

St Dunstons  
Review  
October 1989

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Cover Picture: Ted John hands over Q.S.L. cards to His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. (See Amateur Radio Society's Royal Life Member on page 11).

# From the Chairman

There is both good news and bad news for you this month. I will start with the latter.

It is with very great regret that I have to tell you that Eric Boulter died in August. From becoming a St. Dunstaner in 1949 he spent many years with the American Foundation for Overseas Blind and was later Director-General of the R.N.I.B.

Throughout most of the 80's he was a Member of the St. Dunstan's Council and always followed proceedings with expert and detailed interest. He had been ill for some time and perhaps it was a merciful release. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow, Mary.

This autumn sees the 50th visit by the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club to Harrogate to compete with sighted clubs there. A great achievement and yet another example of the widespread diversification of St. Dunstaners' skills. They are celebrating this proud milestone with a special lunch later this month. Congratulations and keep it up.

Finally, in case it was not clear in the last issue, St. Dunstan's widows will be very welcome at next year's 75th Anniversary celebrations in London and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICEBOARD



### ST. DUNSTAN'S SWEAT SHIRTS

A new supply of St. Dunstan's Sweat Shirts have just arrived. These high quality sweat shirts bearing the St. Dunstan's logo are available in large size from Supplies Dept. at H.Q. priced £7.50 inclusive of postage.

### RECORD PLAYER WANTED

Our Lady St. Dunstaner, Miss Beryl Sleigh is in need of a record player which can play 78 r.p.m. records. If any reader has such a player they would be prepared to sell would they please get in touch with her on 01-435 4049.

### TABLE LOOM FOR SALE

Mrs. J. Spence, of Horsham, has a 32"- 4 shaft Ashford Design table loom for sale, together with warping frame and all accessories, priced at £60.00. Anyone interested in the loom can contact Mrs. Spence at Barn End, Slinfold, Horsham, W. Sussex, RH13 7RU.

### NEW CHAIRMAN OF OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

On Thursday July 13th, Mr. Ken Revis was elected Chairman of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. He previously held the post of Vice-President of the Association.

### THEATRE FOR THE BLIND

One of London's top theatres has installed an audio description service to enable blind and visually handicapped people to enjoy its stage productions.

The Duke of York's Theatre, in St. Martin's Lane, gave its first described performance in April, and plans to give one described performance each month on a regular basis. Anyone interested in trying the system should call the theatre on 01-836 9834.

### BURMA STAR FAMILY DAY

The Burma Star Association held a family day recently at Southsea and had many enquiries about St. Dunstan's. On the stall of Arthur and Kit Lowe along with the other items were some St. Dunstan's posters, these attracted much interest, as did Bill Griffiths book 'Blind to Misfortune,' which was also displayed. All the proceeds taken on the day were donated to the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### NEW GUIDELINES ON KERBS

At a meeting held between various disabled peoples organisations and the Department of Transport on July 31st, the Department issued new guidelines to Local Authorities concerning kerbs and road crossings.

The Department will recommend to Local Authorities that a similar surface to the one used at controlled crossings should be used at side-road crossings. It was also agreed that if the crossing point is in line of walk for a blind person then three by three slabs of the texture should be laid, but if the crossing point is offset down a side-road, then it would only be necessary to lay a very small strip of the texture.

The National Federation of the Blind's representative at the meeting, Mrs. Jill Allen-King, recommended that the colour of the texture on the side-road crossings should be yellow, unlike the present colour for controlled crossings which is red. The change of colour will help those visually handicapped people that have some residual vision to know the difference between a controlled crossing and a side-road crossing. She also expressed a hope that local authorities that have flattened their kerbs causing dangers to blind and partially sighted people will quickly install the texture so the dangers can be eliminated.

# ERIC BOULTER, C.B.E.

## A Tribute

Eric Boulter, who died on Tuesday 22nd August, was an internationally distinguished St. Dunstaner who served the civilian blind as well as his war-blinded colleagues. He worked for the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, now Helen Keller International, he was Director-General of The Royal National Institute for the Blind and was a Member of St. Dunstan's Council for seven years.

Eric Boulter served in the Royal Engineers during the Second World War but after he lost his sight he did not come to St. Dunstan's. Instead he received his early training at the R.N.I.B. Centre in Torquay, and subsequently entered their employment as a member of the newly created industrial employment service. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1949.

His international career began when he was seconded to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, in Greece, where he was responsible for developing new programmes for the blind. He joined the American Foundation for Overseas Blind in 1948, organising fund-raising and aid programmes. The activities of the Foundation spread from Europe into the Middle East, Latin America and the Far East. Eric's travels in forwarding this work took him to 60 countries. In 1956 he

became Associate Director, a post he held until 1970.

In 1952 the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind was formed and he became the first Secretary-General. In 1959 he became Vice-President and from 1964 to 1969 he was President.

On his return to England in 1970, Eric Boulter became Deputy Director-General of The Royal National Institute for the Blind. He took up the post of Director-General two years later. It was on his retirement from that office in 1980, that he became a valued Member of St. Dunstan's Council on which he served until ill-health brought about his resignation in 1987. From 1976 until 1988, he was also Secretary of the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness.

Eric Boulter was widely honoured for his work: Bolivia awarded him the Order of the Andes in 1960; he received the Silver Medal for service to mankind from the City of Paris in 1975 and in 1978 he was honoured three times over. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.), received the Helen Keller International Award and the Louis Braille Gold Medal. In collaboration with John H. Dobree, he was author of *'Blindness and Visual Handicap - the facts'*, published in 1982.

## SIR ARTHUR PEARSON ASSOCIATION

### 11th General Meeting

by Bill Mayne

May I share with you my thoughts concerning our recent Reunion and the change in the structure of our National Executive, approved in General Meeting, and what change will mean to our Association and the members.

But first, another matter. During our Reunion I was informed that we had numbered our reunions incorrectly. Here is the calendar of General Reunions held since the inception of the Association in 1922:

1926	Toronto
1933	Toronto
1947	Toronto
1957	Toronto
1965	Vancouver
1972	Toronto
1977	Winnipeg
1980	Toronto
1983	St. John
1986	Montreal
1989	London

Our London Reunion was a smashing success. we had excellent accommodation, delicious meals, fine entertainment, serious business sessions and, what is very important, time to socialise and chat with friends. We even had time for a drink or two but, alas, not much time for sleep. Of such stuff are successful reunions made.

To John and Marge Chatwell, to all their helping friends, to Trevor Musto and Geoff Gunn — our London-based organiser, and to Dave Dorward and Marge Stephen the administration behind the scenes, hearty congratulations and sincere thanks for a splendid reunion. The true measure of the success of our reunion was the enjoyment of those in attendance. One had but to glance into the hospitality room to witness that enjoyment. Such chatter! Now, what of the changes approved during our reunion, and what do they mean to our Association and the members? The major change was the appointment of Jim Sanders as Executive Director.

To ensure proper and adequate delivery of services, C.N.I.B. has re-activated the former War Blinded and Blind Veterans Service Programme under the direction of Jim Sanders as Executive Director. As you may know, C.N.I.B. is under contract with Veterans' Affairs Canada for delivery of services to the War Blinded and Blind Veterans. Unfortunately that contract does not include funding for Association operations. We are on our own with very little money. Jim is not a veteran; is totally blind, but has considerable experience in administrative postings with C.N.I.B. His last position being Executive Director of C.N.I.B. BC/Yukon Division. He has a sympathetic

interest in his fellow human beings. C.N.I.B. has agreed that Jim, with our consent, may assume the duties of Executive Director of our Association at no cost to the Association. That is a benefit of no small degree.

A few years hence when our members are not so active and perhaps not so interested in Association affairs, and if it is desirable that we maintain a viable Association, we would have to appoint a young, more active Executive Director. It is better that it be done now while we have a strong, active National Executive to assist and guide (and even push him a little) in the performance of his dual duties. Presently we have a President skilled in administration and knowledgeable in Veterans Affairs and supported by a strong National Executive to coach the new Executive Director. Now is the opportune time.

As Executive Director of our Association and as Director of the War Blinded and Blind Veterans Service Programme, Jim is at the very centre of the activities and operations dear to our hearts and essential to the well-being of our Association and the members. The duties of one position complement and support the duties of the other position. They are, in fact, inseparable. That factor will work to our benefit. The appointment of Jim as our Executive Director has re-established a long standing practice. From the inception of The Sir Arthur Pearson Association, our Secretary, later Executive Secretary, and still later Executive Director has also been the Aftercare Officer — later the Director of War Blinded and Blind Veterans Services programme.

Our former close relationship with C.N.I.B. is now restored, which is much to our benefit. C.N.I.B. better appreciates our needs than does Veterans Affairs. Our representations and negotiations will carry greater weight with C.N.I.B. than with Veterans. These benefits and advantages are, as yet, a bit nebulous, but will become more apparent and obvious in time. It is up to us, however, to see that they do come about. the degree to which we benefit from this arrangement is proportionate to the support we give it. I am confident it will work.



(From left to right) Harry Leggo, Peter Watson, Bill Gray, John Blanch, Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds.

## AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE-REUNION

by Alan Dean

The Conference-Reunion, held in Melbourne, Victoria, in May to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, is now part of our Association's history.

On Monday, May 1st, the Conference was officially opened by Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, A.C., C.M.G., O.B.E. In his address Sir Edward referred to the tremendous work done by St. Dunstan's for the blinded ex-servicemen and women of the Commonwealth and the achievements attained by so many blind people. Sir Edward cited ex-P.O.W., Mr. Bill Griffiths, as an outstanding example of this.

We were privileged to have the President of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., and Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds at the Conference. Colin took a lively interest in all proceedings and always seemed to say the right words at the right time, to neatly round off many valuable discussions.

This was indeed a special Conference, as all of our members were invited to

attend. In the past, attendance at Conferences has been restricted to two delegates from each State. Many members and their wives accepted our invitation to attend, with the result that we had some 20% of our total membership at the Conference, with every State being represented. Some travelled by rail from Northern Queensland — a trip which took them six days to accomplish.

Not only were our members given the opportunity to speak on most occasions, but their wives were also encouraged to do so. The ladies took a keen interest in the proceedings and made some valuable contributions. Another real benefit for the ladies was the opportunity for them to discuss the joys (or otherwise) of being married to one of us. I feel sure that many friendships were commenced. Hopefully they will continue to grow during the coming years and shall be well-knit when we meet again in two years time. It was agreed at the Melbourne Conference that

our next meeting would be held in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1991.

Due to Parliamentary commitments, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Ben Humphreys, was unable to attend our Conference. However, the Minister was ably represented by Mr. Lionel Woodward, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Our submissions were made directly to Mr. Woodward who undertook to do his best for the blinded ex-servicemen on his return visit to Canberra.

The Federal Executive elected at the meeting for the term concluding at the next conference were:

Harry M. Leggo, A.M., Tasmania,

*President*

Harold L. Cox, Tasmania, *Vice-President*

Alan J. Dean, Western Australia,

*Hon. Secretary/Treasurer*

*Patron:* His Excellency, the Hon. Bill Hayden, A.C., Governor-General of Australia, has accepted our invitation to become our Patron.

A full business and social calendar was planned for Conference Week, which included a wreath-laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, a reception at the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Victoria, and another reception at the Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor, Mrs. Winsome McCaughey.

