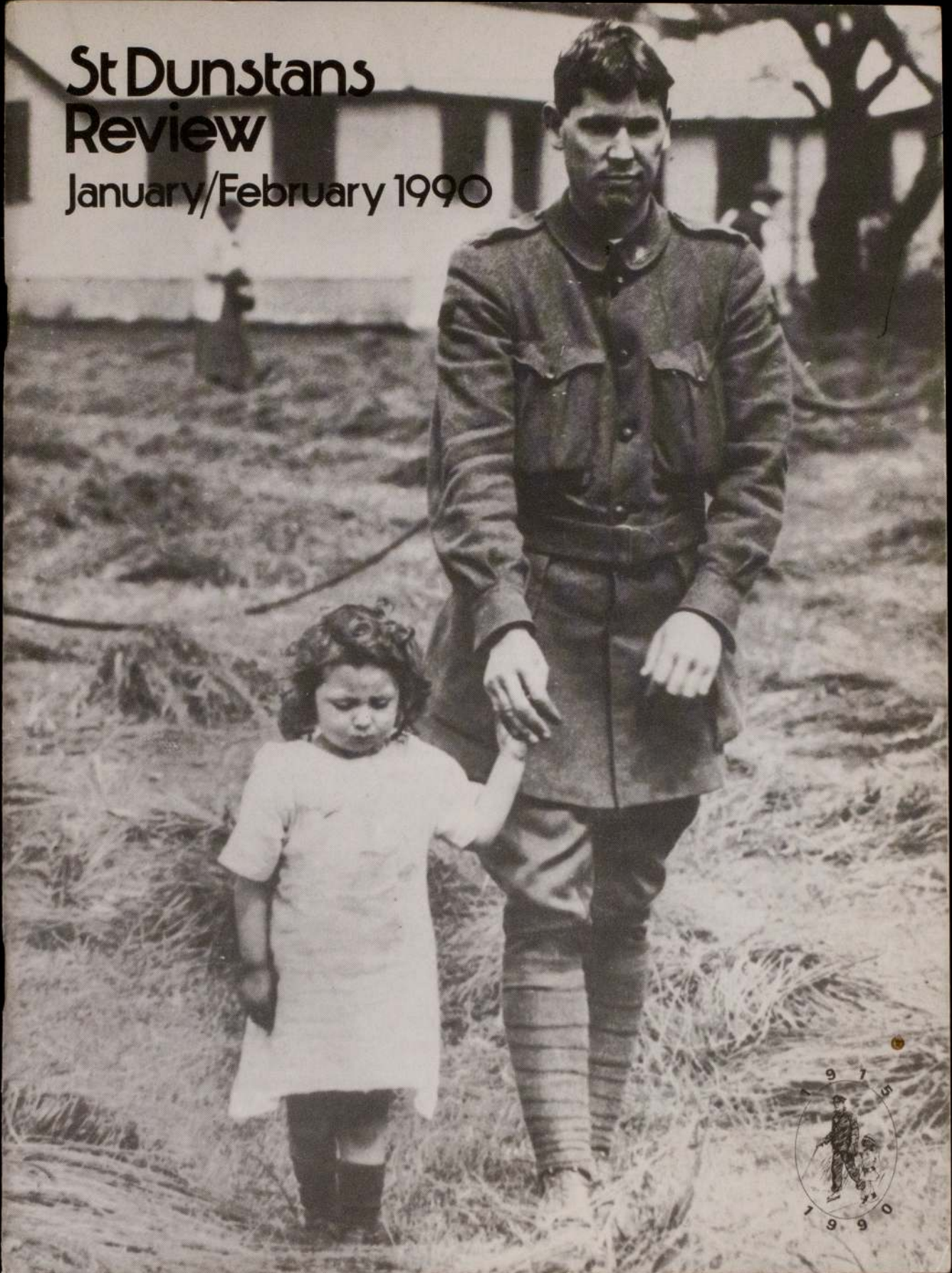


# St Dunstans Review

January/February 1990



JAN./FEB. 1990

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Cover Picture: A photograph from the First World War shows 'Little Ruby', a small girl who guided St. Dunstaners in Regent's Park and inspired the cover of the first Annual Report (see 'Times Remembered' on page 4).

## From the Chairman

We have entered the 1990's and what better way of doing so than to celebrate St. Dunstan's 75th Anniversary. Three quarters of a century is a long time; does it *seem* like a long time to you? Or do you recall the traumatic events of those two Great Wars, and other conflicts, with such clarity that they might have almost happened yesterday? Memory is a wonderful thing and it is also very merciful: the good, the happy times remain sharply etched; the awful parts are gently blurred into oblivion – sometimes.

Still more valuable than memory are Hope and Expectation. The ability to look forward to things yet to come despite present problems and the hope of achievement of things worthwhile and fun. It is in *this* spirit that I hope most of you will look ahead to the events of 1990, and may it be for you a memorable time.

Happy New Year.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BOOKINGS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Due to the demand for double rooms at Ian Fraser House during the Christmas and/or New Year, and to give St. Dunstaners the opportunity to make alternative arrangements if necessary, it has been decided that all applications must be in by the end of June 1990.

After this period, if the available accommodation has been oversubscribed, a decision will be made as soon as possible as to the allocation of accommodation at Ian Fraser House. The factors which will be taken into account will include compassionate or welfare reasons, the frequency of previous visits at Christmas and proximity to Ian Fraser House.

We hope that all St. Dunstaners will think this is a fair and reasonable way to deal with the bookings situation at this time of year.

### SUMMER SCHOOLS AT BRISTOL

The University of Bristol are offering 6 week-long residential summer schools for blind and partially sighted adults. The courses will be in archaeology, natural history, science and technology, horticulture, Egyptology and literature and the arts. The courses will be held at Churchill Hall, one of the University's halls of residence, accommodation will be in single study bedrooms and guide dogs will be welcome.

The programme for each course will include talks, discussions, demonstrations, field trips and visits. The courses require some degree of mobility and physical fitness. For further information contact Claire Wickham/Nicola Hockin, at the University of Bristol, Department of

Continuing Education, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1HR. (Tel. 0272 303030, Ext 4638).

### ST. DUNSTANER IN NEW YEAR HONOURS

We congratulate Norman Follis, of Cardiff, who has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List. The citation reads: For services to the blind and the community in Wales.

### CAMP AT H.M.S. DAEDALUS 1990

Will all those wishing to take advantage of the Royal Navy's generosity and hospitality by coming to camp at *H.M.S. Daedalus* this year please write or preferably telephone, Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG, or telephone 0799 22874 by May 3rd, 1990 at the latest.

The dates of the camp are from Friday August 10th until Saturday August 18th. The Camp Committee would particularly welcome applications from St. Dunstaners who have not yet experienced camp.

### WANTED

A table loom and, if possible, a warping frame are required for the Beech Wood Centre for the Blind, Morecambe. If any reader has either or both available, please telephone Tom Page on 0524 410455.

### A. J. BOARDMAN RECOVERS

Mr. A. J. Boardman, who is currently recovering from major leg surgery in the Benjamin Brodie Ward, of St. Georges Hospital, Tooting, informs us he will be 'back on his feet' as soon as possible.



## TIMES REMEMBERED

*First in an anniversary year series of articles*

### COVER GIRL 1916

*Ruby Crane talking to David Castleton*

St. Dunstan's first Annual Report for 1915/1916 had on its front cover a drawing of a blinded soldier being led, hand in hand, by a small girl. Later, flag day emblems incorporated a similar drawing.

This design was not the inspiration of an early public relations man. It was based on an actual happening, a happening that continually recurred over the period that St. Dunstan's training was centred on the house, St. Dunstan's, in Regent's Park.

The small girl in the drawing was known as Little Ruby. She was Ruby, daughter of William Smith, the Head Gardener of the estate. She is now Mrs. Ruby Crane, a lively 77 year old lady living in Sompting in Sussex. The house was called just plain St. Dunstan's because of the clock from the church, St. Dunstan-in-the-West, that stood in the grounds. I was born there in 1912. We lived in the lodge. It was a nice house with four bedrooms and hot and cold water, electric light, bathrooms and all that sort of thing. My father was head gardener so we lived on the estate.

It belonged to Lord and Lady Londesborough when my father first went there. They had a beautiful ballroom in the big house and they used to give a lot of balls. There were fairy lights around the grounds, it was really lovely. Even the Kaiser was there on one occasion.

My two older sisters were allowed to peep through the window but I wasn't because they were ten and eight years older than me so of course they were grown up. They looked through the windows at this grandeur going on. We really enjoyed living there as we had so much pleasure out of the grounds because the

Report of St. Dunstan's Hostel  
for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors  
for the Year ended March 26th, 1916



*A facsimile of the cover of St. Dunstan's first Annual Report.*

big house wasn't really occupied a lot. The people were away most of the time.

Then the property was sold and a Mr. Otto Kahn bought it. He was an American millionaire. When the war started he was going to America to live and said that the blinded soldiers could have the whole of the place to do what they liked. There was nothing there at first only just the big house so, of course, new buildings had to be hurriedly put up.

I remember horses and carts bringing in stuff. When they were putting the wooden buildings up they padded the posts and supports with straw and then had this red felt wound round because, normally, the posts have four sharp corners on them so they were padded and, of course, there were handrails everywhere to everything. Although the buildings were all over the lawns my father realised it was all for a good cause and he wasn't all that worried.

Ruby had the run of the grounds and in 1915 the three-year-old took the coming of the blinded soldiers in her stride. 'I was never indoors. Nobody took any notice of me, I just used to wander round and Mother never knew where to find me, I was always missing.'

Even at that early age Ruby was well aware that her new friends were blind. 'I used to go up to them and chat to them and we'd walk round just holding hands and walking along together. I used to ask them, "Where do you want to go?" If they wanted to go to a certain workshop, I knew them all off by heart and where to find everything and I just used to paddle along with them. Some of the Australian chaps were quite tall, well-built men and I always remember how my little hand seemed so small in their big hands.'

'They were so pleased to have a child come and talk to them. It was something different away from the monotonous grind of not being able to see things, I think. Sir Arthur Pearson always used to like me to go in and see him because, I suppose, I was the only child around, there were no other small children on the estate at all.'

#### Roses for Sir Arthur

'Once a week I would take a bunch of roses in to Sir Arthur. Roses were his favourite flower and he could smell them, of course, although he couldn't see them and he always had to have a bunch once a week. I'm sure he liked children. He was a charming man. In his drawing room there was an open fire place with a guard round and the top was made like a seat. On the mantelpiece he had three ebony elephants and as a child I loved elephants — elephants, horses and dogs — they were not all that large, there was a big one and a smaller one and a little tiny one at the end and they fascinated me. I used to love going in there if only to see the elephants.'

