collected her to join a tea party of Commandos going on in the nursery. From that day Sheila was one of the helpers involved in Avis's various enterprises, so it was natural that when the first Lee Camp took place she was invaluable. She was Camp Treasurer in years when money was sometimes short. Her little car was always running about doing errands, taking lame St. Dunstaners down to the beach

ST. DUNSTAN'S T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Casual wear white sweatshirts and T-shirts embossed with the St. Dunstan's crest are available from the Supplies Department at H.Q. Sweatshirts cost £6.50 each and are labelled large to fit 42-44 in. chest. T-shirts cost £3.50 each, and are also large size, although there are a few medium in stock, if you hurry.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

We expect to receive a small allocation of tickets for the afternoon and evening Presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 12th.

St. Dunstaners are invited to apply before September 12th to Mr. K. Martin at H.Q. for two tickets per St. Dunstaner. Please state any preference for afternoon or evening Presentation. Priority will be given to those who have not attended a previous Presentation and a ballot will be held. Those successful will be assisted with both the cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London if necessary.

or out for coffee (very few helpers had cars in the early days). She had a house with a nice garden and many a pleasant tea party took place there. Always a good dancer, she would be on the dance floor all the evening if we were short of partners, and with some friends she ran a dance at Titchfield which for some was the real highlight of the week.

Before the Field Gun's Crew got involved and the Navy built up the wonderful tradition of service that makes Camp so good today, the outside helpers were very much needed and Sheila worked as hard as anyone. That is the way her old friends like to remember her.

Diana Hoare

On this day . . .

by Sean Kelly

At this moment I feel I can safely predict the weather for the month of July. Throughout England, Scotland and Wales there will be brilliant sunshine on every weekday. The same goes for Northern Ireland, excepting July 12th, which is a Bank Holiday there, so it will inevitably pour down of course. From future possibilities, let us turn to past anniversaries and improbabilities.

On July 3rd in 1928, the world's first television transmission in colour was made by John Logie Baird at the Baird Studio in London. The same transmission was performed later, and this idea has been adopted by television companies ever since, under the usual title of 'another chance to see . . .' (Translation: Repeat).

Also on July 3rd fifty years ago, the 'Mallard' steam locomotive reached a speed of 126 miles per hour, the world speed record for a steam locomotive.

Perhaps there was unusual solar activity that year, or strange lunar movements, or perhaps it was just the Summer sunshine. Whatever the cause, there is no doubt that July 1983, just five years ago, was a vintage year for strange happenings the world over.

In France, a man believing he would return in his next life as a fish dived into the river Seine. He drowned.

In America, a wine shop put 18 bottles of wine on offer for \$3 each. A wine lover bought all 18 bottles, and thanked the shop for their generous offer. Upon checking, however, the store discovered that they had sold ten bottles of Lafite-Rothschild (Value \$900) and eight bottles of Latour (Value \$1000) for just \$54.

In Italy, Anna Eprica walked into a bar dressed in just a bikini, and said she would spend the night with the strongest man there. The following bunfight resulted in numerous broken glasses, windows, chairs, bones etc., and the police eventually had to break the fight up.

Speaking of the police, it was during the summer of . . . 1983 (what a surprise) that a New York policeman invested in a

small aerosol of knock out gas for his girlfriend, a common form of self defence against muggers in America. He stopped off at the station on the way home to get a shower. He dried himself, brushed his hair, and reached for (what he thought was) his deodorant aerosol . . . He eventually regained consciousness in the hospital the following day.

Finally, it was on a foggy day in 1938, fifty years ago, that Douglass Corrigan took off from New York, obviously looking forward to a pleasant flight before eventually landing in California to the west. However, compasses weren't up to much then, and what with the fog, and he was probably trying to remember whether he had cancelled the newspapers and turned the gas off, so it's understandable, isn't it? Anybody could mistake east for west, an ocean in the fog for land, and fly for 28 hours in the wrong direction and end up in Ireland instead of California, couldn't they?

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.

Mr. Ernest William Barnes, of High Wycombe, who joined on May 6th.

Mr. Barnes, who is 80, served as a C.S.M. in the Royal Army Service Corps from December 1940 until January 1946. For a time, he was Monty's driver. Whilst on convoy duty in the U.K. he was wounded by a bomb blast.

Our St. Dunstaner is married and he has an adult son who lives in Lincolnshire.

Herman Wessel, of Birmingham, who joined on May 16th.

Mr Wessel served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Netherlands Brigade during the Second World War and was wounded when he was blown up in Senlis, France, in 1944. Mr. Wessel is married with a grown up daughter who lives in Holland.



Sir Michael Re-opens Ansell House

At a simple ceremony on 10th May 1988, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell unveiled a plaque which commemorates the re-opening of Ansell House. The Plaque reads 'Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., President of St. Dunstan's from 1977 to 1986, re-opened Ansell House after its extensive re-modernisation.' This picture is of Sir Henry Leach showing Sir Michael the plaque.