On Wednesday night, May 3rd, the St. Dunstan's reunion dinner was held in the function room of the Victoria Hotel, Melbourne. Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds were our hosts for the evening and the programme was conducted along the lines of an English Reunion Dinner. Seventy-three people sat down to an excellent meal. Speeches were kept to a minimum and everyone had ample opportunity to socialise. It was indeed a great evening. To mark the occasion, a beautifully-turned wooden bowl, made from Western Australian jarrah, was presented to Colin and Joyce. Many photographs were taken of this ceremony. Bonnie Gray, of Victoria, kindly made a magnificent cake, suitably decorated to mark our 60th birthday, and this also had the cameras clicking!

The following evening the Victorian Association were our hosts. They provided a delicious dinner for 108 guests, and although the company was becoming a little tired, judging by the noise many seemed to have found hidden reserves.

Thursday, May 4th, was our 'Hands On Day,' when we all had the opportunity to be introduced to the world of computers and other aids at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. Judging by the interest displayed by many of our members, it is expected that they would be seeking further information into this field when they returned to their home States. We also spent a most interesting and beneficial time at the Independent Living Centre, where we were shown the many aids they had on display there.

After a busy week we were invited to the R.A.A.F. Base at Point Cook, where we were taken on a tour of the base, which included a walk through their extensive museum as well as workshops and other operational areas, finishing with an excellent lunch in the Sergeants Mess. One of our members was particularly impressed with the price of alcohol — much better than the local hostelry prices!

At the conclusion of the Conference, Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds thanked us for inviting them. Colin said he felt that the Conference had been a great success and that as a result our Association had become more closely united than ever before. Colin went on to say that St. Dunstan's would continue to support us in any way they could and assured us that they would always be happy to provide the St. Dunstan's Reunion Dinner at our Conferences.

These are just a few of the highlights of our Conference. To a very large extent the success of the Conference was due to the enthusiasm of the members and their wives. We have attempted to strengthen our Association to ensure our existence for the foreseeable future and feel sure that this type of enthusiasm is just what we need.

We are all extremely grateful to St. Dunstan's for their continuing help and realise how very fortunate we are to have this wonderful support.

## AMATEUR RADIO WEEKEND, JULY 21st- 23rd

by Arthur Taylor (S.W.L.)

As members of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society arrived at Ian Fraser House for its second meeting of the year, it seemed that the heat and humidity in Brighton was much higher than it had been in the various parts of the UK from which the members had travelled. There was one consolation — the scaffolding which had been such a prominent feature over the past months had gone and the interior of Ian Fraser House had returned to its normal air of calm and well-ordered routine.

An informal get-together in the Winter Garden on the first night of the official programme proved to be a great success, especially as it gave new members the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the older hands. Around midnight, Bill Shea, the Chairman and Ted John, the Secretary, decided it was a good time to try out the new aerials. They were well pleased with the result, making several contacts in Perth, Australia, Madras and Bermuda.

At the meeting held in the Annexe on Saturday morning, the members stood in silent tribute to the memory of 'silent keys' Jim Padley, Ernie Cookson and Hugh Macrae, and Walter Costain, the Society's auditor since its inauguration and an Honorary Life Member. Messages of condolence had been sent to their wives and families, and details were given by the Secretary of the floral tribute sent to the funeral of Ernie Cookson and of the donations made to various charitable organisations in remembrance of the other three gentlemen. Jim Padley received the G3MOW Memorial Trophy for 1988 at this year's A.G.M.

Next year sees the 75th anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's, and there will be many functions to celebrate. The Society had offered its services to set up special event stations during 1990 if desired. The Department of Trade and Industry has very kindly agreed to allocate the call-sign GB75STD for the whole of 1990. The Committee is confident that by

next year the Society will be in possession of equipment compatible with that loaned to the Society during the visit of H.M. The Queen to Ian Fraser House. On this basis 1990 should prove to be a most memorable year indeed.

Tribute was paid to Commander Simon Conway who had recently retired on medical grounds. He had always taken a keen and enthusiastic interest in the affairs of the Society, and the many improvements carried out in the Radio Shack were as a direct result of that interest. The Chairman has since written to Commander Conway on behalf of the Society expressing gratitude for all his efforts on its behalf and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

As mentioned at the A.G.M., it was resolved that it would in future be assumed that all members would be attending meetings unless apologies were sent to the contrary. This would alleviate the Secretary having to ring around to ascertain members' intentions. It was hoped that there would be a 100% turnout for the meeting on Trafalgar Day, October 21st. Bill Shea and Ted John had the attention of everyone present immediately when they told of their meeting with His Majesty King Hussein 1 of Jordan (JY1) in London the previous day. The full story is given elsewhere in this edition of *Review*. As a result of this meeting, members of the Society have been cordially invited to visit Jordan possibly next April or May, when the climate is more agreeable to the European! Ten members have already made their reservations, and if any other members wish to participate will they please inform Ted John at the earliest opportunity. The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to Robin Bellerby (G3ZYE), an Honorary Life Member, for arranging the meeting with His Majesty and for undertaking to make enquiries regarding the trip to Jordan.

Following an excellent lunch with guests in the Winter Garden, Bill Shea commended John Houlihan (G4BLJ),

Dave Mitchell, Tim Ward and Paul James, for all the hard work they put in during their spare time erecting aerials and making the shack operational again. We are fortunate to have such selfless and willing supporters. He congratulated Paul James further on the quality of the meal and asked him to convey our grateful thanks to the members of his staff who had prepared and served the luncheon. The Chairman welcomed Chris Goadby (G8HVV), Guest Speaker for the afternoon session, who had travelled from Cambridge to talk on 'Repeaters and Emergency Communications'. Chris said he thought there would be only one person at the meeting whom he knew, and was surprised and delighted to see many whom he recognised well. He went on to explain the use of repeaters in amateur radio.

The Pye Company of Cambridge first brought out this piece of equipment in the U.K. in 1971, but a licence for its use was not granted until the following year, by which time, Germany had repeaters in use for two years. By 1973, Germany had 70 and it was not until that year the Radio Society of Great Britain placed this item on its agenda. In 1974, the R.S.G.B. decided that amateur radio repeaters could be operated in the U.K. on the same frequencies allocated to Europe, and by the end of that year there were three in existence here. Today, we have 290 units operating, but a lot of hard work had to be done behind the scenes by willing volunteers before the amateur radio fraternity reaped the benefits from what had been achieved. For the information of the uninitiated, a 'repeater' is a remote-controlled station which receives a signal on one frequency and transmits it at higher power on another, thus enabling contacts to be made at greater distances than could otherwise be obtained.

Chris then turned to the subject of RAYNET — Radio Amateurs Emergency Network — which stemmed from the East Coast flood disaster in 1951. At that time, operators knew they were breaking the conditions of their licences in order to save lives, but realising that normal communications systems had broken down, acted instinctively. The same principles

apply today. If the official service cannot operate for any reason, RAYNET takes over. Once normal communications are restored the amateur radio team pulls out. However, there are some functions where the police networks cannot operate effectively without the assistance of RAYNET, an example being the Mildenhall Air Display given by the United States Air Force each year. This attracts some 400,000 visitors over a two-day period and results in a significant number of administrative problems. At this year's event there were 53 RAYNET stations in operation and one unit carried in each of the emergency helicopters. There were 83 operators on site over the two days, during which 971 casualties were attended to, with 16 ambulance runs to local hospitals, all such incidents being logged by RAYNET. Since RAYNET first became involved at Mildenhall, vast experience has been gained and the authorities have stated that the display could not take place without it. There is one cardinal rule that applies to first aid parties and ambulances alike — they must be accompanied by a RAYNET operator wherever they go. Due to the heavy traffic on these occasions, operators have to be in situ by 0700 hours and stay until 2200.

The major part of his talk covered the Lockerbie air disaster, and Chris stressed that the matter was still the subject of a murder inquiry and therefore could not touch on matters which could be regarded as prejudicial. The RAYNET operation lasted for ten days over the Christmas period last year, during which time there were 130 RAYNET operators in the field on a peak day and a minimum of 30 on others. During this time RAYNET was the sole means of communications between the search teams and all other units, the day beginning at 0730 hours and ending when it was too dark for the search teams to operate efficiently. It is a sad fact that even today some of those RAYNET operators who became so involved in the tragedy are still suffering from psychological problems.

Some idea of the speed with which the organisation sprang into action can be gauged by the fact that the aircraft crashed at 1903 hours and by 1930 there were three operators on site. Two local

groups were called out at 2020. By 2215, a radio link had been established with the U.S.A. and having regard to the remoteness of the area this was a tremendous feat of organisation. In conclusion, Chris emphasised that all those concerned could not have carried out their arduous task without the support of their wives, and he recalled that one operator had to give his son his presents at 0300 on Christmas Day. Once the official communications system had been built up to a satisfactory standard the RAYNET involvement ceased. The full story of the disaster has yet to be told, but all present felt privileged to hear Chris's talk and expressed their appreciation accordingly.

On Saturday evening members made their way to the Radio Shack to find out just how good the new facilities were. Many more contacts were made, and everyone was impressed with what had been achieved. However, they did not get too carried away as many had to be up bright and early on Sunday to take the coach from Ian Fraser House at 0600 to catch the 0700 ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe. This is yet another story and this

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## Royal Day of Days

A visit to Buckingham Palace for a Royal Garden Party turned August 8th into a day of days for Jim and Gloria Conroy. They were among a St. Dunstan's group consisting of Mr. and Mrs. John Perfect and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Attfield and their daughter, Caroline.

It all began when an Usher spotted the badges Jim was wearing: St. Dunstan's and the Desert Rats. 'He asked what unit I was with,' said Jim, 'And when I told him the 7th Armoured Division he said he was with the 7th Armoured too.'

They were asked had they ever met Her Majesty The Queen and then they were guided out to a position in the middle of the lane created between the ranks of the guests. 'We felt a bit trembly,' said Gloria,

will also be found elsewhere in the *Review*.

So ended a very rewarding weekend in pleasant company and surroundings, but I cannot end this piece without saying a very big "Thank You" to all members of staff who contributed so much to its success. Nominations for the award of the G3MOW Memorial Trophy for 1989 will be taken at the October meeting so please turn your attention to considering to whom you would wish the Trophy to be awarded.

See you all again during the weekend October 20th - 22nd, and remember to book through Headquarters as soon as possible. The dates for meetings in 1990 are March 3rd A.G.M. July 21st. October 13th.

**STOP PRESS:** Hearty congratulations to George Shed, Colin Mills G76VT and Paul Francia G7ECT on passing the Radio Amateurs Examination. Well done!

'And another Usher came to us and asked some questions, like what regiment Jim served in. We were introduced to the Lord Chancellor and while he was speaking to us The Queen came down. Suddenly we found ourselves talking to her.

'I told her I had seen her father, His Majesty King George VI, on the Tripoli road in 1942 and her mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, when she visited St. Dunstan's in 1947 and we were in the same room,' said Jim. 'I asked to send birthday wishes to her and The Queen said, 'She will remember you and I will convey that to her.'

'It really made our lives to speak to her,' said Gloria, 'I'm not going to wash my glove and I'll keep my hat forever!'



His Royal Highness King Hussein receives a plaque from Bill Shea while Ted John (left) and Robin Bellerby look on.

## Amateur Radio Society's Royal Life Member

by David Castleton

At an informal meeting in his London home in July, His Majesty King Hussein I of Jordan was presented with a plaque, signifying his acceptance of an invitation to become Honorary Life Member of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, by Bill Shea, G4AUJ, Chairman. Bill was accompanied by Ted John, Secretary, G3SEJ, who gave The King the Society's QSL card acknowledging an 'eyeball' contact with him, much to his amusement.