In 1918 she had a letter from Sir Arthur. She still has it today, it reads: 'Dear Little Ruby, the collecting box you brought me yesterday had 18/3d in it. I think it was very sweet of you to collect this for the blinded soldiers. Yours sincerely, Arthur Pearson.'

At Christmas there would be a gift from him, usually a doll and there were gifts from others as Little Ruby's fame spread, through the photographs that appeared in the press. 'I was quite often in the papers although I didn't realise it at the time. Newspaper men would come in at odd intervals. I didn't know they were



*Ruby shows one of her dolls to an Australian St. Dunstaner.*

coming — they were there and gone in a flash sort of thing. It didn't take many seconds just to take a photo. It was all part of my everyday life really. Often ladies would write to me. Perhaps the postman would bring a parcel and I'd open it and find a little letter inside and a doll and they'd say, "Dear Little Ruby, I have seen your photo in the paper with the blind men and I would like to send you this doll."

These were gifts that she would never otherwise have received. 'My family could not have given me so many different types of dolls. I had a Maltese doll dressed as a Maltese lady from somebody in Malta. The doll I am holding in one of the photographs had a lovely green velvet hat and coat and underneath was a beautiful lace-trimmed dress; petticoats and socks and shoes and long plaits she had.'

In January, 1921, St. Dunstan's headquarters moved across the Park to another large house on the Inner Circle, St. John's Lodge. Not unreasonably, Mr. Otto Kahn wanted his house back. In fact, he never lived there. After St. Dunstan's left, Otto Kahn had it for a few years but he never



Ruby Crane at her home in Sompting with some cherished photographs.

lived in the house. When he came to England he used to stay at Claridges, he and his family. My father had worked for the estate for many years but when Otto Kahn sold it, Barbara Hutton bought it and then, I think, she had her own staff and so Dad retired and we moved down to Twickenham where he used to do just part-time gardening.

'She renamed the house. She didn't want it called St. Dunstan's so she called it Winfield House. She had the whole thing pulled down and it was a most beautiful house. The ball room had beautiful paintings on the ceiling, there was parquet flooring all over the house. Why she ever had it pulled down I don't know but she'd got money I suppose, and our little house went with it.'

An almost dreamlike childhood had ended for Ruby. Through her early years she had grown up with blinded people around her in a miniature country estate in the middle of a city: 'It was a lovely life

for a child. People always seemed to have a lot to do. I suppose that's just a child's eye view of it. They always had time for me when I came along, to chat to me and that sort of thing. Yes, I think I missed the company and it was lovely to have all that space and garden to do as you like in.'

### TAPES ON SPACE AND AIR TRAVEL

Mrs. Rita Slade, widow of our late St. Dunstanian, Ron Slade, has given us a few more tape recordings made by her husband. They are on open reels and have been recorded at 1½ inches per second. Two reels are recordings of broadcasts of space expeditions and two on supersonic air transport. They are available to the first applicant to contact the Editor of the *Review*.

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

**Mr. William James Foxley**, of Crawley, West Sussex, who joined on November 7th.

Mr. Foxley served as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force from 1942, and was discharged in 1947. Mr. Foxley was injured in March 1944, when the Wellington he was navigating crashed. He suffered severe burns to his face and hands as well as losing his right eye. He was at East Grinstead at the same time as Jimmy Wright and is a fellow 'guinea pig'.

He has been twice married but now lives alone. He has two adult sons and one young daughter.

**Mr. William Grimes**, of Ellesmere Port, who joined on November 30th.

Mr. Grimes served as a Signaller in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1956 to 1959. He is married with a grown up daughter.

**Mrs. Gwladys Kendle**, of Islington, who joined on December 5th.

Mrs. Kendle worked in the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend, during the Second World War and was injured in a detonator explosion in August 1941. As a result, she lost her left eye and sustained serious injuries to her right hand. In 1970, the vision in her remaining eye failed and she is now totally blind.

She was married in 1942, and was devotedly cared for by her husband up until his death earlier this year. Mrs. Kendle has one son and two daughters, all of whom are married.

**Major Hamish Kenneth Angus Leslie**, of Frinton-on-Sea, who joined on November 29th.

Major Leslie served in the Seaforth Highlanders/Queens Own Highlanders and was wounded on three occasions: in France, in 1940, later in North Africa and

finally in Germany just two days before V.E. Day. Major Leslie has been married to his wife, Catherine Elisabeth, since 1951, and has a grown-up family, with several grandchildren.

**Mr. Richard Edward Sutton**, of Deal, who joined on November 21st.

Mr. Sutton, is 86 years of age, and served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from 1920 until 1927. While serving in India, in 1927, he was wounded in an uprising and lost the sight of one eye. The vision in his remaining eye deteriorated seriously in subsequent years.

Mr. Sutton worked on a fire float during World War Two, and was a caretaker in Coventry for about 26 years until he retired. Mr. Sutton married his wife, Hilda, six years ago. He has two sons and a daughter from a previous marriage.

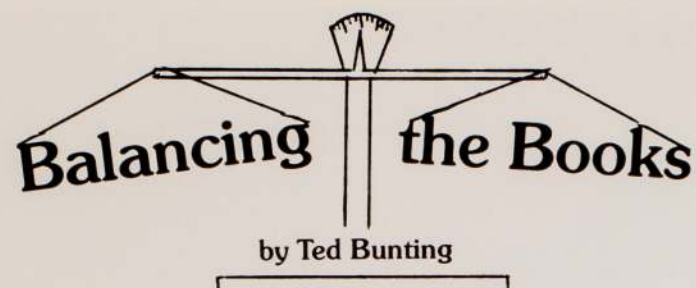
**Mr. Preston Guy Woon**, of Taunton, Somerset, who joined on November 7th.

Mr. Woon served as a Private in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, from January 1940 to September 1941. He suffered multiple injuries during an air raid on Southampton, in June 1941, and was discharged. Following his recovery he became a nurse at Musgrove Park Hospital, where he remained for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Woon is married and has one son.

### THE BIRDS OF DORSET

For those with an interest in birds and their song, a weekend and a 4-day course of visits to a variety of habitats — heath, woodland, marshland and sea cliffs in Dorset, will be held from April 27th to May 4th. The courses are ideal for blind and visually handicapped naturalists. Funding is available for sighted assistants if required. Fees: weekend from £65, 4 days from £130, the two courses together (7 days) from £180. For further information and booking forms contact: Nigel and Jill Spring, The Kingcombe Centre, Toller Porcorum, Dorchester DT2 0EQ. Tel. 0300 20864.



# Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

## The Year of Three Kings – 1483

Author: Giles St. Aubyn

Reader: Tom Crowe

Catalogue number: 5110

Duration: 8.5 hours

Other than telling you that this is a history dealing briefly with the death of Edward IV; the coronation of Richard III; and the beginning of Tudor rule at the Battle of Bosworth, there is little more I can say about this book. There is certainly not much to commend it to the seeker after entertainment. Not that it's badly written, you understand, and no doubt the author worked hard to produce it. But as he himself admits; shuffling the known facts into a different order, does not increase our knowledge of the events of the period, and frankly, I wonder why he bothered. It's too heavy for light reading, and much too light to make a scholarly textbook, so my advice would be to leave it on the shelf and choose something else.

★ ★ ★ ★

## The Day of the Triffids

Author: John Wyndham

Reader: Andrew Timothy

Catalogue number: 2181

Duration: 10 hours

As a general rule, you'll not find me very enthusiastic about science-fiction books; they are mostly too daft to laugh at, talking of rocket-ships and black holes, or about little green men from Venus.

But here's one I can heartily recommend; it's compelling, exciting, and even a little frightening. The tale is quite bizarre mind you, in fact it's about deadly stinging plants called 'triffids', which seem certain to take over the world, and I should think that's as far-fetched as you can get. But it's

remarkably plausible too, and I would say that nobody with the smallest scrap of imagination about them, could fail to enjoy it.

The thing which mostly impressed me, however, is that the human population that the triffids are poised to destroy and replace, have mostly been rendered blind. That gives them a problem or two, as you can no doubt appreciate. So why not send for this brilliant book and find out how they try to solve them? You'll not regret it.

★ ★ ★ ★

## The Count of Monte Cristo

Author: Alexandre Dumas

Reader: Andrew Timothy

Catalogue number: 2354

Duration: 51.5 hours

If you're all agog to know how I can possibly sum-up a novel which has more than two days' reading time in just a handful of words, then I must tell you that I cannot.

But when I say 'I cannot', I don't mean it in the sense that it's impossible, but rather that I have no intention of spoiling the book for you by allowing you to anticipate the action it contains. What I do want you to know, is that this is a truly great adventure story, containing scarcely a minute which could be considered dull or tedious. My old friend Paddy, in fact, once told me: '*The Count of Monte Cristo*, is by far the most exciting book I've ever read.'

Of course, it might also be the ONLY book he's ever read, but I don't think it is, because he'd need more than just his own share of Irish luck, to find a novel, at the first attempt, that is capable of really firing the imagination like this one is.

The fact is, that provided you are seeking pure enjoyment in a novel, rather than

# BRAILLE REFORM

by Terry Bullingham

At a General Meeting on 8th December, the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom ratified resolutions passed at the 1988 International Conference on English Literary Braille. St. Dunstan's was represented by Fred Ripley and myself.

Subject to final production feasibility approval by the Braille-production agencies at their February 1990 meeting, it is the intention to implement the resolutions on 1st May. Formal notice of the changes will be promulgated nearer the implementation date and detailed in a revised edition of '*A Restatement of the Lay-Out, Definitions and Rules of the Standard English Braille System*' currently in course of preparation. (It should be noted that the 1985 changes – notable among these being the use of the 'EA' sign – will be included in this edition).

I will give a brief outline only of the controversial changes. If St. Dunstaners require more detailed information at this stage, will they please contact me through the *Review*.

RESOLUTION 20 – The purpose of this resolution is to bring the signs that represent unit abbreviations, and their

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## Balancing the Books *continued*

literary perfection, or what the high-brows might call 'depth', you need look no further. There is, in this lengthy but splendid book, a clearly defined hero for you to admire and identify with; there are more thrilling events than a centipede could count on its toes; more dramatic situations and moments of suspense than a dragon has had hot dinners, and an almost impossible goal for the hero to attempt to achieve. When all of this is added to enemies to be fought, and a lady's love to be won, it seems that the author has omitted nothing which might increase his reader's pleasure. Like a banquet prepared by an expert chef, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, contains all the ingredients for a feast.

spacing and placement in relation to quantities, into closer accord with print. This will bring English Literary Braille into line with the Mathematics Code, thereby avoiding the current undesirability of operating two codes simultaneously. For example, 24oz would be written as follows:– numeral sign, quantity, oz.

