

St Dunstons
Review
November 1988



10p MONTHLY

Free to St. Dunstaners

NOVEMBER 1988

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Cover Picture: Doris Morrison uses the first spinning wheel which Tom made.

From the Chairman

Remembrance Day again approaches and over that weekend we shall pay grateful and admiring tribute to those who gave their lives in two World Wars and in other actions since — for *our* country and for *us*. They were brave men and women and as we honour them our thoughts will be of pride in their achievement tempered by sadness at the price they paid. Have you ever let your mind roam over that word 'brave' and what it really means?

The supreme awards of the Victoria Cross and the George Medal, and indeed of other lesser decorations for acts of gallantry often only marginally less heroic, are well understood. So too is the award to the Commander of a Unit which has performed conspicuously well in action, which is recognised as being a Representative Honour to that whole Unit. But the others, the majority, whose courage was of a less demonstrable kind, go unrecognised and unrecorded. Yet in reality the bravest man in action may often be the most afraid.

It is an interesting study. To take the extremes, people can be divided crudely into those with a highly sensitive imagination and those with none. In varying degrees the make-up of most people lies somewhere in between. To the insensitive man the horrors of war present no great problem, perhaps equating it to a tough game of rigger. He plunges into action with extrovert panache and stands out accordingly. His more imaginative counterpart tortures himself with the conceived horrors in which he is personally about to become involved and awaits events inwardly quaking with sheer terror. He must not for one moment reveal this and he does not. When the call comes he steels himself for the worst and does what is demanded of him, though unspectacularly.

Each in his own way is courageous. Which is the bravest I leave to your judgement.

And so when 'we remember them' on November 13th, in addition to the recognised few let us also honour the unidentified many.

St. Dunstan's is well represented in both categories.



It is not every St. Dunstaner who has his own book published commercially on compact cassette. Paul Francia has just achieved this ambition with the publication of *Mortar Fire* by Clio press.

Mortar Fire is the story of D Company, 1st Middlesex Regiment during the liberation of Europe told through the memories of the men in the mortar platoon. Paul Francia has traced and interviewed his former company comrades and compiled a rare and exciting history of war as experienced by the rank and file who actually faced the enemy.

Much of the book is in the words of the former Middlesex men as recorded by Paul's tape-recorder. The rest is his own description of his experiences and his comments, as an historian, on warfare and its effects on the young, civilian soldiers, as he describes himself and his comrades.

John Hosken, the radio commentator most St. Dunstaners will remember as the voice describing the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in recent years, brings Paul Francia's narrative vividly to life in this two 90 minute compact cassette edition. The publication is sponsored by St. Dunstan's and is available from the Public Relations Department at H.Q. at £6 including postage and packing.

DUNCAN WATSON APPOINTED WORLD BLIND UNION'S NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Duncan Watson, Chairman of the RNIB, and a member of the St. Dunstan's Council, was elected President of the World Blind Union at the September meeting in Madrid. Over 100 countries participate in the WBU, which was established in 1984. Mr. Watson wants the WBU to adopt a higher profile in its work with national governments and international agencies to improve the conditions of life for the world's 45 million blind people.

TEMBANI REUNION

Remember Remember. The 25th of November! All those who were at Tembani South Africa during the last war, and would be interested in meeting old friends once again, please book now through Miss Frances Casey at HQ for the reunion to be held at IFH from Friday November 25th until November 28th, and help make this an even better reunion than last year.

Ex-POW Reunion 1989

The Ex-POW Reunion for the coming year will take place on the weekend of 21st-23rd of April 1989. All those wishing to attend must definitely book through Miss F. Casey at Headquarters. This also applies to the residents of both Pearson and Ian Fraser house. Minutes and particulars will be sent to all members in the new year.

MARNIE SIMMONS

Marnie Simmons (née Bennet) would like to thank all those at St. Dunstan's who gave so generously to her leaving/wedding gift. She writes: 'I have also been overwhelmed by so many cards, flowers and loving messages at the time of my operation this August. May I say a very sincere thank-you. I'm making a good recovery so God bless you all.'

NEW BLAZER BADGES

New blazer badges are now in stock at Headquarters. The newly designed badges cost £2.75 each, including postage and packing, and are available from the Supplies Department.

ST. DUNSTAN'S PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN CONFERENCE

Twenty-four St. Dunstan's physiotherapists attended their 1988 conference held in Brighton over the weekend of September 30th to October 2nd. The difficulties created by the building works at Ian Fraser House led to the transfer of most of the activities of the conference to the Metropole Hotel in Brighton. At the Annual General Meeting Des Coupe, Chairman, paid tribute to the work of Keith Martin in successfully re-planning the events in the new venue.

The conference weekend began in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House with a showing of the new St. Dunstan's film, *Partnership for Life*, at the opening 'get-together' evening. Music from Desco recordings followed as old friends among St. Dunstaners and their wives 'got-together', amid much talk and laughter.

The following day Des Coupe opened the AGM with a general welcome to members and a particular one for Barbara Bell, the only lady physiotherapist attending. The meeting stood in silence in memory of the late Norman Daniels and Llew Davies who died during the year and in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale and past colleagues.

The Report of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee was unanimously adopted and the Chairman paid tribute to the work of its members. Two members of the Committee were due to retire. Norman Hopkins and Gordon Smith were both re-elected. In a short meeting of the committee later Des Coupe and Mike Tetley were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

The subject of the first lecture on the conference programme was Electro-acupuncture. Mr. David White, of Volta Star Limited, explained that his system avoided the necessity of penetrating the skin with needles and gave instances of the successful control of pain using electricity from a battery-powered unit at the recognised acupuncture points.

For the layman the next lecture was rather disturbing. Mr. Don Geldard, a member of the Association of Blind Physiotherapists, the civilian counterpart of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, spoke on the Biomechanics of Sitting. It emerged that the design of chairs of all kinds is bad for spines. A forward sloping seat would be best but economics and the customers' belief that soft and large furniture is more prestigious militate against a change to more user-friendly seating.

After an excellent lunch the conference and many wives returned to hear Dr. Jean Monro, making a return visit, lecture on Nutritional Aspects of Allergies. For the layman reporter this was again disturbing, especially after lunch. Dr. Monro's thesis was that we are adversely affected by most of what we eat today, through additives and colouring; and by pollution of our environment. All three speakers were sincerely thanked from the floor of the meeting for interesting and thought provoking talks.

In the evening the company assembled again at the Metropole for the final dinner and the dancing which followed. Presiding was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, in his role as President of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, accompanied by Lady Leach. Very warmly welcomed among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ion Garnett-Orme.

Des Coupe spoke for his colleagues in welcoming them and other guests including Dr. Michael O'Donnell, author, journalist and TV and radio personality, who responded for the guests. His amusing remarks on the dangers of taking the literal meanings of words brought laughter from his audience. Mike Tetley proposed the toast of St. Dunstan's and Sir Henry Leach spoke briefly to bring the speeches to an end and to invite Ernie Took and his drummer to the bandstand and St. Dunstaners and their wives to the dance floor.



St. Dunstan's Craftsmen at War Pensioners' Exhibition

Each of the St. Dunstaners taking part in the War Pensioners' exhibition won certificates. They are: Top left, Tom Morrison with his spinning wheel, Top right, Fred Galway and Ali-Baba Basket, Bottom left, Harry Meleson and Bottom right, Ernie Brown and his rocking horse made at Pearson House.



