

St Dunstons
Review
August 1989



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Cover Picture: Mrs. Eunice Harwood presents the Dacre Trophy to George Allen: See Archery's Triple Champion on centre pages.

From the Chairman

75th Anniversary

I am grateful to all those who sent in suggestions on how we might celebrate, next year, this notable milestone — probably our last this century. These have now been sifted and analysed and plans are beginning to take shape.

In addition to the normal programme of Reunions our special celebrations are likely to be centred on two events: a Garden Party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace during the afternoon of Wednesday, 1st August and, later that same evening, an Anniversary Dinner in a London hotel. It is not yet possible to say whether Her Majesty The Queen (as our Patron) or any other member of the Royal Family will be able to honour the Garden Party with their presence.

The biggest problem is that of reserving sufficient accommodation within reach of London for the nights of 31st July and 1st August. We really need to book now, so please write to David Castleton (who is co-ordinating the arrangements) at Headquarters without delay — by the end of September would be helpful — if, as I hope, you would like to come to London.

Administration of Brighton Homes

It is with great regret that I have to tell you that Commander Simon Conway has retired early on health grounds. Many of you will recall his serious illness last autumn and will have admired the resolute way he tackled his full range of duties immediately he returned. Over the months this heavy workload has taken its toll; there is now no sensible alternative to his easing significantly on his way of life. I am sure I speak for us all in expressing warm thanks for all he has done during his eight years with St. Dunstan's.

His departure coincided with some re-organisation of the administration of our Brighton Homes. With immediate effect Major Arthur Neve assumed the post of Manager at Ian Fraser House, management of Pearson House will continue under Matron Chris King and oversight of the services common to both establishments will be vested in a third senior member of staff yet to be recruited. Overall supervision is now exercised by a Management Board headed by Mr. William Weisblatt and composed of Mr. Gerard Frost and the three Brighton Managers. The Board meets monthly in Brighton or more frequently if required. There have been other, less major, consequential adjustments.

Inevitably all this has caused some upheaval; I now look forward to a long period of stability.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday, our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, sent this message of congratulation.

On behalf of St. Dunstan's ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world, I should be grateful if you would kindly give our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, our loyal greeting on the celebration of her birthday on Saturday, June 17th.

We send Her Majesty all our good wishes.

Mr. Kenneth Scott C.M.G., Assistant Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, replied on her behalf.

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you and all St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world, for your kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

Her Majesty much appreciated this message and warmly reciprocates your good wishes.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. William van Straubenzee has been elected to the Council of St. Dunstan's. He is 36 and is a Director of Morgan Grenfell Investment Management. He has been in business in the City for 15 years, 10 of them with Morgan Grenfell, and will bring valuable financial experience and advice to our Council.

CLIMBING

For some years, with the help of members of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, groups of St. Dunstaners have visited Snowdonia to take part in climbing expeditions. These have taken the form of long weekends with accommodation in a local hotel. Participants need to be reasonably fit but expeditions will not necessarily be exceptionally arduous. Any St. Dunstaner who might be interested in taking part in a future event, possibly in October this year or the summer of next year should, please, write to the Editor of the *Review* at Headquarters.

SIR EDWIN ARROWSMITH

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, St. Dunstan's most senior Council Member both by age and length of service, celebrated his 80th birthday on 23rd May. Last month saw the 25th anniversary of his appointment to the Council on 24th July 1964.

Many St. Dunstaners will know him as an interesting and amusing speaker and friendly host at reunions. He joined the Council on his return to this country from the Falkland Islands after seven years as Governor and Commander-in-Chief and two years as High Commissioner, British Antarctic Territory.

This was the conclusion of a long and successful career in the service of the Commonwealth which had taken him to Africa and the West Indies. In retirement he has been Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and is now a Vice-President. He was also Director of the Overseas Service Resettlement Bureau from 1965 to 1979.

Sir Edwin was made a Knight Commander, Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1959. He is a keen fly-fisherman.

RETIREMENTS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Mr. John Brown retired as Chief Instructor in the Workshop at Ian Fraser House on 28th July after 20 years' service. After a period of part-time service, Mr. Jock Carnochan leaves his post as Mobility and Sports Officer, which he held for just over 23 years, this month. Some St. Dunstaners have suggested presentation funds. Those who would like to contribute may send donations (by cheque or postal order made payable to 'St. Dunstan's', please) to Major Arthur Neve at Ian Fraser House, Greenways, Ovingdean, Near Brighton, East Sussex.

DON'T MISS THE TEMBANI REUNION

A final reminder for those wishing to attend the Tembani reunion from October 6th to 9th. Would they please book in via Frances Casey at Headquarters as soon as possible.

Reunions

Newcastle, 25th May

Geographically, the Newcastle Reunion is at the top. We go no further north and St. Dunstaners and widows from across the border travel south for a meeting which is top for friendliness, not only among guests but the staff of the Royal Station Hotel, which has been the venue for many years.

We also had the top man to greet the arriving guests, our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, who was accompanied by Lady Leach. The company numbered 68 in all: 19 St. Dunstaners came with their escorts and there were 15 widows as well as guests and staff. Among the guests were Mr. John Stone, Chief War Pensioners' Welfare Officer of the North Eastern Region of the D.S.S. and three retired members of staff in Miss M.A. Midgley, Mrs. I. Plaxton and Miss M. Skinner.

Speaking after lunch Sir Henry welcomed 'a good turn-out' and referred particularly to St. Dunstaners Mike Kelbie and Chris Jordan who were attending their first Reunion. He continued by saying how cheered he was on greeting one of the widows before lunch. 'She told me this was the first Reunion she had been to for 18 years. It is a brave thing to do and it is, quite honestly, what it is all about. I hope that she and her colleagues will keep it up and spread the word to others who have not yet braved it.'

Sir Henry gave the statistics on the family as he put it. He said he was sure his audience would be grateful that he had no particular message, 'Beyond that concerning the further improvements at Ian Fraser House and, in consequence, further delay in the removal of the mess and the disruption and the workmen and all that.' He said he would be writing about that in the June *Review* and on a hot day, 'I don't think you want the heavy stuff from me.' The light stuff proved to be an hilarious 'accident report' by the Captain of a



Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach talking with Bill Marsh and Fred Charlick at the Newcastle Reunion.

large container ship which experienced problems and caused mayhem while coming up the Tyne. As each reported incident capped the last the audience was convulsed with laughter and the Chairman's speech concluded to loud applause.

Professor Alan Milne replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners, 'Listening to that story perhaps there is something to be said for having been in the Army after all.' He said that he recalled Sir Henry at a previous Reunion, after the Loyal Toast, saying, 'Somewhat austerely, "Now, ladies and gentlemen, if you absolutely must, you may smoke." How times have changed. I remember, when I was first in the Army, the sergeant taking us for gun drill and when he released us to give a break he would say, "Smoke, those who don't, go through the motions."'

Professor Milne continued with a mixture of amusing army and academic stories, all this was, he said, beside the point, 'Which is that it is my pleasant duty to express the thanks of all of us to Sir Henry and to St. Dunstan's and all the staff which makes this possible and I would like also to mention the hotel staff and thank them for the feast that had been provided and a special word for our own personal St. Dunstan's representative Doreen Inman, who is such a friend to us all in the North East.'

'In the jargon today they talk about the welfare state as a safety net, well St. Dunstan's is very much more than a safety net for us. It's a source of encouragement and support and helps us not only to do our own thing but helps us to find out what that thing is. It really is a great pleasure to be here. We all do value St. Dunstan's and, echoing what Sir Henry said, urging those who have come for the first time to come again, well, I am, sure all of us will'.

After lunch guests were busy seeking out old friends, exchanging the latest news. All too soon, after an excellent lunch and because it brought the afternoon to a close, came tea and, of course, the prize draw. Drawn by Lady Leach and organised by the Welfare Visitors responsible for the Reunion, Doreen Inman and May Anderson.

Liverpool Reunion, 1st June

Sir Richard Pease, accompanied by Lady Pease, received guests as they arrived at the St. George's Hotel. 44 St. Dunstaners and 33 widows attended. Throughout the meal, and during the afternoon, piano accompaniment was provided by David Vaughan Williams. David told the guests that he more usually played the large theatre organ, but he was always delighted to come and play at St. Dunstan's functions.

Sir Richard welcomed everyone and in particular Bob Booth and Sam Keating attending their first reunion. He went on to mention past and future events, the election to the Council of two new members, next year's 75th anniversary celebrations, the modernisation of the North Wing at IFH, and how Pearson House was flourishing. He mentioned the South Downs walk, which had just been completed in aid of the deaf/blind - 'it is good to know that St. Dunstan's is so enterprising and public spirited'. Sir Richard concluded with the statistics of St. Dunstan's and the greetings of the Chairman.

Tom Taylor responded on behalf of the guests. After a couple of little stories about saying 'thank you', Tom went on to

say how easy it was to take things for granted. But he really did want to thank St. Dunstan's for all that they do. He had recently returned from a picture framing course at IFH. It reminded him much of his Church Stretton days, and he was pleased to note the high standard of tuition that is being maintained. Tom concluded by asking Sir Richard to convey to the Chairman and members of Council the thanks of all present.

After the speeches and the presentation of a bouquet by Margaret Bingham, to Lady Pease, another small ceremony took place. Norman Kershaw had recently obtained from an artist friend a painting of a steam locomotive called St. Dunstan. It is thought that this particular engine was used to haul coal wagons to and from a power station in Kent in the 50's. Norman kindly donated the canvas to St. Dunstan's. It was Norman's way of saying 'thank you' to the organisation.

London (Kent & Surrey), 10th June

London is hardly renowned for its climate: fog, yes; smoke, yes. In fact, the days of fog and smog are really mostly memories and if the dates of London Reunions are anything to go by London ought now to be famous for its sunshine. The day of the London (Kent & Surrey) Reunion was a case in point. We could have had an enormous picnic in Russell Square so warm and pleasant was the day. However, it was probably best to stay where we were in the cool of the Hotel Russell.

23 St. Dunstaners were there with their escorts and 33 widows. Other guests included two retired members of our Welfare staff: Miss Phyllis Rogers and Miss Margaret Stevens and present members of staff representing most departments at Headquarters. Mr. Kenneth Wills, M.A., accompanied by Mrs. Wills, was attending his first reunion as presiding Member of Council. They obviously greatly enjoyed the experience and were seen late in the afternoon making many new friends among St. Dunstaners, wives and widows.