But I Know that man

Roy Hill has retired now from his transport business in Cheshire, May McFarlane from a career in the diplomatic service, but in his day Roy was one of my boys in the Lovat Scouts during the war, May one of my visitors when I occupied a bed in the 92nd British General Hospital, Naples. Roy was astonished to see me on a 'World in Action' T.V. programme recently, May on a 'Round Scotland' one, and both were quick to write letters relating to days when Ron and I crouched in slit-trenches in Romagna.

May and I chatted about a common interest, the hills, in the arguably less dangerous environment of a hospital ward. Roy, a stripling of 19 as I remem-

bered him, had kept up no Army connection whatever since his demobilisation in 1946. I treasure a remark of his, characteristically blunt, made to me in a phone-call subsequent to his original letter 'How did I look,' I had said to him, referring to my physical appearance on the T.V. programme seen by this old fellow-Scout of mine. 'Not as good-looking' said Roy, 'as you were then.' I don't think we'll get a visit from May, who is 78 and lives in Paisley, but Roseangle is looking forward to seeing Roy and his wife Sarah when they're touring in Scotland. Tin hats will be issued to all ranks on the evening concerned.

Syd Scroggie

Reunions

Southampton Reunion, 28th April

20 St. Dunstaners, one ex-service woman and 13 widows attended the reunion. Also present was Mrs. Claire Parsonage of the War Pensioners' Welfare Service.

Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, K.C.B., O.B.E., accompanied by Lady Johnston, presided over the gathering. He promised not to liken his speech to a Rolls-Royce, well-oiled, almost inaudible and lasting forever! After welcoming the guests, he passed on the regrets of Penny Lord, who was unable to be present. He went on to give the numbers of St. Dunstaners throughout the world.

Sir Maurice said how he had recently met one of our latest recruits, Jamie Cuthbertson, in London. Jamie had insisted in becoming a St. Dunstaner despite his Scottish connections, because St. Dunstan's had been on the scene within hours of his accident. 'First of all, I think it emphasises the care, which the wonderful people who run St. Dunstan's on our behalf, take. Secondly, his attitude, that he was so proud of being a St. Dunstaner, that he elected to remain in Scotland, a member of St. Dunstan's.'

Sir Maurice went on to summarise the cost of refurbishment to the various St. Dunstan's homes. 'These works will hopefully see us through to the end of the century. I am conscious of being amongst a group of survivors. I hope that I will be privileged enough to be around, in my bath chair perhaps, joining all of you people to see that 21st Century in'.

Edgar Bull, of Southampton, replied on behalf of the guests to thank St. Dunstan's and their staff for all their work, and especially Mrs. Vivian Jackson, the organiser of the day.

After lunch, the film, *Partnership for Life* was well received by the audience. During the afternoon, Mr. Bull mentioned that he

had obtained 92 plants from a packet of Sutton's Alicante tomato seeds. He wondered if this was a record? However, it was with tomato sandwiches, a raffle and much chatter that the afternoon was concluded.

Liverpool

There were 118 people at the St. George's Hotel for the Liverpool Reunion on 5th May. They included 36 St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts, and 26 widows. They were welcomed by our President, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife, Joyce. Speaking after lunch Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds brought greetings from Sir Henry Leach and members of the Council. He told his audience that this was the first time he and Joyce had stayed in Liverpool. 'Although we did pass through it nearly thirty years ago on our way to New Brighton when, for the first time together, we went to the fun-fair and I remember being on the chair-o-plane and being whirled round and twisted hither and thither, I think we were nearly thrown out at one time, nevertheless it was a happy day.'

'The first time I passed through here could hardly be classed as a happy occasion because, like many of you, we were on our way to places very far afield and I came to Liverpool and boarded a newly commissioned Dutch liner which took me out to Bombay and we journeyed through Iraq and North Africa and ended at St. Dunstan's.'

The President had a special word for two St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion with their wives: Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Wellings. He also warmly welcomed the widows, 'Because the successes and achievements



Mrs. Sadie Stokes presents a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds.

of St. Dunstaners could never have been won without the support and encouragement of our wives. Although some of our colleagues are no longer with us it is pleasing that their widows are here today. So a special welcome to you all.'

There was warm applause when Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds mentioned the presence of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Robinson. 'Robby', as he is known to all his friends, was our Country Life Superintendent until his retirement and still contributes his 'Gardening Notes' to the *Review*. 'We have also Mr. Trevor Edwards with us, who is Senior Welfare Officer with the Welfare Section of the War Pensions. The fact that many of us are here at all is due to his department recommending to the war pensioner that St. Dunstan's was the one organisation that could help him.'

After reporting on the progress and plans for work on the building at Ian Fraser House, the President turned to the subject of braille. He said that little publicity had been given to the local workshops arranged to enable braille readers to express their opinions on the suggested new contracted braille. This would replace grade two and he urged St.

Dunstaners to respond promptly when, before an international meeting in September, voting slips are sent to them. 'We do hope you will vote against reforming braille which would introduce a very complicated new system.'

Concluding his speech, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds announced the showing, later in the afternoon of the new film *Partnership for Life*. 'This is going to have great publicity, we hope not only as a film as you will see it today but it is also available as a video which enables organisations and local groups to see it so much more easily. I hope you will enjoy *Partnership for Life*.'