The meeting was arranged by Robin Bellerby, G3ZYE, Principal of Davies's College, in Hove, where King Hussein sponsors medical and engineering students from Jordan. Mr. Bellerby is a member of the Anglo-Jordanian Council and an Honorary Life Member of St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society.

The plaque has St. Dunstan's badge in the centre and mounted on its top right is an Amateur Radio Society badge. It is inscribed: 'His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal - JY1. Made an Honorary Life Member of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio

Society in recognition of his outstanding service in promoting international friendship through amateur radio. July 1989.'

King Hussein is an enthusiastic radio amateur himself. The JY1 in the inscription is his international call-sign in Jordan. He also has a British call-sign he uses when he is operating his station here. 'I get more contacts when I am using the JY1 sign,' he jokingly told his visitors.

The King chatted for some time with the two St. Dunstaners, sitting with them on a settee in his elegant reception room, and told them he was honoured to be made a Life Member. As His Majesty was leaving, he turned, smiled and said, 'By the way, best 73's! - that is radio amateurs' code for 'best wishes' which concludes most contacts on the air.

Later, the Society received The King's own QSL card also acknowledging the 'eyeball' contact. 'It will be framed and hung in the shack at Ian Fraser House,' Ted John told the *Review*.



(From left to right) Bernard Gladwin, Ted Brown, Joan Howard and Bill Cox.

## WORLD BLIND BOWLS, ZIMBABWE '89

by Ted Brown

After another three hard years of concentrated bowling competitions around England and Wales, a team was picked to represent England against six other countries: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Wales, and the host country, Zimbabwe. After a lot of very hard work getting sponsorship and raising the necessary money to go, we managed it in the end, with a great deal of help from Headquarters; we are all very appreciative and we thank all those people who sent their best wishes.

While we were having our final competition at Weston one week before flying out to Zimbabwe, Johnny Cope, our totally blind bowler had a slight heart attack and was admitted to hospital. That night he had a more severe heart attack in hospital and unfortunately, but very sensibly, agreed with his wife to pull out of the team. Bad luck matey, and I really mean that. Fortunately his substitute for the B.1 place was at the tournament and the wheels were set in motion as there was only a week for Terry Pike and his coach to get everything ready. I'm sure Johnny was

well pleased with the performance he put up, more about that later.

From the various corners of England and Wales both teams met up at Gatwick Airport. After all the formalities we headed for the duty free area where we stocked up with a few goodies, just in case we couldn't get much on the plane, as it transpired we did the right thing as stocks on board the plane were low. I didn't think a journey could be so long, especially when there isn't anything to keep you occupied. A ten hour journey without music or any other sound apart from the purr of the aircraft's engines is rather tedious, it even made sleep difficult. We arrived at Harare Airport at about sun-up and soon after that some pretty strange things began to happen to a few of us. Not realising that we were 5,000 feet above sea level, we had been humping cases about and were finding breathing rather difficult. After being checked over by the doctor (no, not witch doctor) and a couple of days of treatment I felt better.

The only problem was that the days I'd missed were the days set aside for practice

before the actual tournament. The members of the various bowling clubs in the area were excellent and helped us to get to the various greens where we were allowed to practice, as no player was allowed on the tournament greens till the games were opened.

All the players from the seven countries, along with coaches, helpers, friends and wives stayed in the same hotel, and what a hotel. It was 19 floors high and every room faced out towards a wonderful park with numerous varieties of palms and trees with flowers of brilliant colours. In the middle of all this magnificence is the City Bowling Club of Harare, where the tournament took place. The opening ceremony took place on the greens on Saturday June 3rd and all competitors, coaches and managers assembled in alphabetical order. The national anthems of the seven countries were played in turn, accompanied by the raising of the respective national flags. I had the honour of raising the English flag, all in all it was a very impressive ceremony. The march past of all the countries followed with the music being provided by the Silver Band of Harare, who did an excellent job. On the dais was His Worship the Mayor of Harare and his staff together with members of the World Bowls Executive Committee and the Tournament Committee. After the welcoming speeches from various celebrities it was back to the hotel to prepare for the serious business.

The day started very early, as the sun rises about 5 a.m. and it was difficult to sleep after that. Breakfast was at 6.30 a.m. and as most of the meals were self service you had to be there early or you only got what was left. This was bad news for those with large appetites, and there were quite a few of those present. We left the hotel at about 8.15 a.m. and walked into the park to the bowling greens. The matches started at 8.45 a.m., the mixed pairs taking place in the mornings and the singles going ahead in the afternoon. If you can imagine playing in a pairs match against a pair that are coached from the front it could take you up to three and a half hours, which means you don't get a great deal of time to rest and have a sandwich. As we had only six in the squad (the same

as Wales) while other countries had up to 14, but we all gritted our teeth and showed great determination, but alas fatigue catches you in the end.

The standard of bowling was even better than the 3rd World Tournament, and the English Team did extremely well winning 5 medals. The following players won medals: Our golden girls were Margaret Lyne, Greenwich, who won the gold medal for the B.3 section, Terry Pyke, of West Suffolk and Tina Groves, of Bristol, who won the silver in the B.1 Mixed Pairs. Joan Howard, of Clevedon, won the bronze in the B.2 Ladies, and along with myself won another bronze in the B.2 Mixed Pairs. In the overall team ratings the England Team came 3rd, so well done.

The presentation of medals and trophies and the closing ceremony were as impressive as the opening, with the lowering of the flags and the march-past it was time for the players to relax and reflect on what might, or could have been.

It was a little frustrating being in the capital Harare as we were not allowed out unless we were in an organised party of about six or eight. That was for safety against muggers and other dangers, we would have liked to explore it a lot more. But we did have a great time at the Hawargi Safari Park. We went out in an open-top safari bus on the first evening just before dusk, and it was so thrilling to see all the different animals in their own habitat. That was where we found out how very cold it gets in such a short time, but the Safari Lodge Hotel was rather nice and cosy and everyone there was so friendly and helpful. But we had to get up at 5 a.m. the next morning to go out on one of the dawn patrols, and believe it or not, the only animal that we never saw in close-up was the lion. There was plenty of evidence that they were around because of the tracks they left. It was also very nice to be able to sit outside and have a good meal in the warm sunshine, and there was plenty of arts and crafts shops for those wishing to take souvenirs home.

We also had a trip to the Victoria Falls, and what a spectacle it proved to be, it is very hard to explain the volume of water that is continuously roaring down, causing spray to cover an area of miles, no

wonder they call that area the rain forest. We had to put on our waterproofs as soon as we got out of the coaches, and believe me, we would have been soaked to the skin in five minutes if we hadn't done so. We also visited a couple of villages and were very well entertained by the local dancers. They have different tribal dances for different occasions, but the continuous banging of the large drums soon gets you down. Talk about driving spirits away, they wouldn't dare come near with that noise.

We had a great trip up the Zambezi River close to the Zambian border. We took the trip at the right time too, mid-afternoon, with the sun setting over the river and jungle it was a painter's paradise. We would have liked to have gone to a lot of other places, but outside the large towns there are very few roads so if you want to travel you had to be on the right route for an airfield, unless you are lucky enough to have a Land Rover. The last

couple of days were spent packing up the things we had accumulated, I then realised I hadn't got anything for Ada. Who's Ada? Chuckles he.

On the last day the whole of the England party got together and had a well earned drink. Congratulations were given to those who did well, and a few words of sympathy to console the rest. We were never down hearted at any time, but we were looking forward to going home. We were not looking forward to the journey at all. Although we enjoyed the trip it was great to get home, the old saying is true, 'there's no place like home'. I must apologise for keeping you waiting for this report, but after being away five weeks out of six I had a lot of work to catch up on when I got home.

By the way the next World Bowls Tournament is in Canada, in 1993. Happy bowling for the rest of the year.

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## ST. DUNSTAN'S AUSTRALIA DIAMOND JUBILEE

*St. Dunstan's President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, reflects on his experiences at the Diamond Jubilee Conference and Reunion of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, Australia*

The Diamond Jubilee Conference and Reunion of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's Australia took place in Melbourne from May 1st to May 5th, and was attended by more than 30 St. Dunstaners from every State, along with their wives, who were particularly pleased to have been invited and to participate in the discussions. Joyce and I were given a very warm welcome and we were delighted to meet many friends whom we first met two

years ago.

Col. Sir Edward Dunlop formally opened the Conference on Monday morning. Sir Edward had always been impressed with the spirit of St. Dunstan's and cited the experience of Bill Griffiths whom he had met in hospital during the war.

At present there are only 154 St. Dunstaners in Australia, and of course the numbers are falling. Concern was

expressed as to the future, and it was decided that without disturbing the state organisations, the strength of St. Dunstan's Australia would be in the Federal Association, and that it would be best if the number of delegates to the bi-annual conferences were reduced to one and that the conference/reunions should circulate between South Australia and New South Wales, Canberra and Victoria. While all St. Dunstaners and their wives should be invited to attend.

We had arrived on the Saturday morning, and during the weekend had visited the very impressive Shrine of Remembrance, set in spacious gardens on rising ground. In the afternoon in the presence of everyone attending the Conference a bugler sounded the Last Post, while Harry Leggo and I laid wreaths.

In Australia there is no Headquarters as we know it in the United Kingdom, and the care of all ex-servicemen is vested in the Department of Veteran Affairs. Lionel Woodwood the Federal Secretary of State to the Department addressed the meeting on Tuesday and was able to hear first hand the problems of St. Dunstaners and their wives. Some of those present had travelled by train for four days to reach Melbourne and demonstrated one of the major difficulties, that of distance and remoteness. The request that one free interstate warrant should be permitted each year when attending our conference, reunion or to meet a Federal Minister illustrated this point.

In reply to another question, the Minister said that the pension scheme had been set up during the First World War, and that it was unlikely that the principle of a more generous pension being paid to those wounded in a theatre of war than to those wounded during training or elsewhere would be changed.

Another resolution again stressed the problem of distance, for apart from some cities there is no welfare visiting, and Frank White from Victoria, D.V.A., said that it was up to the man to claim the many benefits available to him. He must be well informed to do this, so there was a request for information to be made easily available on cassette.

Peter Watson, Deputy Commissioner

Dept. of Veteran Affairs for Victoria, gave us all a very pleasant reception on Monday evening and on Tuesday after completing the day's business, we all went to the Melbourne Town Hall where the Lord Mayor, Mrs. Winsome McCaughey, received us and in replying to her formal welcome, I was able to say how pleased we all were to be in Melbourne.

The Conference closed on Wednesday with the election of Harry Leggo as their President and Alan Dean as Secretary/Treasurer, and amongst the many expressions of gratitude, Bill and Bonnie Grey were particularly thanked for all that they had both done in arranging the Conference to be held at Anzac House, the Headquarters of the R.S.L.

