



St Dunstans Review

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Free to St. Dunstaners

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Cover Picture: Three Sisters — Sister Molly Jones, Sister Maureen Looney and Sister Frances Mills perform a song at the Pearson House Christmas Concert. See page 12.



From the Chairman

By now those of you who are in a St. Dunstan's property will have received a letter from the Estate Manager, Mr. Lloyd, telling you of the new rental levels from April 1st of this year.

These have resulted from what is called 're-registration' — a complex operation aimed at smoothing out the unevenness in rents between similar properties in the same area, and between comparable properties in different areas. The variations had grown progressively over a number of years due to changes in local circumstances. They had been unco-ordinated and were no longer equitable.

The revised basis for rents leaves the overall total unchanged but introduces a much fairer distribution. In particular, for the first time proper account is taken of the special (and often strained) circumstances of St. Dunstaners' Widows.

I commend the new scheme to you as a square deal. If you have any queries or doubts about it please contact Mr. Lloyd at once.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Henry Leach



Jimmy Wright receives a cheque for £1,500 from Don Planner on behalf of the Royal School for the Blind. Don raised the money by completing the 1988 London Marathon and hopes to run again this year.

1989 CAMP AT HMS DAEDALUS

All St. Dunstaners wishing to book a place at the Camp in 1989 to which we have once again been invited, should contact Elspeth Grant either in writing at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG, or by telephone on 0799 228 74. The dates for the camp this year are from Friday August 11th until Saturday August 19th. Applications should be received by May 2nd at the very latest.

PETER McCORMACK

St. Dunstaner Peter McCormack, of Sidmouth, writes 'I would to thank Miss Lord, the Welfare Staff and Home Visitor Miss Pearce for all the help and support through my wife's disability. My thanks also to Mr. Lord and his staff for making it possible to have my wife at home, and all my St. Dunstaner friends who have written with their support.'

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, Visiting Staff and those who have retired, thank the many St. Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1989.

STORY COMPETITION

The closing date for entries has been extended to March 31st, KEEP WRITING!

St. Dunstan's (South Africa)

St. Dunstan's (South Africa) has changed its name to 'St. Dunstan's Association for South African Warblinded Veterans'.



1988 Lady St. Dunstaners Reunion

by Margaret Bingham

Photos: David Castleton

Dorothy Martin, Ruth Raybone, Winnie Edwards and Joyce Briant at Edinburgh Castle.

This year the ladies made the trip to the fair city of Edinburgh in Bonnie Scotland, where we were staying at the Royal Scots Hotel, not far from the airport. As most of us had travelled a fair distance, we had a cup of tea and a chat before we retired to our rooms to unpack and rest before dinner. The Terrace Suite was 'ours' for the duration of our stay, and before sitting down to eat we were able to get a drink or two at the bar.

We were a party of 41 altogether, including Mr. Weisblatt, Miss Mosley, David Castleton, Miss May Anderson (Welfare Visitor for Scotland), Mrs. Carol Henderson, Mr. J. Willard, our special guests Air Vice-Marshal W. E. Colahan and Mrs. Anne Colahan, and last but not least Colin Bentley, who supplied the coach and other means of transport.

We left the hotel next morning for a guided tour of the Edinburgh Crystal Centre, where we were split into four groups. Our guide's name was Maureen, and she had been employed at the factory, in one capacity or another, since she left school some 30 years ago. We went into the foundry having put on plastic spectacles, and here found a number of furnaces. Each holds a fire-clay pot in

which a mixture of sand, potash and lead is fused into molten glass at a temperature of around 1,350°C, and then cooled.

A ball of molten glass is then gathered on to the end of a long narrow hollow tube, which is deftly rotated. The glass blower blows into the tube and a vase, wine glass, decanter or jug is then created, the stem and foot added later if necessary. The still glowing glass is then swiftly transported to the annealing chamber, or 'Lehr' for cooling. The temperature of each Lehr is controlled as the glass needs to be cooled gradually, or it would become brittle. At this stage any imperfections can be noted, and any found faulty were returned to the furnace for re-melting.

Next, the blown shape moves into the processing department, where it is cracked off to the 'Cutting part' in which the cutter holds the glass against the mitred edge of a revolving cutting wheel. The resulting pattern gives a beautiful lustre, but it has yet to be polished. This is done by immersing it in a vat containing a mixture of hydrofluoric and sulphuric acids for about a minute. A thorough rinse follows, and the crystal attains a lasting brilliance.

As we moved around the works, we saw

three or four men dressed in metal grey overalls and headgear, looking like visitors from another planet. All was revealed when they took a fiery clay pot out of the furnace, and replaced it with a new one, as each pot has to be replaced every five days. Following an excellent lunch in the Pentland View Restaurant, we visited the Factory Shop, where most of us bought some of the superb crystal on sale.

During the afternoon we had a cup of tea with the Right Honourable the Lord Provost Eleanor McLaughlin in the City Chambers in Edinburgh. We were seated in the dining room, three walls decorated with paintings, the fourth was a window. The carpet was a blue design on a darker blue background, patterned with golden circles as big as a dinner plate each with a three turreted castle design in the centre. She made a speech of welcome, and commented on the fact that most of the Lady

Above right: Madge Pratt and Emily McClarnan take aim. Below: Margaret Bingham gets to grips with a large sword.



St. Dunstaners had been blinded in munition factories, and how interested her fellow councillors would be. (Perhaps there were no such factories in Scotland during the war!) Gwen made a little speech thanking the Lord Provost for her hospitality, who then had a few words with each of us, and was obviously interested in what we had to tell her.

Saturday was a free morning, and most of us took a ride in Colin's coach into the city. Approaching Princes Street we could hear the sound of bagpipes and there, only a few yards from where we crossed to this well known thoroughfare, stood the piper in full Highland dress, playing haunting airs and well known melodies — a beautiful sound on a crisp frosty morning. I took the opportunity to visit a new shopping arcade, where the window displays were very attractive. Naturally dresses interested me, but they were on the dear side, and I had not taken that sort of money with me! On view in a window display in a shop selling whisky was a bottle which was priced at £300.

We could hear the sound of splashing



The Ladies stop just long enough to have a photograph taken!

water, and on going to a lower sales floor in a glass lift we saw a huge spherical object with numerous metal spikes, and out of each spike gushed water. As the light caught the droplets the whole thing scintillated, making a beautiful effect as it mirrored in the surrounding pool. Tables and chairs were arranged around this fountain, so we had a coffee there, and then wended our way to Jenner's, Edinburgh's most well-known store. This is a very high class store, the goods are very expensive, but of the finest quality. The layout is very spectacular, with many glass cases displaying Penicuik crystal and chinaware arranged round a large opening in the floor, surrounded by a metal rail.