RESOLUTION 21 – This resolution seeks to make the writing of the numerator 1 in fractions mandatory, and as a result, the use of the separation sign between full numerals and following punctuation will be greatly extended, becoming also perhaps mandatory.

RESOLUTION 22A – use of dot locator (dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) to indicate position of dots within cell, in cases where this is not clear, for example, in tables or where isolated.

RESOLUTION 22B – Introduction of new sign, the Print Symbol Indicator (dot 4), used to indicate special print symbols, for example, dot 4 dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 to indicate the ampersand, and dot 4 followed by the numeral sign to indicate the print hash symbol.

RESOLUTION 22C – Poetry Line Sign (dots 3, 4, 5) renamed Line Sign.

RESOLUTION 22D – Abolition of the Introductory Poetry Line Sign (dots 3, 4, 5, 3, 4, 5).

A working party is to be set up to fully consider the ramifications of introducing the capital sign into English Literary Braille. It is difficult to refute the case for Braille reading children being kept fully aware of print conventions.

It is acknowledged in the Authority that progress has been retarded in recent years due to the radical reform initiatives. A sub-committee has been established to consider promoting Braille reading in Britain. Emphasis will be given to the efficacy of uncontracted Braille as an aid to independence. It is appreciated that teaching resources for potential readers are less than ideal and potential solutions are being considered. Public awareness of Braille must be heightened if real progress is to be realised.

# AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY WEEKEND

by Arthur Taylor  
*Short Wave Listener*

The third and final meeting of the 1989 season took place at Ian Fraser House during the weekend of October 20th-22nd. The formal meeting, which was to be held on October 21st, had all the hallmarks of being a very special occasion indeed, for this was Trafalgar Day and the Guest of Honour was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, G.C.B., Chairman of St. Dunstan's and President of the Society. During the evening of Friday 20th, members gathered in the Winter Garden for an informal get-together. The General Meeting was held the following morning.

The Chairman, Bill Shea (G4AUJ), opened the meeting by congratulating Colin Mills (G7EVT), Paul Francia (G7ECT), and George Shed (G7FQA), who had all gained their 'B' licences. Unfortunately, George Shed and Tommy Gaygan were unable to attend as they were in hospital. Get well messages were sent to them on behalf of the Society. Before handing over the proceedings to the Secretary, Ted John (G3SEJ), Bill welcomed Tom Morrison, Alan Mitchell and Patrick Murphy to the meeting and hoped they would enjoy the events of the weekend.

Members were reminded that nominations for the G3MOW Memorial Trophy could now be taken for the award for 1989, and the names of Robin Bellerby (G3ZYE), and George Cole (G4AWI) were put forward from the floor. Nomination forms and voting slips will, of course, be sent out in the normal way. The presentation of the Trophy will take place at the AGM next March.

On the subject of the competition set up last year, it was confirmed that there was now no closing date for entries, which could be submitted at any time.

This year sees the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's, and to mark the occasion the Society applied for and

has been allocated the special call-sign of GB75STD. A special event station is being set up at Ian Fraser House from March 3rd to March 10th, 1990 and several members indicated that they would be prepared to operate the station during that period. Any other members wishing to put their names forward would be warmly welcomed.

As a result of the audience given by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, as reported at the July meeting and covered in the October edition of the *Review*, His Majesty's QSL card (signifying confirmation of contact) has been received. It has since been framed and now hangs in the radio shack. It is one of the most prized possessions of the Society.

With regard to the invitation extended to the membership to visit Jordan, a number of members had expressed interest in this venture. Robin Bellerby is putting in a lot of time and effort to ensure the success of the trip, and very kindly came along and gave many hints and tips about the Jordanian environment and the type of clothing best suited to prevailing conditions. It was intended to make the visit in late May or early June when the weather was considered most suitable to the European visitor.

The 1990 programme of meetings is as follows:

March 3rd (Annual General Meeting)

July 21st

October 13th

Members are strongly advised to make bookings through Headquarters at the earliest opportunity.

To round off the morning, there followed discussions on other matters, and the meeting finally broke up about midday with everyone looking with anticipation to the evening dinner.

Members and their guests gathered in

the Winter Garden to dine and being Trafalgar Day, the main table was decorated in nautical fashion, a brass cannon and brass anchor being amongst the items on display, and a pair of White Ensigns hung from the walls. It was indeed a pleasure to welcome our Guest of Honour and Lady Leach, and this was emphasised when a bugle sounded the 'still', welcoming a very senior officer on board.

Sir Henry said that the date, October 21st, always gives rise to a feeling of solemnity in the United Kingdom, which begged the question — 'why do we continue to celebrate the occasion year after year?' The answer was that the outcome of the battle secured for us the freedom of the seas and, to this day, we still continue to depend on that freedom. It is for that reason that this particular date in our history should be remembered. Since Trafalgar there had been great strides, not only in the methods of propulsion by ships at sea, but also in the type of weaponry that is carried. He recalled one weapon which had been introduced during the early stages of World War Two. This was called the 'U.P.', which stood for the Unratified Projector, and the whole contraption was likely to fire at any hour of the day or night of its own accord and without any enemy ship being in sight! Not surprisingly, the weapon did not endear itself to the ship's crew and it served no useful purpose whatsoever. Sir Henry added that it reminded him of the story about the Duke of Wellington who, asked about the fighting qualities of the troops belonging to one of the allies, said, 'I do not know what effect they have upon the enemy but, by God, they frighten me!'

With the rate of progress of modern technology, there was also a vast change in the type of seaman that serves in the Royal Navy today, and he quoted a case in point to illustrate the more relaxed attitude between officers and men that simply did not exist until recent years. Sir Henry recalled the occasion some twenty years after World War Two when, after a particularly exhausting damage control exercise, he had collapsed into the Captain's Chair on the bridge and the young bridge messenger thrust a packet of Polo Mints into his hand saying, 'Here, have

one of these, Sir. You look as if you need it!' It was a good indication of how things had changed.

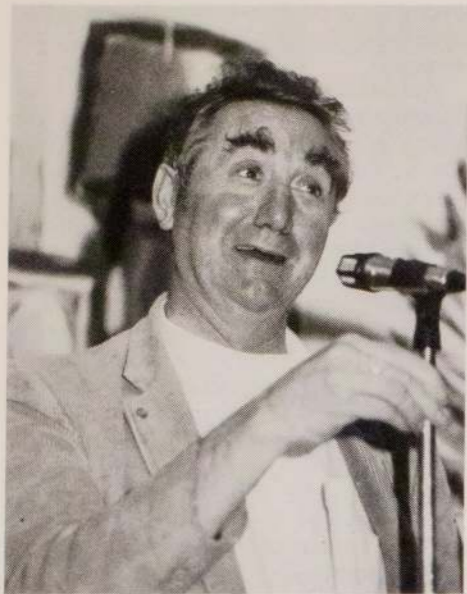
Nelson himself had shown the way all those years ago. He was a kindly man who had a genuine regard for people and he also had the ability to get things done by inspiration rather than by orders alone. In those harsh times, his qualities were a great source of inspiration to the men who served under him and it gave them confidence in the outcome of any battle. At the conclusion, Sir Henry said it was his privilege to ask everyone to stand and give the traditional toast of the evening, which was always drunk in silence, 'to the immortal memory of Lord Nelson.'

It was appropriate that C.R.S. Mick Puttick (G3LIK), the only serving member of the Royal Navy amongst our guests, should then be called upon to read Nelson's Prayer:

'May the Great God, whom I worship, grant to my Country and for the benefit of Europe in general a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct, in anyone, tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet. For myself individually, I commit my life to Him who made me and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen.'

At the final get-together in the Winter Garden on Sunday morning, it was agreed that the weekend had been a great success. Members looked forward to participating in the 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1990. In conclusion we commended the catering staff for an excellent dinner and for all the hard work in preparing and serving the meal, coupled with our gratitude to all the Honorary Members and helpers who assisted in making the Radio Shack operational again. Our grateful thanks too, to staff at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House who contributed in any way to the success of the weekend.

We take this opportunity of wishing everyone a happy and healthy New year and, of course, a very happy 75th Anniversary to St. Dunstan's, to which we all owe so much.



*Singing St. Dunstaners, Jim O'Donnell and right, Les Copeland.*

*'Flapper Girl', Melody Timouri considers present-giving.*



## CHRISTMAS AT PEARSON HOUSE

The Festive Season got off to a rousing start at Pearson House with the Christmas concert on the afternoon of Tuesday December 19th. Among the audience we were delighted to have Sir Henry and Lady Leach. The Stage was set with a beautiful back-cloth designed and painted by Clive Manning. The concert opened with a lively rendition of 'Cabaret' enthusiastically sung by John Wood. The talented Staff of Pearson House, aided and abetted by two St. Dunstaners, Les Copeland and Jim O'Donnell, providing an excellent and varied entertainment. The performers were superbly supported by Tony Ross on the piano with additional accompaniment from Peter Quincy on his guitar. The acts were 'tied together' by compere, Derek Frape and the curtains were tastefully opened and closed by John 'Ebenezer Humbug Scrooge' Allen. The concert finished with the company and audience singing a selection of favourite carols, after which the performers joined with the audience in demolishing several bottles of wine!



*The company singing carols.*

The days leading up to Christmas were filled with a mixture of outings and entertainments. On the evening of Christmas Eve, the Reverend Cuthbert Scott held a carol service in the Winter Garden during which, to the delight of the congregation, a quartet of children sang two carols, the old favourite 'Away in a Manger' and the less well known 'Zither Carol'. Mince pies and a warming glass of mulled wine brought the service to a glowing close.

Following the Christmas morning service in the chapel at Ian Fraser House, Father Christmas visited Pearson House, with several sackloads of presents. Appetites were then stimulated with a glass of sherry, followed by traditional Christmas lunch that was thoroughly enjoyed by all the St. Dunstaners and their wives. It was a pleasure to have every room in Westcott occupied by the wives.

The festive entertainment then continued almost non-stop, culminating in a New Year's Eve party, with music provided by Audrey Collins on the piano. Although some St. Dunstaners exhausted by the preceding days and nights, felt compelled to 'drop out' after the 10.00 p.m. buffet supper, a happy crowd remained to welcome the new decade with a glass of bubbly and Auld Lang Syne.

*In blonde wig, Chris King sings 'I Never Do Anything Twice'.*





*Pearl Smethurst leads the company in a song and dance number.*

*'Over-forty' fairies. Jenny Sidoli and Chris Weaver lament their drooping wands.*



## FESTIVITIES AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Ian Fraser House was full for Christmas with everyone in good heart. The activities started on Thursday, December 21st, with Ernie Elliott's Tea Dance followed by a concert given by the Rottingdean Scouts Group. Some 45 beavers, cubs, scouts, venturers and leaders gave us a pleasant introduction to the Christmas spirit. Friday was the day for the Christmas Dance with music provided by Ernie Took and his Band.