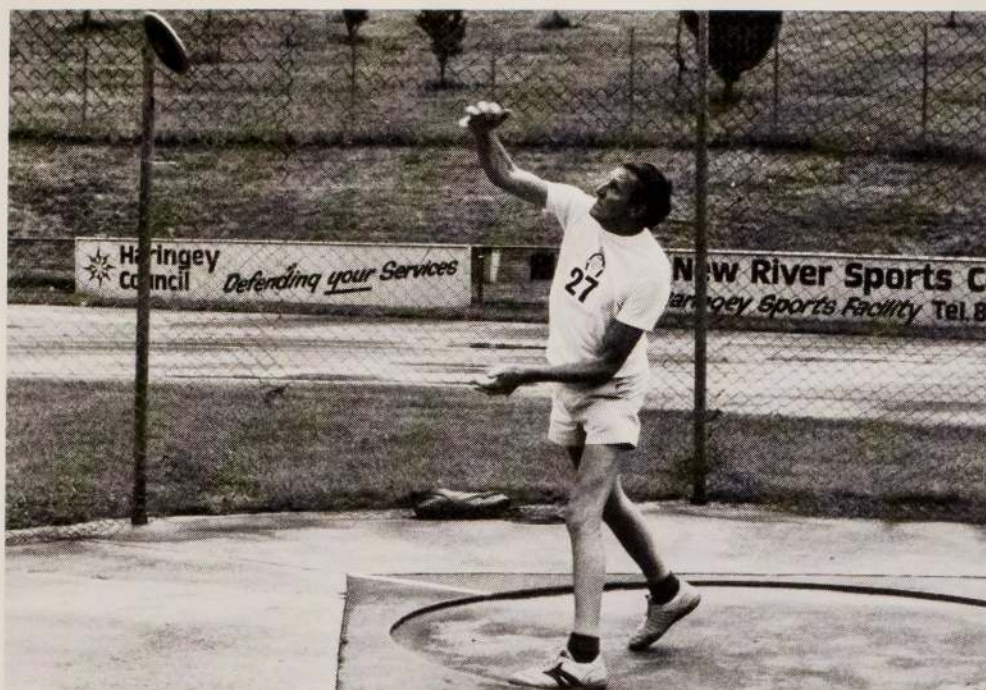
That evening Joyce and I presided over the St. Dunstan's Dinner which we thoroughly enjoyed, the biggest surprise came when we were presented with a most gorgeous jarrer wood bowl. This wood is peculiar to Western Australia, and is light wood with lovely graining.

Thursday was a Hands on Technology Day, and in the morning we visited the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. In the afternoon we visited the Independent Living Centre where aids to help all types of disabilities were displayed.

The day concluded with the St. Dunstan's Victorian State Dinner, which was presided over by their President, John Blanch. This event was run Australian style, by which I mean that the speeches came between the courses instead of at the end of the meal as I had done the previous evening. To remind us all that it was the 60th birthday of St. Dunstan's Australia, Bonnie Grey had made a lovely birthday cake, which Joyce and I were asked to cut together — the last time we cut a cake together was almost 40 years ago!

This most happy Conference and Reunion ended on Friday with a visit to the R.A.A.F. station at Cook's Point, where there is a most interesting museum, and then after lunch in the Sergeants Mess we were shown round the rest of the training establishment. One particular hangar pointed out to us is the one which is used in the making of the TV serial 'The Flying Doctors'!





John Gilbert with the throw that won him the bronze medal in the discus.

## NATIONAL METRO SPORTS '89

by Patrick Flanagan

The 13th Annual National Metro Sports for the visually handicapped took place at the New River Stadium, White Hart Lane, on Saturday July 8th. As this was my first outing to a sports meeting for the visually handicapped I was a little apprehensive about what to expect. I need not have worried for it was organised to a level of professionalism on a par with any major sporting tournament. Some of the performances turned in by the athletes made it difficult to believe that they were visually handicapped.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the 3 kilometer B.1 walk when five St. Dunstaners' battled for the Bill Harris Cup. The hotly contested race was eventually won by John Gilbert with a time of 19 mins. 55.5 secs. In second place was Mike Tetley with a time of 21 mins. 1.1 secs. and in 3rd place with a time of 22 mins. 26.4 secs. was Ray Hazan. The other two St. Dunstaners in the race Terry

Bullingham and Stan Tutton had times of 23 mins. 51.8 secs. and 24 mins. 14.6 secs. respectively.

John Gilbert was again in the medals in the field events taking the bronze medals in the Javelin with a throw of 15.08 metres, in the Shot Put with a throw of 4.96 metres and in the Discus, with a throw of 13.40 metres. Stan Tutton finished in 5th place in the Javelin (totally blind) with a throw of 7.34 metres and in 4th place in the Shotput with a throw of 3.83 metres.

In the early afternoon a cloudburst held up the events for half-an-hour but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the athletes who travelled from all over the country to take part in the Championships. A word of praise must go to Terry Bullingham who encouraged seven visually handicapped men and women to travel down from Aberdeen with him to take part in the event for the first time. He hopes to bring a larger contingent with him next year.

## DARTING FOR ST. DUNSTAN'S

Darts Researcher, Patrick Chaplin traces the history of the St. Dunstan's Four

Formed in October 1945, the brainchild of Islington cafe owner Harry Allen, who was at the time chairman of the West Islington Darts League. The St. Dunstan's Four played exhibition matches to raise money for those blinded during the two World Wars. The Four played their first match on October 1st 1945, at the Bricklayers Arms, Finsbury Park, London, and raised £55. Joe Hitchcock, later to become one of the country's first sponsored dart players and one of the earliest darting 'greats', captained the Four. His feats of darting skills earning him nicknames such as the 'The Marathon Marvel' and 'The Treble Twenty Wizard'.

During this time as Captain, (October 1945 to July 1948) Hitchcock missed only one night and was rarely, if ever, defeated. There was little doubt that Hitchcock was the one the punters wanted to see. He was a phenomenal dart-player. His games over 3001 drew the crowds and he regularly checked out in less than 40 throws (120 arrows). His best ever 3001 whilst playing for the St. Dunstan's team was 106 darts. Joe was rarely pressed in his matches and regularly beat his opponents whilst they were over 600 points behind. In October 1945, Hitchcock beat a man called Lamy. When Hitchcock threw the winning double Lamy still needed 1015!

At a match held on October 25th 1945, at The Cock public house in Kilburn, *The Dart* newspaper interviewed a Mr. R. Vincent (24), who had lost his sight and both his hands fighting for King and Country. St. Dunstan's he said had taught him to be happy and set him up in a car hire business. Vincent told the audience that they could not do enough for St. Dunstan's who had made him independent. When asked if he used to play darts, Mr. Vincent smiled and replied, "I still do".

Money raised through darts for St. Dunstan's was not only via the efforts of the Four. Hundreds of collection boxes were left in pubs and clubs up and down the country. In the top of the boxes (in addi-

tion to the slit for the money) were two sets of darts. the legend on the box read: "True balance 'Dorwin' Darts provided by St. Dunstan's to help your game". An illustration on the front of the box showed blinded St. Dunstaners enjoying a game, one holding a string attached to the dartboard in order that the second could assess his direction and aim.

The team line-up was changeable but at one time or another would have included the following: Leo Newstead, Jackie Boyce (who later became the 1949 *News of the World* Champion), Billy 'Badger' Hughes, Stan Outten (*News of the World* London & Home Counties Champion 1937), Sid Howes, Johnny Bartlett, Bill Jacobs, George 'Rubber' Connell and New Zealand champion Bill Penman. Jackie Boyce took over as Captain of the Four when Joe Hitchcock resigned.

Originally Harry Allen had assumed that the Four's activities would be restricted to London, but such was the enthusiasm of licensees and supporters of the Four that the exhibitions soon became known countrywide and their travels took them to all parts of England, Scotland and Wales. The team was filmed and broadcast several times on radio. They even managed a T.V. appearance! By the end of 1948, after more than 450 matches, the £55 collected at their first match in October 1945, had increased somewhat. In a little over three years the team had raised over £30,000 for the war-blinded.

I would be interested to hear from any readers of the St. Dunstan's *Review* who would have any memories of the St. Dunstan's Four or indeed have any information, photographs or even perhaps memorabilia they may wish to share with me. As one of the few darts researchers I am keen to obtain as accurate a picture of the Fours activities as possible.

Patrick Chaplin can be contacted at 50 Norfolk Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6AT. (0621 856040).



*Ray Hazan puts the Scorpion through its paces.*

## I HAVE A SCORPION – Out of my way

by Ray Hazan

I wonder how many ex-Royal Army Service Corps veterans would leap at the opportunity to get behind the driving wheel again? Like a lot of St. Dunstaners I suspect, who drove before blindness, it is one of the activities we miss most. If the Army then offers you a day driving an assortment of vehicles, it would be hard to say 'no thank you!'

The chance arose when the Guide Dog Adventure Group organised such a day with 40 Squadron, The Royal Corps of Transport and the R.A.F. Regiment based at Catterick, in Yorkshire. As our bus load of 35 guide dog owners and members of staff pulled on to the airfield at R.A.F. Catterick, on Thursday 8th June, we were confronted by a waiting fleet of buses, cars, vans, lorries and two-tracked vehicles. Hardly had Major Alec Mutch, O.C., 40 Squadron completed his brief words of welcome, than we were being escorted to our vehicles to fulfil a dream.

All the drivers had spent the previous day at the Middlesbrough Guide Dog Centre learning sighted guiding tech-

niques. That, combined with their experience as driving instructors made them seem unbelievably calm! I could still not quite comprehend that I was climbing into the cab of a 40 ft articulated truck; or was it a mini? The steering was so light, the brakes totally responsive and the gears only a little stiff due to the newness of the vehicle. Having said all that, every turn around the runway and perimeter tracks was accompanied by violent jolting. Had I been on the road, I would have left a 'boulevard' behind me as I swept pavements clear of all obstacles, and shaved the corners off buildings with the trailer. The bumpy ride was, of course, me running off the tarmac and onto grass! Steering the vehicle as a totally blind person is a weird, if not impossible situation. But all Jim's 'requests' to turn were accompanied by 'please' and his voice never ever rose to a contralto – a steadfast man indeed!

Next, I was invited to go and feel a Scorpion! This is, in fact, an 8 ton armoured reconnaissance tracked vehicle. It carries a 76 mm canon and co-axially mounted

7.62 mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) for protection. It is lightly armoured, its ground weight being a mere 5 lbs per square inch and relies on speed, 60 mph plus, on good going, for added protection. The dream became even more unreal as I was invited to wriggle down into the driver's hatch, and that the BBC would be filming the event.

Steve, my instructor, strapped helmet and headphones on me, and then proceeded to give probably the shortest driving course in his life; one accelerator, one brake, one rocking foot pedal for the gears, toe to change down and heel to change up, and two tillers for the steering. A push/pull knob converts the seven forward gears to reverse – end of lesson one! You jab the heel down twice to put the vehicle into 3rd gear, there's no clutch, and only when you accelerate does the Scorpion gently move off.

It is easier than driving a wheeled vehicle, for, release the tillers, and it goes straight. Through the headphones would come the order 'left' and you pulled that tiller back until he said 'on', which meant release it. Steve said he found it easier to guide a blind driver as his orders would be

obeyed rather than pre-empted by a sighted person. The faster the Scorpion was going, the less you needed to pull back on the tiller. Putting the vehicle in neutral and pulling back on one tiller, made it turn on its own axis, easier than a three point turn! Driving at 50 mph down the main runway was a thrilling experience to say the least. You can imagine my disappointment when the B.B.C. asked for several repeats both along the runway and cross country!

The latest diesel Land Rover seemed a far more comfortable beast than the rather basic models of 20 years ago. For guide dog, Happy, the open back gave a grandstand view of the rabbits left standing after the passage of all these 'hairy' drivers!