John McDermott, of Manchester, replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He began by calling for a real Northern welcome for Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds. Referring to the presence of members of Headquarters staff he said, 'They have looked after us, not last year or the year before but for many, many years and they are still doing so. I also include our immediate representatives from the North-West, Mrs. Henderson and her helper Mrs. Wye.'

'I won't say too much about Church Stretton, especially in the early days. I was



Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds greeting Elsie Aldred and her escort Ella Aldred.

there fairly early, 40/41 and the ladies, as well, were over at Belmont. We had a nice week-end there last October and it was good to meet all my friends again after all these years. I was fortunate to be billeted in the Longmynd where I was in 1940. That brought along a lot of memories for me. I hope to be meeting some friends and

having a chit chat this afternoon. Thank you very much, one and all.'

With her own personal words of greeting, Mrs. Sadie Stokes presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds who, in turn, made a brief speech of thanks.

After the showing of *Partnership for Life*, David Vaughan-Williams entertained at the piano, playing requests he had kindly sought by chatting with St. Dunstaners before lunch.

After giving the statistics of St. Dunstaners, Sir Henry told his audience of a recent visit he and Lady Mary had made to Sweden: 'Sweden, as you know, is an essentially neutral country. It has been their policy for many long years to adopt a neutralist regime but I think I could best describe her as 'neutral-friendly'. I have been there before. The last occasion was some thirteen years ago in 1975.'

London (Central)

On that occasion he recalled that he went at the invitation of the retiring Mayor of Gothenburg, 'He determined to go out with a bit of a splash and after researching a bit of history decided to hitch it to a previous British Admiral Saumarez who had conducted a war against Sweden in 1812. At that time England and Sweden were at war and Admiral Saumarez was there with some 62 ships, which is about the size of the British fleet today, and he didn't approve of this. He liked the Swedes and didn't think there was much point in making war with them. He consulted his Captains and they all said "Come on, let's have a go". But he overruled them and forbad them ever to fire a shot at another Swedish ship let alone a Swedish town or port unless they, the Swedes, had opened fire first. Which, of course, they never did. So no shot was exchanged and this man became known as Sweden's friendly enemy and lives in their memories to this day.'

The reason for his visit was to present to King Carl Gustav with the Honorary Admiral's flag, the King having been made an Honorary Admiral in the Royal Navy during a State Visit to England: 'I should, perhaps, mention that this flag was in rather nicely worked silk and not in ordinary bunting and it was encased in,

can you believe it, yet another carved casket of Victory oak. Victory oak is quite inexhaustable and there is plenty of it there still!"

The Chairman mentioned the showing of *Partnership for Life* planned for the afternoon and concluded 'Thank you for coming and a safe journey home in due course.'

St. Dunstaner, Harry Meleson responded and began by thanking Sir Henry and Lady Leach for coming to the reunion: 'Secondly, I would like to say thank you to Miss Barbara Davis and Mr. Keith Martin who have helped to arrange this luncheon today. Then I would like to say thank you to the staff and the chef of this hotel for this lunch which was of an excellent standard. Next I want to thank the St. Dunstaners, their escorts and the widows because this reunion could not have taken place if they had not all arrived.'

'In conclusion, when I was asked to make this speech I was told three things: Stand up, speak up and shut up.' — and shut up he did!

The formalities were brought to an end with the presentation of a bouquet to Lady Leach by Mrs. Joyce Jensen and after the film there was dancing until tea-time and the prize draw brought the afternoon to an end.

Sir Henry chats to Bill Shea.

Sir Henry chats to Bill Shea.





A brief respite.

In the Footsteps of a Saint

by Ray Hazan

Photographs by David Castleton and Roberta Johnston

On May 19th we celebrated the 1000th anniversary of the death of St. Dunstan. His talents have gone largely unnoticed as his death was fast superseded by events such as the murder of Thomas á Becket and the Norman Conquest. Many think he is connected with the blind as a patron saint, but it is only fortuitously that the organisation for the war-blinded adopted his name.

St. Dunstan was born in 909 in Baltonsborough, just outside Glastonbury in Somerset. He was educated at the monastery in Glastonbury and eventually became the Abbot for 16 years. Dunstan was an artistic man, with some of his illuminated works still in existence today. He was a musician and wrote many pieces for the harp. He was also a craftsman in metal, fashioning chalices and crosses in precious metals. He is the first English Patron

Saint and looks after goldsmiths. It was whilst working on the more humble horse shoe that it is said he was interrupted by the devil. Dunstan scared him off by 'tweaking his nose' with a pair of red hot tongs, hence the tradition that a horse shoe above the door will frighten off the devil!

Dunstan was friend, advisor and minister to three Kings, but was banished, partly because of his hostility to the Kings' mistresses, and went into exile in Flanders. He was the 11th Bishop of Worcester, and, after returning from Belgium, he became Archbishop of Canterbury, a position he held for 28 years. He is the father of the coronation service, a large part of which remains intact in the service to this day. He also carried out a reform of the monasteries, one of the most important acts of the century. A hard act to follow!

