

**St Dunstons  
Review  
March 1989**

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Cover Picture: St. Dunstaner  
Jim Blake on horseback at the  
Huntley School of Equitation.  
See page 8.

## From the Chairman

I think it possible that some St. Dunstaners may not know the facts concerning the Gubbay Trust, and hence may have an incorrect impression of it.

In 1971 St. Dunstan's received a bequest from the late Mrs. Diana Gubbay. This was a half share of the residue of her estate and the bequest created a charity separate from St. Dunstan's and with separate accounts. The terms are such that St. Dunstan's has complete discretion in the ways in which the gift may be applied and it is used for the relief of people whose blindness is not due to their Service.

With the agreement of the Charity Commission, St. Dunstan's provides services and facilities for Gubbay Trust Beneficiaries but I cannot stress too strongly that this does *not* deprive any St. Dunstaner of benefit. *All* costs are met from the Gubbay Trust Fund, and no expenditure falls on St. Dunstan's own resources.

There is no other ex-service organisation which can provide specialist help for these men and women, who include some ex-FEPOWS and severely wounded. Many are in difficult circumstances and have extremely low incomes but they, too, have served their country.

I am sure that all St. Dunstaners will be glad that, through the Gubbay Trust, it is possible to give some training and assistance to a number of these special people.

*Henry Leach*

## IMAGES OF WAR CASSETTES

A new partwork, 'Images of War', co-produced by Marshall Cavendish and the Imperial War Museum has been announced in advertisements on television. There is, however, a complementary 12 part collection of audio cassettes. Each cassette concentrates on one famous and decisive campaign of the Second World War, and is narrated by some of the most famous voices of today.

The first in the series is 'Operation Dynamo - Evacuation of Dunkirk', narrated by Richard Pasco, the second 'The Battle of Britain - War in the Air' with Sir Anthony Quayle, and the third 'The Blitz - Bombardment of Britain' with Sir Michael Hordern. Others will include 'The War at Sea', 'Dieppe', 'North Africa Campaign' and 'D-Day'. Each cassette lasts at least one hour, and contains reconstructed battle reports, and previously untold eyewitness accounts by the men who were there.

Each of the cassettes costs £4.99 including post and packing, or £13.99 for the first three cassettes. For more information, write to: Enigma, P.O. Box 21, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7QQ.

## Imperial War Museum

St. Dunstan's has become a Corporate Member of the Friends of the Imperial War Museum. At present the main museum building in Lambeth Road, London is closed for the development of a new large exhibit hall, art galleries, shop and licensed restaurant. It will re-open on March 20th.

As a Corporate Member, St. Dunstan's has the use of guest membership cards which provide free entry to the Museum and its outstations: Duxford Airfield for the collection of historic aircraft (except on special days), H.M.S. *Belfast*, moored on the Thames near Tower Bridge, and the Cabinet War Rooms in London. Holders

of the cards are also entitled to discounts on exhibition catalogues and certain items in the Museum shops.

St. Dunstaners interested in visiting any of these exhibitions are welcome to borrow the guest tickets. Please write to Mr. W.C. Weisblatt at Headquarters.

## What's on in 1989 Additions and Alterations

### FISHING

The 1989 Fishing weeks based at Ian Fraser House are May 1st - 5th, July 3rd - 7th, and August 28th - September 1st.

### MASONS

The **Masons'** weekend has been postponed until March 31st - April 2nd.

### COMPUTER WEEKEND

The April **Computer Weekend** is the weekend of the 8th and 9th.

### BRIDGE

The **Three Ways Competition** is at Ian Fraser House from April 28th-30th. The **Bridge Congress** now runs from December 1st-4th.

## Microphones for Sale

A pair of Tandy Super Omnidirectional Dynamic Microphones with foam windmuffs and cables terminating in 6mm standard jack plugs. Frequency range 40 Hz to 17000 Hz, impedance 600 ohms. Cost price £44, asking price £15. If interested, please ring 041 638 1937, after 6 p.m.

## Additions to Cassette Library

The following cassettes have been added to the amateur radio library, and may be obtained by sending the appropriate number of cassettes to the P.R. Department.

R25 5x C90 Passport to Amateur Radio, reprinted from Practical Wireless 1981/1982.

R79 3x C90 Questions and Answers, Amateur Radio.

# SECOND SIGHT

by Jimmy Wright

I attended the launch at the British Telecom Centre in January last year of a video entitled 'Clear Vision in Sound and Touch', produced for Brian Payne, Chairman of Electronic Aids for the Blind. Brian is himself blind and is employed by British Telecom as the Development Officer on Systems and Services working within office Automation for Handicapped Persons. Brian is also a voluntary teacher of the Optacon, a character reading device, and Versabrilie, a method of storing information on a standard audio cassette with a braille print-out of the required information.

At the launch, I met Peter Talbot, Principal of Dorton House School for the Blind, which is situated at Seal, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Dorton House is the principal school for the blind in the South of England, with over 100 boarding and day pupils of all ages, up to 'A' level standard.