On Saturday it was the turn of the Staff to entertain at the Staff Concert, and from the reaction of the audience it appeared to have been a success. Our thanks to the producer, Ernie Elliott and to our Musical Director, Tony Ross, who gave up a lot of his time for rehearsals to ensure the singing and dancing were to the highest



*St. Dunstan's carollers were Ernie Elliott, Chris Sear, Kim Wilcocks and Alec Davies.*

*Compere Dennis Collins is in charge.*



standards. The redundant fairies will probably be best remembered, but we must not forget the compere, Dennis, who managed to remember the (clean) jokes, but then his better half was in the audience and he was on his best behaviour. Father Christmas called and left presents for all, although there were one or two doubtfuls.

The New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Ball was well supported and went with a swing to Clive Allen and his Band, along with the customary pipers from the Pride of Sussex Band. The most original couple were Sid Jones and his partner Enid as 1990, while the most original single was Margaret Bingham as a very pregnant royal lady in waiting. Other prizes were won by Ernie and Gwen Hannant, Elsie Aldred, Sally Slade and David and Emily Taylor.

The Survivors Party on the evening of January 1st, was attended by a surprising number. We will have to try harder next year!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From Alf Bradley, Northwood,  
Middlesex**

I read with interest the article in the November issue of the *Review*, by Dr. Stan Sosabowski, about the painting of the Black Madonna, which he has presented to St. Dunstan's. It was amazing to read of the long history of the existence of this painting, with its preservation, its protection and maintenance.

For the Polish people it certainly carries great significance, with the Black Madonna as their divine deliverer, and their hopes for her influence at this present time. But as the Doctor says, such history is often mixed with legend, and it does seem that down the centuries such artefacts of religion do carry a very close attachment of tradition and even superstition. Some years ago I heard that the Black Madonna had stood on a city wall in Poland when under siege, and had caught the cannon balls of the enemy in her apron. Another relic of religion in our time has been the Turin Shroud.

May I take the liberty to set out quite briefly, another nation and another deliverer, which I find even more significant.

Going back maybe some 4,000 years, in a time of famine, and as there was corn in Egypt, some Israelites went there. Their emigration turned to slavery for 430 years. After which, now numbering some one and a half million, they were saved from this captivity, and made their way to the land of promise.

A further 70 years detention in Babylon was concluded by another rescue... even of just a remnant.

And yet again, when Ahazarius was King of the Medo-Persian Empire, the Jews were marked down for extinction. But the King of these 120 provinces fell in love

with and married the Hebrew maiden, Esther, who as his Queen pleaded for the life of her kinsmen, and again the race was saved. The exiles, the dispersions and captivities of Israel have been many, and you will recall their awful danger during the Second World War. Again marked down for annihilation, who would ever have thought that in 1939, this country could have offered any hope of their rescue, and eventually, a halt to their extermination.

Shall I go on? Remember the Six Day War?

Dr. Sosabowski writes that the eyes of the Polish nation are looking towards the Black Madonna. But for me I find the record of divine caring for Israel the more significant.

In St. Dunstan's Chapel, St. Dunstaners will not be able to view the painting; but we can meet in the living presence of the Invisible Deliverer.

**From Mrs. E. Cope, Saltdean, Brighton**

So many of Johnny's friends have contacted me since his death that I find it impossible to reply to everyone individually.

I feel very privileged to have been part of the life of someone who inspired so much love and respect.

On behalf of Johnny's family and myself I would like to express my sincere thanks to St. Dunstan's Staff at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House as well as his friends who have given so much support.

**From Mrs. A. K. King, Telscombe Cliffs**

I would like to express through St. Dunstan's *Review* my thanks to everyone for the sincere sympathy shown to us on the sudden death of my dear Geoff.

I will never forget the loving care he received from Matron King and all the Staff at Pearson House, and also the care shown to me and my son.

The thoughtful cards, letters, phone

Letters to the Editor *continued* —

calls and beautiful floral tributes, from so many friends at Ian Fraser House, where he spent so many happy times.

On behalf of myself, my son and family, I thank you all at St. Dunstan's.

**From Tom Page, Morecambe**

On Thursday, October 12th, a coach carrying a party of thirty people from Morecambe drew up in front of Ian Fraser House. They were greeted by Barbara Wood and Chris Weaver. The party was then separated into two groups and taken on a tour of the building. They were surprised at the facilities at Ian Fraser House and were amazed at the range of activities that the St. Dunstaners could participate in, such as archery, swimming and handicrafts of all kinds. The tour finished with refreshments in the Winter Garden.

The group would like to thank St. Dunstan's for the opportunity of seeing Ian Fraser House.

**From Syd Scroggie, Dundee**

Like most St. Dunstaners I'm getting old and dolted, creaky and frail, but I can still get up a hill from time to time. Along with my wife, Margaret, and an artist friend, Lex Braes, I was high up on Mt. Capel on October 17th, a hill in Glen Clova, when something happened the like of which I'd never heard before in all my 52 years in the hills.

Rumbling and booming, dunting and crashing, a rock avalanche started on Cairn Broadlands, a hill opposite, which made its way sparks flying, a vast dust-cloud rising, down to the glen below. I've heard falls of this kind before, but never anything like this, and I can tell you that even at a range of half a mile safe on Mt. Capel, the three of us felt a twinge of fear. The avalanche went on and on, then it stopped, and what we had been listening to up to then, stags bellowing, re-emerged in the silence. I was to be 70 the next day, and nobody, I can be pretty certain, ever had a more stupendous birthday present than this.

## REFLECTIONS

**By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott**

One of my friends used to have a name for those few members of the Ship's Company who seemed naturally religious — it was 'God-botherers'. I find myself more accurately termed a people-botherer. It falls to me to knock on doors without invitation, and to introduce myself to people who never asked to see me.

It is curious how rarely I am sternly 'sent about my business'. Residents in Pearson House behave kindly to visitors, offering a welcome to the uncouth troubler of their peace. Men and women in Ian Fraser House, in a similar way, manage to find interesting things to talk about.

St. Dunstaners — and the care assistants, the Sisters and the other supporters — accept the botherer in a particular way. There seems to be a confident steadiness, a reserved interest, an ability to build on the very limits of a disability: a strength which is remarkable. Few of us would claim a special virtue — to describe ourselves as wicked old codgers would be more likely.

There is that story of the sheep and the goats and I am concerned that I might get my deserts; in fact, hell threatens. But as for the Kingdom of Heaven — ah — it is affirmed that the sinners get priority in that direction; so hope is not dead. It is a privilege to meet such people as I find in St. Dunstan's.

## SPORTS QUIZ

Mrs. Cherrie Duncan, who has succeeded Mr. Jock Carnochan as Mobility and Sports Officer at Ian Fraser House, would like to hear from St. Dunstaners with suggestions of sporting and recreational activities they would like to see provided at the House for those on holiday or in training. Please write or telephone her at Ian Fraser House, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN2 7BS. Telephone: 0273 307811.



High above the Teign Valley on the parapet of Castle Drogo are Elsie Tucker, Carol Jackson, Sadie Stokes, Marjorie Pratt, Emily McClarnan and Fred Tucker.

## Lady St. Dunstaners in the West Country

by Margaret Bingham

Photos: David Castleton

The venue for the 13th Ladies Reunion was Plymouth. Our hotel, the Plymouth Moat House, which is situated on The Hoe, is a ten storey building principally used to accommodate large parties of people for conferences, reunions and suchlike. The party consisted of 42, including Mr. Weisblatt, Cynthia Mosley and David Castleton. Liz Pearce the South-West Welfare Visitor and Vivien Jackson were also there and so of course was Colin Bentley.

We had the sole use of the Commonwealth Suite which consisted of dining-room with an adjacent bar/lounge. Most of us had a good journey from our respective homes but not so our people from London. Earlier in the day there had been a derailment on the line at Maidenhead and this together with other complications had caused a 3½ hour journey to extend to over six hours. An excellent dinner was served and later we retired either to the bar or to bed. The Hotel has non-smoking rooms on the 5th

floor and it also has three rooms on the ground floor for disabled people, i.e. wheelchair cases. Most of us were accommodated as near to a lift as possible.

On the following morning we made an early start as we had a fair distance to travel on unknown roads to Castle Drogo in the Teign Valley. On a warm sunny day it is probably a beautiful run but on this particular day it was drizzling and misty, but it was possible to make out bracken-covered moors, flocks of sheep in their warm white coats and small long-tailed ponies some of which wandered on to the road in front of our coach. Dartmoor Prison looking grim and forbidding in the mirk is a large building surrounded by a high wall. Few attempts are made to escape as there are bogs on the moor. Eventually the moors were behind us and the landscape changed dramatically. Trees in their autumn colours of gold, red and bronze mingled with various shades of green making a glorious glowing picture. It was surprising to note how fresh-looking the

grass was as there had been very little rain in this area for months. Some mushrooms were seen growing in one of the fields we passed, together with a field of cauliflower leaves. On asking Liz what was the reason for this she said eventually they would be ploughed into the ground as a mulch. Local farmers did not believe in any kind of waste if it could be avoided.

### Castle Drogo

After negotiating the narrow steep lanes we eventually arrived at Castle Drogo. At first sight it was an impressive-looking square-turreted building with iron-barred windows but in reality it was a bit of a sham, as it was quite a modern construction. It was the brainchild of two men in the earlier part of this century. Julius Drewe who founded the Home & Colonial grocery chain and Edwin Lutyens. Drewe had the money and Lutyens, a brilliant architect, the know-how. Drewe, who had lived in Sussex, had retired from business an extremely rich man and had bought the Drogo Estate in 1910, researched his ancestry and assumed a relationship with a Norman baron, Drogo de Teign, after whom the Parish of Drewsteignton had been named in the 12th century. And so Drogo Castle was created to satisfy his dreams of a noble lineage. The entrance hall looked very spartan with bare granite walls and unpainted woodwork but the quality of workmanship is superb. Much of the furnishings and pictures came from Wadhurst Hall in Sussex, his previous home, but some are copies from an earlier age like the four cross-framed armchairs originally the type made in the 16th century. There are huge tapestries and leather coffers, although much of the furniture is very old, some is modern and strange. Like the armchair partially made from wooden mangle boards and the seat and back are upholstered in homespun fabric, made in 1900.