HELPING TO PRESERVE HISTORY

A major redevelopment programme is under way at the Imperial War Museum in London and all the public galleries will be closed until 19th March 1989. This represents the culmination of five years of intensive planning by the Museum which raised a considerable proportion (£4.5m) of the cost of the scheme through its Redevelopment Appeal launched in January 1985. The new galleries at the Museum's headquarters in Lambeth Road Southwark, will open in June 1989.

In 1976 the Museum took over Duxford Airfield as an 'outstation' to house historic aircraft and many other large exhibits of all kinds. In 1971 HMS *Belfast* was saved from the scrapyard and has, since 1978, been managed by the Museum at her berth in the Pool of London. The Imperial War Museum is now also responsible for the recently restored Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall.

Part of the support for all these efforts and for future projects comes from a body founded in 1987, The Friends of the Imperial War Museum, now registered as a charity. Its Patron-in-Chief is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the founding Chairman of the Friends, Dame Felicity Peake. Dame Felicity wishes to involve disabled people as Friends, possibly by circulating audio and video cassettes of the Museum's activities and

projects. In a letter she outlined some ideas: 'There are, I think, two separate ways in which we might help: Enable St. Dunstan members to attend events and activities which are organised throughout each year for sighted members and arrange special visits for groups of St. Dunstaners.' In addition, of course, to the audio cassettes already mentioned and the Friends' journal *Despatches*, which St. Dunstan's would record on to cassette. Cost of membership for a disabled person is £5 per year. The privileges of membership include; free entry to the Museum and its outstations, (with exception of the Cabinet War Rooms, where admission will be free from April 1989, and special events at Duxford), the journal and newsletter, private views and special visits.

But membership is not just about privileges. Dame Felicity ended her letter, 'The Friends of the IWM regard themselves as the Museum's ambassadors, and it will be wonderful to have St. Dunstaners within our ranks. I am sure we can help them and they can help us in so many ways.'

Readers wishing to know more can contact the Editor of the *Review* at headquarters, or write or telephone the Friends of the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. Telephone Number: 01-735 8922, extension 255.

Cassette Library List

Copies of the following cassettes are all available from the PR Department at HQ. They can be obtained by sending the appropriate number of blank cassettes, and stating the reference number and title clearly.

- SD 1. C60. Visit by HRH the Duchess of Kent to IFH.
- SD 2. C60. Lord and Lady Fraser's Memorial Services.
- SD 3. C60. St. Dunstan's dance band, 1927.
- SD 4. C60. Lord Fraser; 'Wireless for Blind' appeal, 'In town tonight', 1952.
- SD 5. C90. Track 1: KRM press conference.
Track 2: KRM extracts from radio and TV.

- SD 6. C90. Track 1: Sound track "To Live Again".
Track 2: Sound track "Ability is where you look for it".
- SD 7. C90. BBC 2: "History of Medals", Gen. Sir J. Hackett.
- SD 8. C90. Track 1: J. Wright, BAFTA Award; Radio 4: "Profile".
Track 2: Radio 4: E. Knight, "Death of the Hood".
- SD 9. C60. Track 1: D Day recordings.
Track 2: Film on sailing, J. Wright.
- SD 10. C90. Radio Brighton at IFH.
- SD 12. C90. FEPOW Forum - extracts.
- SD 13. Electronic Organ course. Part 1 - 6 x C90's; part 2 - 7 x C90's;
Part 3 - 7 x C90's.
- SD 15. C90. D. Reeves - Musical talk and demo.
- SD 16. C90. T. Back - talk and demo on Yamaha organ.
- SD 17. C90. T. Back in concert.
- SD 18. C90. M. Leary on Wersi organ.
- SD 19. C90. B. Pagan - musical talk and demo.
- SD 22. 4 x C90's. "To Revel in God's Sunshine", story of RSM Lord.
- SD 23. C90. S. Jack reads poems by John Masefield.
- SD 24. C90. Radio 4: Two programmes on FEPOW's.
- SD 26A. C90. Savoury recipes.
- SD 26B. C90. Sweet recipes.
- SD 29. 2 x C90's. G. Watkins - talk and concert on Wersi organ.
- SD 30. 2 x C90's. M. Leary - talk and concert on Wersi organ.
- SD 31. C90. T. Back on Elke Organ.
- SD 33. C90. Gas Board recipe hints.
- SD 34. C90. Nat. Tape Magazine feature on IFH.
- SD 35. C90. 75 years of army songs: Harry Wheeler, Bill Harris, Peter Spencer
- SD 36. 2 x C90's. J. Man on Eminent electronic organ.
- SD 37. C90. M. Leary on Dr. Bohm organ.
- SD 38. C60. On 1 track only - "Blind Faith", film on sailing by Jimmy Wright.
- SD 39. C90. "Learn to be Blind." Radio 4, February 1985.
- SD 40. C90. Visit to museum of mechanical music.
- SD 41. C90. Evening of songs at IFH - June, 1984.
- SD 42. C90. Radio Sussex coverage of Royal Visit to IFH, July, 1985.
- SD 43. C60. 1 track: Sound track of Jimmy Wright's film, "Educating Brian."
- SD 44. C90. Microwave recipes.
- SD 45. C90. Story of Accomplishment (History of St. Dunstan's).
- SD 46. 2 x C90's. Christmas Concert 1986 at IFH.
- SD 47. C90. Guide to Southwark Cathedral.
- SD 48. C90. Memorial Service for Avis Spurway - March 1988.
- SD 49. C90. Service of Dedication, Church Stretton - October 1987.
- SD 50. C90. Sound track 'Partnership for Life'.

R

- R 1. C90. New RAE format - R. Canning.
- R 2. C90. Interference - J. Hoolahan.
- R 3. C90. Repeaters and 70 cms.
- R 4. C90. New licence regulations.
- R 5. C90. Morse code, slow time.
- R 6. C90. Morse code, quicker time.
- R 7. C90. Sattelites - R. Ham.