## Braille late learners

Peter Talbot discussed with me the need for a video concerned with teaching braille to late starters, pupils between the age of 11 and 16. The aim of the video would be to provide a guide to braille teachers and at the same time, give parents first-hand knowledge of braille teaching procedures and the importance of encouraging their children to learn braille and, indeed, be a source of encouragement to the children themselves. Subsequent to our meeting, Jan and I visited Dorton House School and met Isobel Yule, a teacher of braille for some 20 years, and herself blind from the age of 19. Isobel specialises in teaching late starters, those who develop sight deterioration for one reason or another in their teens. We were most impressed by Isobel's tremendous enthusiasm for the subject and her eloquent presentation of what she had in mind for the proposed video, and came away from Dorton House fired with great enthusiasm to raise the neces-

sary finance for the production.

I serve as a Director of the city based charity 'Opportunities for the Disabled', which has regional branches throughout the U.K., and whose object is to work in close association with Disablement Resettlement Officers with the task of finding employment for disabled persons. 'Opportunities' second most important aim is to encourage employers to change attitudes towards the employment of disabled persons and advise on the financial grants that are available to employers, both for the conversion of premises to enable wheelchair users to gain access — for example, by ramps, the widening of doors, the provision of suitable toilet facilities — as well as specialised equipment to enable the disabled person to work more proficiently.

## Raising finance

I discussed the proposed video on teaching braille to late starters with Sam Gallop, Chairman of 'Opportunities', himself a double amputee; he quickly grasped the importance of the knowledge of braille for visually handicapped young people to enhance their job opportunities after leaving school. Under his leadership, the Committee agreed that 'Opportunities' should raise the necessary finance for the Cinexsa project. The research and script-writing were quickly put into motion by Maurice Stevens, who also directed the video, with the aim of shooting last July, if possible, before the end of the Summer term. Robert Davies and I were Co-Producers of the video and shooting went ahead as planned. After Isobel Yule and her colleagues had viewed the rough-cut of the video, we were asked if our unit could make a return visit to Dorton House for an additional day's shooting in November, to include several more important aspects. All work on the production was completed in January and the launch date for 'Second Sight' will be arranged shortly.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh has graciously contributed a signed letter of encouragement and appreciation:

"To be told that you are going blind is surely one of the greatest challenges that any youngster can face. Special teaching skills are needed to give such pupils the confidence and the ability to play their full part in the world about them.

I congratulate all who have joined with teacher Isobel Yule and "Opportunities" in sponsoring and creating the film *Second Sight*, demonstrating the care, the understanding, and the excellence needed for the teaching of braille to pupils who are losing or have lost their sight.

I hope that *Second Sight* will be widely seen and will have the impact that it merits.'

Additional commentary was recorded by Martin Jarvis and the 25 minute video can be obtained on hire from the Concord Film Council, 201 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich.

## FINDING WORDS ON TAPE

An international guide to audio cassettes of spoken word recordings has just become available. The 1989 edition of *Words on Tape* is issued by Meckler Limited. The 582 page book has an alphabetical title index which includes all relevant information as to publisher and price. U.K. and U.S.A. titles are listed and prices are quoted in pounds or dollars depending on country of origin. There is an author index and a list of publishers and their distributors.

*Words on Tape* is edited and printed in the United States and the listings show an enormous majority of transatlantic publishers but containing, as it does, information on 20,000 spoken word audio-cassettes it is an invaluable source book for individuals and organisations.

*Words on Tape, An International Guide to the Audio Cassette Market, 1989* is published by Meckler Ltd., Grosvenor Gardens House, Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0BS. Telephone 01-931 9985. £26.60 including postage and packing.



## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

*On behalf of St. Dunstan's we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.*

### Mr. L. Hurford, Morecambe.

We welcome Laurence Hurford, of Bare, near Morecambe, who joined St. Dunstan's on December 21st 1988.

Mr. Hurford served with the R.A.F. during the Second World War, as an L.A.C., and following his discharge he worked until retirement age as a salesman with a firm of merchants who specialised in worsted yarn. Unfortunately, Mr. Hurford lost an eye in an accident during his Military Service.

Mr. Hurford is married, and has three children and six grandchildren.

### Mr. A. Day, Walsall.

We welcome to St. Dunstan's Mr. Philip Arthur Day, of Walsall, in the West Midlands, who joined on December 20th 1988.

Mr. Day served with the Army during the Second World War, as a Bombardier in the Royal Artillery, and following his discharge he worked until retirement age as an accountant.

Mr. Day is married with two sons.

### Mr. R.C. Morgan, Porth.

We welcome Mr. Robert Clifford Morgan of Porth, Mid Glamorgan, who joined St. Dunstan's on January 9th.

Mr. Morgan served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War. After the war he worked as a miner, and later became a building worker, and retired about seven years ago.

Mr. Morgan is a widower, and has five children, one of whom he lives with.

# A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

When the question of fast reading was being much canvassed a woman wrote to one of the Sundays: 'I learned fast reading by the old fashioned method,' she said, 'terror,' and with this one word reminded the older amongst us how successful education used to be before the humane treatment of pupils replaced the kind of thing we went through in the days when fear of the consequences of non-cooperation, not love of learning, was what drove us reluctantly along.