The long corridors were ingeniously constructed by Lutyens involving changes in both levels and direction. The main staircase and drawing room led off from here. On a table in the library was a football game and by the look of the clothing of the players it could be German. The



Eileen Maynard, with Ruth Rabone, her escort, admiring Lutyens' lofty corridor in Castle Drogo.

shelves were lined with books connected with local history, a collection of *The Gentleman's Magazine* and books on theology. The dining room is rather sombre. This impression given by the heavily decorated plaster ceiling and by pictures of the family. A large table was laid for the dinner with rather elaborate flower arrangements. The beautiful glasses of various sizes were Venetian of a very delicate peach colour, bought on honeymoon. (Incidentally, permission had been given for the party to handle objects). Continuing along the corridor we came to an aperture filled with children's toys. There was a large dolls house beautifully constructed by a carpenter at Wadhurst Hall for Mary Drewe. It must have been over five feet wide and nearly three feet high. The furnishing in each room could be seen clearly as it was lit by electricity. A double rocking chair with seats at either end would give hours of pleasure. Also there was a small one-seater carriage and two horses with harness complete.

In the pantry extremely long oak cupboards were filled with china and the table



*Margaret Bingham decided there was rather too much black-leading to be done in Castle Drogo's kitchen!*

and teak deep sinks were all designed by Lutyens. There are three taps over each sink, hot, cold and drinking water. There was an electric bell board and telephone exchange in this area, absolutely necessary for a house of this size, with such a large kitchen staff. Lutyens himself designed the massive circular table and even the pastry boards had a rounded edge and all fitted his conception of simplicity and order. The copper bowls gleamed in the electric light but the heaviness of these must have been exhausting to the cooks.

One bathroom is worth a mention though. This is a very agreeable room with stepped granite window seats and a fine bath complete with an elaborate shower system having in all five taps, one under the other. In the chapel the painted glass in the windows of the apse and many of the fittings were brought from Wadhurst. As the weather was not very good we visited Bovey Tracey, a small village a few miles from Castle Drogo where we were to visit a craft centre. A very interesting place as there was an exhibition of craft which we were invited to view free of charge.

hand-made pottery, wooden fruit bowls and so on. People were kind and helpful and would answer any questions asked. We had a delicious cream tea here and then back to the Hotel for dinner.

Saturday morning was free with the opportunity of visiting the numerous stores in Plymouth's large pedestrianised Shopping Centre, but the weather was so bad with storm force winds of 80 m.p.h. plus very heavy rain that many of our party did not venture out. But Liz and Colin struggled to take me and we had a very pleasant morning. The wind buffeted my wheelchair and a large plate-glass window next to our dining room was cracked. We were pleased to have the company of our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife, Joyce for lunch, they stayed in our company until the next day. There was a delicious cold buffet lunch for us at the Hotel which was enjoyed by all. In fact during our stay all the food was very good and plentiful and the Staff without exception were pleasant and helpful.

### Plymouth Dome

Plymouth was badly blitzed during the early part of the war with over 2,000 people being killed and many more injured as well as most of the buildings, including the Devonport Dockyard, being nearly devastated. But it was the first city to be rebuilt and it is a beautiful place with wide streets, a new central layout with civic, cultural, administrative and shopping premises with flower beds at various spots. In fact gardeners were planting 6,000 wall-flowers in a large plot near the Hotel. In the afternoon we were to visit the City's 'jewel' The Plymouth Dome, a centre which tells the epic story of the City's great seafaring tradition. The storm had not abated at all and a few of our party cried off. The heavy seas pounded the rocks of the Sound and small boats were tossed around like corks and even the coach shuddered once or twice.

Inside the Dome was like a haven of warmth and peace. Round the walls were depicted pictures of famous ships having associations with Plymouth. On the tiled

floor were details of how many miles it was to various parts of the world. As we progressed into the cavern (simulated whitish grey rock) there were alcoves where figures of sailors of 400 years ago were carrying out their shipboard tasks. Displayed were a variety of tools used and there was a replica of the axe used to behead Sir Francis Drake. There were guides available and a lift to an upper floor where there is a large attractive shop. There were two short film shows, one concerning the blitz and the other of navigators of yore who had set sail from Plymouth. It was all very cleverly done with the aid of slides superimposed on the screen and the atmosphere was quite authentic with sounds and smell. A great achievement and a credit to the various people connected with it. It cost 3½ million and had over 90,000 visitors since it opened just over two months ago.



*Joyce and Colin Beaumont-Edmonds brave the hazard of the lady emptying her slops in the Dome's reconstruction of an Elizabethan Plymouth street.*

*At the Dome, Winnie Edwards, Eileen Williams, Joyce Briant and Elsie Tucker visit 'Plymouth Station'.*





*Feasting in the medieval barn at Cotehele House.*

Saturday evening was the only time we did not have dinner at the Hotel. Arrangements had been made for us to visit Cotehele House in the Parish of Milton Abbot to the North of Tavistock in Cornwall. At this time of the year the house is closed to visitors but the adjacent old barn, beautifully restored, had been specially opened for our visit and for our party to have dinner there. We had left the Hotel quite early thinking there might be problems on the road due to the weather, crossing the Tamar at Saltash but I am happy to say there were no difficulties at all. The place seemed very remote down a narrow country lane but there was a warm welcome when we arrived in the shape of a glass of mulled wine. The dinner was excellent and all home cooked. The mushroom and walnut pâté was the best I had ever tasted and with the waitresses being so jolly and attentive we had an evening to remember. Sadie was our Birthday Girl and so she had the honour of presenting Joyce with a beautiful basket of flowers. Our thanks to the National Trust for allowing us to visit this extremely interesting medieval property, well worth

a visit by anyone staying in the area. After dinner we were able to go to the adjoining shop, which had been especially opened to enable us to learn more of the property and purchase mementoes. We then returned to the old barn for a parting drink and left at 11 p.m. putting our trust in Colin and Liz to trace our way back to the Hotel. An added bonus on this particular weekend was the extra hour in bed as the clocks had gone back. The weather was still poor but at least the wind had dropped considerably.

We visited Buckfast Abbey on Sunday morning and our guide was Brother Nicholas, a very knowledgeable man who captivated us with the history of the magnificent building. There were quite a number of people visiting the Abbey but the voices were muted as from a distance and all helped to capture the atmosphere of the Monastery which in its near 1,000 years had experienced its share of splendour, turbulence and ruin. In 1539 the Cistercian Monks were compelled to leave the site by order of King Henry VIII when all monasteries in England were forced to be dissolved. Brother Nicholas told us of



*'Hands on' at Buckfast Abbey: left, Marjorie Ball learns her way around from the relief map; above, Elsie Aldred and her escort, Zia Houlton admire the font and below, Vi Delaney measures a giant candlestick.*

the daily life of the monks, teaching, farming, painting, making of the famous Buckfast Abbey Tonic Wine and of course bee keeping. Brother Adam is a world authority on bees and honey, has broadcast many times and written books on the subject. Father Charles is a master craftsman in making and restoring stained glass windows and has developed a new technique of fused glass which has opened up possibilities in this ancient craft.

Brother Nicholas gave us a wonderful insight into the many and varied treasures, some of which we could feel. The font with its heavy cover which was raised by means of a counterweight was very interesting. The figures modelled in high relief gave a graphic account of the Doctrine of Christian Baptism and weighed over six cwt. A very interesting and rewarding morning. After lunch at the Abbey Restaurant we climbed on to the coach to travel the five miles or so to Buckfastleigh Station for a trip to Totnes on the Dart Valley Light Railway. This was a venture absolutely new to us as far as our 'Weekends' were concerned — we were





Liz Pearce, Ira Lloyd, Sir Henry, Margaret and John Bingham all enjoy Gwen Obery's joke.

looking forward to it, especially as we were to have a cream tea en route. Oh, but all was not to be as planned! Liz went to get the tickets only to be told the train had left 15 minutes before at its usual time. Liz was very annoyed and upset — as we all were — because the departure time had been checked and double-checked by her. Mr. Weisblatt said he intended sending a strongly worded letter to the Railway. All was not lost though and we visited a wool factory shop just outside Plymouth. More money was spent of course but after getting a cup of tea we returned to the Hotel and it was raining really heavily by now.

Guest of honour at dinner that evening was our popular Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, who was accompanied by Lady Leach. It is always a great pleasure to have them with us. It was an excellent dinner and we were very much in a party mood and the buzz of conversation never ceased. After coffee we were called to order and Sir Henry rose to give his usual after dinner speech which always includes some amusing incident of his Navy days. He sat down to rapturous applause and Gwen then stood for her say-so in which she said how pleased we were to have Sir Henry and Lady Mary with us again. She asked Sir Henry to con-

vey to the Council our thanks for a wonderful weekend which had been enjoyed by all (despite the weather).

When Gwen sat down it was then up to Eileen's capable hands to supervise the handing out of envelopes containing vouchers to all members of Staff and gifts to Colin and John. Miss Lord, who unfortunately was unable to be with us was not forgotten. Elsie presented Lady Mary with a beautiful basket of flowers. Vivien read out quite a lengthy poem which she had hurriedly composed encompassing all the activities of the weekend — it was very funny and met with much applause. We had a write-up in the *Plymouth Evening Herald* and we were each given a photostat copy of it. Eventually we adjourned to the bar to finish off the evening and reunion in proper style.

It had been a smashing weekend and Liz had organised it beautifully. Our sincere thanks to her and all the Staff for their help. We also thank Colin and his drivers who are indispensable. To finish I would like to take a quote from Gwen when asking Sir Henry to thank the Council. 'Sir Henry, would you kindly tell them that next year we shall be only too pleased to go wherever they wish to send us! And so say all of us.'

## Observations

by Patrick Flanagan

As we enter the last decade of the 20th century could anyone born in the early years of this century have imagined the changes that have taken place in just 90 years. Could they have foreseen the end of the old world, a world based on agriculture that had changed little in hundreds of years, now change to an industrially based one, accelerated by the cataclysmic events of the First World War. Even art became obsessed with modernity, sometimes veering off from traditional forms into wild abstractions, mimicking the new production-line culture.

With the end of the empires came the rule of the tyrants. Even the keenest seer could not have predicted the events to come — another global conflict with the same adversaries, a re-run of the First World War. Good triumphed over evil at the cost of 60 million lives.

Then 45 years of peace with the scales balanced between East and West, a world kept at peace by mutually assured destruction, but the peace held — now what?

The only thing that we have learned from all this is that we cannot make accurate predictions about the future, even the near future. The dramatic events in Eastern Europe in the past year have proved this. Seasoned observers failed to predict the overthrow of Communism in the Eastern Block Countries only weeks before the actual events. As the saga continues to unfold who would dare say where the changes will end.

In the last 10 years of the second millennium what powers or power will keep the peace. Will some third force move to exploit the weakness of the Soviet Union, or will man finally learn to live in peace? Some seek predictions in the bible while others believe in the writings of Nostradamus, the 16th century astrologer whose predictions supposedly saw the end of the world before the year 2000. He has some

'form' when it comes to seeing the future, although a lot of his work is rather vague. He foretold the Second World War, and recorded the name of Hister (Hitler) as one of the protagonists. He may also have foreseen the invention of the atomic bomb.