- R 8. C90. G5RV antenna.
- R 9. C90. Experiences with the BBC — F. Hennig.
- R 10. C90. Radio teletype.
- R 11. C90. 'Worked all Britain' award.
- R 12. 2 × C90's. RAE revision notes.
- R 13. C90. Experiences in S. America — L. Varney.
- R 14. C90. Microwaves.
- R 15. C90. Ragchew No. 1, November 1978.
- R 16. C90. Ragchew No. 2, May 1979.
- R 17. C90. NE555 — i/c timer.
- R 18. C90. Wiring by touch — P. Jones.
- R 19. C90. RAE question papers for May 1979.
- R 20. C90. Telecommunications.
- R 21. C90. Ragchew No. 3, August 1979.
- R 22. C90. Talk on HM Coastguard.
- R 23. C90. Ragchew No. 4, November 1979.
- R 24. C90. Life with BBC — H. Hatch.
- R 25. 4 × C90's. "So you want to pass the RAE?" from *Practical Wireless*.
- R 26. C90. Ragchew No. 5, February 1980.
- R 27. C90. Ragchew No. 6.
- R 28. 12 × C90's. "Guide to amateur radio".
- R 29. C90. Various appendices to above.
- R 30. C90. Ragchew No. 7.
- R 31. C90. RAE question papers for December 1980.
- R 32. C90. Ragchew No. 8, April 1981.
- R 33. C90. Talk by Pres. RSGB July 1981.
- R 34. 4 × C90's. RAE Manual.
- R 35. C90. "Becoming a radio amateur", RSGB publication.
- R 36. C90. Ragchew No. 9, October 1981.
- R 37. C90. Auditory aids — G. Day.
- R 40. C90. Ragchew No. 10, June 1982.
- R 41. C90. Speakers at March 1982 AGM — R. and J. Ham, E. Howard.
- R 44. C90. Ragchew No. 11, August 1982.
- R 47. 2 × C90's. Instruction manual — Trio 130S.
- R 48. C90. Ragchew No. 12, December 1982.
- R 55. C90. Ragchew No. 13, May 1983.
- R 56. C90. Ragchew No. 14, August 1983.
- R 62. C90. Ragchew No. 15, October 1983.
- R 67. C90. Ragchew No. 16, March 1984.
- R 68. C90. Ragchew No. 17, October 1984.
- R 69. C90. Ragchew No. 18, March 1985.
- R 70. C90. Ragchew No. 19, July, 1985.
- R 71. C90. Ragchew No. 20, October, 1986.
- R 72. C90. Ragchew No. 21, March 1986.
- R 73. C90. Ragchew No. 22, June 1986.
- R 74. C90. Ragchew No. 23, October 1986.
- R 75. C90. Ragchew No. 24, April 1987.
- R 76. C90. Ragchew No. 25, November 1987.
- R 77. 4 × C90's. Morse Code.
- R 78. C90. Early History of Radio, by Louis Varney, June 1988.

G

- G 1. C60. P. Jones — DIY hints.
- G 2. C90. R. Smith — ultra sounds, bats and whales.
- G 3. C90. R. Smith — trip to Outer Hebrides.
- G 4. C90. R. Dufton on research, and TSI open day, 1978.
- G 5. C90. BBC 2 — "Gardener's World".
- G 6. C90. R. Smith — trip to Shetlands.
- G 7. C60. Acol bridge system.
- G 8. C90. Track 1: Machines that talk.
Track 2: Machines with ears.
- G 10. C90. Black box in flight recorder.
- G 11. C90. Track 1: A guide to Windsor Castle.
Track 2: Introduction to RAF Uxbridge wartime operations HQ.
- G 12. C90. BBC Micro computer, with speech: keyboard, demo, intro to programming.
- G 14. 2 × C60's. "Bird's eye view of New Zealand". Four programmes recorded from NZ TV.
- G 15. 3 × C90's. Philips "Guide to Business Computing and the Electronic Office", (abridged).
- G 16. 4 × C90's. "Basic, basic; an intro to programming." (abridged).
- G 18. 2 × C90's. Spanish grammar revision and verb tables.
- G 19. 4 × C90's. "The Beginners Computer Handbook".
- G 20. C90. "Using the Computer", by N. Ardley.
- G 21. C90. Votrax speech synthesizer appraisal.
- G 22. C90. ESSO, story of oil.
- G 23. C90. Guide to Leeds Castle.
- G 24. 2 × C90's. Guide to Canterbury Cathedral.
- G 25. C90. BBC Computer Keyboard (description).
- G 26. C90. Editing Program instructions for BBC Micro.
- G 27. C90. Music box collection of George Reed.
- G 28. C90. R. Smith. Sounds of East Sussex — 1984.
- G 29. 2 × C90's. An introduction to computing (BBC Micro).
- G 30. C60. (1 track). Fire precautions in the home.
- G 31. C60. British Telecom Annual Report 1984-85.
- G 32. C60. Guide to using public telephones.
- G 33. C60. Crime prevention in the home.
- G 34. 4 × C90's. Tasks of Gavin Lee by Domingo Sweetman.
- G 35. 3 × C90's. Conaloo: Tell Mom I Love Her, by Gipsy Goldpiece.
- G 37. C90. Western Birt Arboretum, compiled by Bristol University.
- G 38. C90. R. Smith. Talk on insects.
- G 39. 3 × C90's. Reference Manual to "Inter-Sheet" computer program.
- G 40. C90. Journey by Royal Mail Coach. From New Zealand TV.
- G 41. C90. Introduction to contract bridge.
- G 42. C90. Light entertainment.

Readers should note that where there is a gap in the numbering system, a cassette has been removed due to lack of demand. As new cassettes become available for the library, a note will be included in the Review giving all the relevant details, after which time they will be available for copying.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr. Wally Such, of Walthamstow
Through your letters page, may I say 'Hello' to quite a number of old friends. I trained at Church Stretton 1944/46, but I had a good deal of sight come back into one eye, and was able to leave.

On reading the December issue of the *Review*, what a delight to read of so many old friends. Bill Shea, Gwen Obern, Vi Delaney, Bill Morris, Freddie King, Jimmy Wright, David Bell, and also to see photographs of some of them.

A friend of mine now lives at Ludlow, and I was up there early in June, and so it was natural for him to take me around Church Stretton, where we went into St. Laurence Church to see the plaque.

I still keep in touch with a few old friends, as a point I have just lost a good one, i.e. Louis William Robinson. I used to meet him at Liverpool Street Station of a morning and would take him to his office which was just behind mine. I did this for 25 years, and so it was a wrench when we both retired.

Well old friends, it is nice to hear of you through the *Review* and God Bless you all.

From Mr. Tom Tilling, of Newbury.
I listened to your recent issue with particular interest in the article by Mr. Lockhart on the Burma-Siam Railway.

I landed in Singapore at the conclusion of hostilities as a member of the staff of the Supreme Commander South East Asia and was present at the surrender of the Japanese Southern Armies. I was taken off aerial intelligence duties and given the task of editing documentary evidence for the prosecution at the Japanese War Crimes Trials.

It was thus that the Changi indictment document fell into my hands temporarily. This consisted of a long detailed list of the war crimes committed by the Japanese serving personnel. It was painstakingly kept as a sort of journal and, remarkably enough, was kept hidden from the Japanese guards.

Prisoners brought back from the var-

ious labour camps gave in their reports. They came from Sumatra, Malay Straits, the islands off Singapore and of course from the camps working on the railway.

I was present at a number of the Trials and heard many sentences read out by the Presiding Judges. I remember that the sentence of death was carried out very promptly.

I would like to state, with a measure of confidence, that I remember the name of Lieutenant Isuki, but Japanese names being what they are, and my memory (after more than 40 years) being what it is I hesitate to do so. Yet in some peculiar way the name seems familiar. I feel that the odds are the Lieutenant met the fate he so justly merited.

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.

Christopher Jordan, of Tyne and Wear
We welcome Mr. Christopher Jordan, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, who joined St. Dunstan's on September 9th.

Mr. Jordan served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals from December 1970 until 1983, when he had to leave the Army owing to illness. Mr. Jordan is married with a daughter, Joanne, who is 13.

Alex Carter, of Sidmouth

Mr. Alec Cyril Carter, of Newton Poppleford, near Sidmouth, joined St. Dunstan's on September 9th.

Mr. Carter, who is 56, served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a Lance Corporal for two years from June 1950, and later joined the Territorial Army. Failing eyesight cut short his Army career, and he retired in October 1953. He has a married daughter, and is a keen swimmer, water skier and gardener.

He is now a piano tuner, and lives with his wife and son in Devon.