Opening his speech of welcome on behalf of the Council, Mr. Wills said it was

a great honour to be presiding over his first reunion. 'As my initiation ceremony I suppose you could relate it to the first ten weeks of square bashing. Coming suddenly into a great organisation like St. Dunstan's, which everybody has heard about but hardly anybody really knows about, I expected to find at Ian Fraser House and Pearson House something, perhaps, between a school and a hospital. In some sense that is true. There are fine facilities, there are outstanding people, there is a great sense of purpose. But, overall, the impression was one of quiet efficiency.

'If efficiency seems a somewhat arid virtue', he continued, 'I can only say that all the good intentions in the world are going to founder unless there is an efficient organisation. St. Dunstan's brilliantly combines the best of the military virtues in its philosophy. There are targets to be achieved. There are new techniques to solve an old problem and new strategies have to be formulated. The task is no light one.'

Mr. Wills welcomed the new Welfare Visitor for Ireland, Mrs. Isobel Rountree and thanked Miss Helen Stewart and Mrs. Vivien Jackson, who were responsible for the organisation of the reunion. He also reported the numbers of St. Dunstaners at home and overseas and the number of widows.

Explaining that he had been a schoolmaster at a boarding school in Surrey he said he felt he could now tell the story of an occasion when, 'School and Services came face to face with each other.' He recalled the visit of an inter-Service display unit with guns and radars, the nose of a Vulcan bomber, ship models and an enormous tank. The boys were greatly interested in the exhibits and the instructors were delighted to have such a keenly interested audience.

'One of them, Stephen, was intrigued by the tank', continued Mr. Wills, 'He asked many intelligent questions and the instructor, not sensing the danger, showed him all he wanted to see. Eventually, late in the evening, the exhibition closed but Stephen wanted to look at the tank again. About two o'clock in the morning he got up and walked down to the field and



Mr. Kenneth Wills chats with Don Planner at the London Reunion.

climbed into this unguarded monster. He had been extremely well taught. It was the work of a moment to press the right buttons, pull the right levers and the engine fired straight away. It seems that the tank must have been left in gear and also that Stephen's very short course was far from complete. He had mastered the art of starting but had omitted to ask about stopping.

'The tank lumbered majestically across 200 yards or so of playing field, aimed straight at the large Victorian house, which was the school sanatorium, with Stephen frantically engaged in pressing every button in sight with no result whatsoever. Eventually, with only a few yards to go to headlines in the national press, he managed to trigger the fire extinguishing system, killing the engine stone dead.'

Mr. Wills explained that the whole thing was hushed up, Stephen was due to leave after his final examinations, 'And we did nothing to delay his departure. The Army, while understandably indignant about this act of vandalism, were not too keen to discuss their security arrangements in public and for some reason we

didn't have an inter-Service weekend after that!'

He congratulated Mr. Harold O'Neill, who was celebrating his 66th birthday at the reunion, and led the singing of 'Happy Birthday', before concluding, 'It has been very pleasant for me and my wife, Nan, to be with you today, happily there are lots more to come and we will look forward to meeting you all.

Mr. Jess Mills responded on behalf of St. Dunstaners. He said his first vote of thanks would be a special one, 'To two people who make this possible for us, they organise everything and they work very hard, Miss Helen Stewart and Mrs. Vivien Jackson.' He thanked Mr. Wills for his speech, 'Being a teacher he should be able to talk!', and asked him to take the thanks of St. Dunstaners to the Chairman and the Council. He also praised the staff of the Hotel Russell before concluding with a joke.

Mrs. Muriel Millen presented a bouquet to Mrs. Nan Wills to complete the formal proceedings and the afternoon went on with a swing. There was dancing for those energetic enough, the prize draw and tea for — no not for two but for 105 very happy guests.

Bristol, June 28th

The 'Round Britain Reunion Roadshow', 1989, ended at the Crest Hotel, Bristol — a very pleasant place for a finale. It is an hotel we know well, there are friendly, familiar faces among the staff; the food is good and the company of West Country and Welsh St. Dunstaners even better.

Despite the 24 hour rail strike, virtually all who were expected were able to come thanks to some brilliant improvisation by the Welfare Visitors responsible for the reunion, Liz Pearce and Irene Newbold. This involved minibuses and cars called up at short notice and some extra nights' bookings at the hotel enabling some to travel by train on the days when there were services running.

St. Dunstan's President, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, accompanied by his wife, Joyce, presided. He is, of course, a St.

Dunstaner himself and Bristol is his local Reunion so he was among friends from the start.

Opening his speech of welcome on behalf of the Council, Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds began by saying who was present: 'Sitting down, there are about 106 of us. First we have 39 St. Dunstaners and a special welcome for Mr. Perrett, who is a First World War St. Dunstaner. We have 32 Second World War St. Dunstaners and six who have joined us since the end of the Second World War. With us we have 11 widows who, we are delighted, are now able to join us at our Reunions, and our numbers are made up then by our wives and escorts.'

There was warm applause when the President referred to the presence of Miss Muriel Meyer, formerly Welfare Visitor for the area and now retired. He went on to speak of a journey round the world he and his wife had made in the course of visiting Australia for the sixtieth anniversary of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Australia. He explained that the size of the country meant that reunions, in the sense that they are known in England, were difficult in Australia so that the diamond jubilee was a rare occasion when a reunion was held. 'In Australia there are 154 St. Dunstaners and they don't have the chance to get together. Only 40 were able to come and those who particularly appreciated it were the wives because they so very seldom have the opportunity to meet other St. Dunstaners wives.'

Another problem for Australian St. Dunstaners said Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, was in having no headquarters or professional staff. They are looked after by the Department of Veteran Affairs, a Government Department. 'They were able to invite the Secretary of State for that Department, Mr. Lionel Woodward and that was like us having one of our Government Ministers at our Reunion. He did admit that he learned a terrific amount, over the two days he was with us, about the problems of blind people and he so enjoyed the Conference that he even asked us to invite him to the dinner afterwards.'



At Bristol, St. Dunstan's President, Colin Beaumont-Edwards, chats with Harry Perret.

One method used to keep Australian St. Dunstaners in touch was the establishment of a Federal Bulletin, said Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, and he went on to say that he had been told they greatly enjoyed receiving *St. Dunstan's Review* from England, 'And they follow the activities that you and I are apt to take for granted.'

The President referred to the new work being undertaken at Ian Fraser House in the North Wing and the establishment of the working party on training. 'When most of us were in training we were all in a huge group. Nowadays the newly blinded St. Dunstaner is likely to be on his own or perhaps with one other. His difficulties are much greater and it is nice to think we have now set up a committee to look at our methods of training to take account of modern technology and the fact the training is more to an individual than a group as it was for most of us just after the Second World War.' He concluded by wishing everyone an enjoyable reunion.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Richard Bingley who began with thanks to Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, 'He is an excellent ambassador for St. Dunstan's as you realise by the visit he has made to Australia and he has made many other important visits. He served with the

Queen's Royal West Surreys in Tunisia in 1943 and gained a most excellent Military Cross. He is admirably supported by his wife Joyce, who is both his eyes and his navigator.'

Richard Bingley expressed thanks to the Chairman and the Council as well as the members of the staff of St. Dunstan's at Headquarters and the Homes in Brighton. He particularly singled out the Welfare Visitors in the South West and Wales, 'We welcome them when they visit us in our homes because they always have a wealth of information and they help us in our problems. Thank you very much, ladies, for the very great kindness you show to us.' He concluded with an expression of appreciation to the staff of the Crest Hotel.

Mrs. Evelyn Woodget, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, David Woodget and a former Care Assistant at Ian Fraser House whom St. Dunstaners will remember as 'Bev', presented a bouquet to Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds and this concluded the lunch-time formalities.

There was music for dancing during the afternoon. Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds made the prize draw and there was tea with scones, jam and cream. How could we eat it after an excellent lunch?



The Padre, the interpreter and the two veterans at the grave of a fellow Marine killed in action in Termoli.

TERMOLI REVISITED

by Joe Humphrey

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious may not be Italian, but even Mary Poppins' famous word could not describe the wonderful week I have just been privileged to spend with my old Commando in Italy. It had been enquired if any veterans of the very successful Termoli raid in 1943 were interested in making a return visit. They didn't have long to wait for my positive reply. As any of my family and friends will tell you, I am the world's leading authority on the Termoli raid, and after a few pints of beer I am liable to bore the pants off the most enthusiastic nut.

Just when my expectations were rising word came through that the trip was a non-starter. Not until two days after a meeting held on the Isle of Wight did my companion for the trip inform me that the trip was back on and we were leaving in five days time. Not many details were available at the time and speculation was rife. It appeared we should fly to Naples and travel by train to Brindisi. We were to be accommodated on a troop carrier and on an appointed day go by coach to Ter-

moli, where we would take part in a parade and memorial service for those who lost their lives in the raid.

So, a new badge was hastily sewn on to a new blazer. The shoes were shone, and after some wonderful organisation by Miss Mosley, our Welfare Officer at St. Dunstan's HQ, my companion Jock and I, met up at Luton Airport, where we were to spend a quiet night before an early departure the next morning. Little did we know that the world and its wife would turn up to see us off. As usually happens when old Commando comrades meet we fought the war all over again, and no one else had the chance to speak. We went through all the raids we had been on together, starting with Dieppe, then Puccino, Syracuse, Catania, Augusta and then from Messina across the straits to Vibo Valenti and of course to Termoli.

It appears that during a period of relaxation during exercises off the Italian coast an historian amongst the present day Commando (its commanding officer in fact) had contacted the Mayor of Termoli

with a view to making a visit with some of the present day members of the Royal Marine group. The town had been of strategic importance during the war because of its convenience to an important highway, railway and harbour, the objective being to keep everything secure for use by the Eighth Army which was coming up the East Coast. We had contained a long perimeter until in the face of enemy tanks and heavy gunfire we had been forced to draw back. The Irish Brigade landed and came through us to hold on to and widen the perimeter. (The late Llew Davies, a St. Dunstan's physiotherapist, was blinded here in this action with the London Irish.)

Apparently it was decided to invite two of the veterans of the raid and we were on our way, for me it was to be one of the most memorable occasions of my life. As we talked about the conditions of our entry to the town 46 years before when we had to spend two nights at sea off the Adriatic coast, later hiding up in thickets of trees during the daytime, we were pleased to be going in considerably greater comfort this time in spite of having to spend a night in Naples and then embark on a seven hour train journey across Italy through the mountains to join the troop-carrier *R.F.A. Sir Geraint*.

