



**St Dunstons  
Review**  
March 1990



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Free to St. Dunstaners

**MARCH 1990**

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**Cover Picture:** Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, a Vice-President and former Chairman of St. Dunstan's, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. With his wife, Katharine, he lunched with Members of the Council at Headquarters and our picture shows him blowing out the candles on a surprise birthday cake.

# From the Chairman

I should like to draw your attention to our plans for celebrating our 75th Anniversary year. These are set out separately in this issue.

In addition to the Garden Party and the Dinner we are having printed a special Commemorative Book giving the history of St. Dunstan's from 1915 to 1990, mainly in pictures. This will be sent free to all St. Dunstaners in the late summer as well as being available to the public from the normal bookshops and stalls.

\* \* \*

I should also like to introduce to you two new members of the Senior Staff. Mr. Michael Hordell took up the newly established post of Manager (Services) for our Brighton Homes with responsibility for those major facilities which are common to both establishments and, where applicable, to Headquarters. The scope of his activities is being kept under constant review but will include such areas as catering, transport, outside contracts, maintenance and purchasing. He comes to us after 22 years with The Alliance and Leicester Building Society and lives just around the corner from I.F.H.

Major Peter Marshall has recently taken over the duties of Admissions and Pensions from Group Captain Keith Martin who is retiring. Major Marshall, who lives in Liphook, Hampshire, has spent 21 years as an Army Chaplain.

Group Captain Martin will continue on the Staff on a part-time basis, running the Regional Reunions, the Remembrance Day Parade and with responsibility for Physiotherapy (including the Physiotherapy Conference).

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



**DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1990**

We invite St. Dunstaners and widows only to apply for tickets in the *Review* Derby Sweepstake. Please remember that every application for tickets made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. The tickets are 20p each, and applications for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on Friday, May 18th. Each applicant must state the name and address of the sender and number of tickets required, and with a stamped addressed envelope, applications must be sent to: The Editor, D.S.S. Dept., St. Dunstan's Review, P.O. Box 4XB, 12/14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB. Cheques made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively and are limited to 25. The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing expenses, will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on May 21st, the race being run on June 6th.

**PENSION BOOKS**

We would like to remind all St. Dunstaners that the Pensions Office at Ovingdean is always pleased to offer the service of cashing their pension order books, and if required those of their wives, whilst staying either at Ian Fraser House or Pearson House. It would be most helpful if the books could be handed in on a Monday or Tuesday.

**BLIND TO MISFORTUNE**

Due to increased production costs the price of Bill Griffiths' book 'Blind to Misfortune' is now £8.40 to St. Dunstaners, widows and staff and £12.95 to others.

**CATERING**

P.B.K. Ltd. are taking over responsibility for catering at the Brighton Homes and Headquarters. Paul James and his team will continue to provide the service and we take this opportunity to wish them every success in the future.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Plans for the celebration of St. Dunstan's 75th Anniversary on 1st August have progressed to the point when it is possible to outline them in general terms. All those who have received written acknowledgment of their applications will be able to attend and detailed information will be sent individually nearer the date.

A Garden Party at Buckingham Palace has been arranged for the afternoon of 1st August to be followed in the evening by a Celebration Dinner in a London hotel.

Overnight accommodation is being booked at hotels situated close together in Central London for all St. Dunstaners, wives and widows whose length of journey necessitates this. In order to limit expense those who are able to reach London in time on the day will be booked for one night only.

For those coming from places in the Home Counties not requiring accommodation, facilities will be provided at the hotels for changing and relaxation between the afternoon and evening events.

The terminal date for applications (already extended) is now past. Any further applications received will be placed on a reserve list and acceptance (in order of receipt) will depend on being matched by cancellations on a one-for-one basis.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### From Mrs. Margaret Adams, Brighton

This is a little note to say 'thank you' for the *Review*. You have no idea of the pleasure I get reading about my friends, the comings and goings, sadly many of the latter.

I have been a regular escort since 1950, so I have many memories. Reading about dear David Purches was sad as we had many consoling chats and plenty of giggles.

I wish you all the best in 1990, may God bless you all, and may His peace be with you.

### From Jock Carnochan, Brighton

I would like to thank St. Dunstan's and all those St. Dunstaners and staff who so kindly and generously contributed to my retirement, the proceeds of which have gone into investment for the future. I leave with many happy memories of doing a job which gave me a great deal of satisfaction and allowed me to make many friends whom I shall certainly keep in touch with.

I would specially like to thank all those persons who gave me great support in the many mobility and recreational projects throughout my career at St. Dunstan's, and I wish you all good health and fortune for 1990.

### From Gwen and Ernie Obern, Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan

May we take this opportunity to thank Miss Cynthia Mosley and staff for the beautiful arrangement of flowers which they sent on the occasion of our Golden

Wedding Anniversary. This gift was greatly appreciated and has been admired by all our family and friends.