Later, after a substantial lunch at the hotel, we all wrapped up warmly for a guided tour of Edinburgh Castle, because, perched as it is high on a hillside, it is very cold and windy. Our guide, an ex-Royal Marine, gave us the history of the Castle and of the wars between Scotland and England. He was extremely amusing, and praised the Scots fighting men to the discomfiture of their British counterparts. But after all this spiel he admitted he had

some connection with England, as his wife was a Yorkshire lass. We made our way at leisure to visit other parts of the castle, including a room in the Royal Palace where the Crown Jewels, older than those in the Tower of London, are to be found. There is also the Great Hall built by James IV early in the 16th Century, which is now the Armoury, and contains suits of armour, swords, and other war like relics of bygone days.

One of the attendants placed a helmet on my head, but it was very heavy and uncomfortable, more so than the steel helmets we had during the war. As most of the swords were fastened to the wall, the only one that I was able to 'try' was a seven foot long claymore which was resting against a guard-rail. When the attendant placed it in my hands, I was very surprised at the weight. The wooden hilt was carved in spirals to make gripping easier. This was an extremely interesting afternoon, although the cobblestones were a little hard on the feet (and wheelchairs) after a while, and the day concluded with an excellent dinner of Scotch salmon with all the trimmings.

On Sunday — wasn't time flying — we

made an early start for the Scottish Museum of Woollen Textiles, at Walkerburn, near Peebles. First of all we had a look round the Mill Shop, where the goods were being sold at sale prices. (It crossed my mind that whenever a large party is visiting there is always a sale. No one can resist a bargain, and Lady St. Dunstaners are no different from anyone else!) It was lovely rummaging through boxes of ties, gloves, scarves and bonnets and examining dresses and kilts on hangers. There were men's jackets and trows in a variety of plaid, all of which were made here at the factory.

In the museum we saw a mean little room depicting a weaver's home, with just a table, a few rickety chairs, and a cupboard. The 'closet' room was a bedroom with long curtains on rails, which were pulled to at bedtime to ensure the occupants were warm and cosy. It was all very interesting, and it gave us plenty to talk about. We thought we had left in good time to get to the Dolphinton House Hotel, just a few miles away at West Linton, for lunch, but how wrong we were! It took much longer than we anticipated, but at least it gave us the opportunity to take stock of the Scottish countryside. Everything was very frosty, and the dead dandelion and bracken by the roadside looked like whitish ghosts as they swayed in the gentle breeze caught by our passing coach, and even the conifers looked wintry with their light covering of frost.

At last we arrived at the restaurant, dreading to think of our reception, but we were met by smiling faces and kindly voices — I think it was a case of better late than never. We went into the dining room, and had a drink whilst ordering from the menu at the same time. The choice was so delicious if somewhat unusual — to the sassenachs, anyway. Roast blackmount grouse with skirlie and smoked bacon, smoked teviot chicken with wild bramble and port wine jelly, and a selection of Scottish hand made cheeses to name but a few, making it a meal to remember.

On our last evening we intended to make the most of it, and so after a delicious meal of Scotch beef we sat back to listen to Air Vice-Marshal Colahan's speech peppered with some very amusing



Gwen Obern presents a shield to the Right Honourable Eleanor McLaughlin.

jokes and anecdotes, which was followed by Gwen having her say on behalf of the ladies — and Gwen can tell a few good jokes as well. Presentations were made to our staff and helpers, and this was very ably organised by Eileen, Beryl, Sadie, etc., presented the gifts, and then we retired to the bar for the finale, to unwind or overwind (ahem) depending on one's abilities. A few drinks, singing by Gwen and Beryl, and lots of talk and laughter and bonhomie, and so to bed.

A very early start the next morning, especially for Brenda and Denise, as they had a 'plane to catch, and we all had long journeys to make. It had been a wonderful weekend, and apart from two or three of the ladies being unwell and having to rest for a while, was relatively free from mishap. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make it so, and I am sure we all have happy memories of Edinburgh. I would like to say a special thank you to John Willard, who, although not in the best of health himself, was so willing to give any help which he could.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 1988

A warm sun and a cool breeze greeted the 80 St. Dunstaners as they marched into Whitehall. In the vanguard, the Chairman, escorting our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, and ex Royal Marine Commando, Bill Shea. Keeping us all together from the rear, our only First War Veteran actually on parade, Harry Wheeler. First War Veteran, Nick Henman joined in for all the other activities. A poignant moment this year during the two minute silence was the crying of a baby, as if at the loss of a dear one.

Far from diminishing in numbers, all the Veteran's columns had increased in size this year. There were 2,000 more on parade, making a total of 9,000 altogether. It seemed as if even the onlookers had swelled in number, and there were many young people amongst them.

It was a warmer than usual contingent who arrived at the Russell Hotel after the parade. Despite the warmth, the 'up spirits' went down most smoothly!

In his post lunch address, the Chairman started by welcoming everyone 'on this special occasion, 70 years after the end of World War I. He went on immediately to thank Keith Martin for organising the event, followed by the names of Mr. Smith, the Daedalus 'dogs', Mr. and Mrs. George Gillholm of the Royal Navy recruiting office, and all who help out. Sir Henry mentioned Matron Chris King and Welfare Visitor Vivian Jackson who were also present on the march.

'We are here to remember... to remember those who lost their limbs — their agonies at the time, and their awful handicap since. Those who lost their hearing — a very serious disability, which still does not seem to have been recognised by the more fortunate. We remember too, the wives, widows and other escorts, who have so bravely carried on and who continue so staunchly to give their essential support. Here, let me pay a brief and inadequate tribute to two people, who, though not killed in action, died, each in her own way, in the service of St. Dunstan's, after long

lives of dedication: Avis Spurway and Natalie Opperman.

'Memories are tinged with sadness', went on the Chairman. 'They bring to mind that rather cynical and fatalistic Royal Flying Corps jingle from the First War, which ran like this:

"Far from the land that bore us,
Betrayed by the land that we find
The best have gone before us,
With only the dull left behind.
So stand by your glasses steady.
This world is a world of lies,
Here's to the dead already
Hurrah for the next man who dies."

The Chairman preferred to dwell upon other memories more positive. He referred to the disabled overcoming their problems and going on to lead full and useful lives. 'Finally, we remember our successors, our children and grandchildren, relatives and friends, with whom the future lies. Let us hope they will do better than we did, and prevent war from occurring again. But if the call to arms should come, then I hope you are as confident as I, that they will acquit themselves with the same dedicated devotion to duty as their forebears.'