There is another potential enemy that may determine whether mankind will survive or perish. With sea-levels rising, holes in the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect changing the weather, it may be man's oldest adversary, nature who lines up against him on the plains of Armageddon.

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### THE LATE DR. HOPEWELL'S SILVER BEQUEST TO NOTTINGHAM

Thanks to a former St. Dunstan's Vice-President the town of Nottingham has one of the finest collections of Georgian silver in the country. For when 92 year old Donald Gardner Hopewell died in 1983, he left his silver collection to the Nottingham Castle Museum. The collection which contains over 300 pieces was built up over his long life and includes silver candlesticks, salvers and other elegant pieces made for the aristocracy.

Dr. Hopewell will be affectionately remembered by St. Dunstaners for his devoted service over the years, representing St. Dunstan's on the Councils of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. He will also be remembered for his amusing and witty speeches when he represented the Council at so many Reunions.

# Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, Oh

by Ted Brown

The title of this little piece was the signature tune of a very well known and loved St. Dunstaner, yes you have guessed his name, Johnny Cope, loving husband of Edna Cope. Johnny died tragically after several heart attacks, despite going through a by-pass operation, in the recovery room of a London hospital. All our sympathy and condolences go out to Edna and her family.

Johnny was liked wherever he went and made numerous friends in the sporting world. His sporting career started before he went into the Gordon Highlanders during the Second World War. He was on Stoke City's books, and I'm sure he would have made good as a professional footballer such was his determination when applied to any task.

I know he will be missed on the outdoor and indoor bowling circuits, and there are not many trophies in these categories without his name on them. The most disappointing incident in his bowling career was the fact that after playing several home internationals he earned a place on the England team to play in the 4th World Blind Bowls Championships in Zimbabwe.

Unfortunately Johnny was taken ill a week before they were due to leave and had to pull out of the team. A reserve was called in to take Johnny's place, and he did Johnny proud. If there is a bowling green up there in the heavens above, he certainly will be in good company as so many of our bowlers have gone there, and if I know them they will have played quite a few games by now.

I do know that the annual summer camp at *H.M.S. Daedalus* will certainly miss him as he was a great athlete and quite an inspiration to a number of the gun crews over the years, his competitive spirit rubbed off on to the other competitors which made it a better contest. He was just as active in the water as he was out and

must have swum miles for charity in the pool at Ian Fraser House, especially for the disabled children.

Another great hobby of his was various types of canework. Chairs, stools or any article you required he had a go at making it, and mostly succeeded. But I think he loved his gardening best of all as it got him outside, like myself, Johnny didn't like being shut up indoors. He also took up archery during one of his slack periods, that gives you some idea of the scope of the man we shall always remember.

Bon voyage Johnny.

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## D.F. Robinson's GARDENING NOTES

I hope that you had a really good year in the garden in 1989 and that the coming year will be even better.

Cut out some of the areas which you have used for vegetables if you find the work getting too much and either put it over to flowers with perennials or turn it over to more grass which will be easier to look after. However, don't do anything 'til the weather is better, in fact it might be wiser to leave it 'til spring.

If you are carrying on as before make sure you have all the beds dug over if this has not already been done. But should the weather be wintry, leave everything for a while. Put some manure on top and lime where you are to grow the cabbage family. Put down manure or compost around the perennial plants and shrubs which will give them shelter from frosts. Get all the orders in for flower plants in seed form for annuals and also order some extra vegetables over and above the ones we send you.

### Vegetables

Get all the beds in a good state ready for the sowing of seeds later on when the frosty weather has passed. Some broad beans and peas can be sown if you have some plastic sheeting available to give them a bit of warmth and protection against frost etc. Most vegetable seeds can be set out at the end of February in warm

spots, but leave a bit later in the North of England. Ensure that you sow the seeds in different places from last season and add a bit of lime with the cabbage family. Clear all the old beds of brussel sprouts and keep the hoe going all over the beds as weeds will be starting to show themselves. The hoe will also keep the soil in good shape.

Start off lettuce and radish in the southern areas but it might also be a good idea to cover with plastic sheeting in very frosty conditions. Those of you in the North who would like some salad items start in frames or greenhouse. Get the first potatoes sprouting in the shed or garage by the windows away from frost. Some rhubarb can be planted in a warm bed for an early picking.

### Fruit

Ensure that you have completed the pruning of hardy fruit by the end of February. Where you still have some pruning to do don't do it when there is frost about. All the trees in the borders should have the soil well mulched with manure or covered with mould and treated with liquid manure. All dead bark should be removed. Don't plant any new trees at present.

### Flowers

All the borders should be forked over well and manure or compost put in to give all the perennials a boost and all the annuals a good lift when they are eventually set in their places. Get all those spring plants that you are to grow from seed ordered at once. In some instances it may be a good thing to order well grown plants from shops to put in the beds when they arrive. This will save you trouble with the setting of seeds in trays and then putting in some growing containers. I myself find that it is better to order well grown items especially annuals from the flower shops. Naturally they are more expensive but get good plants to put in their growing places. Keep the soil open by hoeing regularly and forking lightly, it will ensure that the weeds are kept away. Put some Growmore pellets around the shrubs and perennials

and where you are to put the annuals. This means they get an early feed.

Roses will do with some manure now to give them a boost. Some of the taller items will need staking especially in the windy areas, cutting bushes should be left 'til March. Any planting of the new perennials and shrubs should also be left 'til early spring but the places can be dug over and some manure set in the bottom.

### Lawns

There is nothing to do here apart from keeping the borders in good condition, as grass won't be growing for a while yet. Get the lawn mower seen to by experts who will sharpen, clean and oil it ready for the new season.

### Greenhouse

Keep the temperature to about 50°F in the frosty weather so that all the growing plants are kept on the move. Where you grow your own bedding plants from seed get them started as soon as possible during February. Ensure that you have plenty of seed trays, plastic types being the best as they last for years. Get bags of seed compost and it might be a good idea to keep it in the greenhouse so that it is fairly warm for the seeds to start off well. Remember some seeds are like dust and should be just put on the surface with only a sprinkling of cover. Others will need quite a bit of covering. Water in at once and cover with plastic sheeting until they germinate. Any pot plants that you have in small pots should be replanted in their flowering containers.

Chrysanthemums, carnations, geraniums and fuchsias in cutting form should be put in small containers so they can have a good start. Many tuberous items should be given a start now. Where you have quite a number use trays or only a few pots. The items I mean are begonias, dahlias, gloxinias and anemones. It would be better to start these in February. Sort out the fuchsias which you have cut down earlier by putting them in big pots, add fresh compost to start them off again. The older hydrangeas should be given new containers for the new year, but don't cut the old flowers down as yet.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1989

by Ray Hazan

A brilliant sun shone down Whitehall onto the 76 St. Dunstaners lined up on parade together with the thousands of veterans and spectators. Together, they shared in silence the memories of their comrades lost in the many conflicts since 1914. This particular Sunday being markedly important as the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second World War.

The contingent boasted two 1st World War St. Dunstaners, Harry Wheeler, and George Pullen, plus a 'mounted' rear-guard of 12 wheelchairs. The crowds were as abundant as ever, and their applause coupled with songs from the ranks made up for the lack of an accompanying band in the centre of the column. This, we discovered later, was understandable because musicians were providing ambulance cover.

The Chairman said the day provided a pause in the midst of our busy lives to reflect on what it was all about. Time dulls painful memories, which makes it all the more important that we remember. 'We think of those who gave their lives for us; those who survived — some of them — just; those who are here, and those who are not. We think of our wives, without whose unfailing and devoted support, few of us could have got this far. We remember the widows and admire their fortitude in returning to St. Dunstan's everyday life after being away for so long'. The Chairman went on to thank all those who had made the day possible, especially John Smith, who had laid the wreath on St. Dunstan's behalf, and who helped to keep the parade in order.

Sir Henry concluded by looking to the future; expressing the hope that the young would not have to undergo the experiences of the past. He felt sure they would acquit themselves well, though, if called upon. He was of the opinion that Remembrance Sunday should go on. It was not a glorification of war, but a reminder of 'how beastly that word "war" is'. Sir Henry ended on a cautionary note about the recent events in East Germany. Tenuous though it may have seemed, the past

45 years had been stable. Future events could possibly upset that equilibrium.

Norman Hopkins responded on behalf of the guests. Norman had been in the St. Dunstan's contingent at St. David's Hall, Cardiff, the week before at the Welsh Festival of Remembrance. 'I heard a quiet rumour going round that the St. Dunstan's contingent was the "Jewel in the Crown" outshone only by the mascot of the Royal Regiment of Wales, their goat!'. Marching down Whitehall was an occasion to remind people of the name of St. Dunstan's. He recalled his time at Church Stretton — to listen to men who were blind, and physically handicapped, laughing and joking — this was the spirit of St. Dunstan's. This spirit had been harnessed by Sir Arthur and then Sir Ian, together with the help of many hundreds of caring people. Norman concluded with a toast to St. Dunstan's.

Thus once again we had paid tribute to friends both known and unknown. In Norman's words, 'we came to forgive, but we cannot forget'.

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### PETER NYE

We are sorry to report the death, on Christmas Day, of Mr. Peter Nye, who established St. Dunstan's Research Department during the Second World War. He was 69.

Peter Nye was recruited by Lord Fraser while he was recovering from wounds in Roehampton Hospital in 1943. Lord Fraser was looking for someone to take on the work of devising equipment to help doubly handicapped St. Dunstaners. In Peter Nye he found a born engineer who became a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer.

On taking up his work for St. Dunstan's he made himself valet-companion to a St. Dunstaner for a week to learn what aids were needed in daily life. He left St. Dunstan's in 1969 to become Chief Engineer with Courtaulds and during his 16 years service his fertile mind and technical skills produced all kinds of aids for St. Dunstaners at home and in employment. Of him, Lord Fraser wrote in his book *My Story of St.*

*Dunstan's*: 'St. Dunstaners remember him as the man who listened to their ideas and always said, "Right, we'll try that", never, "No, it cannot be done" '.

In retirement he was a keen yachtsman, sailing his 32 foot yacht *Saranna* with his wife, Sheelagh, on many voyages along the coasts of Europe.

As well as his wife, he leaves a son, Graham, and two daughters, Julie and Joanna, to all of whom we extend our sympathy.

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### HENRY HALL

St. Dunstaners will have heard of the death of Henry Hall through news broadcasts and for some who are musicians there will have been special memories. This famous bandleader and broadcaster was for many years honorary music adviser to St. Dunstan's. One St. Dunstaner who remembers is Ken Revis. Ken, who had sung with St. Dunstan's bands and still does, wanted to make a record and asked if St. Dunstan's could arrange a recording studio and an accompanist. When the day came and he arrived at the studio he still remembers his shock of surprise to find his accompanist was Henry Hall.