I would also like to thank friends and staff of St. Dunstan's for the lovely gifts and cards which they sent us. Ernie and myself would like to thank each one personally but as there were so many, we would just not have the time.

Once again our sincerest thanks.

### From Mrs. Kitty Young, 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 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

## BERTIE'S GIFTS OF JOY

Thanks to St. Dunstaner Bertie Williamson, Christmas for some children in the Colchester area was just that little bit brighter. For Bertie, of Wivenhoe, donated some of his hand-made toys to the Colchester *Yellow Advertiser* Christmas Toy Appeal. In recognition of Bertie's sterling work the *Advertiser* published an article with a photograph of Bertie in his workshop.

## CORRECTION

In the Calender of Events issued with the January/February *Review* the date of the Bridge Weekend is given as May 4th-5th. This should have read May 5th-6th. We apologise for this mistake and any inconvenience it may have caused.

## Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

**Edmond John Constantine**, of Catford, who joined on January 18th.

Mr. Constantine served as a Private in the Parachute Regiment (7th Battalion) from enlistment in 1945, until his discharge in 1947 on health grounds, having served in Palestine. After his service, Mr. Constantine worked as a milk roundsman for many years and more recently became a PVC welder, although he has been unfit to follow his employment for almost a year.

Mr. Constantine and his wife, Jane, have been married for 38 years and have two sons.

**Frederick Dunn**, of Clacton-on-Sea, who joined on January 9th.

Mr. Dunn served as an Aircraftman 2nd Class in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, and afterwards worked as a self-employed builder. He is a widower, and has three adult children

**Neville Lucas-Calcraft**, of Peterborough, who joined on January 12th.

Mr. Lucas-Calcraft served as a Bombar-dier in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, and afterwards worked as a research engineer at Perkins Diesel Engine Manufacturers. Mr. Lucas-Calcraft is married, and has two adult children.

**Mr. William Wilcock**, of Blackburn, who joined on January 8th.

Mr. Wilcock served as a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1957, and later worked in the engineering industry. Mr. Wilcock and his wife, Ada, have two children, a son and a daughter.



## JESSIE CELEBRATES A CENTURY

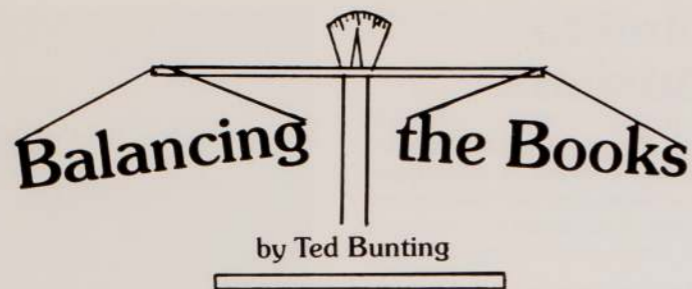
Mrs. Jessie Wilson celebrated her 100th birthday on January 6th, with a champagne party held at the Summerhayes Residential Home, Sandford, Crediton. Jessie who is the widow of the late Jack Wilson, is originally from London, but moved to Newton St. Cyres in the 1950's.

Mrs. Hooper, who runs the home, organised the party, and the staff clubbed together to buy Mrs. Wilson a new dress. Welfare visitor, Liz Pearce presented Jessie with a mohair travel rug and an Ansley vase, she also presented Mrs. Hooper with a vase to keep as a memento of the occasion.

One of Jessie's sons, Mr. Channon, was able to attend the party, she also received many cards and gifts, along with telegrams from The Queen and the Secretary of State, and a letter from Sir Henry Leach.

## FISHING CLUB GENEROSITY

Fred Bentley tells the *Review* that members of the St. Dunstan's Fishing Club contributed the fine sum of £160 to the appeal fund for the Royal Marine Band in Deal.



**Balancing the Books**  
by Ted Bunting

**A History of the Second World War**

Author: Capt. Basil Liddell Hart

Reader: John Richmond

Duration: 38.5 hours

Catalogue number: 4083

How much do you know about the events which occurred in the years of the second world war? If you lived through them, the chances are that your answer is: "Quite a bit"; in fact you might even consider yourself something of an expert.

Well, I used to be like that. Because I could discuss the various phases of the war, from the German invasion of Poland to the second atomic bomb, I thought I knew "quite a bit" too.

But that, I must stress, was before I had read the work of a genuine expert, such as this book is, for Captain Liddell Hart has not only made me realise how little I actually did know before, but he has also made me aware of many important aspects of the war which I had not even considered the existence of.

The brief description in the catalogue calls this book "thought provoking"; well, there's an understatement for you! I doubt if a single one of my former preconceptions survived intact, after I'd come to the book's end.