When young Samuel Johnson's school master, Hunter, was mercilessly flogging his pupils he was wont to say, 'And this I do to save you from the gallows.' Brutality brutalises, said Socrates, and all of us know that corporal punishment is a sign of failure on the part of the teacher, and the beginnings of a dogged determination on the part of recalcitrant pupils to reject what education has to offer. 'I whacked Willy today' says A.S. Neill in his 'Dominic's Log', not with any feeling that he had done Willy good, but only that anger and frustration had driven Neill to do what he knew to be wrong, as much for Neill as for Willy. This was the Nazi way, and not the least atrocious feature of the German educational system under Hitler was that whoever came last in anything was the automatic recipient of a beating. If you have read 'Tom Sawyer' recently you will notice that in St. Petersburg, Missouri, in the middle of the 19th century, education saw the master's switch as a natural prerequisite if boys and girls were to emerge from school in any way qualified to make their way in the world.

Brute force was seen as the answer to ignorance, and the extraordinary thing is

how this philosophy seems up to a point to have worked when philosophers said it shouldn't. The fact is that we don't live in a perfect world, the institutions of society have to fall back on expediency, and if boys and girls won't embrace the discipline of learning and thought, then compulsion must come in, compulsion backed by something that hurts. In the good old days when you learned, whether you liked it or not, we were terrified of our schoolmasters and schoolmistresses. The boot is now on the other foot, for teachers are nowadays terrified of their pupils, and I very much doubt if any social benefits will accrue from any educational arrangement where teaching is subservient to the mere keeping of order in classrooms, and not the biro but the flick knife is the thing that counts.

Perhaps the young are only getting their revenge at last for hundreds of years of cruelty inflicted on them in the past in the name of education. Will it make for better teaching, this brutality visited upon their masters by rebellious juveniles? According to the old theory, thus seen in reflex, it ought to, but on the other hand we may be seeing in these sinister developments in the classroom yet another sign of decline and degeneration in our society, an indication that something is rotten in the state of Denmark. 'Every new generation', says Arnold J. Toynbee, 'represents a fresh invasion of barbarians,' and the problem remains, as it has always been a problem in civilised societies, of how best to domesticate this onrush of successive generations, and bond them to the service of mankind.

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## Paperback Books Wanted

Staff at Ian Fraser House are hoping to establish a library of paperback books for the use of visitors. If any St. Dunstaners have books that they wish to donate, then please bring them with you the next time you visit Ian Fraser House, and pass them on to Sue Reynolds.

## WALLY

*T. Walker's Tribute to the late  
Wally Thomas*

You can keep your tales of Waterloo  
Old Sam and all he didn't do  
And we all know little Albert  
With his trip to Blackpool Zoo

I have a tale more modern  
Though not quite up to date  
It tells of Wally Thomas  
The Air Force, and his mates

Now Wally was a Hampshire Lad  
A country accent to boot,  
They took him off to old Baghdad  
And they taught him how to shoot

A wild and woolley country boy  
They soon gave him his mark  
Not for him the Airplane joy  
No, the bomb disposal lark.

As with everything else he did  
He gave it of his best  
Intent to earn his honest quid  
He did it too with jest

The biggest bomb was 'Herman'  
And feared by one and all  
Across our war torn country  
This German bomb would fall.

But Wally never feared them  
Though deep inside the ground  
He dug deep holes around them,  
Until the door was found.

Then Oh! so very gently  
His hands removed the fuse  
He cleaned out all the powder  
With only his hands to use

The bomb was safe, they gave a cheer,  
But Wally hadn't  
He had to burn the powder  
And Wally didn't run ...

It burnt off all his uniform  
He lay there on the ground,  
But as usual he did not conform,  
And Wally alive was found

He couldn't hear, he couldn't see  
But living was his game,  
And let us not forget it  
Wally Thomas was his name.

We talked to him with fingers  
He wrote to us with braille  
The memory of him lingers  
His smile would never fail.

He showed us all the way to live  
This very 'Jolly' chap  
So if you start to grumble  
Think of what fell, on Wally's lap!!!

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## GUY IN THE DRIVING SEAT

St. Dunstaner Guy Bilcliff, of Gloucester, is seen here in a picture which recently featured in his local paper, *The Citizen*, with a story about the wooden toys which Guy makes for local playgroups.





Wendy Wadsworth, Jim and Sarah Matthews with Melton.

## Blind Rider

by David Castleton

It all began seven years ago, when Jim Blake retired from his work as an inspector at the Rank Xerox factory in Micheldean, near Ross-on-Wye, where he lives. 'A neighbour told me a friend ran the local scheme of Riding for the Disabled and asked if I would be interested. I'd never done anything like that before so I thought I would give it a try.'

For his first visit to the stables he was collected by Mrs. Sarah Matthews, who has been his friend and mentor ever since. 'At first I thought, "My God, this man will never learn to ride" but once we started lessons his improvement was startling.' The lessons were Sarah's suggestion, 'I soon saw that Riding for the Disabled was not right for Jim. After all, he is not disabled — he just can't see.'