It was certainly changed times, portered by a Lieutenant-Colonel, escorted by the Padre, who was a wonderful companion, living in a two-bunk cabin in the officers' quarters, complete with our own wardrobes, and wined and dined each night. First by the officers, a night of feasting in true Italian style with many different fish dishes, mussels galore, anchovies and squid to name but a few, and topped off at the finish by a glass of Grappa. All this preceded by a session in a German bar drinking beer from the very tall glasses, which looked and felt very vulnerable to accident.

The senior N.C.O's entertained us in their mess the following night and then the junior N.C.O's and men had their turn. For my colleague and I the sheer joy of being back with the troops on active service again, apart from the V.I.P. treatment, was unbelievable. The programme for the Termoli visit had now been made clear.

Up at 4.30 a.m., start off an hour later and home at midnight. We had been given the option of staying overnight in Termoli, but were quite happy to come back to the ship, especially as it would make a lot more work for our hosts if we took up this offer.

Briefing

We attend the briefing about the actual raid which covered the entire raid from Scalia, through Tarranta, Bari and Manfredonia, where we lay up before going on to Termoli. Part of the Third Army Commando had formed a bridge-head across the railway together with the brigade H.Q. before 40 Commando arrived to come through them. Each troop going off to its own objective. 'A' troop, which I had led came to take the town, the pier and the foreshore. I was asked to describe events which involved the shooting of my Captain by a sniper, and I was very pleased to learn that the proposed visit included a visit to his grave. Similarly Jock spoke about the events in which he was involved and the officer giving the briefing was able to remind us about many details which we had forgotten. The briefing was given with sound effects and video tapes and was most interesting to us who had been there. My comrade had expressed some difference of opinion about the manner of capture of some German lorries in the way it actually happened and the manner of telling the story nowadays. We were gratified to know that all the officers on board and many of the young marines had attended this meeting and were as interested as we had been.

It appeared that apart from the party of 35 marines delegated to take part in the Termoli parade there were now numerous volunteers for which no room could be found. And so the great day arrived, the troops in their camouflage uniforms and green berets, and Jock and I in our blazers and flannels. When we arrived at the appointed place at 10.30 in the morning the officials were gathered in the square (where General Montgomery had congratulated us on the success of the raid). Jock and I were given a place of honour in front of the dais after laying an enormous

wreath in memory of all who had lost their lives during the course of the raid.

Speeches were made, first in Italian, then translated into English. The speeches told how the people of Termoli realised the sacrifices which had been made in blood to relieve them of their ordeal of living under German occupation, and they hoped that Britain and Italy and other European countries would work together in friendship and in peace for a better civilisation for the future of their children. This was greeted with acclamation, we were told that the many posters round the town asked all the citizens to come and honour the heroes who had delivered them from their nightmare.

Everywhere we went after the service the ordinary folk in the town would come and clap us, several shook hands with us, one man said he remembered Jock from the day of the raid. An Italian official gave his account of the raid seen through the

eyes of an inhabitant, this was most moving. I was quite overcome with the emotion of it all. At the conclusion of the affair the Royal Marines played the town of Termoli at football, the result fortuitously was a draw — three all. Apparently the naval officer who liaised with the officials of the town to arrange the occasion had been welcomed most openly by all but a few communists.

Another day was spent training with the Italian Commandos known as the Saint Marco, on an airfield near Brindisi. We gathered from the observation point that the British were able to show the Italians a thing or two and that on the whole they were much faster.

And so ended a most memorable week, we arrived home without incident, but just for three days, then it was off on another veterans' massed invasion to Monte Casino, the details of which I'll leave to some other scribe.

Joe places a rose on the grave of his Troop Commander Captain Mike Ephraims, M.C.



COMPUTER WEEKEND, 18/19th NOVEMBER

by Ray Hazan

At the last computer weekend, it was agreed to hold more formal instruction classes for those who wanted them. In order to assist those instructing, participants should plan on attending the classes from the beginning and not to 'amble in' half way through. In this way, a more progressive and comprehensive lesson may be given. The three areas of training agreed upon were:

- the HAL speech system
- MS DOS and
- Basic programming.

The provisional program reads as follows:

Saturday 18th	0930-1000	General meeting
	1015-1100	1st training session
	1115-1200	2nd session
	1415-1500	3rd session
	1515-1600	4th session
Sunday 19th	0930-1015	5th session
	1030-1115	6th session
	1130-1200	Closing meeting
	1415 onwards,	workshops for those remaining

Please will you book in through the normal channels, but will you also let me know which subject you would like to study.

A TRIBUTE TO HARRY KING

by Bert Ward

I wish to pay tribute to my friend Harry King, who died so suddenly recently. King by name and king by nature, Harry was a kind, patient man, with an endearing sense of humour and a dignity which lends quality to life.

A man of many achievements, he was a true son of the soil, as was reflected in his beautiful garden. An excellent bridge player, his manner at the table was impeccable. Despite his double handicaps, Harry was a fine craftsman, and won awards for his work.

His wife and I will always treasure the memories of the many happy times we all spent together, and smile about the little mishaps which occurred out of our disabili-

ties. I am sure his dear wife, Bertha, in her sorrow, will gather comfort and strength from the love of their fine family, and from the respect Harry left behind within the 'family of St. Dunstan's'.

THE LATE ERNIE COOKSON

A tribute to their late father, Ernie Cookson, by his loving son and daughter, Robert and Barbara.

You touched us all and in your touch showed us your sight.

In your music you breathed in air and breathed out light.

Determined to learn, you mastered life with intelligence and insight shining out.

In your understanding you showed us love, More guiding of us than we ever guided you.

Your humour and kindness has touched so many . . . But, most of all . . .

Your quiet, strong courage will inspire us for ever . . . Never, never to be afraid of life . . . or even death.

So, do not hug your sorrow close, but cry, then laugh . . .

Remember him and live —

For live, as he did — proud and full of music, laughter and hope.

He lives still with us — and with our God.

Robert

There is so much to be rejoiced in my dad's proud life, where tears seem out of place and no attempted description will suffice.

How can one begin to explain such pure heart and wise excellence "self reverence, self knowledge and self control".

But the words catch in my throat — no truer ones exist But even these cannot capture the vitality and presence of my dad to whom, through such insight, I owe an everlasting debt, of nurtured understanding.

When my own selfish pain fades, and fear of life without him becomes sweet melancholy for the past that has passed,

The memory of his presence will be a beckoning fire inside me, in a coveted corner where I will retreat whenever life becomes a fierce battle or insoluble puzzle.

Here, there will be no sense of loss or pain — only eternal strength, inspiration and gratitude for the unconditional gift of his life and his love.

Whatever greater joy and sweet tears in his name.

I love you dad,

Barbara.

IMAGES OF WAR CASSETTES

Three more cassettes in the Images of War series are now published. They are very much the mixture as before and if this sounds like faint praise, it is not so. Once again the producers have managed to put on to tape an intriguing mix of narrative, reconstructions in sound of historic moments, and actual recordings from correspondents with forces during the Second World War.

The new editions are North Africa, narrated by Richard Todd; War at Sea, narrated by Michael Gambon and the Defence of Malta, narrated by Anthony Hopkins. These hour-long recordings are excellent entertainment but they are also serious essays in war history, albeit in greatly edited form.

The listener, as well as being transported back more than forty years to the beleaguered island of Malta, or the bridge of an oil tanker under attack in the Atlantic, learns some of the facts on resources and conditions that determined strategic decisions and affected the outcome of the campaigns. Poignantly, also, the terrible waste of war is spelled out.

Six of the projected twelve cassettes in the series are now available from Enigma, P.O. Box 21, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7QQ at £4.99 (inc. p & p). Special Offers are: £27.49 for all six cassettes; £13.99 for any three (again p & p included). The three cassettes previously reviewed in our June issue are: Dunkirk, narrated by Richard Pasco; The Battle of Britain, narrated by Sir Anthony Quayle and The Blitz, narrated by Sir Michael Hordern.

MRS E.F. ANDREWS

The death has taken place of Mrs. Enid Andrews, at Bamber Nursing Home, Peacehaven.

Mrs. Andrews had been a voluntary escort at Ovingdean for 18 years, and on her retirement she was made a Member of St. Dunstan's, an honour she held most dearly.

We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE BOWLS

by Percy Stubbs

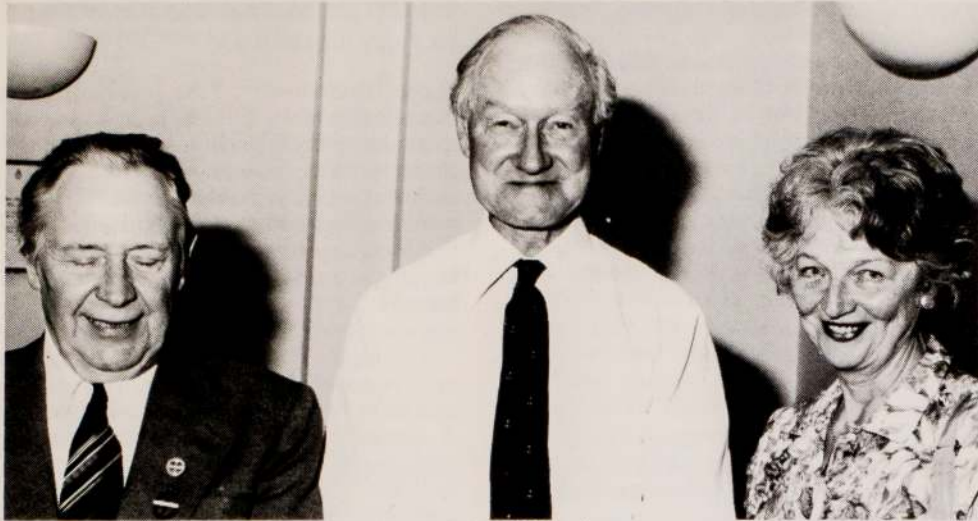
For the first time in all the years our team has taken part in the above tournament, we had a week of continuous sunshine and real outdoor weather. On the Saturday before the tournament we practised in the morning and were very surprised to find the greens running very fast at the beginning of the season. We also met many old friends and many new competitors making a total of over one hundred entries.

Throughout the week our bowlers were very successful in reaching the quarter and semi-final stages of the competitions. A special mention must be made of the high standard of bowling by Harry Preedy and the achievement of Tom Renshaw who won the B.2 singles, a feat that has never been done by a totally blind player since the tournament began. 'Well done Harry and Tom'.