Although it is written in a most readable way, this account of the war is long and fairly detailed, so I obviously can't comment on much of it here. But I would like to mention just a couple of items, which certainly provoked my thoughts, and may, I think, do much the same for you.

The first is the widely accepted idea that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour was

unprovoked, unexpected and unprecedented. Well, a similar thing had certainly happened before, so "unprecedented" is a non starter. On the 10th February 1904 a surprise night raid by Japanese torpedo boats crippled the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. It was a ploy, incidently, which had been rather admired, at the time, both in Britain and in the U.S.A. Round about then the Japanese had been pursuing its ambitions in Manchuria; as was also the case in the 1930's.

As to the Pearl Harbour attack being "unprovoked", the Japanese would have argued, no doubt, that because of the American's oil embargo, which was imposed to induce them to come out of Manchuria, they were left with no alternative, other than to look for oil elsewhere, in other words, to go to the Dutch East Indies, and help themselves as soon as the American fleet was out of the way.

If the Americans were really surprised by the attack after that, then one is surely justified in asking "why?".

And what about this one? Is it possible, would you think, that in order to have a victory to boast of, the politicians, notably Churchill, gave so much priority to arming the forces in the deserts of the Middle East, that Singapore, Malaya and Burma were lost for want of aircraft?

If you have an enquiring mind, and wonder how these, and many other things pertaining to the Second World War, stand up to the light of fact, and the scrutiny of a really brilliant military historian, you will want to send for this book right away.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Overlord: D-Day and the Battle for Normandy**

Author: Max Hastings

Reader: David Rider

Duration: 15 hours

Catalogue number: 5411

My emotions are in turmoil. I've just finished listening to this book and I really don't know what to say or think about it. I've not liked what I've heard. I'm sure of that. Imagine how you'd feel if you'd just been told your greatest and most trusted friend had been arrested for fraud; well that's a bit like how I feel: let down, almost betrayed; and forced to change a belief I've cherished for years and years. I'm aware of a vague dislike toward the author, too. It's not exactly hatred, but it's certainly resentment, because I really don't want to believe what he's told me. And yet I know what he says is probably true.

According to Max Hastings, you see, the allied invasion of Europe, the greatest amphibious landing in history, was nothing but a monumental cock-up from start to finish. The picture he paints of the actual landings, for instance, is of utter chaos; men drowning and material being sunk, as much as three miles from land, and of beaches getting hopelessly clogged up by ruined equipment because of sheer incompetence and lack of organisation.

I don't want it to have been like that; I find the concept of thousands of men cowering behind burned-out tanks by the water's edge, hard to accept. But Hastings says that's how it was, and also that hordes more, like lemmings in reverse, were poured ashore to join them.

The resentment I feel toward the author surges again as I think of him saying that allied aircraft were responsible for killing many of their friends. Furthermore, he insists that they didn't just happen to bomb their own people once or twice, but that it was such a regular occurrence that forces on the ground hated the R.A.F. and the A.A.F. so much that they shot them down if they possibly could. But the aspect of this book which most offends my national pride most of all, is the often repeated assertion that in comparison to German soldiers, Tommy Atkins was rubbish. If the Allied Generals

had not been able to squander their resources without a care about replacements, says Hastings, "Overlord" would have failed dismally. Whenever the opposing forces had approximate parity, he stresses, the Germans invariably had the better of the contest.

Does all this mean that we British deserve a much lower place in the international pecking order than we think we do? Read this book and see what YOU think.

\* \* \* \* \*

**REV. GEOFFREY DRUITT**

We are sorry to report the death of Vivien Jackson's father, aged 84. Vivien is one of our Southern Area Welfare Visitors and her father was a distinguished Army Chaplain. We reproduce some extracts from his obituary which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The Rev. Geoffrey DrUITT served under Montgomery in North Africa and in Europe during the 1939-45 War. DrUITT was twice mentioned in dispatches: first in 1943, for his care of the wounded in North Africa; and again in 1945, when he was Deputy Chaplain General with Montgomery's 21st Army Group as it fought through Holland to the Rhine and on the Elbe.

Later he was awarded the American Legion of Merit for 'his outstanding human understanding' of Americans involved in the battles, and for the inspiration he gave them at the front line.

In 1942 he joined the Eighth Army in North Africa and a year later became DACG of the 6th Armoured Division. It was during this time that he greatly impressed Monty, who took him to Normandy as Deputy Chaplain General in 1944. Although this staff appointment involved him in the supervision of many junior chaplains DrUITT insisted on keeping close to the fighting.

DrUITT was appointed CBE in 1946 and was an honorary Chaplain to King George VI from 1951 to 1952 and to The Queen from 1952 to 1953.