Nowadays Jim alternates between hacking in the summer at the Greenbank Riding School, Marden, owned and run by Mrs. Nick Sanders, and indoor tuition at the Huntley School of Equitation, owned by Mrs. Torill Freeman. At Greenbank he

rides Tanya, a bouncy, active, anglo-arab mare accompanied by instructress, Carolyn Bufton, and, of course, Sarah.

By contrast at Huntley he rides Melton, a solid, 17 year old, light bay, gelding whose only command of the English language is 'halt' and it takes an enormous amount of effort to make him go.'

In the summer Jim rides free, his sighted companions simply give warning of overhanging branches or other hazards. On Tanya he rides on roads and bridle ways over distances up to seven miles. 'I have never fallen although on one occasion in the Forest of Dean I had an encounter with a tree branch. Normally my companions give a shout but I think their attention must have wandered because a branch hit my chest. In a split second I thought, "Do I lie down or grab hold of the branch?" I lay back and it brushed over me, otherwise I would have been off the horse.'

Winter is spent in the indoor school at Huntley. Here Jim is working on the lunge

under the tuition of Wendy Wadsworth. The lunge is a long rein attached to a special noseband and horse and rider move in a circle around the instructor. Jim does exercises to improve his position. 'This is very important,' he explained, 'There is a correct way to sit. Once we were going along a quiet country lane and suddenly a goat put his head over the hedge. The horse spooked but I didn't have to grab the mane because my position was correct.'

Sarah agreed, 'Jim used to sit *on* the saddle — very detachable — now he sits *in* the saddle. He has a good enough seat now and won't be detached easily.' Jim continued: 'I always have Melton. He is a sort of general purpose horse. He gets all the learners and he knows it! You have to learn to move with the horse, to feel the different paces through your back and I do a variety of exercises to help me with this. Initially I was using muscles I hadn't used much before and because I was fit, any slight stiffness soon passed.'

Future aims include taking up dressage, Jim is very keen on this, and Sarah thinks that, in a year or so, Jim will be ready to tackle a ten-mile long distance ride in an event organised by the Hereford Riding Club.

She is pleased with his progress. She observes all he does, corrects and criticises constructively. As far as riding is concerned, she has become his eyes. Jim is fortunate to have found someone pre-

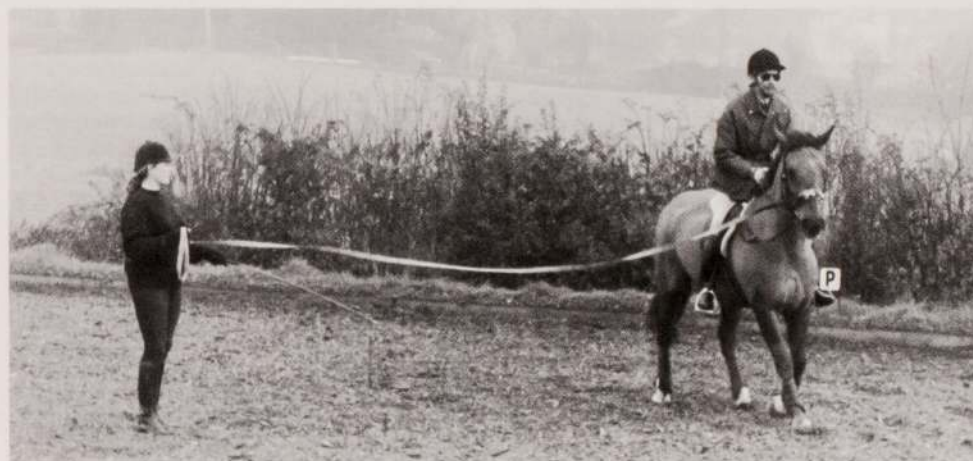


Jim gets some advice from Wendy Wadsworth.

pared to commit herself over such a long period. Her answer is simply, 'It has been very rewarding. He is so good.'

As for Jim himself, 'I have had a great deal of enjoyment over that time. A new skill in the process of being acquired and getting about in the open air. There is a little pump of adrenalin when you get on a horse: How long can I stay on? I am past that stage now, of course, but it still offers excitement and a challenge.'

Lunge practice — essential for correct posture.



## D. F. Robinson's **GARDENING NOTES**

First of all, may I wish you all the best in the garden and greenhouse this year with a good show of colour and plenty of items from the vegetable garden for use in the house. This month is the real start of the work in the garden, which should begin by getting all the vegetable beds dug over, to make the soil ready to receive the seeds or greenhouse plants already growing. Some shrubs may have been loosened by the Winter gales, so get them tightened up, and any shoots broken down should be cut away with the secateurs. Should you need to do any crazy paving repairs, this is best done when there are no frosts around.