On this day . . .

by Sean Kelly

During the November of 1843, one hundred and forty-five years ago, a tradition which has persisted to the present day began. Or perhaps it didn't. Depending on your outlook, it might have begun two years later. Or the previous year, come to that. Let me explain.

In November of 1843, Henry Cole wrote in his diary 'Mr Horsley came and brought design for Christmas card'. Yes I know it's a little early for all that, but by December you'll all be bored with the subject, so I'm getting in early. Three years later, a version of a Christmas card designed by the same John Horsley was on sale in Bond Street. Seems straightforward so far, doesn't it? Now to complicate matters.

There's William Maw Egley who might have 'invented' the card in 1843, or he might have invented it in 1848, in which case he didn't invent it, 'cause he had been beaten by a few years. Mr. Egley's claim to 'inventorship' is dependent upon whether the squiggle after the four is a three or an eight, however, and so we are not certain whether he invented it or not. Not only this, but also . . .

In 1844, one W.C.T. Dobson made a sketch of what, to him, was the spirit of Christmas, and sent it to a friend. The following year he made copies and posted it to all his friends. But this one was never put on sale to the public, so do we consider it to be a proper Christmas card?

So there you have it. Who invented the Christmas card depends upon what you mean by Christmas card. If you mean the gaudy items on sale in every corner shop from July onwards, then John Horsley is the favourite, he first recognising the potential of a piece of card and a bit of tinsel, and putting it on sale. If, like me, you prefer the more spiritually orientated, then you might also favour the claim of Mr. Dobson, who made his purely for pleasure. Whichever, this is the humble

beginnings of the Christmas card, which today has become a multi-million pound industry, and providing there are no more strikes, we will see several hundred million of the things travelling the world over in the next two (or three) months.

These facts caused William Connor, writing as Cassandra in the Daily Mirror twenty-five years ago, to present a piece on how best to cause offence with the 'Christmas Card Artillery' by sending suitably inappropriate cards. He concludes the piece 'Anti-dog lovers . . . can be estranged for evermore with Christmas cards of lop-eared spaniels . . . anti-catmen and anti-catgirls can be sent howling and spitting over the tiles by presenting them with carefully selected pictures of Tiddles, Cuddles and Snookey — the yelling, sharp-clawed, slit-eyed limbs of Satan'. At least we can thank Christmas cards for writing such as this.

NEW CHURCH STRETTON AND WELSH HILL CLIMB VIDEO AVAILABLE

St. Dunstan's now has a video available which includes much more film of both the Church Stretton reunion and the hill climbing exhibition than could be included in the 'Partnership for Life' film. It should be noted that this is not an extended version of 'Partnership for Life', but a different film which will be of interest to many St. Dunstaners. The 'Church Stretton video' is only available in VHS at £10. The full 'Partnership for Life' is available in VHS at £15 and Betamax at £18. All prices include postage and packing, and are available from the P.R. Dept. at H.Q.

Rumpelstiltskin

*Continuing our occasional 'Ways of Life' series
Tom Morrison talks to David Castleton*

The fairy story tells of the magic Rumpelstiltskin wrought with his spinning wheel, turning flax into gold. Real life spinning wheels can do no such thing. Today they are seen as symbols of an earlier, less mechanised way of life; of quiet, cottage industry.

Among the exhibits at this year's War Pensioners Handicraft Exhibition at the Victory Service's Club in London stood a spinning wheel, but its story did not begin in peace but in the noisy chaos of war in the Desert.

Units of the 7th Armoured Division were advancing by night towards an air-

The woodchips fly as Tom uses the wood-turning lathe.



field at El Adem. The lightly armoured column had stopped to regain their bearings. In the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade office truck was Colour Sergeant Tom Morrison and he takes up the story: 'We heard the rattle and grinding of tracks of heavy armour coming along and they pulled up beside us at 150 yards. We were all thin skins, that is trucks — our biggest armour was just Bren gun carriers. Then the armoured column sent up a recognition signal which was not ours so we knew they were German. We couldn't answer — didn't know their reply but we knew now that they were German and the message came down the line: turn in the direction in which they are going to fire if they start firing.

'Sure enough they did very shortly afterwards. The drivers opened up and turned sharp left at top speed and suddenly we were out in space. We'd gone over a low cliff and we landed with a terrific thump. The cliff was about 20 to 25 feet high. Some of the trucks bounced and managed it and some didn't. My office truck being well-laden — office equipment and paper's heavy stuff — didn't manage it very well.

'Anyway, we stayed still until morning. In the meantime shots were going over our heads. It was like being in a trench, we were quite safe. The armoured column apparently was satisfied that we had disappeared into the distance and moved off. In the morning the Subaltern came to find us and lined us all up and we got back to the unit ready for the attack along with the Hussars and some light armour on El Adem.'

Although safe in the wadi from enemy shots the 25 foot drop in his laden truck had injured two vertebrae in Tom's back. An injury which was to cause increasing problems for him in later life.

Tom was a regular soldier, having



Spinning wheels that make yarn aren't the only ones that Tom has to deal with.

enlisted in the Rifle Brigade in 1936 at the first real indications of the threat of Adolf Hitler in Europe. At the time he was a young teacher of mathematics and physics. He was posted to India: 'We were the duty battalion there so we never saw the hills in the hot weather. We were put on to training for the North West Frontier with mules and machine guns, but by the time we'd learned that the rear end of a mule was dangerous they were withdrawn from us along with the machine guns, our rifles re-issued and we were posted to Palestine.'

After an unpleasant time being shot at by Jews and Arabs, the outbreak of war took the battalion to Egypt, and Tom is proud to claim to be an original Desert Rat: 'We did some desert training and went straight out on to the Libyan Desert and on to the frontier. There, along with the 11th Hussars and the K.R.R.C., we formed the 7th Armoured Brigade. Other units came in and we formed the 7th Armoured Division. The 7th Armoured Brigade and the 7th Armoured Division were the original Desert Rats. People who were in the 8th Army after that call themselves Desert Rats but they aren't really. It's

like the Old Contemptibles in the First World War.'

After the wadi incident Tom soldiered on through El Alamein in considerable pain until, while on leave in Cairo, he took the opportunity to go to hospital. A back injury is not the best thing to have in time of war: 'I went to the 15th Scottish General Hospital and some Army Doctor I saw decided that I was suffering from fibrositis caused by flat feet. A regular soldier isn't enlisted with flat feet! They gave me massage on my back which was absolute agony and while I was still in hospital I was posted to 2nd Echelon in Cairo.'

In Cairo he worked on battalion records until posted to England where, 'To my great heartbreak and regret I was transferred to the R.A.S.C.' He worked on the admin side of the D-Day invasion, 'It had been a very very responsible job getting everything into the New Forest and ready for D-Day and on to the ships and so on, even down to the last nut and bolt for the Bailey bridges.

'I went into Shaftesbury Military Hospital as it was then, and they diagnosed ulcers. The doctor said, "You've got a



Assembling the wooden spokes in the split hub.

duodenum like a collander, it's full of holes. What were you in civilian life?" I said, "I was a regular soldier but before that I was a schoolmaster." "Well, we're short of schoolmasters, we'll discharge you." So I was invalided out with ulcers.'

Tom returned to teaching and a continuing struggle with disability: 'I was getting increasing pain from my back and I saw a specialist from Charing Cross Hospital. I was teaching then in Hemel Hempstead in the new town that was being built and he shoved me into West Herts Hospital and examined me and decided that I had ankylosing spondylitis due to the back injury. It is progressive with iritis etc.