Our thanks must go to our wives and helpers for their willing assistance during our stay at Weston. Again a special thanks to the two helpers, Viv and Reg Bradford, who worked many hours during the heat-wave. They are two people who are invaluable to our club and are always ready to help us throughout the year. David Parker from the transport department also played a big part in making the week enjoyable and was ready to assist us at all times and see that things ran smoothly during the week, including the journey each way. 'Thank you David'.

Owing to the illness of Johnny Cope, some of our players had to withdraw from the pairs and triples in the final stages. We know that Johnny would have continued to play if possible but had to be taken to hospital and by the time we left Weston was making a steady recovery from a heart attack. All the team wish you a return to health and sympathise with you as you had to withdraw as a representative of England in the world tournament to be held in Zimbabwe. We all feel sure that you would have achieved success as an England representative.

May we thank all the staff at headquarters and Ian Fraser House for their help and co-operation towards the Weston-super-Mare tournament.



The prize-winners in the Review short story competition, Wilf Saxby, runner-up, and Mrs. Joyce Harris, winner, with Sir Henry Leach after the presentation of the prizes.

IF ONLY WE COULD SEE THE FUTURE

The Prize Winning Story

by GLOW-WORM (Mrs Joyce Harris)

We were young, happy and on honeymoon, and it was while returning from an evening stroll along the promenade that we came to the fortune teller's booth. 'Madam Averoni, if only you could see the future', said my wife, wonderingly. 'Averoni, 'ave your money', I demurred feebly, but somehow I found we were in a dim, pink light, seated at a small table with a crystal ball on it. The large gypsy-like lady fixed us with dark eyeballs beadily glinting behind heavy mascara and eye-shadow. The money that my wife put on the table vanished with truly magical speed, and with hardly a glance at our new rings she revealed that we were newly wed.

She predicted a long and very happy life together. I tried to bring up the subject of the Derby but was silenced by her look of distaste as she asked about a card reading which was extra. As Susie hesitated I rose, reminding her that dinner was due shortly and I hustled her outside fairly smartly.

She was still protesting as we crossed the busy road, when suddenly there was an almighty bang and a deafening crash.

Everything went quite dark for a few moments and then these amazing fireworks began. Stars and rockets shot up into the sky and dissolved into myriads of glittering formations. 'Have they put this on for us?' I said, and then I realised that Susie had disappeared. I was talking to myself.

A dense cold mist had blown in and I began to feel a chill fear. Through the gloom I could see that the traffic had stopped and a bus had remodelled a lamp post. An ambulance wailed to a standstill. Somebody was put on a stretcher and into the ambulance and a girl with them. The girl looked familiar; to my horror I realised that it was Susie — I seemed to have missed something, but what? Gazing around I saw the fortune teller's booth. She'd predicted a long and happy life together, I thought, and the next minute Susie's off with a chap in an ambulance. Back I went, the red curtains were drawn and there was a client inside. Undeterred I burst in. 'And what sort of prediction was that?' I demanded, 'You couldn't tell me what time it'll be at ten o'clock'. I went on

and more in the same vein until I suddenly realised that they were not taking the slightest notice of me. The client gazed spellbound at Madame A who was rabbiting on. A bit annoyed by now I stepped forward and grabbed the crystal ball, and with all my strength, which was oddly feeble, I flung it screaming, Madame A fainted dead away with her mouth open. Highly satisfied I drifted out again.

'Nasty accident', a woman was saying to another. 'Took 'em to St. Stephen's, looked in a bad way'. Right I thought, must get to St. Stephen's, and in spite of a slightly troubling disorientation found the right bus and sat down next to a lady with a small lap dog. This dog evidently took a violent dislike to me, and as its fur rose and its teeth bared I moved away. A baby stretched out a podgy hand, froze and began to cry. Not my day, I thought, as I moved upstairs where no one bothered me, not even the conductor.

A cold swirling mist came down as I reached the hospital. I felt very tired and somewhat unreal, but somehow kept going. It seemed an endless search of long shiny corridors which apparently shifted, faded and shimmered in the strange light.

MEMORIES OF DUNKIRK WITH FRED CLAY

St. Dunstaner Fred Clay had no hesitation when asked by the Royal British Legion to join their coach on the 34th annual Dunkirk Veterans' Association Pilgrimage. Fred, when serving as a staff sergeant with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, fought a rear-guard action to Dunkirk. During the action, Fred swam out from the beach at De Panne and was picked up by a corvette which was sunk almost immediately, but was picked up again by the Isle of Man steamer 'Ven My Cree', and taken back to England and hospital.

Fred, together with Care Assistant, Ken Martin joined the coach-load of veterans and their wives at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of May 26th. The crossing was uneventful, despite a rather choppy sea. Most of the party stayed at the 'Four Winds Hotel', a small family hotel used by the Veterans in previous years, where they were welcomed like old friends.

Through the door window of a side ward I saw her at last. She looked tired and anxious. I pushed the door but it was wedged or locked shut. I could see the patient, the face bandaged and wires and tubes strapped to all the bits that showed. She was holding the patient's hand. Then a doctor came by with a trolley and as he opened the door I slipped in with him. A machine was blipping at the bedside. I stared at the man on the bed and knew he was waiting for me and that there wasn't much time. They couldn't see me, couldn't hear me, I was drained and ineffective. Dimly, I could hear her saying, 'Yes, we were on honeymoon, Madame Averoni foresaw a long and happy life together — if only she could have been right'. Her voice trailed away, but it was enough, a force of anger or power I didn't know which, gathered strength and desperately pulling it together I surged forward to the bed.

I entered a shattering pain and knew I was back. I could feel her hand. Another big effort and I gave it a feeble squeeze. She jumped up and as her face came close I whispered, 'Madame Averoni — we'll prove her right'.

And we did!



The triple champ takes aim under the watchful eye of Roger McMullan.

Jerry Lynch releasing an arrow.



Archery's Triple Champion

Story and pictures: David Castleton

The Winter Garden at Ian Fraser House resounded to applause and then the strains of 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'. It was the evening of Friday, 9th June, and the presentation of trophies won at the St. Dunstan's Archery Club's Summer Championships. There was no doubting the popularity of the winner who stood, pink faced and beaming as he held the Dacre Trophy.

George Allen had the sort of week all sportsmen must dream of. He won three trophies outright. All week fellow archers had been telling him he was doing well, that he would sweep the board. 'Naa,' he said, 'They're putting me on.' But they were not and on the night there was George accepting trophy after trophy from the Lady Paramount, Mrs. Eunice Harwood: The Laurie Austin Trophy, The 'Curly' Wagstaff Memorial Trophy and the one they all want to win, The Dacre Trophy. For good measure he also came second in the Pairs Competition.



Ted Paris is no respecter of champions. Sharing the joke are Barbara Wood, Brenda and Ted Bradford and Mary Frith.

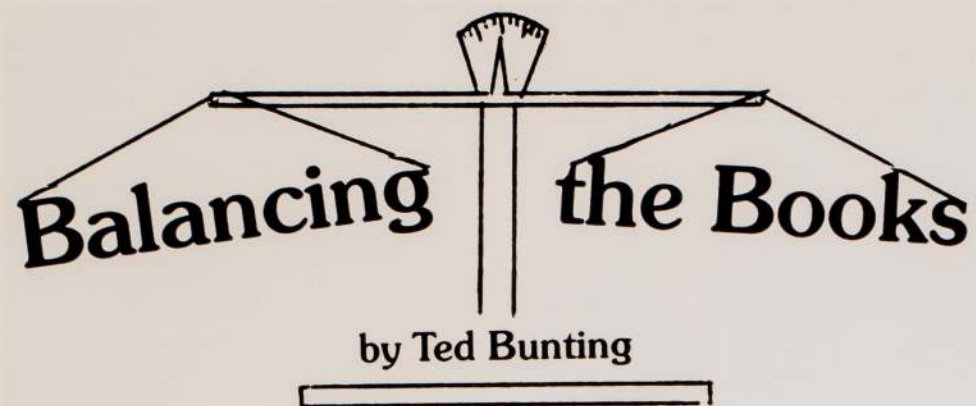
The moment of truth — checking the scores.



Almost exactly two years before these championships George suffered a stroke. He thought he would never shoot an arrow again but he is a tough Yorkshireman and, with the help of coaches Laurie Austin and Roger McMullan, he began just by pulling a light bow. Two years of hard work have not only brought George back to form as an archer but have enabled him to throw off most of the effects of the stroke. The applause from his fellow archers was recognition of a brave effort and a tribute to a fine sportsman.

Chief Coach, Ted Bradford, who announced the various winners, paid tribute to George and none of the other prize-winners begrudged him their share of the limelight on the Archery Club's evening of the year.

Full results of the championships and due credit to the other winners will appear in our October issue but we decided George's story could not wait!



Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Cat. No. 4368

The Wisest Fool

By Nigel Tranter

Read by Richard Earchy

Reading time 23.5 hours

When "Good Queen Bess" passed away, the crown of England passed to James Stuart, King of Scotland; and if you've ever wondered why they never call him "Good King Jamie", this brilliant book will provide you with some remarkable answers.

It begins at the bridge at Berwick-on-Tweed, where various English nobles came to welcome their new monarch, and it goes on to tell of the people, and the many changes, which "The wisest fool in Christendom" brought over the border with him.

But this is no ordinary history book; nor ordinary historical novel either; it has lots of romance and violence, mystery and intrigue aplenty, and it tells of pretty well every vice you can think of. It contains everything, in short, which you could reasonably hope to find in an entertaining book for adults.

I say "for adults", incidentally, because Nigel Tranter has clearly not written this story for the squeamish or the narrow-minded, but for readers rather, with a taste for stark realism, and for people who appreciate humour of the "close to the knuckle" variety. If you are a St. Dunstaner, it's probably right up your street!

★ ★ ★

If you are a St. Dunstaner, it's probably right up your street.

Cat. No. 5077

Lebanon - The Fractured Country

By David Gilmour

Read by Johnathan Oliver

Reading time 8.5 hours

If, like me, you have been aware of the bloody conflict which has raged in the Lebanon for many years, but without knowing the reasons why, then this book will certainly help you.

Of course, it won't turn you into an expert on the subject, because for one thing, it was written in 1983, and much has changed since then, and, for another, the history, the politics, the topography, the economics, and the religions of the region, are so complex that I doubt if anyone could seriously claim to know it all.

The media often talk as though the strife in Lebanon was a matter of Christian against Muslim, or of Israel against the P.L.O., but that kind of crude simplification is both inaccurate and misleading.