The object of the Adventure Group, which is open to all blind people, guide dog owners or otherwise, is to help blind people fulfil their lives. This was not a day for sorrowfully looking backwards, but one of excitement, achievement and the chance to be a small boy again – and why not! What next? Well British Rail have just introduced the 140 mph class 91 locomotive . . .

*Where's the steering wheel? Ray Hazan gets to grips with the controls watched by a B.B.C. cameraman.*





Don Planner (centre right) hands over the cheque to Jimmy Wright.

## London Marathon '89

by Jimmy Wright

Against all the odds Don Planner has made it a hat-trick of London Marathons. Don ran his third London Marathon in a row on Sunday April 23rd, he was one of a team of seven runners sponsored by the Royal School for the Blind, at Leatherhead. This proved to be an incredible achievement as Don had broken his collar bone skiing, only a few weeks earlier, and was in a lot of pain. To add to his discomfort he pulled a muscle at the halfway mark, nevertheless, with encouragement from his escort, Mick Feltham, Don was determined to complete the distance, knowing that a great deal of sponsorship money was at stake!

Although Don's time was much in excess of his previous two Marathons, 5 hours 24 mins., he and Mick completed the distance, a tremendous triumph against enormous odds.

On the evening of Thursday August

24th, Jan and I drove down to Parkstone, near Poole, to meet Don and Mick at Don's local pub 'The Dorset Knob.' We were joined by Barry Guffogg, Manager of the Royal School's London Workshop, until his retirement in July. Barry and I had attended the Marathon and watched the runners crossing the finishing line on Westminster Bridge. A large crowd filled the bar to see Don present me with a marvellous cheque for £1,600, a magnificent contribution towards the total amount of £4,034.60 raised by this year's team. The money will be used to provide teaching aids for the Education Department and items for the new self-contained flats for the doubly handicapped blind residents.

Don has asked me to express his, and also Mick's, very sincere thanks to all St. Dunstaners and friends who were kind enough to sponsor his run. Thank you all.

## 'D' DAY DODGERS RETURN

by Bill Shea

In 1944, Lady Astor, M.P. for Plymouth, expressed the opinion that the British troops in Italy were having a good holiday, enjoying the vino and the sunshine, and were dodging 'D' day! These troops, some of whom had slogged across North-Africa, quickly reacted by calling themselves the 'D' Day Dodgers'. Their anthem was the 'D' Day Dodgers Song' to the tune of Lily Marlene.

In May of this year once again the strains of Lily Marlene could be heard in the vino bars around the squares of Cassino. The 'D' Day Dodgers' had returned for the 45th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino, one of the longest and bloodiest land battles of World War II. Over 2,000 veterans of the Italian campaign had assembled there from all over the world on a pilgrimage of reconciliation, they included over 600 from the U.K., and over 1,000 from Poland. Three St. Dunstaners were present, Reg Goding, Joe Humphrey and myself, along with our wives.

On the plane from London to Rome I met Mrs. Jim Mather. St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton, will remember her as Peter Straun, who with her sister Hilary was V.A.D. at The Longmynd. She was with her husband who served in the Royal Artillery during the Battle of Monte Cassino. We also met Charlie Chester at our hotel. He was collecting material about the Cassino Veterans for one of his programmes.

For me, the highlight of the trip was my reunion with Stephan Korolyk, who served in the Polish Troop, 10th Inter Allied Commando. After I was wounded and not really with it, I was aware that someone who was not English was helping me. Stephan, who had been wounded after crossing the river, helped me to an advanced first aid post. We had to lay up in

the post for three days because the German shelling made it impossible to get back over the river. Eventually we reached the 103rd New Zealand Hospital and from there to the 92nd British Hospital in Naples. I returned to the U.K. and Stephan returned to his unit and was in the final assault on the Monastery of Monte Cassino. It was to be more than thirty years before we were to meet again at a Commando Reunion, in London.

The Official Reunion activities in Gallino started during the morning of Saturday, May 13th, with the opening of Phoenix 1989, in the Aula Pacis, of the University of Cassino. In the afternoon there was a photographic exhibition in the Cassino Town Hall, showing Cassino before, during and after the war. There was also a display of some German and Allied military equipment which had been left littering the battlefield. In the early evening in the main square of Cassino there was a military band concert given by The Queen's Own Highlanders. The Highlanders in their kilts caused great amusement amongst the Italian children. A special stamp and first day cover was available from the Post Office.

On Sunday morning a service and wreath laying ceremony was held at the British Commonwealth Military Cemetery, in the presence of Italian and foreign civil and military representatives from all over the world. The Very Reverend Horace Dammes, ex-Dean of Bristol Cathedral, a Cassino Veteran and a founder member of the British ex-Servicemen's C.N.D., gave the sermon. As reported in the *Daily Telegraph*, many of those present objected to the political overtones of his sermon. Many considered that this was neither the occasion or place for such comments. A German padre, a Cassino Veteran, also took part in the ser-

vice. In the afternoon there was a very moving service at the Polish Military Cemetery on Monte Cassino, just below the Monastery. The service was in Polish and in English and was televised by Polish television. After the service and wreath laying, Stephan and I were interviewed by the Polish television commentator and by the representative of the Polish equivalent of The Royal British Legion.

The Monastery of Monte Cassino, high above the town, was reduced to a heap of rubble by Allied bombing and shelling in 1944. St. Benedict is buried in the Monastery and in 1945, when the rubble was cleared, the tomb was found to be intact apart from an unexploded shell buried in its outer fabric. The Monastery has been rebuilt to as near possible as it was before its destruction and the work is almost complete. On Monday morning in the Basilica within the Monastery a service of reconciliation was held. This was the central feature of the pilgrimage. The Service was led by the Abbot, S.E. Don Bernado D'Onorio, in the presence of diplomatic representatives. Veterans of many nationalities and faiths joined together in the Act of Reconciliation. It was a moving and inspiring service and at the end the congregation were asked to shake their neighbours' hand in peace and friendship. General Jaroszelski of Poland, now living in the U.K. shook hands with Reg and me and wished us well.

After the main service was the presentation and dedication of two stained glass windows in the Chapel of St. Martin where the monks took refuge during the battle. It is a miracle that not one was killed in spite of the terrific pounding the monastery received. The chapel is very small and tickets limited but fortunately we were able to be present at the ceremony. The two windows each have six panels depicting nations and troops involved in the battle and are sited each side of the very simple altar. Mr. Madron Seligman, Conservative Euro., M.P., for West Sussex, who served at Cassino with the 6th Armoured Division, presented one window to the Abbot on behalf of the British Commonwealth ex-servicemen and women. General Jaroszelski presented the second

window on behalf of the Polish ex-service organisations. There were many Moslem Veterans in the chapel and a gift of the Koran was given to the Abbot for the Monastery library. The Service closed with the dedication of the windows.

On Tuesday there was the Grand Parade through the streets of Cassino. It was a holiday and the local population turned out in force. The contingents from the U.K. were led by the pipes and drums of The Queen's Own Highlanders. Reg marched with some of his comrades who had served in his battalion in the Royal Fusiliers. They had recognised and remembered him, and they had a grand time together talking of events that took place 45 years ago. I was with Stephan and a small group of Commandos. After the parade, wreaths were laid at the Cassino War memorial. In the afternoon there was a concert at the Fiat Motor Works. I did not go, Stephan and I went to the Polish Cemetery to lay flowers on the graves of 12 Polish Commandos that are buried there. During the evening there was a farewell party organised by the City Authorities at the Fiat Sports and Social Club, with buffet and dancing. A concert was given by Francesco Pelosi, a tenor from Rome, unfortunately, this was spoilt by the acoustics in a building which appeared to be a very large aircraft hanger.

The Polish Veterans had their big day on May 18th, 45 years after the Polish flag and Union Jack were raised above the ruins of the old monastery. During this four day event old comrades were reunited, old battles fought and many new friends made. Italy certainly was not the 'soft underbelly of Europe' it was supposed to be. The terrain made it easy to defend and difficult to attack. One might ask who were the 'Dodgers,' those who dodged 'D' Day,' or those who dodged Italy. Does it really matter? We were all in it together, those at home in the blitz or those who served at sea, on land or in the air.

After four days in Cassino some returned to the U.K. while the rest of us went to resorts on the West Coast. Reg Goding and I with our wives went to a pleasant resort called Formia, which is

between Naples and Rome. From here we made various excursions to surrounding places. One of these was by train to Rome where we joined a very large crowd hoping for an appearance of the Pope, unfortunately he was not in residence. We were very impressed by St. Peters and the magnificent view of Rome from its dome. This was followed by the Coliseum, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Fountain of Trevi, etc. Unfortunately the Fountain of Trevi was undergoing restoration work, no three coins in the fountain. On the Saturday before we left Italy we had a superb lunch in a restaurant in Gaeta, where we enjoyed the company of five Italians at an adjoining table. Their English was very limited and our Italian no better, but in spite of this we conversed for four hours. We learnt they were celebrating a wedding anniversary and when they learnt it was my birthday they sent us an excellent bottle of champagne. When we said goodbye it was kisses all round and a few tears before they climbed into their maroon Rolls Royce and we jumped on our bus.

On Monday Reg and Eileen drove across Italy to the River Sangro. They found the spot where Reg was wounded up in the hills at Santa Maria, and the church he was taken to afterwards. They went on to visit the British Commonwealth cemetery where some of his unit are buried. Like all of these cemeteries it is in a beautiful setting, situated on the side of a hill. Reg found the graves of many of his comrades including that of Captain Price, his Company Commander. One grave gave him an emotional shock, it was that of Fusilier Bennett, who was killed four weeks after Reg got out. Joan and I took the opportunity to visit the area north of the River Garigliano where I was wounded. We went to the British Commonwealth Cemetery at Minturno, where I found the graves of the lads who were killed in the action in which I was blinded.

Then it was back to the U.K. by British Airways. The Economy Class was full so we St. Dunstan's with wives travelled Club Class. It was G and T's after take off, champagne and salmon over the Alps and liqueurs and coffee over France. An excellent finale after 12 unforgettable days.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From Gwen Obern, Mid-Glamorgan**

May I thank the many friends that have written and phoned me and also the V.A.D's that I knew in 1943 and 1971.

So much kindness has been shown by so many that it is impossible to thank everyone individually, so I send you all my sincere thanks in this letter.

**From Roy French, of South Africa**

The 3rd of September 1939, is hardly a date that can be forgotten, but it is particularly memorable to us. We were actually married before the war. To be exact the service started at 10 a.m. at the Catholic Cathedral, in Cambridge. At that time it was the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs. It was during the reception that the radio was turned on so that we could hear Mr. Neville Chamberlain speak. Up to that moment we had all hoped that the worst would not happen.

I was already in the army, as I had been called up and had to report for duty at 8 a.m. on September 2nd, with the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment. Our wedding was booked with a Nuptial Mass for the next day, so I spent all that Saturday running around trying to find out whether or not I could keep this appointment in Church. It was not until 9 a.m. on September 3rd, that it was confirmed that I could have a 24 hour pass. The situation was chaotic. The real peach of the situation was that when I reported for duty at 8 a.m. on September 4th, I was put on a charge for not having been on P.T. drill at 6 a.m. So much for a twenty-four hour pass!

So much has happened in the last 50 years, but my memory of that day is as clear as if it was only yesterday.

## DIARY OF A QUIZ CONTESTANT – Part Two

by Sue Reynolds

### Later in March 1989.

Ponder on forthcoming TV debut and consider vital questions of what to wear and whether to try and lose weight, remembering from my store of trivial knowledge that TV makes one look at least half a stone heavier. However, recall P.O.W.'s Reunion Dinner and Brighton Reunion Lunch looming large on the calendar and decide weight loss is out of the question. Kid myself that a reduced diet might impair my brain power.