'I was put into corsets, very heavy corsets, lots of steel support and so on. The Doc said to Doris, when I wasn't there, that she'd have to look forward to pushing me around in a wheelchair when I was 50. It came out one day and I immediately took off my corset and started doing what I used to do: gardening, digging, everything. Lots of pain.'

Painkillers kept him going and now, at 73, he is fully mobile and still building his spinning wheels. This despite a series of heart attacks which brought about his retirement from a successful teaching

career in Sherborne, partial deafness and deterioration of his sight due to the effects of his spondylitis.

He and his wife, Doris, were childhood sweethearts, both children of army families, and it is to her that he owes his survival of enforced retirement and the knowledge that his sight was deteriorating. 'I was very depressed and Doris said, "You used to do a bit of woodwork why don't you take it up?" So I went around the sawmills and bought up a lot of timber.

'I use sycamore, cherry, English cherry, I use yew, of course, oak coffin boards are excellent — sounds depressing doesn't it? But they are very good wood — elm, lots of Douglas fir and I managed to get one parcel of pencil cedar, absolutely knotless, beautiful for making things like blanket chests. The first wood I bought was all green and we seasoned it at home using the bedroom — much to Doris's disgust — and I started work making a few things.

'Doris wanted to spin — join a spinning school down here and wanted a spinning wheel. I borrowed an Ashford spinning wheel and copied that in yew. It was very popular, it worked well and people wanted me to make one for them. I didn't know whether I was infringing copyright and in any case it is not very nice copying other people's work, so I designed my own. That is the design at the exhibition. I made it in ash and polished it in a natural finish.'

'Tom's eye problems had begun as long ago as 1954 but his sight did not fail until, in 1980, haemorrhages totally blinded one eye and blacked out the centre of the other. The question of whether this was attributable to his service was not resolved until 1987. 'I had to fight. I built up a complete dossier and I made three copies. I sent one to the Legion, a copy to Mr. Martin at St. Dunstan's and a copy to the War Pensions people: I had a letter saying that it was recognised that it was due to my injuries. I sent a copy to Mr. Martin and next thing I knew, "We are pleased to enrol you as a St. Dunstaner." I was proud, I was very moved.'

Tom's workshop is really a small complex with one 'department' opening from another and one end of his garage being pressed into use as well. It is equipped



Doris helps Tom to ensure that all measurements are accurate.

with a range of wood-working and metal-working machines. However, he began with just a basic kit of tools, 'I had no lathe then, I had no machinery. I had my hand tools; chisels, plane, saw and so on. I had those and I'd made myself a bench out of two bed sides.'

Spinning wheels demanded at very least a wood-turning lathe, 'I started off with the basic Coronet wood-turning lathe, which was a bed and a headstock and a motor. Then I extended it and got a circular saw attachment also made by Coronet for these. Then I extended again and had a planing attachment, overhand planer. Then I extended again and got a thicknesser and used that for thicknessing my wood. I got a Coronet bandsaw which attached to the lathe but it wasn't very satisfactory so I sold that for what I gave for it. Then I bought a bandsaw, floor standing, and I use that for all my curved work and for cutting off.

'Then the factory wanted to charge so much for making the metal parts so I decided to make my own. I found a sec-

ond-hand lathe, an Atlas five inch, sliding, surfacing and screw-cutting lathe. I re-conditioned that, put in a new lead screw and reverse gear and I use that for making all my metal parts. I bought myself a welding torch and I braze the bits together where needed. I taught myself most of that.'

The technical challenges in making a spinning wheel are daunting for any amateur craftsman. For someone with so little sight as Tom, their overcoming by skill and ingenuity is almost incredible. To assemble the wooden wheel Tom devised what he calls a spider, a wooden assembly with six arms. 'The spider was the basis of my cramping arrangement: six cramps in a circular formation. I clamp all the felloes. The felloes are the sections of the rim of a wheel.'

Six felloes (pronounced 'fellees') make up the rim of a wheel. Tom glues and tongues them together as they are clamped in his spider. Final assembly of the wooden spokes, 12 in number, is achieved by means of a split hub. Every

part of the spinning wheel is handmade. Great accuracy is necessary in making the felloes, 'Using a frame saw, by hand, which is a very old-fashioned tool. It follows all curves within reason. I worked out on the table top, the size of the wheel and the angles of the felloes, the way they are cut at the end and the curvature — inside and outside curvature — and I made a hardboard pattern. I use that to mark out all these felloes.

'Now that my sight has failed it is a great help because all I've got to do is to run round with a pencil, using the hardboard pattern. I made patterns for other parts as well.' But when it comes to cutting the curves it is muscle memory rather than sight that guides the bandsaw.

Sometimes things go wrong and Tom admits the air can be just a little blue in his workshop. For a perfectionist such times are surely frustrating? 'Oh, yes, with my lack of sight, and I like to be right. Doris gives me a hand. I've taught her to read Vernier callipers and measure for me and

the measuring device that we use on the picture framing course comes in very handy for measuring off bits for me.

'St. Dunstan's has been a great help in many ways. I did the picture framing course there and the toy-making course. After the picture framing course Len Wiggins came up and brought me a bench and then after the toy-making course I had another bench delivered and they are absolutely an ideal help.'

So far Tom has made 40 spinning wheels, 'There's not time to make anything else much! Psychologically it has been — well, it has made me younger. I was beginning to become an old man when I had to retire. I was rather heart-broken and depressed at the time but it has been a new lease of life and great.'

Tom Morrison's spinning wheels, unlike Rumpelstiltskin's, may not turn flax into gold but he would be the first to agree they have done something very similar to his life.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

There's a wrong idea that nothing ever happens in the country, only in the town, but this is far from my experience, living as I do in a rural district more loud with the lowing of cattle, the bleating of sheep, than with the noises of industry and commerce.

Unnoticed in the nearby town we had an earthquake some time ago; the ground shook, and there was a rumble, frighteningly prolonged, which I never want to hear again. A group of lunatics escape from a neighbouring institution, they are recaptured, and their story comes back to me in due course. 'We climbed over the

wall,' they said, 'followed the burn, then crossed the railway by the blind man's house.' A murder is committed in the Dundee area, a particularly atrocious one, and breaking into my garage, situated in its peaceful surroundings, the murderers attempt to get away in my car. They couldn't get it to start.

An old man hangs himself for love in Susie's Wood, a woman drowns herself in the Leoch quarry, and two years in succession dead bodies are found in Templeton Woods, girls strangled by some murderer as yet unapprehended.

The burn has burst its banks and flooded us, snowdrifts have cut us off, and while natural disasters unknown in the town have affected us, human ones are on record here in the woods and fields of Strathmartine quite as much as in the pends and wynds of the town. Marauding gangs of townies, armed with axes and crowbars, menace our lives and property, our cats and dogs are shot by intruders, and every now and again some barn or haystore gets maliciously burned down.

The wife of a ploughman runs off with the lad on the level crossing, the liquida-

tors move in on a one-man local business, our 18th century bridge collapses, a wood listed by conservationists is surreptitiously felled, an imbecile girl absconded from her home in Dundee is discovered by helicopter, a bulldozer falls into a quarry hole and is lost forever. The local game-keeper goes mad, and our neighbour, a Japanese girl, decides she has had enough of her husband and turns up in London living with my bachelor cousin.