David Gilmour doesn't pretend that things are nearly so simple, he describes the many different religious sects and their alliances; he explains how ties of family and tribe often have greater importance than religion; and how commerce and agriculture have been responsible for special divisions of their own. He writes of much more besides; like the involvement of Syria and Israel, and of the other meddlers, who have kept the people of Lebanon at each other's throats.

This book, although dealing with a complicated subject, is remarkably easy to

listen to, and it provides, I believe, an excellent foundation on which anyone can build up their understanding, of what the author so appropriately calls "a fractured country".

★ ★ ★

Understanding bloody conflict in a 'fractured country'.

Cat. No. 4290

Executioner Pierrepoint

By Albert Pierrepoint

Read by Robert Gladwell

Reading time 10.75 hours

In 1930, Albert Pierrepoint wrote to the Home Secretary, asking for a job as a hangman. It was, perhaps, a strange request for a young man to make, but he was able to explain in his letter that his father, and his uncle too, had both been experts in the trade and he merely wished to continue a family tradition. As a result, he was accepted for training and afterwards, he remained in the post until 1956. This book is a not to be missed account of Albert's remarkable career; which took him practically all around the world, and introduced him, albeit very briefly, to some 400 condemned people.

Whether or not he was helped with the writing of his story, I have no way of knowing, but the finished article is most professional; as also was Pierrepoint's attitude to his work. Any stories you may have heard of Albert Pierrepoint saying he had a "dead-end job", or of his pinning up a notice in his public-house, warning customers; "Don't hang about", have no substance whatever for no-one could show more reverence for his duties than he does. For this reason alone, anyone asking for this book in order to satisfy a morbid curiosity, is likely to be disappointed, because it is a serious study, without frills, of what the post of Chief Executioner required.

Because it is unlikely that anyone will ever again hold such a post in Britain, this autobiography is truly unique and I strongly recommend it.

★ ★ ★

A serious study of the post of Chief Executioner.

SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

This year 3,723 Derby Sweepstake tickets were sold and the total prize money, less the cost of printing the tickets amounted to £666.41. There were 12 runners this year and the payout was as follows:

First Prize £333. Mrs. Gwyn, of Lowestoft, *Nashwan*, ticket no. 3324.

Second Prize £133. Mrs. Y. Firrell, of Hastings, East Sussex. *Terimon*, Ticket No. 2020.

Third Prize £67. J. Doughty, of Great Yarmouth, *Cacoethes*, Ticket No. 1383.

The rest of the prize money was divided equally between all those who held tickets for the remaining runners.

INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRAVEL

Companions of registered blind people can travel free of charge to 18 countries if the registered blind person buys an international ticket of the following types: first or second class full fare, European saver (short day return), economy day or night return and same day excursion.

ADDITIONS TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

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

SD 51. 2 × C90's. *Conquest of Blindness* by Sir Arthur Pearson (abridged), read by John Hosken.

I 10. 2 × C90's. *Monarch switchboard user's manual*.

POSTCARD

Miss Kathleen Timmis of Foxhole, 25 Goat Street, St. Davids, Pembrokeshire, has sent us a lovely postcard of Saint David's Cathedral informing us how she met a former member of the Church Stretton staff, Miss Bridget Downer. Miss Timmis has kindly offered to meet any St. Dunstaners holidaying in the area, either at her address, or at the cathedral.

REVIEW

COURAGE REMEMBERED

Courage Remembered — The story behind the construction and maintenance of the Commonwealth's Military Cemeteries and Memorials of the Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 — was published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office on 27th June at £13.95.

Thus described *Courage Remembered* may sound a dry sort of book but the authors, T.A. Edwin Gibson and G. Kingsley Ward, have produced a fascinating tribute 'To the one and three-quarter million fallen who never came home' to whom the book is dedicated.

Primarily it is the story of the creation and subsequent care of 23,175 immaculate cemeteries around the world. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission owes its existence to one man's persistence, Fabian Ware, who at the age of 45, went to France in 1914 as Commander of the mobile unit, British Red Cross Society.

He began to note the names of British war dead and the locations of their graves. Because of the chaotic conditions and the sheer number of casualties, no official records were being kept. Through Ware's initiative The National Committee for the Care of Soldiers' Graves was established in 1916 and in 1917 the Imperial, later Commonwealth, War Graves Commission was established.

Wooden crosses

As the cemeteries were developed and headstones planted, many of the original, temporary wooden crosses were given to the families. They are often to be found, still cherished, in local churches.

The book is a mine of information. Chapters give brief histories of the beginnings and the campaigns of the two World Wars. Every Military Cemetery and Memorial is described and some excellent photographs show them 'before and after' development. A fine colour photograph shows the famous Menin Gate at Ypres, where, each evening, the traffic through

the gate is stopped for the sounding of the *Last Post*.

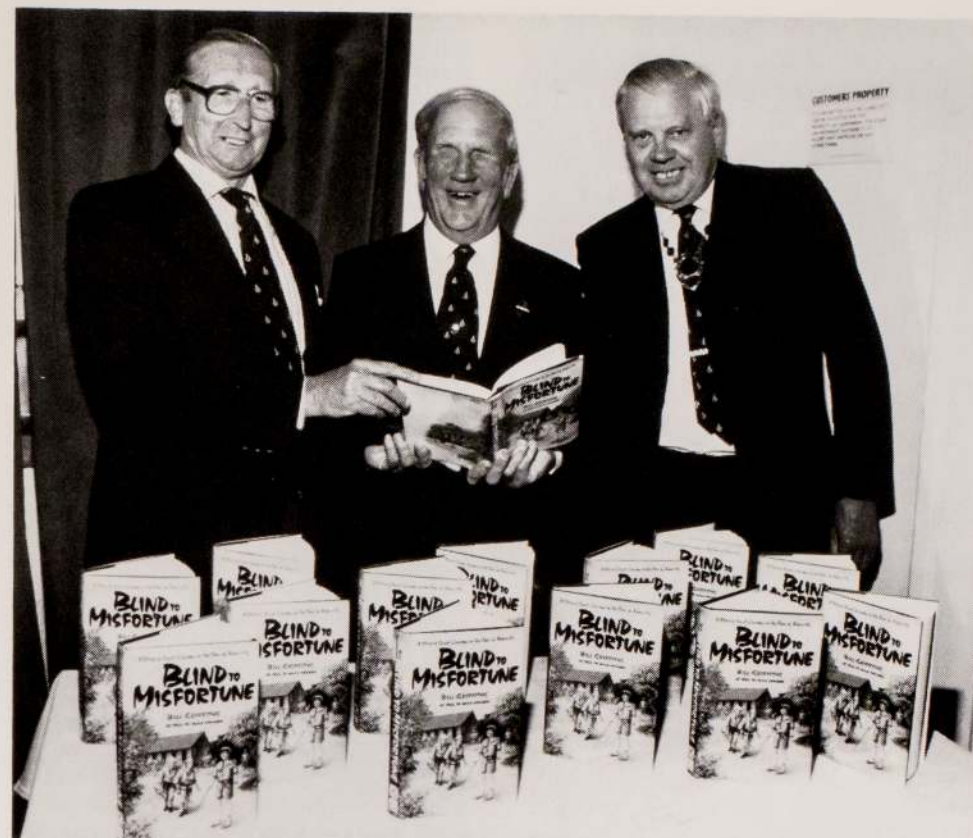
The reader will learn how the Unknown Warrior was chosen for the Tomb in Westminster Abbey; that headstones are treated with a toxic wash to prevent 'unsightly growths' which might obscure the inscriptions or encourage deterioration of the stone itself and that a stone from Hadrian's Wall now rests in a cemetery in Rome, the boundary of which is another famous Wall, the Aurelian. The inscription reads: 'This Stone From Hadrian's Wall The Northernmost Boundary Of The Ancient Roman Empire Was Placed Here At The Wish Of The Citizens Of Carlisle England In Commemoration Of The Cumbrian Servicemen Who Died During The Second World War'.

Facts and figures

The chapter headed 'Miscellany' records many other facts and figures. There is a warning against touching any of the First War ammunition that is still unearthed by ploughing farm land in Belgium and France. The last air attack on London was a V1 Flying bomb on 27th March, 1945, which, sadly, killed 134 people. British civilians killed by enemy action are recorded on the Civilian Roll of Honour. There is a list of the war cemeteries which bear the original names bestowed upon them by the soldiers, such as: Mud Corner, No Man's Cot and Packhorse Farm Shrine.

Appendices list the major cemeteries and memorials by country, the commemoration of V.C. and G.C. holders, and a breakdown of the numbers of war dead by branch of service. The book will prove to be an important tool for historic research. It lacks only a full index.

In his Introduction, Major F.A. Tilston, V.C., C.D., LL.D., who served with a Highland Infantry Regiment of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, writes 'Freedom is not to be bought, received as a gift, or hit upon as an accident. Nor can it



At the Blackpool launch of 'Blind to Misfortune', Bill Griffiths is seen with Reg Dunne, M.B.E., and Harold Payne, O.B.E., National Vice-President and President of the FEPOW Association. Copies of the re-print of the book are available from St. Dunstan's Public Relations Department at £11.95. Special offer to St. Dunstaners, widows and staff, £7.77.

COURAGE REMEMBERED — Continued

be maintained by compromise with its enemies, by hired groups or professional soldiers, or by the determined efforts of a few of its citizens. It must be earned by a whole people, lived by a whole people, and fought for to the death by everyone who shares its glorious benefits.'

For those who did fight to the death, this book chronicling the means of their remembrance, is in itself a worthy memorial.

Courage Remembered can be obtained from: HMSO Books (P9D), FREEPOST, Norwich NR3 1BR (UK customers only) or: HMSO Books (P9D), St. Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich NR3 1PD (Overseas customers).

NEW TALKING BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that anyone interested in receiving a monthly list of new R.N.I.B. talking book releases should write in to Ray Hazan at the St. Dunstan's P.R. Department. Please state your preference for print or tape. Depending on demand, a decision will be made as to the medium chosen.

CORRECTION

In the July *Review* we mentioned George and Timothy Watkins in 'Our Holiday, Out East'. This should have been George and Molly Watkins. We apologise to them and to Mrs. June Benson, the author.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Readers will be aware that the system of local rates is to be replaced by the Community Charge (also known as the Poll Tax). This will be introduced from April 1990 and everyone is required to register.

You will by now have received the Community Charge Registration forms from your local Community Charge Registration Officer. These should be fairly straightforward so far as filling them in is concerned, as it is most unlikely that any of you living in your own homes will be able to claim exemption under the eight heads listed on the form.