Our organisation's connection with his name began in 1720, when St. Dunstan-in-the-West, a Church in Fleet Street, commissioned a clock to hang above the street. Two figures, armed with clubs struck both the hours and the quarters, a novelty in those days. The clock, therefore, was popular with both tourists and pick-pockets, who took advantage of the distraction! A century later, the clock was sold by the church, which needed funds for repairs. The purchaser was the Marquess of Hertford, who owned a house in Regent's Park. The clock was reconstructed in the grounds and the house adopted the name of St. Dunstan's.

It was to this house, then owned by an American financier, that in 1915 Sir Arthur Pearson moved with his war-blinded ex-soldiers and sailors. A letter written to Sir Arthur in 1915, quotes 'you and your St. Dunstaners'. In the first annual report of 1916, it is already called 'St. Dunstan's hostel for the war-blinded'. Our charter was not formally laid down until 1923, but by then, usage had beaten the law.

It was with less holier footsteps that four St. Dunstaners were invited to take part in a pilgrimage organised by the

United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to mark this anniversary. Stan Tutton is a keen and active walker and was escorted by his *H.M.S. Daedalus* 'dog' Peter Westbrook. The 'hills were constantly alive' to the singing of Trevor Tatchell, escorted by Bill Reed and Zion, Trevor's golden retriever guide dog. Ray Sheriff regularly walks 20 miles a week with his partner Jim Wild, a veteran hiker and daily swimmer in the sea. I had my new guide dog Happy, who is still to learn to go round people, rather than through their legs, and 'Osie' Osman a regular SNCO from my old Battalion. Roberta Johnston of the PR department drove our minibus and dealt with PR and administrative arrangements.

We were warned that it was to be a serious pilgrimage, but were none the less taken aback when, on our arrival in Glastonbury, the door of our minibus was opened with a 'Hi, I'm Cherry from San Diego!' We were to meet some 40 pilgrims from St. Dunstan churches in Canada, the USA, England, Australia and Uganda, of all shapes, sizes and ages.

The walk started on the 11th May at the ruins of the Abbey in Glastonbury, where we were addressed by the 111th Bishop of Worcester. He blessed a plate specially

St. Dunstaners and helpers with Lord Sackville at Knot House.



produced for the occasion, depicting St. Dunstan tweaking the devil's nose. Brilliant sunshine accompanied the group as we set off for the journey's start, Baltonsborough, the birth place of St. Dunstan. Indeed, the succeeding six days were to be ablaze with sunshine and heat, which certainly took toll of the dogs as they puffed and panted around us, running at least double the daily 10 miles. Pilgrims are not of such stern stuff nowadays as our forebears. The 10 a.m. start became a 10.45 start, with 2 hours break for lunch and then on to about 5.30 p.m. But it was intended as a bit of a sight seeing tour for the foreign visitors. Our journey took us via Stonehenge, Amesbury, Winchester, Guildford, Dorking, Reigate, Boughton Lees, to name but a few places. Much of the journey was along the Pilgrims Way and the North Downs Way.

Ray Hazan and Roberta Johnston set off with Happy, Ray's guide dog.



We walked along lanes, nettle shrouded paths, across fields, through woods, over stiles. We chatted, the pilgrims sang and the dogs ever panted backwards and forwards along the line. Lunches were either in village halls or in the fields with sandwiches provided by the local parishioners. The day generally ended with a cup of much welcome tea again, in a village hall. There were sunburnt faces, aching legs, but always the four St. Dunstaners in the lead to the accompaniment of 'here come the military', or 'can you slow down a bit!' Our group was delighted to have Member of Council Lt. General Sir Maurice Johnston, K.C.B., O.B.E., walk with us one morning, and Mr. Weisblatt and David Castleton on two separate days. We had evening visits from the Chairman, and our surveyor for the South West, Bill Woodward and his wife.

Each will bear his own memories — Happy rolling in mud within two minutes of the very start and stinking to high heaven thereafter; drinking from the dogs' bowl for such was our thirst and lack of drinking vessels; being hosted and set off from Lord Sackville's home, Knole House; of the total confusion caused by there being two 'Ray's' on the walk; of tramping through the mud on the last day's walk, in total contrast to the rest of the time; of chance meetings with the son of a late St. Dunstaner and the father of a former member of staff; of Dunstan, the Canon from Uganda, striding at the head of the column with the banner, 'St. Dunstan, 988-1988 Lighten our Darkness' a fairly apposite statement, and of clambering over and around fallen trees, the aftermath of the hurricane.