### **Vegetables**

All the soil which was dug over earlier on and left rough for the frost to get at should be broken up with the rake and hoe, and the earth made fine for the reception of seeds which can be sown towards the end of the month particularly if the weather is suitable. Many items which you started off from seed in the greenhouse and which are growing well may be transferred to frames or a sheltered area and given a cover of plastic sheeting, particularly at night. Sprinkle one of the powders for preventing insect damage to roots around, and also put down a general fertiliser which will be ready for the plants and seeds when put in their places. Early potatoes can now be put in their place, about four inches deep, with the main shoots facing upwards. Rub off all the shoots which are at the bottom of the tuber. There may still be a few vegetables in the last stages of growth, so pull them out and put on the compost heap or in the rubbish bin. The soil here should be dug over and made ready for planting of small plants or sowing some seeds later on.

### **Fruit**

Complete any pruning now, and spray trees with insecticide to stop any damage to the flower buds which will be showing quite well now. No new trees should be

planted after this month until the Autumn, although areas to be used in Autumn can be dug over and prepared now. All soil around trees and bushes should be lightly forked and hoed every so often to keep weeds at bay, and compost can be added to stimulate growth.

### **Lawns**

Grass should be given some attention when there are no frosts, and the whole lawn should be raked over, and some fertiliser spread. Don't use any weedkiller at the moment, as this may damage any new shoots. If your lawn is growing quite quickly, give it a run over with the mower, the blades being set high so that only the top of the lawn is cut.

### **Flowers**

If the weather is not frosty, some perennials and hardy annuals can be started outdoors, and those grown in the greenhouse moved outside. With begonias it is better to wait until they have good shoots showing. Clear the areas around the shrubs and perennials, and add some good soil and compost or manure around plants to give them a good start and protect the roots from frosts. When you have some of the perennials showing, some can be dug up and broken from the main plants and set in other parts of the borders. It might be a good thing to dig up the centre portion of the plants and throw them away, as they will be past their best. Anemones, gladioli and dahlias can also be planted outside, but only when given frost protection by adding extra soil when planting. Canes can also be used to support the shoot growth. Tidy hardy annuals which are looking the worst for wear by trimming away tatty pieces, and giving them some general fertiliser to force good flowering.

### **Greenhouse**

Tidy the whole place ready for the new season. Most of the cinerarias will be past their best now, and can be discarded.

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **From Mrs. M. Morrish, of Peacehaven**

Both myself and my family wish to thank all friends at St. Dunstan's for the many letters and cards of sympathy they sent me on the loss of my dear husband Jim Morrish, who passed away on October 12th 1988.

I would like to thank the Matron and all the staff at Pearson House for the way they looked after my husband, they were so very kind and helpful.

I would also like to thank St. Dunstan's H.Q. for all the help they are giving me.

### **From Kate and Percy Stubbs, of Norwich**

May we thank all our friends for the wonderful cards, gifts and good wishes on our Anniversary. Also Miss Mosley and staff at Head Office for the lovely bouquet of flowers. Our appreciation to you all for your kind thoughts on this occasion.

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### **Gardening Notes *continued***

Begonias and gloxinias started from seed earlier on will need to be sorted out and put into pots to give you a good show later on. Achimene, begonia and gloxinia tubers saved from last year can be put into potting soil to give good plants with fine flowers in early Summer either in the house, or to plant out in the garden. Most of the plants to be grown in borders should be started at once in trays near the source of heat, with plastic sheeting over them to keep the heat and moisture in. Dahlia roots saved from last year can be started off in moist peat, being transferred to pots with a bit of tuber with roots attached. Cuttings which are growing well can also be repotted for growth, and tomatoes can be started in small pots with a few seeds in each.

### **From Dorothy Martin, of Emsworth, Hants.**

My husband and I would like to express through the *Review* our appreciation and thanks for the lovely time given to all of us by all the staff during the Christmas period.

As at other times when we have been at Ian Fraser House, we found nothing but kindness, courtesy and consideration. We, together with others, spent our first Christmas at Ian Fraser House, and experienced a wonderful time thanks to excellent organisation.

The concert was a superb effort by the staff in spite of sickness and difficulties, and the New Year's Eve Dance was a great success.

May the good work still go on.