## TIMES REMEMBERED

*Second in an anniversary year series of interviews.*

### SISTER STACEY

*Grace Hollins talking with David Castleton.*

Grace Hollins was known to First War St. Dunstaners as Sister Stacey. Stacey was her maiden name. 'Sister' was bestowed upon her and her fellow V.A.D.s by St. Dunstaners. 'Although we didn't call ourselves Sister, the men would.'

Her interest in St. Dunstan's was aroused in her schooldays. 'At my boarding school, Bentley Priory, which later became headquarters of Fighter Command, we had on a Sunday evening a 'pi-jaw'. At that time Sir Arthur Pearson had just opened St. Dunstan's. The headmistress spoke about him and it impressed me. I thought what a marvellous person.'

*The Braille Room.*



When she left school Grace joined the Red Cross and worked as Quartermaster in a military convalescent home for wounded men but she had not forgotten Sir Arthur Pearson: 'I took braille exams, by post. I wanted to transcribe books. The books were all done by hand. I could do that and it was at the Library for the Blind that I met Miss Prince. I spoke to her and said, 'Instead of doing books, do you think they'd like me up at headquarters at St. Dunstan's?' It seemed to me much more interesting than transcribing braille. So she rang up Miss Paine and said her recommendation was that I was used to dealing with men. Of course I was young, I was 20 when I ran the hospital.

I was interviewed by Miss Paine and went straight to work. I went half time to start with and I went straight away up to the braille room and taught braille. That would have been 1919 I suppose.

'When Miss Paine gave up the braille room she asked me to take her place. So I took over the braille room. I think it was before I took over that I demonstrated to Queen Alexandra, with Sir Arthur Pearson, how we taught braille. I was asked to stay there and tell her how it was done so I stayed and showed both of them. Actually, Queen Alexandra was stone deaf and he was blind. She could see — I suppose she

lip-read, she saw what was happening and seemed to understand the teaching of braille and how the dots were formed. Everything, books and all, was done by hand in those days.

'After I took over we moved to the Inner Circle. At first we were in the original house, St. Dunstan's, but when that went back to the original owners and Sir John Ellerman offered his house on the Inner Circle everything was moved: braille room, netting, and everything.

'In the braille room there was a number of instructors at different tables. I suppose there might have been a dozen, perhaps. It had to be individual tuition. People came so many mornings or afternoons a week and had their own pupils. You had the same pupils because a lot of the teachers were older people who were doing it before I went there and they always found the men very co-operative. There might be times when you lost the books and you had to go round through the College, Townsend House, Cornwall Terrace and the Bungalow to find books — they had forgotten them purposely!

### Bribery

'They weren't very keen on learning but they had to learn in those days, more or less. There was a good deal of bribery. I mean you had to take them out to tea in Baker Street and you would get to know them better when they came for braille the next day. You had to do something because, after all, life for them was pretty gloomy.'

The daily lessons were short. 'Because you could do this as you liked. I mean if a man was fussing you didn't make it any worse if you could help. There was one who was terribly damaged about the face. He had to have tablets every so often. Well, we didn't do very much. I knew he'd never get through his braille. He came for his lessons regularly but he never really learned braille. It was more a chat to help him on his way. It didn't matter.

'I taught in the same way as I learnt myself: showing the foundation of the six dots and with a machine, of course, you wrote opposite to what you read. We did



*H.M. Queen Alexandra with Sir Arthur Pearson (centre).*

their playing cards for them, put the dots on them so they could get it right. They had to pass the exams to get their machines and the reading one — that wasn't so bad. Writing was the difficult one particularly with anybody who was deaf like the late George Fallowfield. You had to be quite certain that he knew what you wanted him to write because the papers were passed by the National Library for the Blind and, of course, they didn't know the difficulties. The writing was done to dictation and I had to do this by the deaf/blind manual code.'

George Fallowfield became a life-long friend: 'I think for 50 years he depended on his braille and when he ever got fed up he'd type all his feelings, not in braille of course, and send the letters off to me and then he felt better. I kept in touch with him all the time until he died.'

Grace recalls the great shock of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson: 'I didn't see him very much because I was too busy and he was too busy. When Sir Arthur died it was a frightful shock to everybody because he slipped in his bath and hit his head on the tap. Well, of course, this didn't



*Irene Fraser coxing Ian Fraser on Regent's Park Lake.*

make any of the men very confident. There wouldn't have been any St. Dunstan's if it hadn't have been for Sir Arthur Pearson. He brought kindness and understanding of what people were going through. Being blind himself he could give confidence to those who were shocked in the trenches and came out and felt there was no future. He gave it to them. He said, "I can do these things so you can do these things", and that started them off. He planned the whole thing and their training.'

Grace left the braille room when she went abroad in 1924. While still working there she had met Avis Hodgson, later Avis Spurway. 'She asked me to help sometimes when she was short of coxes and I would go over any lunchtime.' On one occasion she coxed for Ian Fraser: 'When Lady Fraser had to go into hospital once she asked me to look after him at lunchtime and cox him on the lake which I did. He liked calling out to the children on the banks about tadpoles and different things and we had an amusing time. Not much rowing, more enjoying himself with the young.'