The final goal was the Eucharist to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, 19th May, the anniversary of St. Dunstan's death. Ray Sheriff takes up the story:

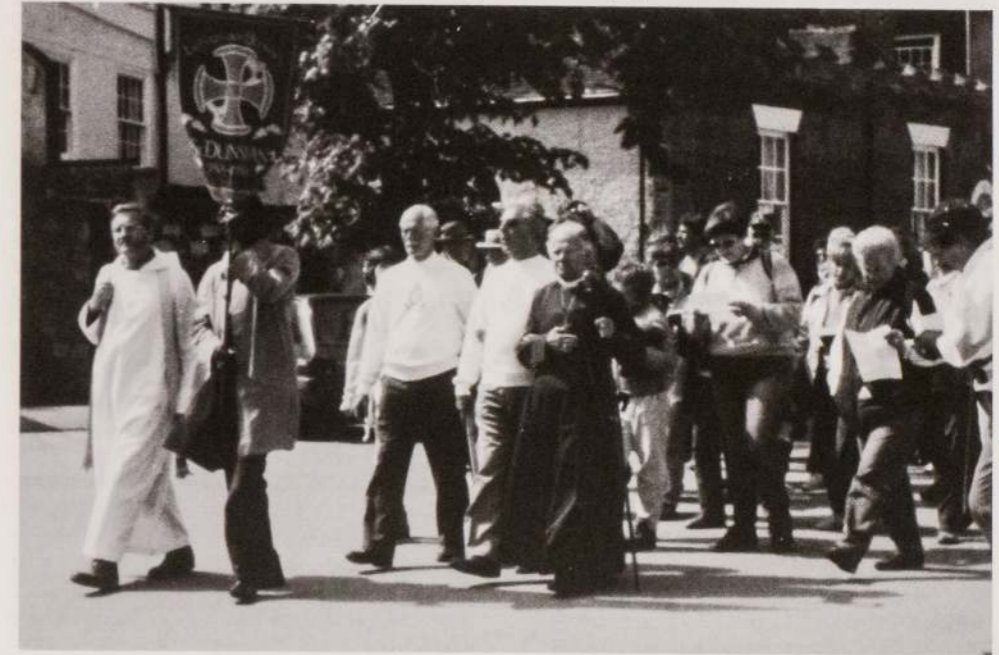
'On 19th May, my escort, Jim and I made our way through the narrow streets of Canterbury to a small church of St. Dunstan's, situated a mile or so from the cathedral. Our mission on this occasion was to meet up once again with the pilgrims with whom we had walked parts of the Pilgrims Way from Glastonbury to Canterbury. The pilgrims would complete

their millennium homage to St. Dunstan by congregating in Canterbury Cathedral for the Service of Eucharist conducted by the Archbishop, Dr. Runcie. The procession was led into the Cathedral by the Bishop of Dover and myself, the military! En route to the Cathedral, we were met by the Mayor and members of the City Council, together with the Mayor and members of the Glastonbury Town Council. We arrived at the holy place at 10.45 and remained in the sanctuary until 1.45 — quite sufficient time to meditate!

I did reflect during the Service, that 44 years ago, I flew over the Cathedral at mid-day in a Dakota bound for Arnhem. The congregation were just leaving the cathedral and were waving farewell, or some sort of sign.

Above all, we shall remember the chance to meet people, linked by a common thread. We may not have quite been St. Dunstan's pilgrims of yore, but I feel the reputation of such a distinguished man has been amply upheld by those who now bear his name. As Trevor put it, 'Although some of the walks were a little hairy, it was nevertheless a remarkable experience which I would not like to have missed.'

The procession is lead into Canterbury by Ray Sheriff and The Bishop of Dover.



Some found the camera more interesting than the walkers!

Annual Gardeners Club Meeting

by Reg Newton

Monday. The Spring meeting opened with our usual get-together in the winter garden, where general business and plans for future venues were discussed. It gave us great pleasure to congratulate Russell and Mary Crombie on their 40th Wedding Anniversary. We thought we would like to show our appreciation to Mrs. Clynbourne of Heaslands, who in the past, opened her garden for us and made us very welcome. She had a lot of damage done from the October Storm, and we agreed to donate a tree to replace one of those damaged. The evening was concluded with a dance.

Tuesday. We made our way to the Great Comp Gardens, which is seven miles from Sevenoaks, in the village of Borough Green.

It is a 15th Century House (owned by a Mrs. Maxwell), set in the heart of the Garden of England, created and maintained by Roderick and Joy Cameron, without help. This is a garden for all seasons, starting in April, with Spring flowering heathers and others throughout the year. This is reputedly the best laid out garden in private hands and the sun enhanced the beauty of it all. The beauty of the garden is set around a made up castle ruin, made of stone from around the garden. During coffee break on both mornings Mr. Cameron, the owner, pointed out several points of its history. He told us that the first Ladies cricket match was held in these grounds. This being a hungry and thirsty morning we then proceeded to the Chequers Hotel for lunch and a drink.

Wednesday. We boarded the coach for Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent, a 13th-15th Century moated castle, home of the Boleyn family, the place where Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn. The castle was much restored this century, when a lake and ornamental gardens were added. The statues were much in evidence as we walked around the gardens, in which

despite the early part of the season, many flowers particularly some roses, were in full bloom. On both weeks the azaleas and the rhododendrons dominated the display of colour.

After lunch members of the club chose to walk along the riverside, others preferred the more formal gardens, the rest made their way to look around the castle, passing Joe Humphrey and his wife, Marjorie, they asked if I had seen the Chess Garden. We made our way in that direction, and glanced on the enclosed Chess Garden, where all the pieces from the pawns to the King were shaped from clipped Box, each piece quite distinguishable. In the evening many of us rested in the lounge and joined in a game of bingo, where 3 of our 4 committee members, had the nerve to get a full house.