### Early in April 1989

Give more thought to what to wear recalling instructions from the production company not to wear white, loud checks or sparkling items. The latter is easy, not yet having found 'sugar daddy' to buy diamond necklace. Think will probably wear best pleated skirt and cream shirt but final decision awaits weather forecast. Also begin to wonder whether existing store of knowledge is adequate and scan bookshelves. Opt for quick read of 'Concise History of England' and 'Who Did What' as insufficient time to learn Encyclopaedia Britannica by heart. Additionally scan rail timetable, not in quest for knowledge but to see what time one has to get up to get from Peacehaven via IFH to Wandsworth by 9 am. It doesn't bear thinking about, furthermore, escort might lose enthusiasm if told she needs to be up at 5am, especially as overtime is not payable on leave.

### Later in April 1989

Greatly relieved to receive letter from production company offering hotel accommodation in Putney the night before the recording. Immediately ring hotel to reserve room for escort.

### Later in April 1989

Detect rumblings on radio and in the newspapers that tube and train strike likely to start on May 8th. Wonder whether will have to break rule of a lifetime and drive to London or borrow St. D's tandem. Decide to 'wait and see', recalling

that this is a quote from Asquith and may come in handy as the answer to a question.

### April 28th, 1989

Have hair permed to give it a chance to be manageable by May 10th as hair do before 9 am is unlikely in extreme.

### Early May 1989

Production company ring to ask if Mary and I can share hotel room as threatened strikes mean more contestants need accommodation. Agree and tell Mary the good news. Unseasonably warm weather means revision of dress question. Opt for new black and white summer dress, worn twice, and make mental note to make sure it is washed and ironed.

### May 6th, 1989

Return to hairdresser's although this time for beauty treatment on face. Too late for a face lift but ordinary facial should ensure spotless complexion.

### May 8th, 1989

Come to iron dress and horrified to discover a fault in the seam, no time to waltz it back to M&S before the show so select another dress and pray it won't be too hot to wear it.

### May 8th, 1989

2.25 pm. Mary and I hitch a ride to the station with St. D's transport and find fast train to Victoria leaves on time, BR work to rule notwithstanding. Also strike lucky with only two minutes to wait for a tube at East Putney.

4.25 pm. Arrival at hotel, it's home from home as there are builders everywhere in the process of renovating it. However, our room is excellent, the only setback is that the bar is closed but we do get wine with our dinner and anyway I need a clear head for the morning.

### May 10th, 1989

Rise early and take great care over hair and make-up, have breakfast and await minibus to the studio.

9.15 am. Arrive at studios and issued



Sue, (4th from right) lines up with the rest of the contestants.

with badges for identity. Ushered into waiting room with other contestants and reserves. All contestants told that they would be taken to make-up, paid their expenses and the draw for numbers would follow. Meanwhile coffee is available. The coffee pot is right behind Mary's head so she, like a good C. A. dishes it out, largely I suspect to avoid anyone reaching over her and spilling coffee on her smart green suit. I'm the first to be called to make-up and my ego is boosted when the make-up girl tells me that I've done a good job on myself. (I bet she says that to all the girls) so she just tittivates my hair and tells me she will come round with the powder puff once we get into the studios under the lights. Return to the waiting room, the tension mounts a little as the production assistant enters with the bag of numbers and goes round the room asking each contestant to draw a number. No one wants to be number one and I am about half way round the room but breath a sigh of relief when I get number ten.

### About 10 o'Clock

This is it. Time to go through to the studio. Mary has found herself an escort in the

shape of a reserve contestant and whilst they take their seats in the audience I find my perch behind the number ten rostrum. Our names, jobs and home towns are checked, name badges firmly fixed with sticky tape and microphones adjusted. The sound engineer checks all our mikes and the make-up girl comes round with the powder puff. She makes sure we've each got a couple of tissues on the shelf under the rostrum, presumably to mop sweaty palms, I'd have preferred a large Scotch! Meanwhile, the girl who does the voice-over records the list of names and the cameraman films each contestant in turn for the opening sequence. Now enter William G. Stewart, the presenter. One of our number is a previous winner so he greets him first and then goes round the rest of us and shakes hands. Now it's time for the off and the questions start. I heave sigh of relief when I get my first one right, at least I will survive until round two. The next few minutes are a bit of a blur and until I see the programme I'm not even sure what my questions were, except that, surprise, surprise I lose two lives on music. Once I've sat down I can of course answer everyone else's questions! There are a cou-

ple of hitches during the show: a lad in the audience calls out one of the answers and the poor old contestant on left has to have another question which he then fluffs and when part one is over they have to re-run one question because the sound track wasn't clear. After part one is in the can the twelve losers including self have to leave the studio so we only get to see the final on a monitor in the waiting room and not very well at that. Mary is still in the studio so she sees it all.

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## WARSAW UPRISINGS

by Dr. Stan Sosabowski

*On the 45th and 46th anniversaries, first hand descriptions of some of the fighting during the Warsaw Uprisings in the Second World War appear in the following article. Its publication comes about as the result of conversations between the Editor of the Review and Dr. Stan Sosabowski. It includes extracts from an open letter written by Stan to Yad Vashen, the Israeli equivalent of our 'Not Forgotten' Association, written to refute allegations of anti-semitism in occupied Poland. Further extracts are taken from his, as yet unpublished, war memoirs. He has always been reluctant to describe his war experiences but has gladly given permission for the Review to publish this article.*

It was against German persecution and extermination of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto that the first Uprising took place. In Stan Sosabowski's words, 'On the 19th April, 1943, the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto, faced with complete annihilation, took up arms against the Germans. They chose deliberately to die in battle — men, women and children — instead of being murdered in the gas chambers.'

Stan Sosabowski was a Captain in the Polish Army, decorated many times for bravery in action. In occupied Poland he commanded Special Commando Unit 'A', Command Diversion (Kedyw), Warsaw District Collegium, which was part of Polish Armed Forces in Poland, known as the Home Army. They were under direct com-

mand of the Polish Government in exile and supplied with weapons and instructors from England. The unit was 70 strong and, together with many similar units, was fighting the occupying German Forces. Stationed in Warsaw, it was employed in diversions and sabotage as well as open warfare.

**June 2nd, 1989**

Watched self to see what really happened; the powder puff hadn't worked and they'd cut out at least one of my questions and some other people. I'd better not hold my breath waiting for Wogan to phone.

mand of the Polish Government in exile and supplied with weapons and instructors from England. The unit was 70 strong and, together with many similar units, was fighting the occupying German Forces. Stationed in Warsaw, it was employed in diversions and sabotage as well as open warfare.

When the Uprising in the Ghetto began, he writes: 'We, fighting in diversion units, received an order, direct from London through our Commanding Officer in Warsaw, to assist Jewish fighters in their struggle. To suppress the Uprising the Germans preferred someone else to do their dirty work. The troops were mostly made up of S.S. detachments of Ukrainians, Latvians and battalions of criminals released from gaol.'

'On 25th April, at midnight, a patrol made up of three soldiers under my command left the residential northern part of Warsaw. The patrol was heavily armed with automatic weapons and grenades. We proceeded along the main highway parallel to the Vistula River and towards the burning Ghetto. The flames could be seen from a long distance. The whole Ghetto was surrounded by a high wall with a few gates. Through these gates the enemy moved in force to fight the Uprising.'

'The patrol proceeded towards a park, surrounded by a metal and wooden fence which was separated from the street leading into the Ghetto. We could move unseen through the heavily wooded parkland to the corner of Konwiktorske and Bonifraterska Street.'

'Beyond the wooden fence the main street led north to Gdansk Railway Station and south, approximately 400 yards to the main gate to the Ghetto. Through the solid wooden fence we could hear the marching soldiers, the commands, both in German and Ukrainian, and the noise of the engines of heavy motor vehicles.'

'On the ground, near the fence, we placed grenades joined together by trip-wires. On my order a number of hand grenades was lobbed over the fence towards the sound of marching soldiers. Explosions followed and the patrol quickly withdrew. We could hear the smashing of the fence, probably by armoured vehicles, followed by more explosions. Obviously the percussion grenades were doing their work! The patrol was not followed by the enemy and got safely back to base.'

On 1st August, 1944, there was yet another Uprising, this time the whole of Warsaw as well as in very many places in occupied Poland — code name: Operation Thunderstorm. The intention was to divert German troops as the Red Army approached from the East. 'Zero hour for the Uprising was 17.00 hours. Special Commando Unit 'A' received orders to attack and occupy the Main Supply Depot of the Waffen S.S. This was situated on Stawski Street, near the Gdansk Railway Station. This depot was connected to the main railway by a branch line by which equipment, uniforms, food, medicine, etc. were brought to the magazines. Afterwards the empty railway trucks took slave labour and the Jews to their extermination in the concentration camps.'

The whole area was surrounded by a tall, heavily patrolled wooden fence. At the main gate was an armoured bunker; beyond it were many pre-fabricated buildings containing supplies. On a southern aspect parallel to the now non-existent Ghetto and its surviving wall stood a modern building, the primary school, which

was obviously being used by the German crews as a barracks.

'We occupied a nearby, empty Customs and Excise building and attacked the objective after liquidating the crew of the bunker and some of the S.S. men round the perimeter approach to the school. There was very little enemy fire.'

'Entering the ground floor of the school, we forced the door of the gymnasium to be faced with a crowd of about 50 young people in striped overalls guarded by one S.S. trooper, who was promptly liquidated.'

'The crowd realised what had happened and expressed, in a language which was completely incomprehensible to us, their joy at being liberated. Fortunately some of them could speak German. They explained that they were Hungarian Jews, used as slave labour and, of course, in the near future they would have joined the others in the gas chamber.'

'They were freed and went straight into the depot to change from their striped overalls and to get some food before disappearing into the fighting city. Two or three joined our unit as volunteers to be killed, I believe, later on in the battle. Unfortunately, I cannot add any more details of what happened to the freed Jews as a few days later I was seriously wounded and, as a result, lost my sight.'

The story does not quite end there. There are very few survivors of Special Commando Unit 'A'. Three are living in the West: Dr. Sosabowski and Lieutenants Aronson and Likiernik, who were with him in that action. They plan to have a commemorative plaque mounted on the wall of the school, which is still standing.

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### BRITISH GAS ANNUAL RESULTS ON TAPE

British Gas has produced an audio cassette containing its annual results. The cassette is intended for visually handicapped shareholders and sums up the key points of the last financial year, in the form of interviews with top management, presented by Peter Hobday. It is available free of charge from British Gas Shareholders Enquiry Office (phone 01-834 2000).

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

**Arthur Birkett**, of Barton on Humber, South Humberside, who joined on July 3rd.

Mr. Birkett served as a bombardier in the Royal Artillery between 1929 and 1942, and was wounded at Dunkirk in 1940. Following the war he worked as an acid plant operator at Associated Chemicals until his retirement. Mr. Birkett is married and has one daughter.

**Kenneth Earnest Henry Cranch**, of Kingsbridge, Devon, who joined on July 17th.

Mr. Cranch joined the Territorial Army in 1934 and was mobilised at the onset of the Second World War. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps, in Africa, Greece and Italy, reaching the rank of W.O.1., before his discharge from the army in 1945. Mr. Cranch was able to work until 1977, which was shortly before his serious loss of vision. Mr. Cranch and his wife, Eva, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary recently. He has a son and a daughter.