Tom Taylor responded on behalf of the St. Dunstaners. He thanked the Chairman for his words and went on to say that this was a solemn occasion. Solemn, not in a hawkish way, but as an annual event. 'We remember those we were with on similar, previous occasions, and we ought never to forget.' Tom talked of the occasion being one of dignity, of how those who had gone before had left an example of how to achieve that self respect. 'Let us be worthy today, of those who have preceded us.'

He examined the words 'integrity', meaning wholeness, and 'remember', the opposite of 'dismember' or 'separate'. Today, we had come together to remember and to look forward to the future.

Thus had we paid our respects once more.



Mr. R. Wingfield (left), and Mr. R. Picton, of Hemel Hempstead, place memorials at the Hemel Hempstead Field of Remembrance. Mr. Wingfield made the crosses, and the one he is holding bears the crest of St. Dunstan's.

Tembani Reunion

Those of us who attended the Tembani South African Reunion on the weekend of November 25th have reason to be very happy that they did, for it turned out to be a most warm hearted and congenial occasion. Saturday morning was a 'meet and greet' time in the Brighton Club room, with each St. Dunstaner relating their experiences in South Africa and the warmth and great generosity extended to all of them. Many remembered Sandy Grant of Hermanus, and his kindness. Known as 'Mr. Hermanus', he died aged 88.

At the dinner on Saturday night, David Bell welcomed everyone, especially Peggy Loman (nee Brown) who was very much a part of Tembani, and her husband Tony. A telegram from the Chairman of St. Dunstan's Association for South African War-Blinded Veterans, The Reverend Michael Norman, was read in which the good wishes of St. Dunstaners in South Africa were extended. We all regretted the absence of Alan Vickers and his wife,

owing to illness. Another special guest we are always delighted to welcome was, of course, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, and her friend Mary Stenning. Sue Reynolds said Grace, and absent friends were remembered with a few moments silence. Jim Pownall, who had so recently and suddenly died, was especially remembered.

I am sure all the St. Dunstaners and their wives attending would like to express their thanks to David and Sybil for their untiring efforts to make such a happy and enjoyable weekend, to Paul James and all his staff for a superb meal accompanied by South African wines, and to Major Neve for his support.

Max Ash

CORRECTION

Humble apologies to Mrs. Betty Newton and Miss Betty 'Ricky' Richardson for our error in identifying Miss Richardson as Mrs. Newton in a photograph caption in the report of the Gardening Week in the December issue.

D. F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

When the weather is clement enough, all areas of the garden which are to be used in the coming season should be dug over. Plants, such as perennials which are growing quite well, should be given protection from the winter weather. Plenty of manure and compost should be spread over the areas which are regularly used, and add lime to areas where vegetables are to be grown to prevent club root.

Vegetables

Clear all empty beds and spread compost or manure before digging over for the new season. Any old leaves or dead plants should be consigned to the new side of the compost heap. If you have a greenhouse or a frame in a sunny area, most seeds, including salad items, can be started now in order to have good seedlings early in the spring. Put all early varieties seed potatoes out in troughs where you have a good light, but away from frosts. Some tomato seeds may be sown, and they should come along quite quickly, later being transferred to small pots when they come through.

Fruit

All fruit trees should have had their pruning completed by now, or if you are a little behind it should not be left later than the end of February as new shoots and flowers may be coming along. Dead bark on apple and pear trees should be removed, and older trees given a bath of lime. Again, if grease bands have not been set yet, do them as soon and as high up as possible on the trunk in order to stop insects setting up nests for spreading later.

Lawns

Some lawns could do with a dose of fertilizer in January, but this should consist of

well sieved farmyard manure and good quality soil, and be spread all over the grass very finely. Make sure the lawn mower has been to the specialist in order to be in top condition for the coming season. Tidying up lawn edges is also advisable.

Flowers

There is very little to be done on the flower beds, apart from digging over the empty spaces, and it is worthwhile to use a rake or hoe to stop bad breakages. Put some manure on perennials and shrubs which may be starting to show new growth. Put down slug pellets. Where you intend to plant well-grown perennials or roses, dig the area over well, and add some compost at the bottom of holes. Be sure to get all the annual flower seeds bought in towards the end of February so that they can be sown in March when the weather gets a little warmer.

Greenhouse

Temperatures should be kept at around 40° to 45°F to keep pot plants and cuttings growing well. Cuttings should be grown in a compost of peat and sand with a little fertilizer, have a plastic sheet over the top and be kept fairly moist. Any items started from seed should be put in a seedling compost kept fairly moist, and kept near the source of heat to help them along. Some tuberous items can be started off in February, but don't give them too much water. When plenty of growth is evident, they can be transferred to larger containers for flowering. Set smokes to ward off pests and diseases at evening and night, closing all windows when in use, but open them all in the morning and close them at night and on frosty and wintry days.

On this day . . .

by Sean Kelly

First of all, may I wish everyone a happy new year. The fact that we are already $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the way through is by the by, but just think, only ten months to December . . .

On January 2nd 120 years ago, the first ever traffic lights at Parliament Square in London, went wrong. They actually exploded, injuring the poor policeman who happened to be operating them at the time. This warning was obviously heeded, as it was to be around fifty years before any other traffic lights became operational in Britain. Whilst we are on the subject of cars and roads, I will tell you that on January 28th 95 years ago, a man appeared in court on the first charge of speeding ever made, for travelling at a speed four times as high as the speed limit. For, whilst doing 8mph in a 2mph zone, he was overtaken and ordered to pull in by a policeman. On his bicycle. Staying on the subject, we might note that five years ago on February 4th, a law was passed which banned Greek taxi drivers from discussing anything but their work with passengers, as discussions about politics had developed into traffic stopping rows in Athens.

In January five years ago, a Devon firm which produces burglar alarms was robbed. No-one noticed until the morning, because they didn't have a burglar alarm.

On February 14th 1,780 years ago, a Roman priest named Valentine lost his head over a girl. Literally. For, when he ignored an edict from Rome which prevented young men marrying on the premise that it made them bad soldiers, he was executed. Consequently, he became the patron saint of lovers, and St. Valentine's day has been celebrated ever since, with some curious customs and rituals.

For example, if a young lady pins a bay leaf to the four corners and middle of her pillow on Valentine's eve, and consequently dreams about her beau, then she will marry him before the end of the year. If she should wish to increase the chances of matrimony even more, then she should hard-boil an egg (to prevent salmonella, I expect), remove the yolk, fill the yolk chamber with salt, and then eat the egg, including the salt and the shell. She is not allowed to take a drink, or speak, afterwards. I'm sure there must be easier ways of getting a husband.