In 1926 the Sports Sister, Miss Paterson, was married. 'I asked Ian Fraser as he was then if I could take over sports instead of

Miss Paterson and so I did for the London side. There were two clubs at that time in London—present-care and after-care. The latter met once a week in the evening.' Grace had to live-in and found conditions primitive to say the least: 'One room, no bathroom, nothing, in fact. There was no hot water in my room so I had a thermos flask and washed as much as I could. I had to get up at six in the morning. The night orderly called me if it was fine. If it was wet, thank goodness, he didn't. I lived in the gardener's lodge and went over to the house and took the men out on the water at half past six.'

'Girls used to come from Bedford College to cox before breakfast. It was only down the road on the Inner Circle and I had a list. I was probably out now on the water and they would look at the list to see who they were taking — what they were doing. They didn't take the fours, I think I was the only one that did that there, but they did the pairs, the doubles and the singles.'

'Anyway, in the morning when I had them out on the lake, they were all turned out of bed in the different wards by Bill Tovell and out they went walking in line and they would come across a bridge and I had a boat down below and Tovell, we

always used surnames in those days, would tell them I was there and there would be a great chorus of "Good morning, Sister".'

Sister Stacey became responsible for all sports: 'You see it was all the sports at Headquarters but not for the clubs outside and I started the first Sports Day. I went to Sir Ian and said there ought to be a Sports Day for the children to take part as well. "We can't afford it." So I said, "Do you mind if I get the money and the support?" He said, "No, that's all right as long as you have got the support." Well, one got to friends. We all worked together. We got the prizes and everything and men came from all over the place for the Sports Day and also their children.'

#### **A New Concept in Sport**

Grace Stacey and Bill Tovell were creating a new concept in sport for blind people and in St. Dunstaners they had the right material. 'They were never nervous about anything! Never nervous or if they were, never showed it. They were keen on anything you suggested. I don't remember having anything turned down.'

There was goal shooting: 'Different Clubs came, Arsenal was the one special one, they used to train the men and they did it simply by calling out and they kicked. But you see we were so amateurish in those days — nobody knew anything — we were pioneers.'

'Then we had our London Club which I did one evening a week. They came to the Outer Circle to the Bungalow and I had to get to them from the Inner Circle and then go back late across the park. It was dark and, because it was all locked at a certain hour, I had a key. Sometimes a Keeper met me but as a rule I had to go across from one side to the other alone. A friend of mine bought me a shillelagh because she didn't think it was safe for me to be crossing the park. Then it was all right but you couldn't now.'

Avis Spurway ran a club in the Midlands, there was one in Brighton and another in Manchester. 'We did everything against each other. I got a sports shield made for which we competed and

we won in London. We were great rivals — Avis and I — but we were always great friends and I used to go and stay with her.'

'Then we had our regatta at Putney each year. Great rivalry! Even Fallowfield, you know, I had him racing and the only way that we could tell him to start was to hit him on the ankle. Well, I nearly got put in by George. You see, when you wanted him to stop at the end of the race, you couldn't do anything except hit his ankle again. You know a deaf person is apt to swerve, they don't walk straight for one thing and he did that. Fortunately I was ready for him, just near the end of one race, he won that one, and we very nearly went in but I was watching very intently so I was able to stop falling in. Somebody on the bank said, "We nearly dived in because we thought you had gone this time."'

Like her fellow V.A.D.s Grace wore her Red Cross uniform on duty. 'Coxing, I wore a sweater in the morning as a rule not my uniform jacket. Shorts were unheard of and at the regatta one had one's uniform jacket on.'

#### **Race Walking**

'We had these walks round the Outer Circle. The Outer Circle was three miles, races were so many times round that and they were handicapped. In those days you had to have an escort and you were attached to the escort — nowadays I don't think they are — most of ours were. People from the *News of the World* and different papers used to come and judge these walks.'

'Of course we V.A.D.s couldn't walk fast enough. I was rather short of training people so I rang up the local Guards Depot and said I wanted some men to come and help me train. The Sergeant-Major came round one evening and Bill Tovell wondered what I had been up to and came along. I said I'd rung him up because I was short of escorts. After that I could have a man who was off duty any evening to help train and the Police always helped. They had various do's they had the men to and I was warned by Bill Tovell which ones it was safe for me to go to and which ones weren't!'