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## CLUB NEWS

### ST. DUNSTAN'S NATIONAL BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP OCTOBER 1989

by Percy Stubbs

Thirty bowlers from all parts of the country met at Ian Fraser House to take part in the annual championships. With over 150 hourly games having to be played in the three weeks stay, this meant that on most days nine or ten games had to be played and everyone taking part had at least ten games with those reaching the final stages of the tournament having even more to play.

The three weeks bowling went very smoothly owing to the hard work and many hours planning by Joan Osborne with some help from Jackie Pryor. We all owe such a happy three weeks to Joan and

the good friendship of all the competitors. Our two staunch friends Vi and Reg Bradford spent many hours umpiring games and were only absent a few days of the tournament. We have come to rely on their help and they give it so willingly throughout the bowling year. 'Thank you Vi and Reg'.

The annual Brighton Club Dinner was held during the tournament and we thank it's Chairman and Committee for inviting most of us bowlers and our wives to take part in this function, a most enjoyable evening was had by all of us.

The final day of the tournament was Friday November 10th, the last match played at 4.30 p.m. on that day being the final of the fun fours, in which Gwen Hannant proved her ability with some very fine shots. 'Well done Gwen you carried your three partners'. At 7.30 on that same Friday we had our social evening and the prize giving in the Annex and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all the competitors and their wives.

Our thanks to all the staff at Ian Fraser House and our President, Major Neve, for their co-operation and willing help during our stay. The results of the tournament are as follows:

#### P.S. Singles

1st W. Davies  
2nd T. Brown  
3rd M. Lewis

#### T.B. Singles

1st T. Renshaw  
2nd P. Stubbs  
3rd R. Osborne

#### P.S. Pairs

1st T. Brown & T. Whitley  
Runners-up S. Jones & T. Simmon

#### Triples

1st K. Mapel, R. Osborne & T. Whitley  
Runners-up S. Dodd, J. Harris & T. Simmon

#### Consolation Triple Winners

R. Forshaw, A. Mitchell & T. Mугan.

#### Fun Four Winners

G. Hannant, C. Lloyd, J. Pryor & W. Vickery.



Ron Freer, Vi Delaney, Sylvia Meleson and Johnny Whitcombe.

## BRIDGE CAPTAIN'S REPORT, 1989

by Bill Phillips

I am saddened once again to report the death of two St. Dunstan's Bridge Players. We all sympathise and feel deeply for Pat (Mrs. Jim Padley) and Bertha (Mrs. Harold King). Our thoughts and sympathy are most sincere. We shall and do miss them.

Our trip to Harrogate was a huge success, being the occasion of our 50th visit. Sir Henry and Lady Leach, together with Mr. Cedric Cockroft and his wife Patricia, attended our Lunch in honour of the people who had been so kind to us for so many years. We were greatly amused and entertained by their speeches. A very lively lunch indeed, most enjoyable. We were very happy to see our dear friends Norman Smith and his wife. Due to Norman's illness we were uncertain if they could make it, but they did and told us it was lovely to be with all their friends again.

Many thanks to Ian Dickson for the hard work he put into organising trips through the Yorkshire Dales and to York

Minster. It was very much appreciated by all who took part.

Congratulations to Bill Allen for winning the Gover Cup in London and to Walter Lethbridge for winning the Pairs Cup in Brighton. The Gover Cup was won in Brighton by a superb player (ME)! Thought I'd never make it!

In the Sussex League, the team reached the penultimate game. Better luck next time boys, we hope.

London won the Three Way Cup Competition in April. Our Captain was Hon. Secretary Reg Goding. Congratulations London

We have lost the services of our good friend Enid Otton who served us faithfully for many years. We wish Enid and her husband a very long, peaceful and happy retirement.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our dear friends and helpers. Major Neve and his staff, many grateful thanks. Maurice, who is such a tower of strength all

year. Jeff, Enid and Roly Bolton. Peter McMillan, Hon. President and teamaker. All our Markers and Players. Not forgetting our Committee and in particular Alf Dodgson our Treasurer who keeps the books in perfect order. Last but not least, Reg Goding our Hon. Secretary who has worked unstintingly to organise our events and ensure all is in order. I am sure you will agree that this is not an easy task but is appreciated. Now to you the Members. Thank you for attending. We have some old faces back with us, Joe Huk, Melville Clements and Billy Burnett, we hope you will become regular players for us. We would, of course, welcome any new players, so much the better. I never tire of saying without all you Members and helpers there would be no Club. Thank you all, keep up the good work.

Sending you the Season's Greetings and Happy New Year.

### RESULTS OF THE BRIDGE CONGRESS

#### Sir Arthur Pearson Championship

- 1st Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge
- 2nd Alf Dodgson & R. Pacitti
- 3rd Bob Fullard & Mike Tybinski

#### Paul Nuyens Teams of Four

- 1st Bill Phillips & Reg Goding  
Bert Ward & Bertha King
- 2nd Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge  
George Hudson & Joseph Huk

#### Alf Field Memorial Trophy –

##### Datum Pairs

- 1st Bert Ward & Reg Goding
- 2nd Reg Palmer & Maurice Douse
- 3rd Ralph Pacitti & Alf Dodgson

#### Lord Fraser Cup for Individual Championship

- 1st Bill Miller
- 2nd Bert Ward
- 3rd Ralph Pacitti

#### Teams of Four Championship for Sir Arthur Pearson Cup

- 1st Bill Miller & J. Whitcombe  
P. McMillan & K. Pacitti
- 2nd Bob Fullard & Mike Tybinski  
Reg Palmer & Maurice Douse

### Drummer Downs

- 1st Ron Freer & Sylvia Meleson
- 2nd Ralph Pacitti & Reg Palmer
- 3rd Bill Allen & Kay Pacitti

### Gover Cups

- LONDON Bill Allen
- BRIGHTON Bill Phillips

## BRIGHTON CLUB – BRIDGE

Sunday November 5th 1989

### Individual – Results:

1st Vi Delaney	60.2
2nd Dr. Jane Goodlad	59.0
3rd Reg Palmer	58.0
4th J. Huk	56.8
5th Mrs. Hannant	53.4
6th Mr. Goodlad	52.2
7th Reg Goding	48.9
8th Miss Stenning	47.7
9th Mr. Douse	45.4
10th Bill Allen	42.1
11th Wally Lethbridge	39.8
12th Mrs. Douse	36.5

### FINAL RESULTS:

1st Bill Phillips	298.5
2nd Ralph Pacitti	273.6
3rd Bill Allen	271.5
4th Wally Lethbridge	263.6
5th Reg Goding	259.0
6th Bob Evans	235.8
7th Vi Delaney	221.5
(Only 4 rounds)	
8th Reg Palmer	197.8
(Only 4 rounds)	

5 others competed less frequently

### Pairs:

1st Wally Lethbridge	300.8
2nd Bill Phillips	282.1
3rd Bob Evans	269.2
4th Reg Goding	266.9
5th Ralph Pacitti	256.4
6th Bill Allen	211.4
(Only 4 rounds)	

11 others competed less frequently



### BRIGHTON SOCIAL CLUB ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Once again on November 22nd, fifteen members of Hastings Voluntary Services for the Blind, joined us for the bi-annual tournament of 5's and 3's. St. Dunstan's were the winners by one game, and after the trophy presentation by Albert Hobson, he promised that they would win on our next visit to them in 1990.

A very happy afternoon was enjoyed by all. Albert thanked Major Neve personally for the hospitality, and we all thank the catering staff for the kindness.

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### THANKS FROM JOHN SHAW

Mr. John Shaw, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who has recently been unwell and in hospital, wishes to report that he is now well again. He would like to send his sincere thanks to all the staff at the Freeman Hospital, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for the care given to him during his stay there.

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## FAMILY NEWS

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Norma, daughter of *Charlie and May Hague*, of Bootle, on obtaining a First Class Honours Degree in psychology at the University of Manchester.

The grand-daughters of Mrs. Bertha King, widow of the late *Harry King*, of Dunstable, on achieving excellent results in their A Level Examinations. Sarah gained two B's and one C and is now studying pharmacy at Brighton Polytechnic, while Susan gained three A's and is studying medicine at Southampton University.

Glynis Browton, daughter of *John and Mary Marshall*, of Blackhall Rocks, Hartlepool, on her success in her Bar Finals this summer.

Catherine Norman, grand-daughter of *Mr. and Mrs. Norman*, of Bradford who at the age of 14, gained 88% in the International Dance Teachers Association Grade 5 Awards.

### GREAT GRANDCHILD

#### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Rosa Glover of Longwell Green, Bristol, widow of *William Glover*, on the birth of a great-grandson, Adam David, to her grand-daughter, Dawn, and her husband Jeffrey.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lowery*, of Minehead, on the birth of a grandson, Alexander James, on November 25th, to their daughter, Joanna and her husband, Tony.

*Mr. and Mrs. C. O. H. Baker*, of Westward Ho, on the birth of a grandchild, Leah Devon, who was born on November 22nd, in Connecticut, U.S.A. to their son, Ben and his wife, Val.

*Mr. and Mrs. W. Cowing*, of Oakley, Hants, on the birth of a fifth grandchild, Martin John, born on November 12th, to their son, Paul, and his wife, Sylvia.

*Mr. Alfred and Ruby Franklin*, of Hoddesdon, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Alexandra Catherine, to their son, Christopher, and his wife, Stella, on July 26th.

*Mrs. E.A. Jones*, of Port Talbot, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Amy on October 6th.

*John and Mary Marshall*, of Blackhall Rocks, Hartlepool, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Sarah.

*Mr. and Mrs. A. Naylor*, of Tuxford, Notts, on the birth of two grandchildren. A grand-daughter, Gemma Louise, who was born to their daughter, Joanne and her husband, Gary on January 27th 1989. And a grandson, Scott Liam, who was born on September 15th, to their daughter, Sharon and her husband, Shaun.

### MARRIAGES

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. G.J. Hopkins*, of Eastbourne, on his marriage to Mrs. R. Lewis, of Peacehaven, on December 9th. Mrs. Lewis is the widow of the late *John Lewis*.

*A.C. (Tiny) Pointon*, of Woodingdean, who was married to Annette Ella Stansfield on November 25th. The marriage took place at the United Reformed Church, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex.

*Sydney and Margaret Scroggie*, of Dundee, on the marriage of their son, Jamie, to Miss Ann McShannon, on October 12th. The wedding took place on the Isle of Mull, from where Miss McShannon hails.

### RUBY WEDDING

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Fleet*, of Paignton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 3rd.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Jack and Dolly Newton*, of Southport, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which took place on December 24th.