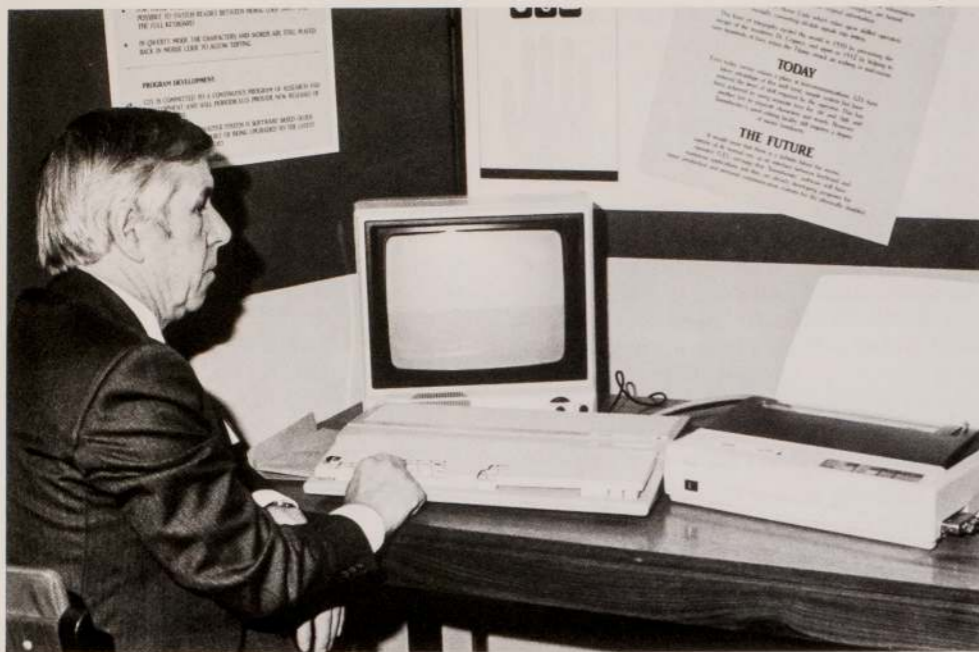
### **From Syd Scroggie, of Kirkton of Strathmartine**

It's a bad sign, it used to be said, when a shepherd has his jacket off at the lambing, and we may yet see some weather, but now at the end of January, there is no snow in the highland hills, only a patron or two in remote corries, the east of Scotland has never recorded up to now a warmer winter, and for the first time in its meteorological history Glasgow recorded not one single night of frost in the month of December.

It can't be the fairies, as in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, not the gunfire, as in the Great War, and I don't think it's the ozone layer, if only because there was pretty much as mild a winter in 1952. At any rate, and this will be of interest to the *Review's* Mr. Robinson, I've had to cut all my grass already, the first time I've done this in January during my 39 years at Roseangle. It can be as late as April before I get out my mower, when the willow warblers have arrived, but now not so much as the first song-thrush has opened its beak.

# MORSE WORD PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR BLIND PEOPLE

by Sean Kelly



Terry demonstrates the new system.

St. Dunstaner Terry Walker was asked for his assistance by a company named 'GTL' in the development stages of a new computer system for the visually handicapped. Terry was the ideal person, as he works on the switchboard at Ian Fraser House, where he needs to find telephone numbers, addresses and take messages — among his other duties.

The system is made up of a computer, a printer, all the relevant leads, and a word processor which can be operated with just nine keys, using morse code as the input means. A 'keyboard overlay' is also provided, which lies over the traditional 'qwerty' keyboard, leaving just the relevant keys visible. Also provided with the system are a number of prepared floppy disks, and recorded and written instructions. Two keys are used to input a letter in morse, and the computer will then 'bleep' the letter back for checking. After a document has been completed, it can be

'bleeped' back, at a number of speeds, to check that the document reads properly.

The computer is an Atari STfm, and uses the more sturdy 3¼ inch disks in an integral disk drive in the side of the computer, making it easily accessible. Although it is a different system from the more common IBM and compatibles, it will produce files which can be used with IBM computer, provided it has a 3¼ inch disk drive (For example the new Amstrad PC 200). The printer is a Citizen printer, which has a row of three raised keys facilitating ease of use.

'We wanted the blind user to be able to get the system up and running with the minimum of fuss', Robert Forgan, Chief Executive of GTL told me, 'which is why we have included everything needed, from the plugs to formatted disks ready for use'. Certainly Terry Walker had no trouble getting to grips with the system — 'I only used it for the first time a few weeks

ago, and am now using it all the time at Ian Fraser House'. Although the word processor is fairly simple, Terry has found it has many uses.

I have several files. The first is a memo file, where I store any messages which I receive, and have to pass on. I have also got two files for telephone numbers. One is a list of staff telephone numbers, and the second is numbers which I, or other people, might need — Taxis, and so on. I also use a file for telephone and 'bleeper' failures, and finally a file called 'last', which is all the material which I am currently working on, and which needs to be moved to the appropriate file the next day.

Terry also showed me how he uses the 'wordsearch' facility to find information or telephone numbers. 'If I wanted the telephone number of a taxi service, I would call up the wordsearch, and ask it to find any use of the word 'taxi', which it will then print on the screen, or sound with morse output, with the appropriate number. If I wish, it will then go on to the next 'taxi' entry, and so on.' He has also used the

system to produce letters and other documents without too much trouble.

Terry does have reservations about the limit of applications, however. 'My own view is that the inherent slowness of inputting by morse will preclude it from a commercial capability, and so it is, I feel, most useful as a therapeutic exercise'. Other people have wondered, however, if it would be useful to handless St. Dunstaners, or if the system could be adapted for use by blind-deaf people, by using a vibratory device to distinguish the 'dit' and 'dah' of morse.

A further appraisal of this system can be found in the report of the Computer Weekend published in the Jan./Feb. issue. The system costs around £880, which also includes a commitment from GTL for revised versions with additional features as time progresses, free of charge for system owners.

Those interested in more information on the system should telephone GTL on Fareham (0329) 822905.