*The winner of St. Dunstan's London—Brighton Walk in 1925 was James Ingram. His sighted escort was E. Horton then the record holder. Walking with them briefly as they entered Brighton was Sister Stacey.*

Grace was also involved in the London-Brighton walks. 'I helped in them when I was doing sports. Avis was on them and another V.A.D. who was a friend of hers also helped. We ran and walked the whole day. Sometimes the men got cramp and you had to try and get that right or get them a drink or whatever. I had always had quite enough by the end. We had transport but we had to run to and from the transport to get them whatever they wanted. Archie Brown was one of my special ones. If he'd been sighted or hadn't needed an escort, he would have walked for his club overseas. But, you see they weren't allowed escorts. So he couldn't. He was the best walker we had.'

Grace left St. Dunstan's when the organisation left St. John's Lodge. 'I left then because my mother was very ill, then she died. Well, there was nobody to house-keep for my father. So I just did some local visiting with the visitor there around Bishops Stortford, unofficially.'

Later Grace married and found new responsibilities during the war on the Family Welfare Committee of the Grenadier Guards, her husband's regiment. But

St. Dunstaners have always had a special place in her heart: 'Everything was full of fun. I had been away on a holiday abroad and I came back and I went into the Lounge and spoke to one of the staff first. Suddenly all the men in their chairs seemed to sit up — of course I laughed and they called out, 'Sister Stacey, we didn't know you were back' simply because they knew my laugh. They tried to put me in the lake and I don't know what else!'

### One Jump Ahead

'You had to be one jump ahead. They tried to get me with fireworks one Guy Fawkes Night as I left the braille room. I went out the other door. I never got the fireworks. There was something like that all the time. Everything was fun. That was the only way to tackle it. Because those men had been through far more than these others had. I mean those trenches they would never forget.'

'I remember another funny episode; I was in a nursing home not far from St. Dunstan's and Drummer Downs and Bob Young decided they would come and visit me but the thing was they wanted to bring me some flowers. In those days they thought a man shouldn't carry the flowers. So who was to carry them? They counted up who had the most limbs and I can't remember whether it was Bob or Drummer Downs who had to carry the flowers. Probably Drummer, I think he had an extra half arm, I'm not sure, and they came into my room simply shrieking with laughter over the flowers. It was so good of them to take the trouble to come and see me. I think I coxed them at some time or other.'

### Treasured Possession

Of all St. Dunstaners George Fallowfield is the one she most warmly remembers and a treasured possession is a model boat, typical of the boats on Regent's Park lake, which George Fallowfield made for her. 'I taught him rowing and he wanted to give me a memento. He went down to the boatman and got the measurements and from that he made the scale model. He made forty oars before he made a pair because



*Model boat builder, George Fallowfield.*

he couldn't hear the wood cracking.'

Grace's memories of those First War and post war days are happy: 'There was cheerfulness, everybody smiling. If they were depressed you just went for a walk around the park where there was nobody and said, "Get rid of your feelings, it doesn't matter in the slightest what you say. If you break down it doesn't matter there's nobody here." We had to be good listeners, it was part of the job. You went there to make them happy.'

*Grace Hollins at her home with the model rowing boat George Fallowfield made for her.*



### DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPT. J. W. KENNEDY

St. Dunstaners will be sad to hear of the death of ex-Detective Chief Superintendent J. W. Kennedy. Known to his many friends as Joe, he acted as an escort on many occasions, especially to the Bridge Club, travelling with them to Harrogate. He also helped with the Fishing Club.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, family and friends.



(from left to right) St. Dunstaners Ted John, Tom Hart, Ray Peart, Bill Shea and George Shed in the Shack.

## Amateur Radio Society Special Event Station, January 1990

By Bill Shea

On Saturday January 6th, seven Members of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society met at Ian Fraser House for a week's activity using the call-sign GB75STD. This call-sign was issued to the Society to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's. The team were: George Cole G4AWI, Tom Hart G4KPF, Ted John G3SEG, Trevor Phillips GOIBH, Ray Peart GOFHK, Bill Shea G4AUL, George Shed G7FQA, and Tony, a welcome supporter.

While the St. Dunstaners were getting themselves sorted out ready to start operating, two stalwart supporters, John Houlihan and Dave Mitchell, were out on the roof servicing the aerial system. The Society is very grateful to them for all the hard work they have put in on so many occasions. We are also very grateful to Wally Lintott for all the help he too has given to the Society.

Very soon George Cole's and Ray Peart's electronic morse keys were getting red hot

with the signals they were sending out. Tom Hart and George Shed kept things moving with the VHF and 10 metre FM rigs, and Trevor Phillips and myself operated SSB telephony. Ted John, our Secretary, was busy keeping things running smoothly and keeping the log with Tony, when they were not adjusting the aerials.

During the week we had more than 450 contacts all over the world, starting with a station in South Island, New Zealand and finishing with a station in Japan. We received telephone calls from Amateurs in this country giving us times and frequencies where overseas stations were looking for us.