Thursday. Storm damage prevented us from going to The Vinery, but Major Neve came up trumps, in arranging a visit to Holly Gate cactus nurseries, Ashington. These cacti were enjoyable and had their own defence if trying to pinch a set, those prickles really prick, either in your finger or your posterior if you should back into one; the prickly pear is an adequate description of the plants. In talking to the owner Clive Innes, known for many books on the cacti and succulents, is the grandson of a name known to every horticulturist, Mr. John Innes, famous for the well known compost, which to this day bears his name. We then returned for mid-day meal, and settled down for a restful afternoon in readiness for our social evening in the annexe. We were entertained by a display of Ballroom and Latin American Dancing and some conjuring tricks. (Thanking Mike and Julie). Thanks also to Ernie and his Band for the accompaniment for the Artists. Our thanks to Major Neve, for the staff and bar staff, without whom our Gardening Visit to I.F.H. would not be the success and enjoyment that we look forward to through the year.



The Crew of 'B Baker' reunited at the R.A.F. Club. A painting of a Lancaster over enemy territory hangs behind them.

Bomber Crew Reunited

On the night of June 11th, 1943 Lancaster ED 978, 'B Baker' of 619 Squadron, Royal Air Force was over Belgium on its way to attack Dusseldorf in Germany when it was attacked itself by a Junkers 88 night fighter. The Junkers was hit by the Lancaster's defending guns and blew up in mid-air but 'B Baker' was by then itself on fire. Skipper, Colin Taylor, turned for home but it was clear that they could not make it, and he gave the order for the crew to bale out. All were taken prisoner although some evaded capture for some time.

Our St. Dunstaner, Stewart Harris was the navigator. He had kept in touch with some of the crew and, a year ago, managed to trace two more crew members. He decided that there should be a reunion and on May 25th the six surviving members met together for the first time since

they had parted parachuting from their blazing aircraft.

They gathered at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, London: Cecil Anderson, Flight Engineer, who had come all the way from Barr Head, Alberta, Canada; Roy Evans, Bomb Aimer, from Cheltenham; Stewart Harris, Navigator, from Andover; Billy Henderson, Mid-Upper Gunner, from Gosforth; Doug Inggs, Wireless Operator, from Neath; and Colin Taylor, Pilot, from Tunbridge Wells.

With their wives they enjoyed a celebratory lunch with plenty to talk about after, for some, a gap of 45 years. 'It's rather like a time capsule', summed up Stewart Harris, 'After scattering into the night all those years ago, and now meeting again here in the R.A.F. Club it feels almost as if we have gone back in time!'

St. Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion, April 1988

by Alf Lockhart

The St. Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War gathered for their Annual Reunion on April 15th, beginning with the Social cum Dance/Buffer, the A.G.M. and Reunion dinner on Saturday, and continuing on Sunday with a Service of Remembrance in the morning and a Concert in the evening.

Over the week-end we had quite a number of entertaining Guests. The Friday Social started off well, and among the guests was Miss Mosley from Headquarters, Major Jimmy Howe, O.B.E. and his wife Peggy, Fred Walters, B.E.M. and his wife Beattie, Steve Cairns, M.B.E. and his wife Gwen also joined us, and stayed over the week-end.

Jimmy Howe and Fred Walters are well-known to many P.O.W.s because they are the leading lights in organising the ex P.O.W. Concerts at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Jimmy Howe being the Director of Music and Fred Walters also playing an important role. Steve Cairns is also widely known for his work with ex-Servicemen and women. Among his many activities on behalf of ex-service personnel, it is as Chief Welfare Advisor to FEPOW that he is best known to those who were present. After the socialising, drinking and dancing, during which Ernie Took and his Band strove to be heard above the buzz of conversation, a hot buffet was served, and a jolly good one it was too.

On Saturday morning, as we assembled for the A.G.M., we were saddened to learn that two of our friends, the Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Pat Stone and St. Dunstaner, Jimmy Morrish, both of whom had recently undergone major surgery, were still in hospital. We send them our best wishes and pray for a speedy recovery. We were also told of a new St. Dunstaner, John Kershaw, M.M., who is a First World War ex-P.O.W. It will be nice for Bob Young to have a contemporary to chat with him. As he is in his Nineties, I expect that he will be calling Bob Young Young Bob.

During the meeting, our Chairman, Bill

Griffiths, mentioned that a video recording had been sent to him by an influential Thai industrialist. This video, as well as showing scenes and scenery along the Burma/Siam Railway, or 'The Railway of Death,' as it is often referred to, showed a model of the Kwai bridge being attacked by aerial bombardment. This was all a simulation of course. The air-raid effect was brought about by a clever firework display, and when the bridge had a couple of spans destroyed by the simulated air-raid, it was easily reconstructed. I understand that the air-raid effect is most realistic. The commentary on the video is given by the Thai industrialist himself in very good English. He is a millionaire, and the Bombing of the Kwai Bridge is a party piece he puts on for his friends. The video was shown in the Stables, and so many people turned up to watch the programme, that a lot more chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the large audience. A discussion ensued, which lasted until tea was brought to the Lounge at quarter past four.