So much for Strathmartine, but it is the same with Corrou, a wilderness area in Lochaber, where my wife Margaret's nephew is deerstalker to the Laird. In a hundred square miles there are a dozen inhabitants, but here too there is plenty in

the way of the bizarre and inordinate. George's wife Janet was making scones when a chap staggered in the door, his face covered with blood. His light plane had crashed in the bogs and boulders outside. George is called to a distant house, to find the forester there dead, a half-bottle of whisky in one hand, a can of glue in the other. Then there was the lad who was to have received them one Hogmanay, but never arrived. His dead body was found months later floating in the loch. He had slipped off a jetty and gone through the ice. If ever I want a quiet life, and the desire for this is in direct ratio to age, the thing to do, I can see, is move into the town.

DIEPPE RAID REMEMBERED

by Bill Shea

On a bright and sunny morning, August 19th 1988, a group of Second World War veterans of 40 Commando, Royal Marines, remembered their comrades who died during the raid on the French coast at Dieppe, on Wednesday August 19th, 1942. A wreath was laid at the 40 Commando memorial, which is dedicated to all ranks who died during the Second World War. Unfortunately, the memorial was damaged during the storm last year, and has been painstakingly restored by Jock Farmer, one of the 40 Commando Dieppe veterans. The memorial is sited in the Chine, near the Heritage Museum at Sandown on the Isle of Wight, in an area where the Commandos trained in preparation for the raid. The museum tells the story of the raid with photographs, including some from German sources.

The memorial is flanked by two seats, one dedicated to the memory of two Commanding Officers, Lt. Colonel Picton-Phillips, and Lt. Colonel Manners, both killed in action, and the other seat is dedicated to the memory of Brigadier Maude, a Dieppe veteran who was responsible for having the memorial erected.

Bill Heffernan (right) lays a wreath with his escort.



The party included three of the four St. Dunstaners who were blinded while serving in the Commando. Bill Heffernan, and Joe Humphrey, both of whom were at Dieppe, and myself who joined the Commando later. Bill Heffernan, who was severely wounded on the raid and taken prisoner, laid the wreath.

H.M.S. Daedalus Camp – 1988

by Norman Walton

Many St. Dunstaners, 35 in all, set off on August 12th for the annual camp. On arrival at Lee on Solent we were greeted warmly by our 'dogs' a two legged breed of sailors who were to be our 'Jacks of all Trades' for the following week and what a friendly bunch they proved to be!

We soon got settled in our various cabins and after supper we gathered in the Petty Officers' lounge to hear from Elspeth Grant what an exciting programme of events had been laid on for us. We then spent a relaxing evening in the Chief P.O.'s Mess. We swapped stories, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Saturday morning dawned bright and fair and many of us set off on the two mile walking race round the airfield. Don Planner set off at a swift pace and Harry Wheeler galloped along in his wheelchair! Stan Tutton later swept the board by winning both the Veterans Cup and the gold medal in the handicap. The less exhausted then went off in the afternoon to the 'greens' to play bowls or to hunt around for some more strenuous exercise! A very pleasant social evening followed in the Mess with dancing to a two piece band, many old tunes were played and we all had a good singsong.

On Sunday morning we attended a combined church service in All Saints, taken by the Chaplain, The Rev. Bernard Clarke. The service was rousing and moving – rousing by the sheer volume of the singing and moving as prayers were said for our beloved founder Avis and for our late treasurer Sheila McLeod, for campers, Bob Young, Fred Dickerson and Henry Turley whom we had lost during the year.

The Gosport Bowmen entertained us on Sunday afternoon and were very patient with a beginner like me. My coach did observe, however, that I might be better at the shot put! Fortunately, the others in the team made up for my lack of exper-

tise, and the afternoon culminated in the bowmen giving us a sumptuous tea. In the evening the members of the PO's Mess put on a super social which included a raffle in which – surprise, surprise – we all received a prize.

A few robust sportsmen went for an early morning swim on Monday and subsequent mornings but the agreed time of 06.00 hrs. was a bit off-putting for less hardy creatures like me. Later many went fishing and the rest of us boarded the *Solent Enterprise* for a trip to the Isle of Wight. Our 'dogs' and their families came with us and it was lovely to hear the children laughing and enjoying themselves. We were warmly welcomed at Cowes by members of the Royal British Legion and their Chairman Jimmy Higgins at their club. Don Planner and Joe Humphrey entertained us at the organ; many danced or had a good chat while others explored the seafront. We later returned to the mainland happy and relaxed and looking forward to a musical evening in the W.O. Mess. In the meantime a few of us took the opportunity to go gliding in a small glider which carried one pilot and one passenger. We were pulled by a winch and shot up into the sky to 1,400 feet. The brave ones did a loop the loop but I chickened out by telling Mike, my pilot, that I would like to save the thrill for next year!

The field sports held on Tuesday morning gave us a chance to show our skills with the javelin, discus, shot and football, and to join in the new game this year of 'throwing the wellie'. There were four teams of sportsmen, The Oz, The Tin Lizzies, The Cheeseburgers and the Fleet Foot named for their team leaders – non-playing – Dorothy Thompson (Wizard of Oz!), Liz Walker, Susan Stilton and Jane Fleetwood. The Tin Lizzies were the winners of the team medals.

Sporting activities continued in the afternoon and in the evening teams of



An apprehensive Dick Hall prepares for his first flight.

drivers, braille readers and navigators took off on Peter Westbrook's poetic mystery car drive – all clues were in verse and this year no one got lost!

We then returned to HMS *Collingwood*, where we had had an excellent lunch earlier in the day, for an evening social. Cabin 12 held a raffle and raised £106 for camp funds. Many continued playing their favourite sports on Wednesday and one of the highlights was Jimmy Wright winning his fight with an enormous bass! Well done Jimmy, what a wonderful feat on your birthday! A marvellous show was put on for us in the evening in the W.O.'s Mess at HMS *Dolphin*, the submarine base.

Thursday came all too quickly and a large party departed for a visit to HMS *Warrior* followed by a snack lunch at HMS *Nelson*. Others went off to an aircraft carrier, HMS *Illustrious* as guests of Budgie Rogers whom we were all delighted to see again. In the evening there was the Prize Giving for all the winners of the week's events. The prizes were given by Captain Kohler in the presence of Commander Douglas Squier, Mrs. Kohler, and our new

PRO, Second Officer Alison Symons, who had shown such enthusiasm and interest in us all during the week. The prize winners were announced by P.R. Jed Laker and Jimmy Wright scooped the day by gaining both the medal for the largest catch on any one day, a giant bass, and for the largest total catch of the week. Jimmy, a very popular camper was given a great ovation as was Arthur Carter who was presented with a tiny wellington boot for his throwing prowess and Arnold Thompson for his 'William Tell' trophy received a toy bow and arrow set to help him practise for next year!

At the end of prize giving John Gilbert gave a vote of thanks on our behalf to the Captain and Ship's Company of HMS *Daedalus* to be followed by Dick Hall who gave a vote of thanks to the Mess Presidents, Trainers, Field Gun Crew and all our 'dogs'.