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.

A. Rumble, of Rochford, Essex.

Mr. Albert Rumble joined St. Dunstan's on November 15th. He served in the Royal Navy from 1940-1945, and it was whilst on service in the Mediterranean that he lost his right eye. After the war he became Chief Engineer in a Thames Tugboat organisation until 1959. Mr. Rumble is married with one son.

J. Willans, of Ossett, West Yorkshire.

Mr. Joseph Willans joined St. Dunstan's on November 15th. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in England, Scotland and Korea from 1947 to 1954. He is married with a grown up daughter.

New Transport Guide

The third edition of 'Door to Door', a guide to transport for disabled people, is available free of charge in a tape cassette version from Mrs. Shirley R. Gawan, Building GQ - Disability Unit, Department of Transport, c/o TRRL, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 6AU.



The one Ronnie and one Ernie show.

Ian Walker and Marian Wing show how St. Dunstan's staff get their (high) kicks.



Nick Moore and his sister perform a song.



The Ian Fraser House cast perform a carol.

At the Homes for Christmas

photographs by David Castleton and Roy Scott

Pearson House

St. Dunstaners were on the bill in the Pearson House Christmas Concert on December 19th. In order of appearance they were Les Copeland, Harry Wheeler, George Pullen, Thelma Meredith and Jim O'Donnell — all singing. Tommy McKay was represented by a reading of his poem, 'Gem of the Solent.'

There is never a shortage of talent among the staff at Pearson House. Led by Matron Chris King, who was called back for an encore of her song on giving up smoking, 'My Last Cigarette', all deserve praise for a spirited and amusing show. They were reinforced by masterly accompaniment by pianist, Tony Ross and songs at the piano by Harold Smith, a splendid tenor.

A large and appreciative audience filled the Winter Garden to capacity while the new conservatory gave access to the stage from the side enabling a beautifully drawn and painted backcloth to be used.

Tea and mince pies were served during the interval and, after joining the whole cast in a carol singing finale, the audience joined with them again sharing some wine to round off a festive occasion.

Pearson House is buzzing these days and not just at Christmas. Not long before the holiday another St. Dunstaner gave an evening's entertainment. Ron Smith with his colleague and pianist, Ernest Evans, who is also blind, presented a Christmas programme. This followed an earlier concert in October when our photograph of them was taken.



Comedienne, Olwyn Jenkins, at the microphone.

Ron Smith and Ernest Evans perform a number at a recent concert.



Jenny Low — a mad Englishwoman!



Ian Fraser House by Sue Reynolds

The 1988 Christmas Concert was held, as usual, on Christmas Eve. The date was about the only thing that was to be 'as usual'. Our audience was diminished because of the building work at Ian Fraser House, our director, Beattie Wright was ill and our dancing star, Pearl Smethurst, was on sick leave following a major operation. However, in true showbiz tradition, the show went on. Sheila Morris ably took up the reins of directorship, with Tony Ross stepping in the breach to make the music memorable.

The CAs chorus led a variety of musical numbers in which the audience were able to join with gusto. We were unable to engage 'The Two Ronnies' but we did have our own one Ronnie and an Ernie reading us the year's news. Mrs Low (Jenny's Mum) gave us a splendid rendition of 'Albert and the Lion' complete with a stick with a 'horses head handle', actually, I think it was a dog's head, but we can put that down to artistic licence! Jenny herself donned her tropical gear to look every inch the part for 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen' and, in the second half, read us a lovely Christmas poem. One of the evening's highlights was 'Nurse' Gladys Standring giving her patient a right talking to in a sketch written by our very own telephonist, Terry Walker. Now we know what he does when the switchboard's quiet! Olwyn Jenkins and Ron Bowles each had us teamed up with Sheila Morris in a singing trio. Commander Conway, recently risen from his sick bed, compered the show and this year steered us a course toward the 21st Century with an electrified performance on his guitar. Oops! Perhaps I mean electrifying.

The whole show was a great success and we look forward to having Beattie and Pearl fit and well in the New Year.

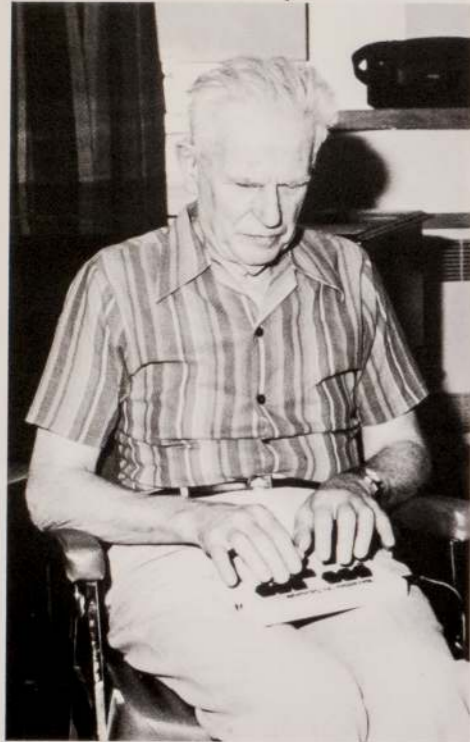
Computer Weekend

by Ray Hazan

Writing the programme for such a weekend is comparatively simple, as there is a constant stream of new devices eagerly awaiting inspection. Not so simple is the borrowing of machines and setting them up, for which those attending were most grateful to Phil Duffee. Whilst on the subject of setting up, may I take this opportunity to thank the staff of IFH for 'lending' us a telephone line, and for their usual unstinting hospitality.

There were old and new friends present, all with something to contribute. Philip Jennings presented the 'Audiocalc', a talking spread sheet. This is now freely available to the blind, and may be obtained by sending a disk, specifying whether it is 80 or 40 tracks, to Peter Jones,

Bill Shea uses the Braille and Speak.



whose address will be at the end of this article. This program is available for the BBC only, its value for DOS (IBM compatibles) is being assessed.

Until recently, small pocket tape recorders, or small handframes have been the blind person's note-pad. Roger Goodchild demonstrated one of the modern electronic equivalents called the 'Braille and Speak'. As the name implies, it is a Perkins layout braille keyboard, measuring approximately 8 x 4 x 1 inches with both speech and ASCII output. This latter means it can be attached to other electronic devices, such as printers, modems and computers. It is rechargeable battery driven, thus you can type in letters or notes whilst travelling by train or car for instance. These are stored in its memory until you get home, when they can be dumped either to a printer or computer for further processing. Input can be either in grade I or II braille. The device also contains a built-in calculator, clock and calendar. It costs £720 and is supplied by Sensory Information Systems (address later).