## On this day . . .

by Sean Kelly

On March 10th fifteen years ago, World War Two ended. No, really, I mean it. For, in 1944, one Hiro Onida was sent to the Phillipines with strict instructions to wage a one-man guerilla style war with anyone who was unfortunate enough to encounter him. This would all be fine, except that the Japanese forgot to go and retrieve him in 1945.

Consequently, Onida continued to battle on, and it was not until 1974 that he was persuaded to end his war. After attempts by his family and dignitaries to persuade him to stop had failed, his commanding officer, who worked as a bookseller, finally got him to end World War Two.

On March 14th 110 years ago, Albert Einstein, the greatest physicist the world has known, was born. Incredible though it

sounds, he was working as a clerk when his 'Theory of Relativity' was published, which when put in a basic form actually means that what time it is depends where you are.

'The moronic brain child of a mental colic. Voodoo nonsense. By 1940, the relativity theory will be considered a joke' said George Gillette, promoting his alternative 'backscrowing theory of gravity'. You remember George Gillette don't you? Don't you?

Einstein also did much of the research which enabled the production of the atom bomb, and on learning that it had been used in Japan, is reputed to have said 'Had I known, I would have become a plumber'. Quite.



The prototype pavement is tested.

## TEXTURED PAVEMENTS FOR BLIND PEDESTRIANS

Raised surface patterns on pavements which can be interpreted like Braille to guide and warn blind pedestrians are being developed by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory and the Centre for Transport Studies at Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Previous work by TRRL led to the widespread use of the 'blistered' pavement at pedestrian crossings. This has proved popular with blind people and new research has been initiated to expand the idea to cover a range of other features which cause problems for blind pedestrians. For example, different patterns could give direction information, or warn of hazards such as obstructions, platform edges and level crossings.

The £25,000 project will investigate the number of different patterns that can be distinguished without causing confusion, and lay down standards so that the same patterns mean the same throughout the country. Scientists will also ensure that the surface textures do not cause inconvenience to other groups such as those with walking difficulties and in wheelchairs.

Results of the trials, which will include assessment by blind and sighted people, will be available in August 1989.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON SOCIAL CLUB

December 14th was the date of the Wednesday Afternoon Christmas Party for regular members, who enjoyed the company of Mrs. Dacre, Miss Stenning and Miss Pike, who is not now able to come every week. A very pleasant afternoon was spent playing a domino drive, followed by games of bingo for which there were prizes.

We thank the catering staff for a really lovely tea, after which singing was with Ernie Took, whom we thank. Christmas cards were exchanged and all members received a gift, our thanks to Bob and Joan Osborne.

December 17th was the Christmas Dance, which was quite well attended, the dancing was interrupted for Mrs. Dacre to present the prizes for competitions over the year, the results published earlier. The next break in the dancing was for the buffet, followed by the raffle which Miss Stenning helped get under way.

A very happy evening was called to an end at 11.15 approx. Our grateful thanks to Commander Conway for the buffet and transport on all occasions.

We welcome any members who are in the House during the year.

P. O'Kelly.

### BRIDGE

We played the first match in the West Sussex Inter Club League on Sunday January 29th, against West Sussex A, winning by 13 victory points to 3. Our team was: W. Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, B. Evans, B. Phillips, Reg Goding, M. Tybinski, Ralph Pacitti and Bill Allen. Our second match was against Crawley, where we had a very pleasant and interesting afternoon and won the match by 15 victory points to 1. Our team consisted of: Ralph Pacitti, Bill Allen, Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Reg Goding and Mike Tybinski.

### PAIRS January 8th

|     |                                 |       |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1st | Mr. and Mrs. Pacitti            | 68.0% |
| 2nd | Bill Phillips and Mrs. Andrews  | 63.9% |
| 3rd | W. Lethbridge and Mrs. Tebitt   | 52.8% |
| 4th | Bob Evans and Miss Stenning     | 51.4% |
| 5th | Mrs. Tybinski and Vic McPherson | 42.3% |
| 6th | Reg Goding and Miss Sturdy      | 41.7% |
| 7th | Clem Clements and Mrs. Clements | 41.0% |
| 8th | Peter Surrudge and Mrs. Douse   | 38.9% |

### INDIVIDUALS January 21st

|      |                              |       |
|------|------------------------------|-------|
| 1st  | Bill Allen                   | 63.0% |
| 2nd  | Bill Phillips                | 62.0% |
| 3rd  | Bob Fullard                  | 61.0% |
| 4th  | Ralph Pacitti                | 56.0% |
| 5th  | Miss Stenning                | 51.0% |
| 6th  | Mrs. A. Clements             | 47.7% |
| 7th  | Mrs. Pacitti and Miss Sturdy | 45.5% |
| 9th  | W. Lethbridge                | 44.3% |
| 10th | Reg Goding                   | 42.1% |
| 11th | Mr. Tybinski                 | 40.9% |
| 12th | Bob Evans                    | 38.6% |

## FAMILY NEWS

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Sally Bargery, grand-daughter of Mr. Charles Bargery, of Aylesbury, on gaining the Health Visitors diploma after a year's postgraduate course at Oxford.