A number of you may now be receiving certain reductions in rates under the existing legislation, either because the Local Authority has in the past exercised

their discretion to grant up to 100% relief (Merton & Coventry come to mind), or have granted a 50% relief. Others of you may have a reduction in your Ratable Value under the provisions of the Rating (Disabled Persons) Act 1978. I am afraid it seems that all these reductions will not apply to the Community Charge.

If your income has been sufficiently low for you to receive a Rate Rebate then you may be eligible for Community Charge Benefit of up to 80% when the Community Charge comes into force. Unfortunately, the forms being sent out by the Local Authorities are not standard. You will have to look at your individual form to see when and where further information on these Rebates can be obtained.

Trevor Lloyd, Estates Manager

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

There are a limited number of tickets for the afternoon and evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 11th.

St. Dunstaners are invited to apply before September 15th to Mr. K. Martin at HQ for two tickets per St. Dunstaner. Please state any preference for afternoon or evening presentation. Priority will be given to those who have not attended previously and a ballot will be held. Those successful will be assisted with both the cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London, if necessary.

BRaille LABELLER

A special offer is available on the 3M Braille Labeller. The labeller produces braille on 9 millimetre wide Dymo type adhesive tape and is ideal for labelling cassettes, records, etc. The Labeller is simple to use and can be used by sighted as well as braille users. As well as characters A to Z plus numbers 1 to 9 plus 0, there are the following contractions and punctuation: with, the, in, of, for, er, st, ing, ed, en, -, :, Decimal point, Capital, and Number signs.

The offer comes together with 10 rolls of clear adhesive tape at £38.95 plus VAT

(VAT is not charged to Registered Blind individuals or Registered Charities). Orders accompanied by cheque will be despatched same day. Articles for the Blind. From: Techno Vision Systems Ltd., 4 Hazelwood Road, Northampton, NN1 1LN. Telephone (0604) 239363. Fax: (0604) 233271.

GARDENING WEEKS

by Margaret Bingham

The sun shines on the righteous so the saying goes. Well, if that be so, there is a goodly number of St. Dunstaners and escorts who can lay claim to this as the weather for the Gardeners, especially week two, was superb and it certainly made a big difference when we visited gardens and other places of interest.

The first week began on Monday, May 8th when we assembled in the Winter Garden and our Chairman, Tom Hart, gave us a run-down on the gardening programme both for that week and the next. He referred to our visit to Cirencester — that it had been very good in as much as we had visited so many gardens including The Victorian Garden (as seen on TV). He mentioned that John Walburgh and Major Neve had arranged the current programme. John, as Hon. Treasurer, spoke of the financial state of the Club, he said it

GARDENING WEEKS — *Continued*

was in a 'very healthy condition.' We were saddened to hear of the death of some of the Club's members Harry Harding, Sam Moore and Jim Padley. That afternoon was free, giving us the opportunity of visiting Rottingdean or Brighton or to relax in readiness for a full day at Wisley the next day.

Coach to Wisley

On the Tuesday an Alpha coach awaited us and it was loaded up and on its way by 9 am. The drive to the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley took about half an hour. Our driver, Dave, took us through lovely country roads, passing cottages with gardens ablaze with flowers. Many trees were still in bloom — apple, pear and cherry. During the second week laburnum was fully out making a dazzling display of gold pendants amidst its dark green foliage. Surprisingly bluebells were still making a carpet of blue in the woods we passed. At Wisley we wandered around the grounds at will, some viewing the fruit trees, others meandered around the flower beds but many just enjoyed walking on the springy green sward. There are a number of small pools in the grounds and it was very peaceful to sit and just listen to the birds singing in the trees, a cuckoo's distinctive cry could be heard in the distance, in the warm sunshine Wisley was a haven of delight. After an excellent lunch in the restaurant there was just time to smell the blossom or make a quick dash to get the name of a heavy-fruited tree or visit the shop to buy a memento of our visit.

Chalk Garden

On Wednesday we visited the Highdown Chalk Garden at Goring-by-Sea, a place few of us will forget. We turned off the minor road to Goring and went up a long drive to where a large house stood with car park in front and cobbled courtyard and small cafe at the rear. It was difficult to ascertain how old the sombre-looking house was but it may have been 'tarted up'

to give the impression of age. It seems though that in 1922 it was owned by a Sir Frederick Stern. He did not like the chalk pit in his grounds and he spent a great deal of time and money in researching and collecting chalk-loving plants. The result was a most beautiful and interesting garden covering many acres with plants, trees and shrubs from all over the world. Where the actual pit was is unknown, as the area is a solid mass of greenery of varying shades. Initially we followed the bark-covered pathway round the small lawn (maybe this was the pit) to a little pool where carp and goldfish swam lazily about. Rocks of various sizes surrounded this idyllic spot and a waterfall could be heard tinkling over the the stones at the far end of the pool. We had not come across bark pathways before but it was a feature at this year's Chelsea Flower Show — much easier on the feet and kinder to wheelchair tyres.

Judas tree

In the grounds one of the most striking of the many foreign trees was the Judas tree — on its dark coloured bark there was an abundance of mauve blossom and on some branches were large patches of unopened blooms. What an enchanting garden! Dinner that evening was held in the Winter Garden, the guests included Commander and Mrs. Conway and Mary Frith. Paul and his catering staff served a sumptuous meal. Later we proceeded to the annexe where Ernie Took and his Band played for dancing. During the interval Julie and Mike repeated their success of last year with a beautiful display of dancing — they are firm favourites and our thanks to Reg for introducing them to us.

We visited the Wild Fowl Trust at Arundel on Thursday morning and spent our time walking among the swans and geese listening to their distinctive calls (some even whistled). There are more than 1,000 birds, including a number from abroad, but each type was fascinating as shown by the large number of people milling around. Although there are gates at a few points on the wide paths the birds were not segregated into various species so we

saw quite an assortment wherever we went. An extremely interesting and enjoyable morning. This was followed by a visit to The Swan, at Arundel, for lunch and a very tasty and plentiful meal it was too.

As Southdown Flowers Ltd., was only a few miles away we decided to have a guided tour through the greenhouse. I say greenhouse deliberately as it spans two acres and is, I believe, one of the largest single ones in the country. There were thousands of flowering plants; African violets, busy lizzies, begonias, cyclamen and many more. Initially they are sent from Holland and Belgium as small seedlings and after concentrated growth are passed for wholesale disposal to gardens and supermarkets. We were told of the damage caused by the hurricane on October 16th, 1987, when every piece of glass was shattered and how with the help of permanent and casual labour the house was restored to full working order within six months. The tour took about an hour and we were then directed to a 'sales shop' where we could purchase a great many of the plants we had seen, and as they were all very reasonably priced we had a field day. So many were purchased, (including large beautifully arranged hanging baskets and many sized pot plants) that our driver said he did not know where he was going to put my wheelchair. We were very privileged to visit Southdown Flowers as it

TAPE RECORDING WEEK JUNE 5th-7th

by Ralph Pacitti

We left Ian Fraser House on Monday morning at 9 a.m. for our visit to the Mechanical Museum at Chichester. When we arrived at the Museum, which, during the reign of Queen Victoria, had been a church, we were left to look around at the many dolls in period costume until one of the caretakers came to show us the power and the lovely tone of the Mechanical Organs. We all enjoyed the music, and could imagine the setting at a fairground, or indoor skating rink, where this type of music would be heard.

We had an appointment with Mr. Myles Jenner at Harvey's Brewery in Lewes.

is a commercial establishment and our thanks must go to John and Elizabeth for arranging it.

On Friday we met in the Winter Garden for the closing meeting and everyone said they had enjoyed the week. Quite a number visited Roundstone Nurseries in the afternoon and more plants were purchased. There had been a number of cancellations especially in the second week but during the actual fortnight only one member, George Wiley, had been taken ill and neither he nor Kath took any part in the activities, a great pity, as they were so looking forward to it. We hope you are better now George. We missed Ricky who always accompanies Reg on our gardening activities and we send our best wishes and hope you are soon better.

Major Neve and Sue Reynolds were our guests at dinner during the second week and we had an unexpected visitor that evening, Mrs. Rountree, our new Welfare Visitor for Northern Ireland, who was spending a couple of days at Ian Fraser House after visiting Headquarters.

What a glorious fortnight we had, especially during the second week, our hardy gardeners bloomed in the hot sunshine. No sign of wilt at all. Just happy, rosy faces and a great feeling of well-being. Our thanks to everyone who accompanied us and made our gardening programme one to be talked about for a long time.

After coping with four flights of stairs and settling ourselves on sacks of malt, Mr. Jenner not only told the history of the early days, but all the details of brewing right up to the present day. This turned out to be a very nice evening, ending with some very tasty samples. Many thanks to you Mr. Jenner for making us all welcome, and how nice to learn about our local brewery.

On Tuesday after morning coffee we held our A.G.M. in the Winter Garden. Bernard Blacker, our Chairman, opened our meeting with a minute's silence for our late friend Jim Padley. Les and Doreen

TAPE RECORDING WEEK — *Continued*

Thompson joined us and were made most welcome. Roy David was sorry not to be with us, thank you for the lovely tape, recorded in the New Forest, and a speedy recovery to your wife. Late afternoon we left for the Wild Fowl Trust, at Arundel. On arriving, Joyce from the Education Department gave a short talk. The Trust is home for so many swans, geese and ducks and we made some nice recordings of the birds. Pat Padley had been invited to join us, and another old friend, Ivor Robinson came along. Although the evening weather did seem unsettled, some brave members stayed on with Ivor in the hope of getting a rare recording.

On Wednesday morning our trip took us to Etchingham, where they have the Shire Breeding Farm. Thank God for these good people who truly care for such fine animals, and indeed all types of trusts. Our Annual Dinner in the Winter Garden was as always first class. Bernard gave a generous vote of thanks and the evening was rounded off with a dance in the annexe.

Thursday, and the first day of the Ardingly Show. It's one of those shows you can visit over and over again. It is always enjoyable and there was plenty of activity

to keep everyone busy. On Friday another whole day trip, this time to the Bird Sanctuary at Farnham. This is a most enjoyable experience. They are very well organised and the birds are certainly cared for by these experts. How nice it is to be among some happy children, although it does not lend itself to a good recording, but does keep it natural. We all sat on the grass enjoying a lovely picnic which we brought from the House.

Miss Margaret Lucy Harris

A link with the early history of St. Dunstan's has been broken with the death earlier this year at the age of 83 of Miss Margaret Lucy Harris, more generally known as Molly Harris.

Miss Harris worked as secretary to the late Mr. W.G. Askew until his retirement in 1955, and she herself left at that time to care for an elderly relative.