*Ernie and Gwen Obern*, of Aberdare on the occasion of the Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on December 23rd.

*Mr. and Mrs. F. Worton*, of Solihull, West Midlands, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which took place on November 4th. Unfortunately, they

were unable to be together for the celebration, as Mr. Worton was convalescing at Pearson House after an operation, but other members of the family were able to be with Mrs. Worton on that day.

*Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Redford*, of East Molesey, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 23rd.

### DEATHS

#### We offer condolences to:

*Mr. John B. Bailey*, of Kidderminster, on the death of his wife, Elsie, who passed away on December 2nd.

The family and friends of Mrs. Beatrice Barlow, of Gayton, Nr. Kings Lynn, widow of the late *Sam Barlow*, who died on November 26th.

*Mr. William J. Beatty*, of Ballinamallard, Northern Ireland, on the death of his mother on November 25th.

Mrs. J.L. Bentley, of Saltdean, on the death of her brother, *Charles Farmer*, on November 24th.

*Mr. R. H. Collins*, and his sister-in-law, Pat, on the death of his brother, George Collins, on November 14th.

The family and friends of Mrs. L.C. Delaney, of Bridgwater, Somerset, widow of the late *J.W.P. Delaney*, who passed away on December 27th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Louisa Doncaster, of Highgate, widow of the late *Frederick Edward Doncaster*, of London N1, who died on November 14th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Frances Gaffney, of Salford, widow of the late *Albert Gaffney*, who died on November 18th, aged 90.

Mr. D.F. Giffard, of East Preston, who recently suffered the loss of two of his brothers.

The family and friends of Mrs. Gladys May Hammett, of Carterton, Oxford, widow of the late *Henry Alexander Hammett*, who passed away on December 24th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Norah Hobbs, widow of the late *Cyril Hobbs*, of Ferring, who passed away on December 5th.

## 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.

### J. F. Albury, *Royal Air Force*

It is with sorrow that we record the death of John Frederick Albury, at Pearson House, on December 2nd. He was 73 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1988.

Mr. Albury served as an Aircraftman 1st Class in the Royal Air Force from April 1940, until May 1941, when he was discharged with diabetes. After the war, he worked as a motor mechanic and driver until his sight deteriorated some ten years ago. After a long period of ill-health, his wife died in 1986.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his son, Philip, his four grandchildren and all other members of the family.

### J. Ashcroft, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

We are sad to record the death of John Ashcroft, of Doncaster, affectionately known as Jack, on December 15th. He was 75 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 11 years.

Mr. Ashcroft served as a Private with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from 1937 to 1946, and spent some time as a prisoner of war in the Far East. His sight was damaged to a certain extent, but he worked as a miner following his discharge from the Army,

Family and friends of Miss Constance Lugg, of Zeals, daughter of the late *Reginald Lugg*, who passed away on November 3rd.

Mrs. E.E. Maynard, of Bromsgrove, Worcs., on the death of her brother, followed by the death of his wife.

Mr. James Norris, of Northwood, Middlesex, on the death of his brother in August.

Mr. Bert Wallage, of Rottingdean, whose only surviving brother died on December 3rd.

which had been his occupation before joining up. He joined St. Dunstan's much later in life after retiring some years earlier.

Mr. Ashcroft was not in good health when he joined St. Dunstan's, and lived in residential accommodation, but he did manage to go down to Ian Fraser House for a few holidays which he enjoyed very much.

We send our sympathy to Mr. Ashcroft's children, and their families.

### A.L.J. Curnow, *35th Regiment Royal Artillery*

Arthur Leonard James Curnow, of Liskeard, affectionately known as Len, passed away in hospital on December 22nd. He was 75 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since February, 1947.

Mr. Curnow served as a Gunner in the 35th Regiment Royal Artillery from the onset of the Second World War, having been a Territorial Army reservist. On admission to St. Dunstan's he was suffering from the effects of severe malnutrition and deprivation having been a Far East prisoner of war. Following a period of training in braille, typewriting and handicrafts, Mr. Curnow went into business as a tobacconist with a sub-post office and a tearoom attached.

With the help of his wife, Louie, the business in Bexleyheath flourished but in 1969, they decided to retire and move to Cornwall.

For many years Mr. Curnow was greatly involved with the Royal British Legion, becoming Deputy Chairman of the County, and President of the Liskeard branch. As recently as September 1989, Mr. Curnow and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a splendid party held at the local British Legion branch where many tributes were paid for his sterling work.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, their twin daughters, Barbara and Carol, grandchildren and all other members of the family.

### K. Gray, *Royal Corps of Signals*

We are sad to record the death of Captain Kenneth Gray, of Altrincham, on November 26th, after a short illness. He was 75 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner for four years.

Captain Gray served with the Royal Corps of Signals during the Second World War, and spent some time in Burma, where he began to have some trouble with his eyesight. Following his discharge from the Army, he taught English and later became a Headmaster. Unfortunately he had to take early retirement in 1974. In his younger days his hobbies were fell walking, music, painting in oils and pastels, and he also collected teapots.

By the time he joined St. Dunstan's, Captain Gray was in very poor health, but owing to Mrs. Gray's devoted care, as well as her marvellous energy and determination, they continued to go out to concerts and to visit country pubs and restaurants once in a while, as well as having holidays when it was possible. In 1987, Captain Gray won second prize in the St. Dunstan's Short Story Competition with his story 'Shadows in the Mist', which was printed in the November *Review* of that year.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Kathleen, and all other members of the family.

### D. A. J. Grimes, *Royal Artillery*

Douglas Arthur James Grimes, of Eastbourne, passed away at his home on December 10th, aged 73 years. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1946.

Mr. James enlisted in December 1939, and served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery. He became a Prisoner of War in the Far East and his eyesight deteriorated greatly as a result of

the privation he suffered there. He had been a lorry driver and motor mechanic before the war, and after his discharge and training at Ovingdean, he took up telephony and worked in industry until his retirement from Barclay's Bank in 1982. During his leisure hours, he enjoyed walking and also played bridge.

He leaves a widow, Lilian, to whom he was married for forty years, and they celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in March, 1989. We offer our sincere condolences to her, their son, Colin, their daughter, Shirley, their grandson, Christopher and all other members of the family.

### R. Goodhead, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with great regret that we record the death of Rowland Goodhead, of Sheffield, on November 13th. He was 75 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945.

Mr. Goodhead served as a Lance Corporal with the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940, and lost his sight when he was injured by a mine explosion in Italy in August 1944. After coming to St. Dunstan's, Mr. Goodhead trained for industrial employment and began a career which was to last for 27 years. On taking his retirement in 1977, he became interested in carpentry, enjoying the use of tools and toy-making courses at Headquarters, as well as keeping active in his garden and greenhouse for as long as his health permitted.

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

### F. Jeanmonod, *Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers*

Frank Jeanmonod, of Pinner, passed away at home on November 29th, aged 73. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1954.

Mr. Jeanmonod served as a Staff Sergeant with the Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers during World War Two. He was discharged in 1945 and returned to his former employment until 1953, when he retired due to failing sight. Following his admission and training at St. Dunstan's he worked briefly for the War Office and the Ministry of Supply before transferring to the Ministry of Aviation. He was engaged on secret work as a Technical Officer in the electrical division until the advent of computers when he became a computer analyst until his retirement on health grounds in 1978. He was a ham radio enthu-

## In Memory *continued*

siast and will be sadly missed by all who know him.

Frank and his wife, Gladys, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1988. We extend our sympathy to his widow, their son, and all members of the family.

### **Arthur Charles Simpson**, *Special Air Service Regiment*

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Arthur Simpson, of Doncaster, on November 20th. He was 71 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 46 years.

Mr. Simpson served with the 1st Special Air Service Regiment as a parachutist during the Second World War, and was wounded in Tripoli. He went to St. Dunstan's at Church Stretton, where he studied typing, braille, woodwork and upholstery. Mr. Simpson went to Wrexham after finishing his training, and worked there as an upholsterer. He then moved to Doncaster, where he joined the staff of Doncaster Corporation, and worked with a team of people who took care of the cemeteries, doing maintenance, gardening and making up plots. After he had been there for some years he was also responsible for training the new staff and apprentices.

In 1977, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson lost their younger son, John, in very sad circumstances, and he retired from his work soon after this. Mr. Simpson spent a great deal of time in his garden and allotment, and kept the family in vegetables all the year round. Over the years Mr. Simpson enjoyed many visits to Brighton for holidays and the race meetings, and regularly attended his regimental reunions as well as our own.

We send our sympathy to his widow, Kathleen, and to their son, Malcolm and his family.

### **P. Spring**, *The Buffs*

Mr. Patrick Spring, better known as Pat, passed away on December 26th, aged 76. He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1943.

Mr. Spring served as a Private in the 5th Battalion, The Buffs in the Second World War, and was injured by gunshot wounds during action in North Africa. On admission to St. Dunstan's he undertook a period of training in boot repairing and industrial work. He was employed as a shoe repairer until 1959, he was then retrained for capstan operating and worked in this capacity until he retired. He was a highly efficient operator throughout his working life and a valued employee.

Until comparatively recently, Mr. Spring's main hobby was his garden and greenhouse and he also enjoyed some picture-framing and toy-making. Happily, Mr. Spring and his wife, Joan, were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in April last year.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, their two children, Imelda and Anthony, and all members of the family.

### **R. W. Slatter**, *Gloucestershire Regiment*

Robert William Slatter, of Bristol, passed away at his home after a short illness. He was 75 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1940.

Mr. Slatter enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1938, and at the outbreak of war joined the 5th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, where he rose to the rank of Captain. While serving in France he contracted rheumatic fever resulting in the loss of his sight. Following his discharge in June 1940, he received training at Church Stretton and after the war worked in industry until 1974, when he took early retirement. His main interests were his home and the radio.

In 1939 he married, and he and his wife, Joan, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this year. They were a devoted couple and both enjoyed travelling, particularly going on cruises. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, family and friends.

### **R. Wilson**, *Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)*

Ronald Wilson, of Keighley, passed away on December 15th, aged 84 years. He had been a St. Dunstaner just over four years.

Mr. Wilson served as a Private with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) during the Second World War, and was wounded by a bomb blast in France in 1940. He did however retain a certain amount of vision, and worked in the textiles industry until he was 70.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson shared their home with Mrs. Wilson's brother, Peter Bell, who was a great help to them in many different ways, and looked after Mr. Wilson and took care of all the housekeeping and cooking after Mrs. Wilson's death in October 1987. Although Mr. Wilson was already elderly when he joined St. Dunstan's, he did manage to have one holiday at Ian Fraser House, and also attended a St. Dunstan's Reunions at Leeds, accompanied by Peter Bell.

We offer our sympathy to Mr. Peter Bell, and thank him for the help he extended to Ronald Wilson.