Peter Farnen, son of Mrs. H. Farnen and the late Mr. H. Farnen, of Manchester. Peter, who was born with a spastic disability, recently participated in a sponsored swim for his local handicapped swimmers club, and swam 100 lengths in just 84 minutes.

Mr. Keith Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Richardson, of Kempsey, Worcester, on completing 15 years service in the R.A.F., and his promotion to Chief Technician.

Mr. Terry Williams, son of St. Dunstaner Eileen Williams, is at present working in Tucson, Arizona, on a teacher exchange scheme. In December 1988 he was presented with a copper plaque by the Mayor of Tucson, recording his award of Honorary Citizenship of the city for his outstanding work in the exchange scheme.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. P. Stubbs, of Norwich, Norfolk, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on January 14th.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Peggy Booth, widow of the late Mr. P. Booth, of Wimborne, Dorset, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Kylie Jane, as sister for Charlotte, who was born on January 4th 1989, to David and Joan Booth.

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Phillips, of Saltdean, on the birth of a great grand-daughter, Toni Louise, born on November 24th 1988, to their grand-daughter Donna and her husband Tom Garston.

### DEATHS

#### We offer our condolences to:

Mr. F. Baugh, of Stafford, on the death of his mother, who passed away in October 1988.

The family and friends of Mrs. Olive Clare, widow of the late Mr. J. Clare, of Petersfield, who passed away on January 5th.

Mr. J. Cowan, of Rottingdean, and other members of his family, on the death of his brother, Raymond David, who died suddenly in Birmingham on January 10th, aged 59.

The family and friends of Mrs. Gwendoline Mary Brown, widow of the late Mr. G.



## Family News *continued*

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*Brown*, of Sunbury-on-Thames, who died on January 26th, aged 87.

The family and friends of Mrs. Mary Cunningham, widow of the late *Mr. W. Cunningham*, who passed away on January 12th.

Mrs. Evelyn Dudley, widow of the late *Mr. I.E. Dudley*, of Kingswinford, on the death of her mother, who passed away recently, aged 93.

Mrs. Dorothy Monks, and other members of the family of Mrs. Hannah Hocking,

widow of the late *Mr. Harry Hocking*, who passed away at home on January 11th.

*Mr. G.W. Pullen*, of Pearson House, on the death of his wife, Doris, who passed away on January 15th. They had been married for 70 years.

The family and friends of Mrs. Doris Ross, widow of the late *Mr. P. Ross*, of Petersfield, who passed away on January 22nd, aged 88.

The family and friends of Mrs. Gaynor Warren, widow of the late *Mr. A.C. Warren*, on her sudden death on January 12th.

## In Memory

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

### **H. Howard**, *Pioneer Corps*

Mr. Herbert Howard, of Worthing, passed away at Pearson House on January 12th, aged 77. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1958.

Mr. Howard enlisted in 1940 in the Pioneer Corps, and was invalided out two years later whilst serving in the Shetlands. He and his wife owned a small hotel in Wakefield, and continued to run this until his admission to St. Dunstan's. Unfortunately, poor health prevented him from undertaking any training. His main hobby was his garden and his greenhouse, and he moved to the south coast in 1959.

He was married to his wife Marjorie for 52 years, and they had one son, and one daughter, and we extend our sympathy to them and their families.

### **B.S. Kainey**, *R.A.F.*

We are very sad to record the death of Brynley Silas Kainey, who lived permanently at Pearson House, and who passed away on January 29th after a brief illness. He was 86 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for just over 10 years.

Mr. Kainey served with the R.A.F. during the Second World War, and was injured in Birmingham in 1941 when he lost his left eye. After the war, he did not return to his previous occupation as a coal miner, but worked in a factory until retirement age, and it was only after this, at the age of 76, that Mr. Kainey joined St. Dunstan's, as the sight in his right eye also deteriorated.

Sadly, Mr. Kainey was widowed when his daughter Megan was only three years old, and

later in life he lived with his daughter and son-in-law, and they looked after him devotedly. While he was well enough, our St. Dunstaner enjoyed a little gardening, and some social activities in his locality.

In 1981, Mr. Kainey moved down to Pearson House as a permanent resident, where he was very happy and had many friends, and frequent visits from his daughter.

We send our deepest sympathy to Megan and Roy Harries, their son Delme, and all the family.

### **W.A.L. Purves**, *Airborne Forces, Air Observation Posts*

Captain William Alexander Lamb Purves, of Bristol, passed away at Pearson House on January 13th, aged 60. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 31 years.

A regular soldier until he was accidentally blinded in 1957, Alec served with the Airborne Forces and later became a pilot on Air Observation Posts flying Auster artillery observation aircraft in Germany. His injury prevented him from retraining, but he became an excellent weaver, making lengths of material on his two looms, and scarves in his old battery colours. He taught braille to local pupils and devised his own way of teaching Moon, using large, plastic cards for every symbol and character. He was also passionate about music and built up an exceptional record library which he has bequeathed to St. Dunstan's.

He married in 1986, and is survived by his widow, Margaret, to whom we offer our sympathy.