There is another similar device, which was demonstrated by its developer Albert Yeo. This has no speech or built-in enhancements. It is used purely for preparing text away from the computer. The device again measures some 8 x 4 x 2, and is battery powered. The projected cost is around £250. Please contact the PR Department for further information.

'Communications' was a theme of the weekend. Peter Jones, throughout the weekend demonstrated the Tele-text adapter with the BBC computer. This adapter 'catches' the pages of information transmitted by the BBC and IBA, stores them on computer, enabling the blind user to them access them at will. The subjects covered vary from jokes, through news, weather, stocks and shares, through to software. For those with Amstrads and the like, General Information Systems are

meant to have a DOS compatible adapter available for £200.

A demonstration was given linking the Eureka to BT Gold. This is a means of transmitting mail, messages or information via the telephone line from one computer or similar device to another. £100 buys you a 'mailbox' on the Gold system. You access your mailbox by connecting your computer via a modem to the telephone line and thence to the BT computer. As with Teletext, the contents of your mailbox are dumped on to disk, and can then be read at leisure. The numbers of users on the Gold system is limited, but, imagine, as a blind person, being able to read and send your own mail; no wondering if the stamp is the right way up, or balking at having the walk to the post box on a wet and windy day!

Sound Writer

The final demonstration was given by Dr. Mark Soper. Terry Walker, our switchboard operator at IFH was much involved in the evaluation of the 'Sound Writer'. Basically, this system uses morse code both for typing information into the computer, and reading it back. As ex-navy buffs and radio hams will tell you, 35 words a minute is fast reading, thus for the average blind person without additional handicaps, this is a cumbersome system. It might be a value to a physically handicapped person, but they would not need morse output. A vibratory morse output could be of value to the deaf/blind. However, the inventors graciously donated their prototype to St. Dunstan's, and Terry will continue to make good use of it on the switchboard.

Those of you with IBM compatibles may find the PCA magazine of use and interest. It is available on a monthly tape from TNAUK at a yearly subscription of £7. The tape does not cover all the articles, or include the free disk which comes with the print copy, but that can be easily obtained from a local newsagent. You do not have to send a wallet or tape with your subscription.

There was much communication between men and machines, and we are grateful to all those who helped. Please



Peter Jones, Norman Walton and Philip Jennings using 'Audiocalc'.

contact Phil Duffee or myself if you have any queries.

Here are some useful addresses:

Peter Jones,
69, Prospect Rd.,
Bradway,
Sheffield,
Yorks. Tel: 0742 369199.

Sensory Information Systems,
Unit 10, Cameron House,
12, Castlehaven Rd.,
London, NW1 8QU. Tel: 01-485 4485.

TNAUK,
90, High Street,
Heathfield,
Sussex. Tel: 04352 6102.

General Information Systems,
Croxtton House,
Croxtton,
Cambs. Tel: 0480 87464.

Ray Sheriff completes Seven Sisters Marathon

St. Dunstaner Ray Sheriff recently completed the Seven Sisters Marathon. He completed the course for the third time, and knocked ten minutes off his previous time, even managing to run the last two hundred yards of the course.

PRESENTATIONS TO RUTH THOMPSON

Ruth Thompson and her husband, Ken, visited headquarters on 9th November last for presentations honouring her 45 years' service to St. Dunstaners in Ireland. On behalf of the Council of St. Dunstan's, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach presented Ruth with a gold wristwatch and Mr. Bill Weisblatt handed her a cheque subscribed for by St. Dunstaners, their widows and her colleagues on the staff. She has already chosen two pictures by a local artist showing scenes of the Antrim Coast and Connemara.

Ruth joined St. Dunstan's in 1943 to work for the late Mr. N.S. Macauley in the Belfast office dealing with welfare and appeals. 'I remember my first day in the office. Mr. Macauley showed me my desk, my typewriter and the stamp money box. It was a tobacco box, 'G. & P. Bell, Glasgow. Three Nuns Tobacco.' I have the box to this day. The typing chair was too low but this was war-time and furniture was hard to come by so Mr. Macauley gave me the Belfast Street Directory to sit on. I sat on that for three years! It was very hard and was a bit awkward when you had to check an address!'

In 1954, when Mr. Macauley retired, Ruth Thompson took over appeals and welfare visiting until appeals were centralised in London in 1960. 'In the early days there were about 60 or 70 St. Dunstaners both sides of the border, mostly First War men. The first time I visited Cork City there were 14 First World War people and pensions were two pound something a week to exist on. Lord Fraser did a terrific amount towards getting pensions increased. In many cases the standard of life of the new people coming in then was very poor and I found it very rewarding to be instrumental in carrying out the improvement offered by St. Dunstan's.'

Ruth has no firm plans as yet for her retirement but everyone at St. Dunstan's will hope that they will include a visit from time to time to renew old friendships

made in a working lifetime of service to war-blinded men and women and their families.



Ruth Thompson receives a watch from Sir Henry Leach.

St. Dunstan's Band

A small band

In 1988 we had two separate weeks in May and September enjoying our own and other people's musicking. Bob, Ernie, Gerry, John, Bill and Ken make up our small but most enthusiastic Club and were at the receiving end of St. Dunstan's hospitality, Red Ball's catering skills and Sheila's organising ability.

We beefed up Ernie Took, Arthur and Lou, listened to Jazz at the Concord during the May week but the highlight of that period was a visit to Kneller Hall, the Army School of Music where, at the school's Annual Concert, we were treated to a thrilling evening by the Student's Band.

In September we again helped our old friend Ernie at the Monday Dance and on the Tuesday sat in the lovely sunshine around the Eastbourne Bandstand

enjoying a good but rather dated programme presented by the Welsh Guards Band. On Wednesday we went to Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, for a super Military Tattoo and heard massed bands, stunting aircraft, Police dogs, daredevil motor cyclists, R.A.F precision drill, Royal Navy apprentices and fireworks. It was all most impressive and, all but the air display, in dusk and darkness in which the flaming hoops, searchlight and fireworks gave us a continuous and spectacular two hours of music and movement.

In spite of the great Tattoo it must be said that Thursday at the King and Queen gave us the best thrill ever when Bob, Gerry, John and Ken joined Jumping Jack Gilbert and the Panama Jazz Band on bass,

percussion, trumpet and vocal on some very much applauded jazz.