In the evening, we met in the Lounge for pre-dinner drinks. Here we were greeted by Sir Henry and Lady Leach, who introduced us to our Guest Speaker Marmaduke Hussey, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC. We were also pleased to meet Mr. & Mrs. Garnett-Orme. Mr. Garnett-Orme, as well as being the former Chairman of St. Dunstan's, is also an Honorary Member of St. Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War. Mr. & Mrs. Weisblatt came down from Headquarters as did Mr. & Mrs. Castleton.

Our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., welcomed the Guests. She told us that 'Duke' Hussey, had served in the Grenadier Guards and had suffered severe wounds at Anzio. He was taken prisoner and eventually repatriated back to England at the end of 1944. Mr. Hussey's after-dinner speech was lightweight, amusing, and very well received. Mr. Hus-

sey was then presented with a Plaque, and who else to present it but Sid Doy, also of the Grenadier Guards. The Dinner was an extremely good one. In fact Fred Livermore became a Great Grandfather halfway through it. Our Chairman, Bill Griffiths, rose and thanked the Guests for attending our Annual Reunion, and said how much we appreciated their company. He also gave praise to Commander Conway and his Staff at Ian Fraser House for the friendly and cheerful way in which they look after us when we invade the House on these occasions. He also had kind words to say to Paul James and the Caterers for an excellent Dinner, and the professionalism shown in the serving of it. They really do make a magnificent effort on these special occasions.

After the Dinner was over, most of us made our way to the bar. 'Duke' Hussey, who because of his war injuries has difficulty in standing for any length of time, found somewhere to get comfortable in the bar and spoke with many of the men. He is a most interesting man to talk to. It was a very enjoyable evening. The time seemed to fly, and when it was time to say our goodnights, midnight had already passed.

Sid Doy presents Marmaduke Hussey with a plaque.



The Sunday Service was held in the Winter Garden, the Chapel not yet having been repaired. The Rev. Bootes took the Service, with The Rural Dean the Vicar of Brighton attending. This is the special Service in which we remember our friends and comrades who died in captivity. Sunday evening was given over to the Brighton Musical Comedy Company. These singers gave a sparkling, even scintillating performance — they always seem to. The lounge is filled when they are giving a show, and deservedly so. All good things come to an end and the Sunday Concert heralded the end of the St. Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War Annual Reunion. Still, there is another one next year, the date of which will be published in a later *Review*.

I am sure that all ex-P.O.W.s would like me to express on their behalf, our deep appreciation of the work that is done by our President Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, and the Honorary Secretary, Tom Hart. These two provide the impetus that sets the machinery in motion and culminates in our Annual Re-unions. We would all like to thank them for inviting such interesting Guests and making these Re-unions such wonderful occasions.

D. F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

By now the planting for this year's show will be nearly complete, which will doubtless please you. There is, however, still plenty of colour to come along before it is time to clear out the garden. Cutting away dead blooms will encourage a few more to come along later, and you should fork over the places where clearance is needed. You might also add fertilizer to the perennials to build them up for the winter, and use the hoe to get rid of the weeds.

Vegetables

Clear beds which have finished cropping and give them a good forking over, and put all remnants of leaves of roots on to the compost heap, remembering to chop up the taller and harder stems into small pieces. Runner beans will be flowering now, and may also be showing a few early beans — these should be used now as they will become too hard for later use. Give them plenty of water at root level, and ensure that all the stems are in position and tied in place. Also spray if there are any insects about.

Tomatoes should have their stems firmly tied to the stakes, any shoots appearing at root level should be nipped

Gardeners, Lorna and John Chatfield, admiring some fine daffodils they have grown.



off, and also stop any growth at the top. Give them plenty of water and liquid feeds regularly. Potatoes should be given their last earthing up, and beetroot should be thinned out to get a better size. Mulch carrots to improve their quality and size. Try to get all the peas and broad beans harvested or they will be past their best for freezing.

Lawns

Continue to cut the grass, but reduce the regularity, and keep the edges cut regularly in order to make the place look neat and tidy. One can still add fertilizers cum weedkillers to get a good growth on the grass and reduce the number of weeds.

Fruit

Thin out fruit on overcrowded trees, and give them plenty of water at root level, especially in dry and sunny conditions. Hoe the soil at the base of the stems, and add some compost or manure which will give the trees some extra food and keep moisture at root level. Loganberries and strawberries can be layered. It might be advisable to spray the fruit with water and also given an insect spray should any be about.

Flowers

Dead blossoms should be pinched out, and the tall perennials ought to be staked around the flowering stems and tied in. Chrysanthemums must have the tops pinched out in order to have better blooms. Some fertilizer added to the soil round the plants will give better blooms. Water regularly in dry conditions. All the plants in the flower garden will be needing sprays against insect pests. Give plenty of water all the way round in addition to a granular fertilizer. Keep weeds at bay by using the hoe regularly. Roses will be in full bloom, so give them a dose of spray which will keep insects at bay. Give them all a good amount of water in the dry spells.

all a good amount of water in the dry spells.