Mr. Askew had been chosen by Sir Arthur Pearson as his Pensions Officer at the end of the Great War, and he went on to become Secretary of St. Dunstan's in 1930, a post which he held for twenty-five years. In *My Story of St. Dunstan's*, Lord Fraser said of him, "W.G. Askew was the nearest I have known to the mythical indispensable man".

D. F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

Keep all the beds flowering, vegetable and fruit beds free from weeds which are still growing rapidly especially if you didn't get the roots as well as the greenery.

Many flowers will be full of colour provided you have given them plenty of water plus fertiliser in the dry spells. Cut away all the dead heads plus any leaves which are dying off. Tie in the taller items since there may be high winds at this time of year.

Dig out all the dead plants in the vegetable garden, and put them on the compost heap to give you a good base on

the beds next season. This is good for any light soils. Most light and sandy soils will need building up and even peat should be added, as I will have to do in the small beds that I have in the new property.

Most of the early year and spring bulbs should be put in during September but delay the Tulips till later on in the Autumn. With the very dry weather that we are having, many areas will be stopping the use of hoses, so save all the washing-up water and water from the bath for the

important items, such as Tomatoes and other salad items.

Vegetables

Clear all the beds which have had all their crops harvested, such as Broad Beans, Peas, Carrots, Beetroot, Cauliflower and other greens, apart from the winter greens. Dig over these areas and sprinkle some lime around plus some compost or manure. Put on the top of the soil ready for digging in later in the year or next year.

Stop the main shoot of the Runner Beans so that all growth will go into the beans and give good size and quality. It will be a good thing to give plenty of water and regular feeds as the Beans are avid feeders. Lettuce and Radish will be growing well and if you want plenty of salad items sow some seed every so often as they will mature at a good pace.

Dig up all the Potatoes you still have growing and leave on the bed if you have dry weather, so they can dry off and be stored for the winter.

Onions which have matured can be dug up but any which are not quite ripe should have their stems bent over to the soil.

Outdoor Tomatoes will be ripening quickly, so stop the main stem and break off any of the leaves which are covering the fruit. Try and give plenty of water and fertiliser. Where you have water stopped, use washing up water. The same can be used for the salad items plus ridge Cucumbers and Marrows. Most of the other vegetables will be able to get on for longer spells without water. Keep the hoe going between the growing crops and it might be a good thing to spread a few slug pellets about plus spraying some Derris or Pyrethrum when insects of all kinds are around.

Fruit

Where you have heavy crops of apples it would be a good idea to thin them out a little so you will have a good size and quality especially to late ripening and keeping varieties. Get the early ripening apples and pears gathered quickly as they won't keep very long on the trees. Try and tip off the outer and thin type shoots on the trees but do not try and get the main pruning

done till winter. Get grease bands in place on all the trees especially the apples. Most new fruit trees can be ordered and put in during September and early October.

Cut off the side sprays on the Currant bushes and thin out the centres but leave the main pruning till all the fruit has been collected. Thin out all the Raspberries and Loganberries, cutting away all the shoots that have fruited. Clear away all the extra runners and place all the new rooted runners in their beds for the next seasons crop.

Lawns

Keep the grass cut regularly but under very dry conditions restrict the use of the mower. Give the lawn a hosing when you are allowed in dry spells, but it would be better to put on a sprinkler, moving it every so often so that the whole lawn is covered with moisture. When you have had some fairly heavy rain and the lawn is saturated, give a dose of fertiliser cum weedkiller with a watering can.

Flowers

Keep all the beds free of all seedlings particularly the weeds by using the hoe regularly, plus a small fork to get the roots out and leave the earth worked up to retain any rain that comes along. It might be a good idea to use the hose during very dry conditions if you are allowed and also put some fertiliser in liquid form or pellets. Remember to spray all the plants with an anti-greenfly and other pest spray. Dahlias tend to be attacked by earwigs so set up some small plant pots stuffed with straw and on stakes above ground level. Shake them out every so often and destroy the contents and refill with straw.

Continue to cut away all dead heads and to stop seeds forming, this will give a boost to the new buds and flowers forming. Where you are stopped from using the hose fill all the buckets with the washing up and bath water. During the latter part of September one can plant all the spring and early year flowering bulbs in their places. The items are Anenomes, Scillas, Crocus, Daffodil, Narcissus and Hyacinth. Remember to set them at least

double the depth of the bulbs. Don't plant the Tulips till later on in the year.

By the end of September get all the tuberous rooted Begonias out of the beds and put in pots for a few weeks to dry off. Keep them in a cool place away from frost, the best place will be in a greenhouse at floor level or in a garage.

Cut some of the shoots of the Roses away which have gone past their show of colour but don't do any full pruning till the end of spring next year. Watch out for Black Spot and Rust and give them a spray, cut out the shoots that are worst effected.

Chrysanthemums will be showing plenty of buds and it might be a good idea to thin them out so that you have good size flowers for the house. Don't forget to tie them in to stakes. Sweet Peas will still be flowering well, so tie them in regularly and give plenty of water and fertiliser. Get cuttings of Geraniums started off in September so that they can be well rooted before the winter. They can be set inside as the cold weather comes along and set away from frosts, probably the greenhouse would be the best place.

Greenhouse

Keep the windows open day and night unless some frost or heavy winds come along. The white colour that protects the plants from the sun should be brushed away to let in as much light as possible to keep the plants growing.

Many of the tuberous items which have given you a fine show of flower will be coming to an end by the end of September so dry them off and let the leaves drop off. Keep the tubers dry in their pots through the winter under the staging which will keep frost away even if you have no heat on.

Don't forget to set up your heating in case frost comes along early. Also spray with insecticide and fungicide. It is easier to set up smokes in the early evening with all the doors and windows closed for the night. Opening them in the morning, and as you do, put some kind of protection on to help you breath, such as pressing a handkerchief over your mouth and nose.

THE NATIONAL EX-PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION

The National ex-Prisoner of War Association will hold their annual general meeting and reunion at the Warner Holiday Village, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex, over the weekend of October 27th-30th.

Anyone wishing to attend should write to Mr. C.F. Hago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts. SP2 8HG, for further information.

BOWLS OUTDOOR TOURNAMENT

by Tom Renshaw

We gathered at I.F.H. for our Bowls Tournament and it was with the sad knowledge that six of our members and their wives were unable to attend due to the closure of the North Wing, we trust the modernisation will be completed before next June. This is a pre-tournament warm-up, and we were invited by the ladies of the Crescent Bowling Club to play at Preston Park. We had a great welcome from the ladies and a delicious tea of home-made cookies and a darn good hiding on the green. We hope to get our revenge next year.

It was early breakfast next morning and off to Hove and Kingsway for the beginning of our tournament, it was obvious from the start that markers were going to be in short supply. Our ladies as usual came up trumps. Led by Reg and Vi they did a grand job with temperatures in the 80's. In charge of the cookhouse were Margaret and Iris, they fed and watered us and passed us on to Joan who handled the heavy programme with her usual efficiency.

I felt the bowling this year was of a very high standard. Playing on a different green every day gave us all problems with adjustments, giving our markers plenty of exercise. Despite our early worries we were able to complete all games by early Friday afternoon with the following results on page 28.

On Saturday June 24th, we set off to play the Chertsey Wine and Cheese Bowls. This is new a fixture and one I am sure Jacky will endeavour to obtain next year.

We had a great time, a wonderful tea with lots of home-made wine. The club flag was lowered in the evening with Bob Forshaw playing the last post on an old split and battered bugle.

Monday and Tuesday were taken up with trips to Portsmouth and Dieppe. On Wednesday we played the Elmbridge Club at Preston Park, taking them back with us for tea. Thursday evening was the highlight of the week, a mystery outing for the ladies, who were surprised, as our destination was Isfield Station to dine on the Lavender Line steam train. A dip into nostalgia, and a wonderful meal, thank you Joan and Rita for a memorable evening.

On Friday we held our buffet dance in the annexe, where the prize giving took place. Many of us raised our glasses to absent friends, to Commander Conway, our President, Major Neve, and all the members of I.F.H. We thank the staff for all the help given to us. It was nice to see Johnny Cope at our games, and Ted Brown, back after the Zimbabwe World Bowls Championship with a medal to show and some interesting stories. Well done to Ted and his E.N.A.V.H.B. team. Good bowling for the rest of the season to all members.

Results

T.B. Singles

- 1st J. Pryor
- 2nd B. Allen
- 3rd T. Renshaw

P.S. Singles

- 1st G. Hudson
- 2nd S. Dodd
- 3rd A. Duffy
- 4th H. Davies

T.B. Pairs

- B. Allen — S. Jones

P.S. Pairs

- 1st G. Hudson — J. Price
- 2nd H. Davies — S. Dodd

Mixed Triples

- 1st G. Hudson
R. Osborne
A. Mitchell
- 2nd C. Lloyd
S. Dodd
T. Renshaw

Consolation Triples

- 1st B. Forshaw
J. Harris
A. Whittington
- 2nd W. Davies
E. Church
S. Jones

ST. DUNSTAN'S T-SHIRTS

Special offer

We have 40 medium (36 in.) Tee Shirts at £2.25 including postage: Standard quality are £4.00 inclusive. Please apply to Mens Supplies at H.Q.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB — BRIDGE

Pairs Results (Sunday 2 July, 1989)

- 1st Wally Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad 61.0
- 2nd Bill Phillips and Dr. J. Goodlad 58.5
- 3rd Vi Delaney and Mrs. Tebbit 55.5
- 4th Bill Allen and Mrs. A. Clements 54.0
- 5th Reg Goding and Miss Sturdy 52.5
- 6th Reg Palmer and Mrs. Holborow 49.5
- 7th Alf Dodgson and Mrs. King 49.0
- 8th Mr. and Mrs. R. Pacitti 44.5
- 9th Mrs. Douse and Miss Stenning 38.5
- 10th Bob Evans and Mrs. F. Andrews 37.0

Individuals — Saturday 24 June, 1989

Results

- 1st Bill Allen 63.6
- 2nd Mrs. McCauley 59.1
- 3rd Ralph Pacitti 58.0
- 4th Bill Phillips 53.4
- 5th Reg Goding 51.1
- Equal 6th
Mrs. A. Clements
Mrs. Barnes 50.0
- 8th Miss Sturdy 48.9
- 9th Peter SurrIDGE 47.7
- 10th Mrs. K. Pacitti 45.5
- 11th Reg Palmer 43.2
- 12th Wally Lethbridge 29.5

Position at end of June

Pairs

- Wally Lethbridge 292.6
 - Bill Phillips 263.2
 - Bob Evans 256.6
 - Reg Goding 238.6
 - Ralph Pacitti 211.9
- (4 Results)

8 others played.