Our final Dinner was on the Friday where Red Ball did a wonderful job and our special guests included Ernie Took and his friends Arthur and Lou as well as Major Neve, Sue Reynolds and Sheila. At the end of the meal Bob presented Ernie Took with a plaque signifying St. Dunstan's appreciation of his music for over thirty years. The Party left the Winter Garden to reappear in the Annexe for music, singing and dancing — fairly wild stuff, until about midnight. Thus ended St. Dunstan's Band's 1988 season on a high. Musicians come up there and join us please. You'll taste Heaven.

K.C.R.



The serious side of bowling!

Annual Bowls Tournament

by Percy Stubbs

The St. Dunstan's annual Bowls Tournament was held at Ian Fraser House from October 18th until November 4th last, during which well over one hundred hours of bowls were played.

The Triples and Pairs were played to a finish in the first few days, and then a start was made on the singles playing in groups of five or six on a round robin basis. Fifty five games had to be played to decide which players should enter the final round robin of six partially sighted and six

totally blind, which meant a further 30 games to decide the winner of the singles tournament. A consolation triples was arranged for the players not reaching the final stages, and also a fun game where the wives joined in, to finish off the tournament in very high spirits.

During the time spent at Ian Fraser House we enjoyed a visit to the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium, where we all had a good meal, which made up for not very much success in finding the win-



Joan Osborne — bowling always gets her into a 'flap'.

ners. Another occasion was the Brighton Club Annual Dinner, which most of the bowlers attended, and had a very enjoyable evening.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Triples

J. Cope, P. Stubbs and R. Freer

Pairs: Partially sighted

Winners. J. Price and C. Lloyd
Runners up. E. Hannant and W. Davies

Pairs: Totally Blind

Winners. T. Simmon and W. Allen
Runners up. J. Pryor and T. Mugan

Singles: Partially Sighted

Winner. P. Surridge
Runner up. J. Mills

Singles: Totally blind

Winner. J. Pryor
Runner up. J. Cope

Consolation Triples

W. Davies, T. Simmon and A. Whittington

Fun Fours

N. Bickley, O. Simmon, E. Hannant and E. Church

The presentation of prizes was made by our President, Major Neve, at the Buffet Dance on the evening of Friday, November 4th, where the Kathleen Smith Rose Bowl was presented to Bob Osborne for his achievement at Bowls, and help towards the Bowls Club throughout the past season.

Finally, I would like to thank Joan Osborne and Jackie Pryor for all the work they did to make the tournament run smoothly, all the bowlers for taking part, and their wives for all their help, the staff at Ian Fraser House, and especially the caterers, who still managed to provide first class meals through all the alteration difficulties.

BRIDGE

Captain's Report — November 1988

It is my duty to refer to the sad loss of our dear friend and keen bridge player Fred Dickerson, we all miss him and send our sympathy to his dear wife, Margaret, and family.

St. Dunstan's Cup was won by our team at Harrogate, this is a rare occurrence and congratulations are in order for the team, namely Reg Goding, George Hudson, Ralph Pacitti and Alf Dodgson. The rest of the matches were played in convivial company and it was a clear case of win some lose some but very enjoyable. Many thanks to Ian Dickson, Jock Carnochan and Stan Medcraft who were with our team in Harrogate, and to Cedric Cockcroft and all the people who entertained us so well, as is usual for Harrogate.

In St. Dunstan's competitions throughout the year it is a great pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Sylvia Meleson, the first wife of a St. Dunstaner to win the Gover Cup Competition in London — well done Sylvia. In the Brighton Competition Ralph Pacitti won the Gover Cup and the Pairs — some effort Ralph — congratulations.

Again I must stress that we thank all our members for supporting us, we do need you badly, and of course what would we do without Maurice Douse, all our Markers



Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Reg Goding and Bert Ward with the Paul Nuyens Trophy for Teams of Four.

who are willing to mark and play almost at a moment's notice in London as well as Brighton and all the help given by Geoff Connell and his wife Enid, Roly Bolton and Enid Otton. We also wish to thank Commander Conway and Major Neve who do so much to get us to London, arrange our Competitions, our Dinners and all the background work for supplying accommodation — the list is endless, as is the thanks.

One last thing, our Secretary has done a magnificent job, due to my illness everything was left to him and his wife, Eileen, the fact that I didn't worry is praise indeed — you were in good hands all round.

Many thanks for all those who enquired after my health, my wife and I were very touched by your concern. Did you notice that Commander Conway was ill at the same time — of course you did — I said he was jealous of the attention I was getting but joking apart, nice to see you back Sir, take care, we were all concerned.

Keep the Bridge Club going and Seasonal Greetings to you all from my Committee and myself — we all send our best wishes.

Bill Phillips (Captain)

Secretary's Report

First of all, on behalf of us all I would like to express my sympathy and sadness in the loss of Freddie Dickerson and our old friend Les Douglas.

We are also pleased to know that Captain Bill Phillips and Jim Padley were well enough to attend the Bridge Congress. We did win our league and progressed to semi-finals but unfortunately that is where we left it. The Guernsey trip for 1988 was cancelled owing to insufficient numbers but no doubt Bill has just told you the Brighton team had a wonderful success in the Three-way Competition in May. Unfortunately Bill was unable to travel to Harrogate owing to his indisposition but we had a fairly nice time up there and no doubt he has told you of the successes and failures in his report.

Recently, Nora Field (Alf Field's widow) who is now living in Harrogate, came to visit us and spent a pleasant hour. As you know Nora participated many years ago and has visited Harrogate on several occasions. All in all it was a very pleasant week.

The 1989 arrangements are going ahead for our 50th Anniversary at Harrogate. The date of the Harrogate

Anniversary will be 30th September (Saturday) and The Drivers will take place on our Anniversary the following Friday.

The Committee discussed and approved that the wives of our players anticipate and enjoy the prize money, the names on Cups, with exception of the Individuals — the Gover and St. Dunstan's Individual.

The number of Bridge players participating in this Congress at the present is 20. We have a few people — two or three — learning to play Bridge and we are hoping to get more and if it is possible for anyone to get hold of another St. Dunstaner who would like to take part in the Bridge would they please express their feelings and try and get him or her to come along, as they will be most welcome.

I would like to express my thanks not only to the Captain, Markers and the Committee but to yourselves for the support you have given us in making our bridge as easy and as pleasant as possible. Not forgetting my thanks to Ian Dickson for the help he has given us, Commander Simon Conway for chairing our Meeting and also assisting me along with Major Neve. We are glad to hear that Commander Conway is better. In 1988 Geoff Connell suffered something similar to Commander Conway but is still attending with Roly who will be, I think, taking a bigger part and will be stopping an extra day as well and helping Geoff. We are glad that Geoff is still coming and that he is making good progress too.