Greenhouse

Plenty of ventilation may be needed so open all the windows and the door, but put up some plastic netting to stop the birds coming in during the day. Pests of all kinds can be on the rampage so light combined smokes in the early evening. Cut down perennials which have finished flowering, just keeping them moist for the time being. Ripen bulbous items by drying them off in sunny spots. Carnations and chrysanthemums in pots will need staking, and should be given fertilizer and extra water. Prick out cinerarias which were sown earlier, and schizanthus can be sown to give good flowering plants at Christmas. Cyclamen should be repotted and started into growth in fresh compost and watered well. In addition repot other plants which need larger containers so that they will grow better and give fine flowers.

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Stuart Cowan, son of *Mr. and Mrs. J. Cowan*, of Rottingdean, who completed the London Marathon and raised £250 for Cancer Research.

Graham Hazelgrove, son of *Mr. and Mrs. R. Hazelgrove*, of Canterbury, who has been promoted to W.O.1 in the Royal Engineers, and has recently served in the Falklands.

Damian Wagstaff, Corporal Apprentice Technician, son of *Mrs. Pauline Wagstaff* and the late *Mr. Alan 'Curly' Wagstaff*, who was awarded the Victor Groom Ceremonial Stick, and also a silver plate which is awarded by the R.A.F. Cranwell Apprentices' Association for the best overall apprentice, on March 16th. The first

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB — BRIDGE

Sunday May 15th, Pairs

1st	R. Pacitti and Mrs. Pacitti	60.7
2nd	W. Lethbridge and Mrs. Barker A. Dodgson and Mrs. V. McPherson	52.4
4th	Mrs. Tebbit and Miss Sturdy	50.0
5th	Mrs. Clements and Mrs. Douse	45.2
6th	Miss Stenning and Mr. Douse	39.3

West Sussex Inter Club League, May 29th

We played a match with Crawley in the semi-final round of the league, and after a very pleasant and closely contested match the visitors won by 13 victory points to 3. Our team consisted of J. Padley, W. Lethbridge, W. Phillips, R. Evans, R. Pacitti, A. Dodgson, R. Goding and R. Freer.

award is for 'outstanding discipline and organisational Parade Commander abilities', and Damian led the Parade on Graduation Day.

Mr. R. Williams, of Tiverton, on obtaining his B.A. Degree at the Open University.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. S. Blackmore, of Stubbington, on the marriage of their daughter, Christine, to Stephen Paul Wearn, at Portsmouth Registry Office, on June 4th.

Mrs. Pauline Wagstaff, widow of the late *Mr. Alan 'Curly' Wagstaff*, of Whimple, near Exeter, on the wedding of their son, Jason Russell to Anita Jane Vosper, at St. Boniface Church, Whipton, Exeter, on April 9th.

SILVER WEDDINGS

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Wilson, of Torquay, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on May 22nd.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gray, of Highett, Victoria, Australia, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on June 2nd.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Lockhart, of Dagenham, Essex, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on June 5th.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Smith, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on May 14th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Harry, of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, on the birth of a first grandchild, Bethan, born on December 24th, 1987, to their son Paul, and daughter-in-law, Hillary.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Temple, of Orpington, on the birth of a second grandson, Gary, born on April 25th to their son and daughter-in-law, John and Dorothy Temple.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. H. Meleson, of Wembley, on the birth of a great grand-daughter to Ruth Hoyland, and her husband, Peter, on May 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Morton, of London, on the birth of their first great grandson, Benjamin John West, born on February 5th, to their son John Alexander and his wife, Linda, at Watford.

Mrs. Q. A. Waller, widow of the late *Mr. W. H. Waller*, of Ham Street, near Ashford in Kent, on the birth of a great grand-daughter, Corrine, on February 1st, to Kay and Mark Batcon, of Chichester.

DEATHS

We offer our sympathy to:

The family of *Mrs. Rebecca Bennett*, widow of the late *Mr. Harry Bennett*, of Bristol, who died on May 19th.

Mr. Tom Hart, of Sandwich, on the death of his wife, *Mabs*, on May 31st following a stroke. *Mrs. Hart* was secretary to *Matron Paine* at *Church Stretton* for a time.

The family of *Mrs. E. M. Lomas*, widow of the late *Mr. J. Lomas*, of *Walthamstow*, following her death on May 5th.

The family of *Mrs. Annie Harriet Nobbs*, widow of the late *Mr. R. C. Nobbs*, of *Portsmouth*, following her death on May 25th.

In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the death of the following *St. Dunstaner* and we offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, family and friends.

H. J. R. Martyn, R.A.M.C.

Mr. Herbert John Richard Martyn, of *Winchmore Hill*, passed away on May 10th. He was 90 years old, and had been a *St. Dunstaner* since 1977.

Mr. Martyn served as an *A/Sgt.* in the *R.A.M.C.* He saw service in the *First World War*,

and his health was seriously affected as a result of *Mustard Gas*. Nevertheless, he worked as a *Civil Servant* until retirement and had a very keen interest in '*Old Tyme*' dancing.

He leaves a widow, *Adelaide*, to whom he was married for 22 years. We send our sincere condolences to her and her family.