The junior bowmen of Gosport presented a cheque for £120 towards the camp funds which they had raised by a sponsored shoot earlier in the summer – what a nice thought on their part and a

wonderful effort. Following the prize giving there was an opportunity to see the video *Partnership for Life* in which appeared many of our fellow campers. We also saw *It's quicker by air* a film on the training of the field gun crew.

Sadly Friday came too soon and was our last day. Some of us went to the skittles match at the King's Head pub and others for a final game of bowls.

In the late afternoon six lucky St. Dunstaners were airlifted in the coast guards helicopter for a trip over the Solent. Evidently the trip was very enjoyable — so much so that some of the passengers would like to have been winched up and down. I must join the queue for that trip next year!

Our farewell dance was a most happy one and Arnold Thompson's raffle raised nearly £350. Many thanks are due to Arnold for raising over £600 for camp funds this year by his archery prowess and the several raffles he held.

By nine a.m. on Saturday morning HMS *Daedalus* was returning to its usual routine and coaches and cars were disappearing taking very contented campers home with many happy memories.

The Week's Prize Winners were as follows:—

Archery

Shields presented by the Gosport Bowmen for annual competition.

For Semi-sighted with score of 298 points: George Hudson.

For Totally Blind with score of 128 points: Joe Kibbler.

For Novices with score of 87 points: Norman Walton.

Fishing

After seven bleak years Jimmy Wright scoops the pool.

Best overall catch of the week with 4 lbs. 6 oz: Jimmy Wright.

Largest catch of the day with 1 lb. 10 oz: Jimmy Wright.

Bowls

Singles winner: Ted Brown.

Ben Mills Pairs Cups: Bob Forshaw and Mansel Lewis.

Runners up: Ted Brown and Ernie Hannant.

Kath Riley Trophy for Mystery Car Drive

Braille Reader: Don Planner.

Driver: Liz Walker.

Writer/Navigator: Ian Swain.

The Walk

Denny Deacon Veteran's Cup: Stan Tutton.

Charles Stafford Cup for Fastest Loser: Don Planner.

Bridget Talbot Cup for best novice: Don Planner.

Handicap:

Gold Medal: Stan Tutton.

Silver Medal: Dick Hall.

Bronze Medal: Jesse Mills.

Special mention for finishing — no time recorded as stop watches do not go that long: Ernie Hannant.

Sports

Goal kicking:

Totally Blind. 5 goals in 43 seconds: Joe Kibbler.

Semi-sighted. 5 goals in 24 seconds: Charlie Hague.

Sheila McLeod Best Beginners Cup: Don Planner.

(This is a new cup presented by Jane Fleetwood and her daughter Alice in memory of Sheila).

Victor Ludorum. Semi-sighted with 16 points: Don Planner.

Victor Ludorum. Totally blind with 20 points: Joe Kibbler.

Winning Team:

The Tin Lizzies with 25 points; Norman Walton, Dick Hall, Mansel Lewis, Charlie Hague.

2nd: The Cheeseburgers.

Tie for 3rd place: The Oz and The Fleet Foot.

Champion Welly thrower with 81 feet: Arthur Carter.

The Puppy Sports

Under their team leader Bill Shea, The Puppies (children of our 'dogs') all received a prize: Emma and Hannah Sherriff; Gavin and Emma Rixon; Marie and Patrick Mulholland; Rhys Wybrant.

Note for your 1989 diary: *Daedalus* Camp begins August 11th.

D. F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

This month a good start should be made in the garden in order to prepare it for spring planting. Some of you may wish to reduce the size of beds by increasing lawn space, which will make the garden more easy to manage. Get vegetable beds dug over thoroughly so that they are ready to receive seeds. Any rubbish from the beds should be consigned to the compost heap, and hard material such as roses burned, and the ashes spread over the whole garden.

Vegetables

Get all areas which have no growing items dug over and given a dose of manure, and a little lime in areas where you will not be growing cabbages. Lift any beet or carrots by the end of the month, and bend over some leaves on the flowers of cauliflowers to keep them in good condition. Some broad bean, pea, cabbage and savoy seeds can be sown towards the end of the month, especially if you live in the south.

Fruit

The pruning of apples and pears can be carried out any time between now and the end of the month if the weather is sunny and dry. This is also a good time to plant any new trees, providing that first of all you dig over the holes with plenty of compost or manure. Currants and gooseberries can be pruned, and can also be planted in new positions if the weather allows. Give all trees and bushes a dose of manure to give them a good start in the new year.

Lawns

Dig up any pieces of the lawn which are in a poor condition, and replace with turf.

Flowers

Dig over all beds and add fresh loam before the first frosts. Give some manure and growmore to the beds to get the soil in a good condition. It is best to clear any perennials before they start growing, which is done by clearing the centre of the bed, and moving those from the edges into the centre. Dahlias and gladioli can be pulled up, the soil shaken off and put into dry peat until the new growing season. Ensure that all the spring bulbs are in their correct place for spring. It may be a good idea to put some peat at the bottom of the bulb's planting holes. Leave pansies, polyanthus and primulas in frost free areas until spring, when they should be transferred to their planting spots. Many perennial shrubs can be planted now, but give them some depth when planting, with good soil and added compost or manure. Don't remove dead flower heads from hydrangeas until late spring, as the dead heads will give some protection against frost.

Greenhouse

If you have plants in pots, it is wise not to let the temperature fall below 45°F, so be ready to heat the greenhouse, particularly at night. Give the greenhouse plenty of ventilation during the day, but on the side of the greenhouse away from the wind, and, of course, close all ventilators at night. Calceolaria and cineraria should have all dead leaves removed, and give them a minimal watering. Seedlings which are coming along well should be moved closer to the source of heat. Cyclamen can be started now to give flowering plants a year from now. There may still be some insect pests and other diseases under glass, so set a smoke towards the end of the month.

1989 CRUISER SAILING COURSES FOR BLIND PEOPLE

The 15th annual cruiser sailing course for visually handicapped people, organised by the RYA Seamanship Foundation, will take place from the Warsash Sailing Club near Southampton, from Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd until Saturday 8th of July. Three concurrent courses, for 12 students each, will be held at Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Cost this year will be £65 per person, and an additional booking fee of £10.

Application forms are available from Geoff Reid, GDBA Adventure House, 9-11 Park Street, Windsor, Berks. SL4 1JR. Tel. 0753 855711. Completed application forms, together with a cheque for £10 made payable to 'RYA Seamanship Foundation', should be returned to the above address not later than January 20th 1989.

HOME FIRE ALARMS

Smoke detectors in the home can be life savers, and it is recommended that all St. Dunstaners and widows should install them in every room, with the exception of the kitchen, or at least in hallways. Modern smoke detectors are both cheap, at around £20, and run on small 9V batteries. The alarms should conform with BS5446 part 1, and two leaflets giving more information about fire alarms, 'Wake up. Get a smoke alarm', and 'Smoke detectors in the home', are available from all fire stations.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON BRIDGE

Bridge Pairs — September 11th

1st	Alf Dodgson and Miss Sturdy	71.5%
2nd	Mr. and Mrs. R. Pacitti	62.2%
3rd	Dr. J. Goodlad and Mrs. F. Andrews Mrs. Tebbit and Miss Stenning	51.4%
5th	Mrs. V. McPherson and Mrs. Douse	47.2%

6th	W. Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad	41.7%
7th	R. Evans and Mrs. Barker	39.6%
8th	W. Allen and Mrs. A. Clements	34.0%

Individual Bridge — September 17th

1st	Mrs. McPherson	66.7%
2nd	Mrs. Clements	61.9%
3rd	Miss Sturdy	57.1%
4th	Bill Allen Miss Stenning	47.6%
6th	W. Lethbridge Mrs. Douse	42.9%
8th	Bob Fullard	33.3%

ANNUAL COMPETITION RESULTS

Mens Darts	
Winner	T. Giles
Runner up	J. Pryor
Beaten Semi finalists:	B. Cunningham and J. Padley.