Reg Goding

BRIDGE CONGRESS

The 1988 Bridge Congress opened at 9.15 prompt on Friday December 2nd, with Captain Bill Phillips welcoming everyone, in particular Geoff Connell, his wife and Roly, with the assistance of Maurice Dovel, our organiser for the Congress. It was nice to see the Captain back on his top form, moving things along with his usual panache. The various teams settled down, and play commenced with the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup, followed in the afternoon by the Paul Nuyens teams of four.

The A.G.M. opened on Friday at 6.30 with Commander Conway, who we were

all glad to see 'back in business', chairing the meeting. The minutes were read and approved, and our sympathy extended to the widows of Fred Dickerson and Les Douglas on their, and our, sad loss. Ralph Pacitti then proposed the re-election *en bloc* of the committee, and after being seconded by J. Whitcombe, was passed and approved. The committee members are: Captain — Bill Phillips, Secretary — R. Goding, Treasurer — A. Dodgson, Committee Members — B. Evans, W. Lethbridge and V. Delaney. Thanks were given to Commander Conway, Major Neve and his staff for all their help, and the meeting was closed.

Saturday saw two hard fought matches, the Alf Field Memorial Cup in the morning, and the Lord Fraser Cup individual championship later in the day. It was a hectic dash at 4.30 to prepare for the evenings events, and a sherry party at 6.45 gave us a chance to unwind and chat to friends and guests before we sat down to a sumptuous dinner beautifully prepared and presented. Our thanks are extended to all involved in providing the excellent meal. We were pleased to welcome Sue Reynolds, who represented Commander and Mrs. Conway who were unable to attend. After dinner we made our way to the Annexe where we danced the night away to the sound of the Ernie Took Trio, which concluded an extremely enjoyable evening.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Cup for teams of four began our Sunday, followed by the Drummer Downs Cup. Mrs. Dacre came to

Bill Phillips and Geoff Connell enjoy a moments respite during the congress.



(L to R) Reg Palmer, Peter McCormack, Mike Tybinski and Wally Lethbridge play a hand.

present in the afternoon the prizes, and Mr. David Castleton came down from H.Q. to photograph the prize giving. Presentations were made to Geoff and Roly for their services to the congress, to Enid for her teaching, and to Enid Otton for her behind the scenes work. At the close of the afternoon Bill Phillips expressed our concern for Jim Padley, and our prayers for a quick recovery and a return to bridge playing.

Monday was our day of relaxation, and a friendly bridge drive with all the markers and beginners participating, resulting in a win for B. Evans and P. McCormack. We would like to welcome our new beginners this year, they being Betty and Brian Lang, Joyce Dodgson and Sid Jones, and anyone who wishes to join us over the next year will of course be more than welcome.

Reg Goding, Secretary.

Results

Sir Arthur Pearson Pairs Championships

- 1st Harold & Bertha King
- 2nd Bob Fullard & Mike Tybinski
- 3rd Ron Freer & Bill Allen

Paul Nuyens Teams of Four

- 1st Wally Lethbridge — Vi Delaney
- Bert Ward — Reg Goding

- 2nd Bill Phillips — Peter Surr ridge
- Bob Fullard — Mike Tybinski

Alf Field Memorial Trophy — Datum Pairs

- 1st Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson
- 2nd Bert Ward & Reg Goding
- 3rd Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge

Lord Fraser Cup for Individual Championship

- 1st Mike Tybinski
- Bill Phillips
- 3rd Bert Ward
- 4th Ralph Pacitti
- 5th Bill Allen

Teams of Four Championship for Sir Arthur Pearson Cup

- 1st Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson
- Bert Ward & Reg Goding
- 2nd Bill Phillips & Peter Surr ridge
- Ron Freer & Bill Allen

Drummer Downs

- 1st Harold King & Reg Goding
- 2nd Sylvia Meleson & Vi Delaney
- 3rd Johnny Whitcombe & Ralph Pacitti
- 4th Bill Miller & Alf Dodgson

Gover Cups

- London — Sylvia Meleson
- Brighton — Ralph Pacitti

On Sunday 11th December, 1988 we held our Christmas Bridge Drive — 12 St. Dunstaners and 16 Markers played which resulted in a very enjoyable afternoon.

THE PRIZE WINNERS WERE:-

1st	Reg Goding & Miss Sturdy	1370
2nd	Wally Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	1170
3rd	Ralph & Kay Pacitti	1130
4th	Bill Allen & Mrs. Clements	610

FAMILY NEWS

APOLOGY

We apologise to Mrs. I. Watson, widow of the late Mr. E. Watson, of Barrow-in-Furness, for incorrectly referring to their son, Edward, as their grandson, and to his wife Sharon, for incorrectly giving her maiden name as Hing instead of Hind.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Jan Gutowski, son of *Mr. and Mrs. B. Gutowski*, of Clitheroe, who, on leaving his prep. school, was first in his class and winner of many cups and trophies. Now he is a pupil at Stoneyhurst College, and in a very close contest, has just won a scholarship to enable him to continue his studies there.

Mark Roberts, grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. J. Pryor*, of Peacehaven, on gaining his 1st Class Honours Degree in Geology, and who is now studying for his Ph.D.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Captain Jamie Cuthbertson, of Glasgow, on his marriage to his fiancée, Shauna Cusack, on December 10th in Dublin.

St. Dunstaner *Dick Stinson*, of Redditch, Worcs. on his marriage to Gladys Williams on November 19th.

Miss Lynn Fiona Blaxhill, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. A. Morton*, of London, on her marriage to Paul Anthony Kerrison,

on September 17th at St. Catherine and St. Paul Church in Hoddesdon, Herts.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Maries, of Redditch, Worcs., on the marriage of their daughter, Julie, to Mr. Grant Beardmore, on Saturday October 29th, 1988, at the Assemblies of God Church, Redditch.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Tetley, of St. Albans, on the marriage of their daughter, Mary, to Robin Eccles on August 6th, and the marriage of their daughter Lynne, to Philip Gernham on October 29th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. H. Blamire, of Lytham-St-Annes, Lancashire, on the birth of a second grandchild, Nicholas Benjamin, born on November 2nd to their daughter Shirene, and her husband, who live in France.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Breerton, of East Moseley, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Katherine, born on November 14th to their daughter Yvette, and son-in-law Hugh Hart.