Contacts were made with some of our members, John Proctor, Tommy Gaygan, Arthur Holmes and Fred Morgan. During a session with some 'white cane' Amateurs in Canada we were called by VE3NIB. This is the station at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto, congra-

tulating St. Dunstan's on its 75th Anniversary.

The Society is affiliated to the three service organisations, and many contacts were made with members of the Royal Naval, Royal Signals and Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Societies, both in this country and overseas. We also checked in to the R.A.I.B.C. nets (Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club).

The local press paid us a visit, which resulted in an article and photograph in the *Brighton Evening Argus*. Radio Sussex put out a programme on Friday morning with recordings by George Cole, Tom Hart and Ray Peart. 'Soundings' the tape magazine made some recordings which will be included in a future edition.

Alf Lee G4DQS, our QSL Manager, is now faced with the monumental task of receiving, sorting and sending out hundreds of QSL cards. The Society has a

special QSL card for St. Dunstan's 75th Anniversary. It has a photograph of the South Coast of England taken from the American space shuttle 'Challenger'. The spot is marked where our signals are radiating from, and it has a brief history of St. Dunstan's. These cards will be going all over the world confirming the contacts we made. They were designed by David Castleton and the PRO staff at Headquarters with a photograph from Ted John, and we thank them for the work that was put into it. It has been a very strenuous week which will be repeated again in March. Since finishing we have had feedback that our signals have been received throughout the world.

The St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society is very grateful to Major Neve and the staff at Ian Fraser House for their assistance and co-operation which helped our week to go so smoothly.

## DON AND GERRY TO RUN AGAIN

Don Planner and Gerry Jones have been accepted to run again in the forthcoming A.D.F. London Marathon, on Sunday, April 22nd. Both have run for the Royal School for the Blind in previous London Marathons; Gerry ran in 1985 and 1986, and it was in 1985 that he completed the distance in a time of 3 hours 2 minutes and 13 seconds, coming within 1 minute and 13 seconds of equalling the record time then set by a blind athlete, held at the time by an American, H. Cordellos. Don has taken part in the last three Marathons and the 1990 one will be his fourth consecutive Marathon. Despite the fact that he had broken his collar bone while skiing, only a few weeks before last year's race, Don courageously completed the distance as he was well aware that he was shouldering a considerable amount of sponsorship money, £1,600, in all; this year he is hoping to reach the £2,000 mark. He is hoping for support from Australia through a relative there.

At the moment Gerry Jones is without an escort to enable him to get into train-

ing, nevertheless, Gerry is determined to participate in the marathon, even if he has to walk it, he says towing a Cornish pastie shaped bucket, in which he can collect his sponsorship en route! He will be donating half the money he raises to the R.N.I.B.

The Royal School for the Blind was established in 1799, the first school for the blind in London; at the turn of the century, the site was required at the coming of the London Underground and the School moved to its present site at Leatherhead. In recent years, the Royal School has become the largest residential home for the blind school leavers and adults who have additional handicaps to blindness.

A massive re-modernisation programme, which commenced in 1981, has been completed and the ancient building has now been transformed, providing self-contained flats for the doubly handicapped residents, as well as modernised workshops, a splendid cafeteria and scented garden. Twenty-four hour care is provided for the residents who come from all parts of the U.K. to receive further edu-



cation and training with the hope that most may be able to ultimately leave the Royal School and lead as independent lives as possible. However, for some the Royal School will remain their home for life.

Don and Gerry would very much welcome your support. Please send your contribution either direct to them, alternatively sponsorship forms can be obtained from Jimmy Wright, the R.S.B. London Marathon Team Organiser, 209 Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 9ER. Tel. (0932) 225950.

## THE LATE HARRY (JOHNNY) COPE

by Trevor Tatchell

Readers will have noted elsewhere in the *Review* the sudden death of Johnny Cope in a London hospital in November. I am sure that we are all saddened with this tragic news and feel deeply for his widow, Edna, their children and grandchildren.

Johnny was a St. Dunstaner for over 45 years and was therefore known to a good many of us and will be greatly missed.

He always retained his Stoke-on-Trent accent (and why not!) and always excelled in sport, in fact he never knew the meaning of defeat, no matter what activity he participated in, it was always with a determination to win. Consequently, his home is full of all kinds of trophies.

Latterly, he represented St. Dunstan's, England and Britain in bowls and was always a keen competitor. For some years Johnny had some sight and was always prepared to use it by lending his arm or shoulder to others.

He was also proud of having been a Gordon Highlander and to my mind he was least like one, as I always imagined that they were big brawny brusque men. His allegiance to, and love of his regiment was so dedicated that a Scottish piper played a lament at his funeral.

Johnny was one of the finest campers at Lee-on-Solent and consequently, to many of us, camp will never be the same. We can be sure that Johnny will make the angels smile as he was such a warm hearted and happy-go-lucky guy.