**Dennis Frederick Crouch**, of Walthamstow, who joined on July 10th.

Mr. Crouch served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1948 and spent almost two years in Palestine. Until he lost his sight, Mr. Crouch worked in the furniture trade. He now does voluntary work teaching braille at the local resource centre for the disabled. Mr. Crouch has been married to his wife, Jean Lucy, for almost 39 years and they have one son.

**Cyril Hemmings**, of Worcester, who joined on July 27th.

Mr. Hemmings served in the Royal Army Pay Corps at the beginning of the

Second World War, and lost the sight in his left eye after a few months service. Mr. Hemmings worked in the textiles industry for 50 years. He is married with a grown up family.

**Mr. William John Higgs, of Christchurch**, who joined on August 10th.

Mr. Higgs, who is 72, joined the Territorial Army in 1938, and then served as a Lance-Bombardier in the Royal Artillery from 1939 until 1946, when he was discharged. His duties included the examination of crashed enemy aircraft and he suffered severe head injuries and the loss of one eye when an aircraft exploded. Until 1969, he ran his own D.I.Y. business when he had to retire due to the deteriorating vision in his remaining eye. He has been married to his wife, Joyce, for 49 years and has one adult daughter.

**Thomas Edgar Johnson**, of Saffron Walden, who joined on July 24th.

Mr. Johnson served as a Wireman in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and suffered an injury to his right eye. Following the war he taught English and History until his retirement in 1980, when the sight in his left eye failed. Mr. Johnson is married, and has two sons and a daughter.

**George Frank Watt**, of Derby, who joined on July 27th.

Mr. Watt served with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War and was wounded by a land mine explosion in Italy. After the war Mr. Watt worked for his local authority until retirement age. He is a married man.

### CORRECTION

In the August issue we stated that the winner of the *Review* Short Story Competition was Mrs. Joyce Harris. This of course is not the case as the winning story 'If Only We Could See The Future' is by Mrs. Patricia Harris. We send our profound apologies to Mrs. Harris for giving her the wrong name.

## Observations

by Patrick Flanagan

What makes perfectly sane citizens who would normally be tucked up in their beds wander about on the edges of Epping Forest at 3 a.m.? The Moon of course, what else. These modern day werewolves are crazed to the extent that they will gladly give up a night's sleep (and suffer the consequences at the office the next day) to get a glimpse of their quarry.

I am of course talking about the recent eclipse of the moon, when over a billion lunatics worldwide (myself included) watched the first total eclipse in seven years. This fascination with our near neighbour in space is nothing new. From earliest times the silver-gold orb has fired mans' imagination and led to all manner of strange tales. Before mental illness was understood people associated madness with the moon (lunacy) and kept a special eye on those who they considered suspect, fearing they would change into a wolf, or worse.

The notion that the moon was inhabited was another misconception believed throughout the ages, and it was not until the Apollo landing in 1969, that this belief was finally put to rest. As recently as the middle of the last century so little was known about the moon that the scientific community were taken in by a piece of fiction that became known as the 'moon hoax'. In 1835, a *New York Sun* reporter, Richard Adams Locke, reported that the eminent British astronomer Sir John Herschel trained a new, powerful telescope on the moon and observed some fifteen species of animals there, including what seemed to be a race of winged men. Locke's article, supposedly reprinted from the then defunct *Edinburgh Journal of Science* raised the circulation of the *Sun* from 2,500 to 20,000. The hoax, was so widely believed that it inspired one ladies' club to raise money to send missionaries to the moon.

The book that the *Sun* reporter made

from the article sold over 60,000 copies, and was studied with great interest by a scientific delegation from Yale University. In the end Locke came clean and admitted the hoax, calling it 'a satire on absurd scientific speculations that had gotten out of hand'. There is no mention as to what the ladies did with the money!

### GORDON POOLE

Gordon Poole, whom many St. Dunstaners will remember as House Steward at Ian Fraser House, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on 15th July. He was 74.

Gordon joined St. Dunstan's in May 1946, on leaving the Army and began as a medical orderly. Later he became Assistant House Steward, a position he held for some 20 years until his promotion to House Steward in March 1975. He retired at the end of 1979, having served St. Dunstan's for over 30 years.

We send sympathy to his widow, Erica, who was our Housekeeper at Ovingdean and retired with him in 1979 having, herself, served for more than 20 years.

### AN INTERESTING READ FOR COMPUTER USERS

by Ray Hazan

*Cat. No. 6354*

**Microchip**

by Tom Reid

This book, written in plain language, traces the history leading to the development of the microchip in 1958 and beyond. It also gives a very good idea as to how the computer works. As the microchip plays such an important role in our lives today, the book could be classified as essential reading.

# A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

## HAS GOD LET US DOWN?

The philosopher Locke said that looking around at the world you couldn't infer a benign deity, but given a benign deity you could make horrors of the world. It is not certain if there is a deity at all, benign or otherwise, perhaps it's only a fiction invented by man. Life on earth might be nothing but a laboratory experiment devised by a super-intelligence coldly interested to see what happens when the seeds of life are sown in earth's environment. As to what happens to us humans as a result of these experiments, the super-intelligence doesn't much care, not at least where our humanity is concerned.

There is only need to assume the existence of a deity or super-intelligence if the cosmos had a beginning. Think of it as always having existed, in this case there is no God required to account for it. Since it always existed, it never had to be created . . . no first cause. This point was made by Bertrand Russell in a debate with G.K. Chesterton, and there was nothing G.K. could do, for all his theology, to get round this objection and make a case for God.

Let us suppose, however, that God exists, created the cosmos and has something in mind for us humans which in due course will manifest itself in what happens to us here on earth. Perhaps in some future state when homo sapiens have broken the bonds that tie us to space and time. In creating the cosmos God gave rise to everything, evil as well as good, in fact it would seem that the Devil is God's masterpiece and has a role to play in the most important aspect of human development, that of the psyche. For it is in its struggle

with evil that good can develop to a point where mankind can go into spiritual orbit and join forces with God in his plan for our species.

But Locke says what he says, that the horrors of the world as we know it, as mankind has always known it, far from suggest a benign deity. The question arises whether God, in devising the Devil, gave him not equal power with himself, but too much. The last 6,000 years of human history (the period of civilization) show that the Devil has got the better of God. For the collapse of some twenty civilizations, most based on the idea of God, would seem to indicate the triumph of evil over good. Life for most people, most of the time and in most places has been hell on earth, a wretched struggle for subsistence. The four horsemen of the apocalypse have trampled underfoot the majority of mankind.

What has God done to better the lot of our species? The fact is that God has done nothing, and the inference from this neglect must be either that God doesn't care, or, against the Devil he is powerless in this respect. There is no extenuation, he has let us down, no matter what Christians may say.

His incarnation upon Earth, (if this ever occurred), was a belated, inadequate attempt to redress the evils his impotence has visited upon mankind. Omar Khayyam was right. 'God', he says, 'is as much in need of forgiveness on the part of mankind as mankind is on the part of God.'

## RENEWAL OF DISABLED PERSONS RAILCARD

A point to note on replacement of Disabled Persons Railcards are that you only have to send the application form completed and signed, quoting the serial number and expiry date of the holders Railcard. You do not have to send your valid card with it. Three weeks should be allowed for receipt of the new Railcard. The British Railways Board will remain of the view that it is not desirable for the Disabled Persons Railcard to be obtainable from stations or travel centres.

## D. F. Robinson's

# GARDENING NOTES

This is the time of year when the majority of the growth and colour has just about gone in the flower borders and the vegetables will soon be over. So some work can be done in clearing the beds and getting them ready for 1990.

At least you won't have much work to do on the lawns, but many trees will be starting to shed their leaves and these can be brushed up and consigned to the compost heap or if only a few are about put them in the rubbish bin. There will be many weeds still about, you may be able to get at the roots of these fairly easily, but it might be a good idea to use the hoe or the light fork, and use the fork to clear all the bits and pieces.

## Vegetables

Keep the hoe going between growing crops such as winter cabbage and cauliflower. Clear the ground where you have beans and peas and give the soil a good digging over. Lift for the winter weather to get at, and sprinkle a bit of lime over this area. Where the main crops of beetroot and carrots haven't been lifted, this should be done at once, especially where there is a good deal of leaf fading. Keep in sand which will keep them good for the rest of the winter. Ensure that you have the remnants of the main crop potatoes lifted and stored in the garage or shed.

Radishes and lettuces may still be sown especially in the South, but if you are planting in the North give some cover with plastic sheeting lifted a little away from the soil. Rhubarb can be planted for next season's crop but you should remember not to pick too many stems early in the year. Give the new roots a good bed of compost or manure and a dose of the same as a protection against winter weather. Tomatoes outside will be about

over now so dig them up and pick the fruit putting them on sunny windows to ripen, or, if you have a greenhouse place them on the staging near the windows.

## Lawns

When doing the last mowing set the blades a bit high so that the grass can grow a bit higher for the winter. After the last mow clean the whole machine up especially the blades and the roller. Put a bit of oil on the moving parts and put it away for the winter.

## Fruit

This time of year is the last time to plant new trees in the places you have sorted out. Try and get all the places dug over well and add compost or manure on the bottom of the holes. Spread out the roots and cover with soil and treading down well, give another covering of compost so that a really hard winter won't get to the roots. Water in well.

Some of the older trees may be showing some of their roots above the top soil, so cut them back adding some anti-disease spray to the cuts to prevent infection.

All the grease banding on the main trunk about a couple of feet above the soil should be completed this month to stop all the insects going up to the branches and laying their eggs. All the currants and gooseberries should be pruned now. The fruited canes on the raspberries and loganberries should be cut away leaving some young ones for next seasons fruiting. Where you need a new plantation of these fruits get them set now. Cut away all the runners from the strawberries. Gather the fruit from the apples and pears carefully in case there is some bruising so that they last the season well.



## Flowers

Most of the borders can be cleared of the annuals by the end of the month so that the weeds which are still there can be taken out by hand or hoe. Light forking over will give you easy working soil for getting in the bulbs which you have forgotten, plus the tulips which will be going in at the right time. Do remember to get the smaller type of bulbs in the front of the bed and tulips in the centre with daffodils and narcissus at the back, remembering to set the bulbs in fairly deep.

Many of the perennials can be dug up and split into pieces with plenty of root. The centres can then be thrown away as they won't be much use. Get out all the dahlia tubers if you want to keep them for next season. I find that it is as easy to get new ones each season unless there is one with a special flower that you like. Keep them dry in sand or peat. The gladioli corms can be treated in the same way.

Where you have large clumps of polyanthus, auricula, primula, etc, they can be broken up into small pieces with good roots and planted in other parts of the garden to give a good spring show. Plant out the wallflowers and pansies in their spring flowering positions so that you get a good show with the bulbs.

Cut back some of the taller roses as strong winds may do some damage during the autumn and winter. Also get the new roses planted in their flowering places which I hope you have already dug over well. When the roses arrive check over the roots and cut away any which are damaged. When planted lay the roots out flat, add some soil and shake down at first and then add more soil and press down with your feet. It may be a good thing to put in some stakes and tie in the bushes to them. Water in well and it might be wise to put in the name label at the bottom of the bushes.