Mr. and Mrs. L.R. Brown, of Frinton-on-Sea, on the birth of a grandson, Samuel David, to their son and daughter-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Duffee, of Seaford, on the birth of a grandson, Brent Ross, born on August 27th 1988 to their daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Barry Hatton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Fensome, of Coventry, on the birth of a new grand-daughter, Johann, in August.

Mr. A. Fletcher, of Newton Abbot, on the birth of a great grandson, Robert Callum Johnson, on December 20th.

Mr. F. Lipscombe, of Exeter, on the birth of a first grandchild, Liam Philips, born on December 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Mills, of Rotherham, on the birth of a new grandson, Dane, born to their daughter, Mrs. Karen Gelgard, on June 21st.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Stanley, of Gloucester, on the birth of a grand-daughter, born to their daughter Suzanne, who lives in Canada, on September 21st.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Tetley, on the birth of a first grandchild, Natasha Emily, born on October 20th to their daughter Susan, and her husband Richard.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. F. Moorley, widow of the late *Mr. T.H. Moorley*, of Allenton, Derby, on the birth of a new great-great-grandson, who was born on March 2nd.

SILVER WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bunting, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on November 30th.

Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Preece, of Bournemouth, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on December 21st 1988.

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.

W. Arnold, *Territorial Army, London Irish Rifles*. William Arnold, of Keighley, passed away suddenly on November 21st. He was 69, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1973.

Mr. Arnold served as a Lance Corporal with the London Irish Rifles during the Second World War, having been a member of the Territorial Army before the outbreak of war. In Italy in 1945 he suffered shell wounds which affected his sight and injured his neck and chest, and he was blind until his sight improved temporarily in 1949. Later in life Mr. Arnold's sight deteriorated, and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1973, by which time he had retired from his work with an engineering firm for health reasons.

Although he had to live with a certain amount of difficulty where his health was concerned, Mr. Arnold was a keen gardener, and

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. D. Cribben, of Leigh, in Lancashire, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on December 26th.

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

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. B. Blacker, of Peacehaven, on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on December 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Blackmore, of Cardiff, on the celebration of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Brown, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, celebrated on December 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Causey, of Paignton, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on December 4th.

an adventurous traveller, having visited Tunisia, Malta, Yugoslavia and Spain in recent years. He was also deeply involved with the lives and many interests of his large family.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, Mary, and to all their children and grandchildren.

R. Austin, *Inniskilling Fusiliers*

Mr. Robert Austin, of Morecambe, Lancashire, died on November 26th 1988 following a serious illness.

Mr. Austin served with the Inniskilling Fusiliers during the Second World War, and it was while in India that the vision in his left eye deteriorated very suddenly, and despite a total of 14 months of hospital treatment, this condition unfortunately did not improve. Before the war, Mr. Austin had been a coal miner, but after

In Memory *continued*

his vision became impaired he worked for many years as a factory hand and as a building worker. He joined St. Dunstan's in the borderline category in 1967, and became a full St. Dunstaner in December 1973 following a further deterioration in his sight. In 1974 Mr. Austin undertook industrial training and worked as a machinist at a local factory until he had to take early retirement for health reasons.

His retirement hobbies were picture framing and later wrought iron work, at which he was very skilled, producing many pieces of his own design.

We send our sympathy to his widow, Marion, and to all the family.

H.T. Harding, *Shropshire Light Infantry, Somerset Light Infantry*

Henry (Harry) Thomas Harding, of Bagborough, Somerset, passed away at home on November 22nd 1988. He was 77 years old, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1961.

Mr. Harding enlisted in 1929 with the Shropshire Light Infantry, later joining the Somerset Light Infantry in which he served as Sergeant until his discharge in 1952. During his time as a regular soldier he suffered two separate accidents, as a result of which he lost most of his sight.

He was trained at Brighton where he learned braille and typing, and excelled in handicrafts, particularly wrought iron. On his return to civilian life he ran a country pub for some time, and later started a garage/coach hire business which he built up with the help of his first wife Jeannie and their two sons. Jeannie sadly died in January 1987. Mr. Harding remarried, having met his second wife, Jean Kathleen Mitchell, whilst she was working part time at Ian Fraser House.

We extend our sympathy to her, his two sons, Rodney and Gordon, and other members of the family.

H.S. Mantle, *Royal Navy*

Horace Sidney Mantle, of Selsdon, passed away in hospital on December 8th 1988. He was 70 years old, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1982.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy in December 1939, and became Leading Stoker on *HMS Electra*. When she was sunk in February 1942 in the Battle of the Java Sea, he was taken prisoner, and it was during this time in captivity that he earned his nickname 'Cheerful Charlie of Battersea'. Although he retained his indomitable spirit, these years took their toll on his health, which unfortunately deteriorated steadily.

He was a great family man, and last year he and his wife, Rose Doreen, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. He leaves a widow, daughter and grand-daughter, and we extend our sincere sympathy to them and other members of the family.

H.J. Pownall, *Corps of Royal Military Police*

Herbert James Pownall, of Old Coulsdon, died suddenly on November 16th, aged 72. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 46 years.

Mr. Pownall enlisted in the Army in 1934, and was serving with the Corps of Royal Military Police in Damascus when he was blinded in a motor cycle accident in 1942. He returned to England via South Africa, and trained as a telephonist at Church Stretton. He had worked as a nurse at St. Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, before joining the Army, and returned there in 1944 as a telephonist, before finally retiring in 1971. He was a keen gardener and a good cook, and always kept himself very fit. Escorted by his brother from Canada, he had taken part in the Remembrance Day parade three days before he died.

His first wife died in 1971. He is survived by his second wife, Lena, and two daughters from his first marriage. He will be greatly missed by his friends and the staff at St. Dunstan's, and we extend our sympathy to all members of the family.

P. Sheehan, *1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment*

Patrick (Paddy) Sheehan passed away at Pearson House on Sunday, November 13th. He was 76 years old, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

He enlisted in July 1940 as a Private with the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, and fought until he was injured in India in 1944, when he lost his sight, and most of the fingers on his right hand. Some 25 years later he was warmly greeted by Lord Mountbatten at the Cenotaph at a wreath-laying ceremony on behalf of the Burma Star Association, where Mr. Sheehan was representing those who fought at Kohima.

Following his discharge in 1944, Paddy was trained at Church Stretton and later ran a tobacconist shop until 1972. In his spare time his main interests were canework and gardening.

His wife, Doris, to whom he was married for 38 years, sadly died in 1983. He went on living in Redbridge after her death, until he became a permanent resident at Pearson House earlier this year. He leaves three sons, and we extend our sincere condolences to them, and to other members of the family.