Ladies Darts	
Winner	P. Padley
Runner up	L. King
Beaten Semi Finalists:	J. Walters and J. Killingbeck.

Mens Cribbage	
Winner	F. Bentley
Runner up	T. Giles
Beaten Semi Finalists:	J. Pryor and F. King.

Ladies Cribbage	
Winner	J. Osborne
Runner up	J. Killingbeck
Beaten Semi Finalists:	J. Dodgson and P. O'Kelly.

Joe Walch Trophy Fives and Threes	
Winner	F. Bentley
Runner Up	B. Osborne
Beaten Semi Finalists:	W. Davies and T. Giles

Ladies Fives and Threes	
Winner	J. Osborne
Runner up	J. Killingbeck
Beaten Semi Finalists:	K. Pacitti and R. Pryor

Mens Whist	
1st	J. Padley
2nd	T. Giles
3rd	F. Bentley
4th	J. Pryor

Ladies Whist

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

Mens Dominoes Aggregate

1st	T. Giles
2nd	F. Bentley
3rd	F. King
4th	J. Pryor

Ladies Dominoes Aggregate

Joint 1st	P. O'Kelly T. Mugan
3rd	P. Padley
4th	J. Walters

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:
Mrs. O. Hopkins, widow of the late *Mr. W.D. Hopkins*, of Plymouth, Devon, who recently won two awards, for flower arranging and best blooms, at Sparkwell this summer.

Louise Jones, grand-daughter of Mrs. Monica Yabsley, and the late *Mr. J.R. Yabsley*, of Tredegar, Gwent, who recently graduated from Cranwell as a Pilot Officer, and has taken up her first posting at Strike Command.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:
Mrs. Gwendolen J. Kerfoot, widow of the late *Mr. John Kerfoot*, of Chorley, on the marriage of her daughter, Hilary, to Mr. Don Allison early in September.

Mr. Timothy Reynolds, son of *Mr. and Mrs. H. Davies*, of Llanelli, who married Gaynor Thomas on April 15th at St. Darrick Church, Llanelli.

Mr. Simon Waller, grandson of Mrs. Q. Waller and the late *Mr. W.H. Waller*, of Ashford, on his marriage to Lorraine Wack on July 30th.

Miss Elaine Styles, eldest grand-daughter of St. Dunstan *Stan Tutton*, on her marriage to Mr. Keith Mauger on May 7th at St. Mary's Church, Stanwell.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. R. Lavery, of Minehead, on the birth of a grandson, Christopher Francis, born on September 3rd to their daughter Joanna, and son-in-law Anthony King.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Miller, on the birth of their first grandson, Christopher, born on July 5th to their daughter, Valerie, and her husband Malcolm Hunt.

Mrs. Ella White, widow of the late *Mr. William White*, of Fordingbridge, on the birth of a second grand-daughter, Hannah Victoria, a sister for Rebecca.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Scott, of Belfast, on the birth of a great grand-daughter, Charlotte Anne Scotney, born on September 4th to their grand-daughter Gillian.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. George Pullen, who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on September 6th. A party was held at St. Mary's Nursing Home in Seaford. The local press attended, and the Chairman and Council of St. Dunstan's sent a congratulatory message.

SILVER WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. M. Searchfield, of Blackpool, Lancashire, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on October 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wallage, of Rottingdean, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on September 28th.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. W. Allen, of Sunningdale, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on October 1st.

Mrs. and Mrs. F. Morgan, of Bristol, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 1st.

DEATHS

We offer sympathy to:

The family and friends of Mrs. Bridget Brennan, widow of the late *Mr. Christopher Brennan*, of County Tipperary, who passed away on September 15th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Hannah Marshall, widow of the late *Mr. William Henry Marshall*, of Bradford, who passed away of September 22nd.

The family and friends of Mrs. E. McLeod, widow of the late *Mr. D. McLeod*, of Mor-

ayshire, who passed away on September 9th.

The family and friends of Mrs. G. Saunders, widow of the late *Mr. H. Saunders*, of Edmonton, London, who passed away on September 25th.

The family and friends of Mrs. E. Sida, widow of the late *Mr. H. Sida*, of Rowlands Castle, Hants. who died on September 27th.

The family and friends of Mrs. E. Wood, widow of the late *Mr. Sidney Wood*, of Peterborough, who passed away on September 8th.

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.

L. Davies, *London Irish Rifles*.

Llewelyn Davies, of Purley, passed away in the Mayday Hospital on September 7th. He was aged 66 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Although a Welshman, Llew enlisted in the London Irish Rifles in April 1939, and served with the First Army in Africa and Italy in the Second World War. He was blinded during a brigade landing behind enemy lines at Termoli in October 1943. On his admission to St. Dunstan's he trained as a Physiotherapist, and in June 1947 he became the training instructor at Ovingdean. In 1949 he was appointed to the Mayday Hospital, Croydon, and when he retired in 1982 he was Deputy Superintendent of his department. In recognition of his outstanding services the hospital gymnasium is now known as the Llew Davies room.

Llew was well known as a rugby enthusiast, and had been a keen player himself. He was President of the Streatham Croydon Club, and for many years was the physiotherapist to the London Welsh Rugby Club. He went to Ceylon with them in 1972, and the southern United States in 1978 where he was particularly interested to meet his American counterpart who was also blind. He was a very good speaker, and had many invitations from local hospitals and blind clubs when on tour. He denied he was rugby crazy, but insisted that commitment to any activity has to be wholehearted or not at all, and avowed that for him the treatment of athletic injuries was to study anatomy at its best.

Llew was deservedly popular, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He is sur-

vived by his wife, Joan, to whom he was happily married for 39 years, their two daughters, and his two sons from his previous marriage. We extend our condolences to all his family and friends.

G. Mann, *Gloucestershire Regiment*

Mr. Geoffrey Mann, of Exeter, passed away on September 30th. He was 91 and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1977.

He enlisted with the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1915, and served as a Private until July 1916, when he suffered multiple wounds and lost the fingers of his left hand.

Mr. Mann was a wheelwright by occupation, and also an extremely gifted gardener. His wife Ellen Elizabeth died in 1981, after they had been married for 57 years. Soon after becoming a widower, he moved to Exeter to live with his nephew Alec and his wife.

We extend our sympathy to them and the rest of Mr. Mann's family.

V. Shepherd, *R.A.F.*

Mr. Victor George Frank Shepherd, of Farnborough, passed away on September 10th, aged 68. He had been a St. Dunstaner for one year.

Mr. Shepherd joined the R.A.F. in 1937, serving as a Flight Sergeant wireless operator/air gunner, until his aeroplane crashed in Malaya in 1942, and he suffered head injuries. After the war he worked for 20 years for British Steel, but had to take early retirement due to poor health.

He leaves a widow, Tryphena, to whom he was married for 44 years, and two sons, to whom we send our condolences.