## Greenhouse

Temperatures may be a bit low these days so keep all the windows shut at night and during the days when the wind is strong. Start the heater and keep the temperatures at about 45F. Clear all the floors and

staging, spray with a light disinfectant to keep diseases at bay. Carnations and chrysanthemums may need disbudding so that you can have a good size of bloom when cutting for the house. Water well and give a feed every so often. Tie into stakes as they may fall away and break off. Pot all the bulbs you want for Christmas and New Year colour. Keep them in the coolest part of the greenhouse and in the dark under the staging. Do give them a good soaking after they are potted up. Pinch out the top growths of the schizanthus in the pots to make them bushy so that you get a full show of flowers later on. Salpiglossis can also give a good show later on in their final pots.

Put into their flowering pots such items as cyclamen, calceolaria, cineraria and primulas. Keep the corms of the cyclamen above soil level so that they won't rot or get waterlogged, remember to water the plants when you have replanted them. Put the plant near the glass so that they can get plenty of light and won't be drawn up. It might be a good thing to have a combined insect and disease smoke set up about the middle of the month.

## HASTINGS AND SKEGNESS BOWLS TOURNAMENT

by Percy Stubbs

Once again St. Dunstons' bowlers attended the Hastings Tournament and the National Tournament at Skegness. The weather has been exceptional throughout the season and we all have enjoyed playing bowls in light summer clothing (no raincoats). We again met many old friends and enjoyed their company during play and in the evenings at social functions.

Although we managed to come away with a few trophies and our players reached the latter stages of the championships, it is not winning all the time that matters but the enjoyment of playing the game and the pleasure that it gives to us all. We would like to thank all the staff of St. Dunstons for their co-operation and kind help. We would also like to thank the transport department who willingly take us to the venues and give assistance when required.

## SOUTH DOWNS WALK

Tom Lukes along with other St. Dunstaners took part in the walk along the South Downs, here is a poem sent in by Tom which is sure to bring back memories of the walk.

*I remember walking on the South Downs Way,  
Fourteen miles in under a day,  
Botolphs start, Amberley end,  
Brothers together with four-legged friend,  
our views, Steyning Bowl,  
Chanctonbury Ring for countryside soul,  
Washington beckoned with Franklin Arms,  
Ploughmans lunch, Boyhood yarns,  
One last drink, one last toast,  
A steep climb up the Parham post,  
Last stretch over, the Arun in sight,  
Aching legs . . . slept well last night,  
Time has passed, memory fades to grey,  
But I'll never forget walking on the South Downs Way.*

Malcolm McHugh

and is now a fully qualified doctor. Amanda will soon take a post at Broad Green Hospital, in Liverpool.

Robert John, son of *Ted and Beryl John*, of Wallasey, on achieving a Fellowship of the College of Anaesthetists.

Stuart Planner, eldest son of *Mr. and Mrs. Don Planner*, of Poole, Dorset, on obtaining an Honours Degree in chartered surveying from Thames Polytechnic, Dartford.

Joanna Walton, grand-daughter of *Mr Percy Bargery*, of Aylesbury, on gaining a M.B.B.S. Degree at London Medical College. Joanna has now started work at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, as a House Surgeon.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

#### Saturday July 15th, Individual Results

1st	Mr. White	69.0
2nd	Bill Phillips	59.5
3rd	Mrs. White	54.9
4th	Wally Lethbridge	50.0
5th	Ralph Pacitti	45.2
	Miss Sturdy	
7th	Miss Stenning	40.5
8th	Reg Goding	35.7

Mr. Peter Whitcombe, youngest son of *Johnny and Beryl Whitcombe*, of Eastbourne, who recently attained an Honours Degree in Pharmacology with Bio-Chemistry at Kings College, London.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Douglas Holt thanks St. Dunstaners, widows and other friends for the generous gifts he received on his retirement.

## FAMILY NEWS

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Amanda Harry, daughter of *Peter and Denise Harry*, of Bridgend, who recently passed her final medical examinations

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mrs. C. Bulbrook*, of Downham Market, on the birth of a grandson, Craig Robert, on May 30th, to her son, Robert and his wife, Karen.

Mrs. Joyce Jensen, widow of Ernest Jensen, of Hillingdon, on the birth of a grandson, Oliver Michael, to her son, Michael and his wife, Linda, on July 13th.

Jim and Gloria Conroy, of Easton, Cleveland, on the birth of a grandson, Peter James, on August 23rd to his son, Gerard and his wife, Diane.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg Craddock, of Warrington, on the birth of a grandchild, Elizabeth Jane, on June 13th, to their son, Alan and his wife, Judith.

Mrs. Higgins, widow of T. W. Higgins, of Hemel Hempstead, on the birth of a grandson, Christopher, on Sunday, July 23rd, to Sarah and David Hobbs.

Mrs. Irene Hill-Brown, widow of the late Arthur Hill-Brown, of Langton Matravers, Dorset, on the birth of a first grand-daughter, Anna, born to her daughter Susan, and her son-in-law, Nicholas Goulding, on July 15th.

Ted and Beryl John, of Wallasey, on the birth of their first grandchild, Samantha Alice, born on June 17th, to their daughter, Liz, and her husband, Peter.

Mr. Brian Lang and his wife, Margaret, on the birth of a first grandchild, Siobhan, to their son, Paul, and his wife, Judith.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Oakes, of Clacton-on-Sea, on the birth of a grandchild, Kyle Christopher, to their daughter, Sandra and her husband, Jim, on July 20th.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack White, of Rosliston, Burton on Trent, on the birth of a grandson, Dale Thomas, to their daughter, Caroline and her husband, Anthony, on July 16th.

## GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Renshaw, of Nottingham, on the birth of their first great grandchild, William Joseph, on July 22nd, to their grand-daughter, Sally.

## MARRIAGES

### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Marion Hill, widow of the late Mr. J. Hill, of Crawley, on the marriage of her grandson, Scott, to Miss Beverly Vine, of Crawley, on August 12th.

## RUBY WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Ray and Pauline French, of Port Shepstone, South Africa, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on September 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lynch, of Saltdean, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on August 20th.

Albert and Margaret Steer, of Billingham, Cleveland, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on August 13th.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. George Jenrick, of Wallington, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on September 3rd.

Tom and Olive Simmon, of Harrogate, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 11th.

## DEATHS

### We offer condolences to:

Mr. William T. Fitzgerald, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the death of his wife, Isobella, who passed away on August 4th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Florence Elliman, widow of the late John Acworth Elliman, of Salisbury, who passed away on August 3rd.

The family and friends of Mrs. Jane Ellinson, widow of the late William Ellinson, of Coventry, who passed away on July 6th, aged 99 years.

The family and friends of Mrs. Frances Henderson, widow of the late Richard Henderson, who passed away on August 17th. We also extend our sympathy to Miss Vera Wrench who was a loyal and devoted friend to Mrs. Henderson for many years.

Mrs. Doris Legge, wife of Mr. James Legge, of Westbury-on-Trym, whose mother died on August 14th.

Mr. Stan C. Moseley, of Blackpool, on the death of his wife, Kitty, who passed away on July 24th.

Mr. F. G. Tinsley, of Holloway, on the death of his wife, Queenie, on August 17th.

The family and friends of Mrs. L. D. Webb, widow of the late T. W. Webb, of Hythe, Kent, who died peacefully on August 19th.

Mr. G. Waterworth, of Whoberley, Coventry, on the death of his brother, William, who died on June 9th.

## 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.

### E. T. Boulter C.B.E., Royal Engineers

Mr. Eric Boulter, of Stanmore, Middlesex, passed away on August 22nd. He was an internationally distinguished St. Dunstaner and former Director-General of The Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Mary, his son, Roger, and his daughter, Jacqueline.

A full tribute appears on page 4.

### E. Hordyniec, Polish Army

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Edward Hordyniec, of Birmingham, on July 17th. He was 77 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 40 years.

Mr. Hordyniec was born and brought up in Poland, and served with the Polish Army dur-

ing the Second World War. He was injured while making a parachute jump, and suffered severe head injuries, losing the sight in his left eye and also some hearing. The sight in his right eye gradually faded, and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1949, where he undertook training on the capstan lathe. Mr. Hordyniec then took up work in Birmingham and within a few months was the best capstan operator in his firm. In 1962, he decided to take up inspection work and had a period of retraining to learn the use of micrometers. Unfortunately, soon afterwards he had a very bad accident and although he returned to his work after a period of convalescence his health was not good, and he had to take early retirement in 1972.

Mr. Hordyniec enjoyed his retirement and divided his time between his workshop and the garden. He and Mrs. Hordyniec also travelled

widely, and made one visit to Poland and one to Norway, as well as having some holidays at Ian Fraser House. He remained active and had a good social life until the last two or three years of his life when he was not in very good health.

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

**L. Hurford**, *Royal Air Force*

We are sad to record the death of Laurence Hurford on August 14th. He was 81 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for just a few months.

Mr. Hurford served with the Royal Air Force in the U.K. and Belgium during the Second World War, and lost his right eye in an accident whilst working on an aircraft. Following his discharge from the R.A.F., Mr. Hurford went into the textiles industry and worked for 44 years with a firm of merchants who specialised in worsted yarn.

Later in life, Mr. Hurford's left eye also deteriorated, and he joined St. Dunstan's in 1988. He was very fond of listening to his talking books, and this was his main hobby occupation.

We are sorry that we did not have time to get to know Mr. Hurford better, and we send our sympathy to his widow, Dorothy, and all the family.

**F. A. Livermore**, *East Surrey Regiment*

Mr. Frederick Arthur Livermore, formerly of Surbiton, passed away at Pearson House on August 8th, aged 86. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1972.

Mr. Livermore enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment in 1919, as a regular and became a Warrant Officer. He was wounded in the head whilst serving in the Far East in World War Two and taken prisoner at Singapore in 1942. His blindness later was due to the privations and malnutrition he suffered as a P.O.W. He worked on the notorious Burma-Siam railway and subsequently in the coal mines in Japan. He was discharged from the Army in 1952 and joined the Civil Service for the remainder of his career, retiring at the age of 61 in 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Livermore celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 1986, two

years after Mrs. Livermore had entered a nursing home permanently. Mr. Livermore was a regular visitor to Ian Fraser House before he finally moved to Pearson House this year. He will be greatly missed by the Staff and his friends at both our Homes.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Ada, their four children and all members of the family.

**F. Parkinson**, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

We are very sorry to report the death of Mr. Fred Parkinson, of Accrington, on July 12th, only two months after being admitted to St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Parkinson served as a corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War, serving in France and in the Middle East. He suffered head injuries in a bomb attack at Tobruk, in Northern Libya, and lost the sight in his left eye. The vision in his right eye remained until the later years of his life.

Mr. Parkinson had worked as a psychiatric nurse before the war and after the war took up employment as a coach driver, which was his job until he retired.

We regret that we did not have the time to get to know Mr. Parkinson better. We send our sympathy to his widow, Elizabeth, and their friend, Margaret, who has shared the Parkinson's home for many years.

**E. Slater**

We are very sorry to record the death of Mr. Eric Slater, of Leyland, Lancashire, on August 27th, aged 67 years. He had been a St. Dunstaner for six years.

Mr. Slater served as a Lance Corporal in the Army during the Second World War, and following his discharge he worked as a telephonist until his retirement in 1979. He unfortunately developed an illness during his Military Service which affected his vision over the years, and caused him other severe disablement. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1982. Mr. Slater had to endure further complications with his health last year, but was nursed by his devoted wife, and given much comfort and support by his large and loving family.

We offer our deep sympathy to his widow, Joyce, and all members of the family.