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Mr. Dennis Freeman, of Coventry, who has been made a life member of the Royal Naval Association. Mr. Freeman received the award in recognition of his loyalty and service to the Association.

Douglas Frith, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, on winning the top prize and Art Section Shield, for his toy lorry in a recent competition organised by the Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind.

Stephen Mitchell, son of *Alan and Pat Mitchell*, of Congleton, who recently passed his Grade 3 Royal School of Music theory examination. Stephen is studying both the organ and clarinet.

Individuals

- Bill Phillips 292.5
 - Ralph Pacitti 271.3
 - Wally Lethbridge 250.9
 - Reg Goding 236.1
 - Bob Evans 235.8
 - Bill Allen 223.8
- (4 results)

5 others played.

NATIONAL BRIDGE CLUB

A reminder that the Harrogate Bridge Week will take place from Saturday September 30th to Saturday October 7th. Anyone interested in taking part please contact Ian Dickson at Headquarters.

Masters Match

On June 3rd three St. Dunstan's teams enjoyed a good match against The Masters. The top St. Dunstan's team consisted of: Alf Dodgson, Ralph Pacitti, Bill Miles and Johnny Whitcombe.

Mr. W. Morris, youngest son of *Mr. Bill Morris*, of Southbourne, Bournemouth, who is Assistant Divisional Officer with Dorset Fire Brigade, and who recently received his 20-year Service Award.

Miss Elizabeth Pearce, grand-daughter of *Mrs. L.D. Pearce* and the late *Mr. W.J.S. Pearce*, of Hendon, on obtaining her B.A. Hons. in Geography from Cambridge University.

Susan Elizabeth Pepper, daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pepper*, of Coggeshall, Nr. Colchester who recently joined the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Service at Aldershot.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mrs. Rose Mantle, 'Doll', to her friends, would like to thank all her friends among St. Dunstaners, widows and staff for their many kind messages of sympathy on the death of her husband, Charlie.

Mrs. Pat Padley, widow of the late *James John Padley*, of Saltdean, Brighton, expresses her sincere thanks to all those who showed such sympathy during her recent bereavement.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Mr. David Bell, M.B.E., and his wife, Sybil of Haywards Heath, Sussex, on the birth of twin grand-daughters on July 6th, to their son David and his wife Demeter.

Mrs. A. Jolly, of Newbold Verdon, Leicester, on the birth of a grandson, Daniel, to grand-daughter Susan and husband, David on May 31st.

Mrs. Emily McClarnan, of Poulton-le-Fylde, on the birth of a great grandson, Andrew Russell, on June 3rd, to grand-daughter Dawn and her husband, Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the birth of their first grandchild, Emily May Shaw, who was born on February 15th 1989, to Watson and Shirley Shaw.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, of Sunderland, on the birth of a grandson, Michael Richard, born May 12th to her son, Howard and his wife, Julie.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Sara, grand-daughter of Mrs. V.M. Chell, widow of the late Mr. J. Chell, of Eastbourne, on the occasion of her marriage

to Mr. Richard Cuene Grandidier, at Worthing, on July 1st.

Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Boughton, of Northampton, on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Jacqueline Herbert, on June 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Caldwell, St. Giles-on-the-Heath, Launceston, on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel, to David Medgett on June 3rd.

Mrs. Winnie Edwards, of Partridge Green, on the marriage of her eldest son, David John, to Joanne Downs, on April 6th. The marriage took place in the United Arab Emirates where they are both working.

Mr. Alistair Legge, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Legge, of Bristol, on his marriage to Nicola Pope, of Roundbush, near Watford, on April 21st.

Mrs. Muriel Newton, widow of the late Roy Newton, of Oldham, on the marriage of her daughter, Katherine Yvonne, to Michael Callaghan, at St. Patrick's Church, Oldham, on May 13th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Eric and Gwen Bradshaw, of Northampton, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 2nd.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill, of Orpington, Kent, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 9th.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Ernie and Gwen Hannant, of Hemel Hempstead, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 10th. Ernie and Gwen would like to thank those who sent cards and messages of goodwill, and the Council of St. Dunstan's for their gift.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS — *Continued*

Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Earwaker, of Bishops Waltham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 10th, 1989.

DEATHS

We offer condolences to:

The family of Mrs. Mary Ellen Chivers, of Clevedon, Avon, widow of the late *Caleb Chivers*, who passed away on June 29th, aged 99 years.

The family and friends of Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Fisk, of Clacton-on-Sea, widow of the late *Mr. George Henry Fisk*, of Clacton-on-Sea, who passed away on July 4th.

Mr. Charles McConaghy, of Belfast, on the death of his sister who died on May 25th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Sadie Miller, widow of the late James Miller, of Rutherglen, Glasgow, who passed away on June 10th after a short illness.

The family and friends of Mrs. Rose Taylor, widow of the late *Arthur Taylor*, of Colchester, Essex, who passed away on July 14th.

Mr. Charles Shallcross and his wife, Annie, of Chester on the death of their son, John, who passed away earlier this month after a serious illness.

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.

Sir John Fletcher Cooke, C.M.G., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

We are very sorry to report the death of Sir John Fletcher-Cooke who died on 19th May.

He was 77. He served as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War and was a prisoner of the Japanese. It was as a result of his privations that his sight failed in later life and he became a St. Dunstaner in March 1988. In 1977, he published an account of his time as a prisoner under the title *The Emperor's Guest*.

In the post war years he had a distinguished career in the Colonial Service which took him to Palestine, the United Nations, Cyprus and Tanganyika. He was knighted in 1962. After retirement Sir John sat for two years in the House of Commons as Conservative Member for the Test Division of Southampton. He lost his seat in the 1966 General Election and afterwards worked in the United States for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Sir John leaves a widow, Marie-Louise, and sons and daughters of two previous marriages to whom we extend deep sympathy.

E. Cookson, Royal Engineers

Mr. Ernest Cookson, of Selsey, passed away at home on Monday June 19th, following a short illness. He was aged 69 years old and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Having enlisted with the Royal Engineers, he was wounded during an air raid in the U.K. in April 1943 and his sight became impaired as a result. After being admitted to St. Dunstan's, he received training at Church Stretton and managed his own newsagents/tobacconists business until 1967 when he then took up employment as a telephonist, after a period of training. He worked at the Guildford College of Art for eight years, and retired on health grounds in 1978. His main leisure interests were music (he played the saxophone in the St. Dunstan's band) and Ham Radio. He also derived much pleasure from learning Spanish, and was a regular visitor at Ian Fraser House, where he will be missed by St. Dunstaners and staff.

He was married to his wife, Violet, for 37 years, and we send our condolences to her, their son, Robert, and daughter, Barbara — both married and living in Australia, and to their grandchildren, as well as all other members of the family.

J.V. Neasham, Norfolk Regiment

Mr. Leonard Victor Neasham, of Northfield, Birmingham, died on May 28th, aged 92. He had been a St. Dunstaner for four years.

Mr. Neasham served with the Norfolk Regiment during the First World War and lost his left eye as a result of shrapnel wounds at the Battle of the Somme. After the war, he ran his own gentleman's outfitters business which had the reputation of being the best in the Midlands.

Later in life, Mr. Neasham also lost most of the sight in his right eye, and joined St. Dunstan's in his eighties. He had a large circle of friends, loved parties, and also thoroughly enjoyed the St. Dunstan's reunions. He lived for the last three years of his life at Pocklington Place, where he was the life and soul of all Christmas and New Year celebrations, and had visitors nearly every day.

We extend our sympathy to his son, Mr. Jack Neasham and his family, and to our St. Dunstan's dear friend, Mrs. Doreen Harris.

J. Roberts, Royal Artillery

Mr. Jack Roberts, of Leeds, passed away on June 14th. He was 79 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for just under three years.

Jack Roberts served with the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, and lost the use of his left eye when he was wounded by a grenade blast after the Battle of Cassino. He did however retain the use of his right eye for some years, and was able to work as a driver until retirement age, first for Shell-Mex, and later for his local council.

After joining St. Dunstan's, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts made quite a few visits to Ian Fraser House, where he did microwave cookery and handicrafts, as well as having a holiday. Mr. Roberts was also a great swimmer, and enjoyed using the pool.

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

J.L. Read, Royal Engineers

Mr. John Lawrence Read, of New Haw, Weybridge, passed away unexpectedly in hospital on June 20th. He was 76 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

In July 1940, Mr. Read enlisted in the Royal Engineers and with the rank of Sapper, was on active service during the Second World War. In January 1944, he was severely wounded during fighting at the Garigliano River in Italy, suffering eye injuries and loss of one finger. Six

months later, Mr. Read was discharged from the Army and was then admitted to St. Dunstan's.

He then undertook a period of industrial training coupled with braille and shorthand. Mr. Read was also trained in boot repairing at which he worked until 1954. However, after a refresher course, he took industrial employment as an inspector with Vickers Armstrong where he was a valued employee for over twenty years, retiring on health grounds in 1976.

In retirement, music and braille were hobbies from which he derived much pleasure. Over recent years he also greatly enjoyed holidays at Ian Fraser House particularly when accompanied by his wife, Lucy, to whom he was happily married for 42 years.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Bonner, and three grandsons to whom he was devoted.

R.L. Vincent, Royal Artillery

Mr. Ronald Leslie (Ray) Vincent, of Cricklewood, passed away suddenly at home on June 30th, aged 68. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1942.

Ray Vincent enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1939 and served in No. 282 battery of the 88th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He was severely wounded in action in the Middle East in 1942, losing both hands as well as being blinded.

After a period at Church Stretton he set up a small car hire business which he ran for a number of years but he really came into his own when he passed his Amateur Radio test in 1964. He joined many radio clubs, served on the Committee of the Ealing and District Club and in 1967 was made President of the 48 Club. It was at this time that he helped develop a transistorised tuning device using sound alone which was simple to operate and more accurate than the traditional dials. In 1970 he received the coveted certificate of A1 operator from the American Radio Relay League. This was after his lifesaving call to Staten Island Medical Centre, New York, relaying a message picked up from the *Esbrook* in mid-Atlantic. Ray himself said in an interview published in February 1967, 'Through amateur radio I have friends all over the world who call regularly . . . from millionaires down to paupers . . . and they'll do anything for you.'

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Gwendolen, to whom he was married for 46 years, their daughter, Sandra, and all members of the family.