## HOLIDAYS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) have published two guides which might be of interest to St. Dunstaners who wish to holiday in this country, or abroad.

The guides entitled '*Holidays in the British Isles 1990*' and '*Holidays and Travel Abroad 1990/91*', contain a wealth of information for the prospective holidaymaker.

Both guides are now available from the Publications Department, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Prices £3 and £2 (£4.50 and £3 including postage and packing) respectively. They are also available at branches of W. H. Smith.

## NEWS FOR EX-POW'S

An exciting addition to the programme for the Reunion from 6th-8th April is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, 8th April. Sir Laurens van der Post has accepted an invitation to Ian Fraser House to give a talk that afternoon.

The last of the Ex-POW concerts is to be held at the Fairfields Hall, Croydon, on 29th September. Tom Hart has received an invitation for St. Dunstaners. Anyone interested in attending this farewell concert should write or 'phone Tom Hart, 28 St. Aubyns Mead, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7YH. Tel: 0273 302627.

## MRS. EDNA SOMERVILL

Congratulations to Mrs. Edna Somervill, of Auckland, New Zealand, who celebrated her 80th birthday in January. Her daughter, Shirley, organised a party and invited all Mrs. Somervill's old friends.

Mrs. Somervill who is the widow of the late Lieutenant A. J. Somervill, informs us that she still drives, although she tries to keep out of the city. A few months back she suffered a severe bout of 'flu, but is now fully recovered and is looking forward to the St. Dunstan's Reunion in March.

## Observations

by Patrick Flanagan

It seems impossible these days to open a newspaper or switch on a T.V. set without being confronted by some new food poisoning scare. Words that were once heard only in the surgery or hospital are now in every day use, now no respectable after dinner conversation is complete without a discussion on salmonella, listeria or 'mad cow disease'.

Not so long ago many families grew their own vegetables, some even raised chickens, the more adventurous would keep a pig or two. Now most children grow up without ever seeing a real farm animal, their only experience of nature may be the domestic dog or cat. This breakdown in the relationship between man and animal may be the cause of the crisis now gripping the food industry.

We now perceive the animal as a product to be disposed of as fast and as profitably as possible, forgetting they are living creatures subject to the same gamut of stresses and diseases as ourselves. This was not always the case. Although noted throughout the ages for his frugality, and down-to-earth approach to life the farmer has always respected his animals, for upon them his livelihood depended. Now the modern farm is run on the lines of a factory, with the animals as the machines.

In theory this is efficient — until something goes wrong. For animals living in confined spaces are prone to more diseases than ones living in the traditional farm environment, their close confinement aiding the spread of disease. Subsequently, they must be treated with drugs which, in turn, are passed on to man when he consumes the animal or animal products.

This may be called sentimentality by the hard-nosed farmer, or 'agri-businessman', who will point to the cheap food that has become available in recent years. But is cheap food worth the loss of man's humanity? In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'a civilisation can be judged on the way it treats its animals'.

## REFLECTIONS

By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

If you find yourself sitting next to a clergyman you might quiz him with questions about 'his' God. It might surprise you, but he would be pleased. Not that his replies would, necessarily be very satisfying. By reason of his continual reading and thinking it is likely that he would fear that his ready answers would be too mixed up — qualified and tortuous — to be much good.

But that is his problem, not yours. I suggest that by stirring him up you find amusement, even interest. And laughing at the clergy is a good traditional pastime. On his side he will feel that, if only a tenth of all that theology and faith (which is his life's interest) is true — then his subject is a thousand times more important than anything else.

So those good thoughts you have — those noble actions you sometimes consider — the various kindnesses, generosity and compassion which threaten your selfish desires; that longing for a life without doubt or shame — do these bear witness to some mundane psychological need? Or are these 'goods' a pointer to a greater good, a wonder beyond time and space? That is what I put my money on, and will fight to proclaim.

## NEW 5p AND 10p COINS

As part of the Royal Mint's ongoing process of decimalisation the old 5p (shilling) and the 10p (florin) will be withdrawn.

The new 5p coin which will come into circulation in June this year will be much smaller than the present one, only 18.0mm in diameter and weigh 3.25 grammes. The new 10p coin, which will be introduced two years later in June 1992, will also be smaller, 24.5mm in diameter and weigh 6.50 grammes.

After the coins are introduced no further 5p or 10p coins will be issued, and the old coins will be withdrawn from circulation but the old and new coins will co-exist for some weeks.

**D. F. Robinson's**

## GARDENING NOTES

Now is when a start can be made for the New Year planting. Many of the hardy annuals and most of the vegetables can be sown in their growing places, with perhaps a few more seeds than necessary to make sure of having plenty of plants. Those of you with greenhouses can make a start with the half-hardy annuals, sowing them in boxes, since these items are easily killed off if sown outdoors.

Where you have beds already dug over late last year, put some fertiliser or compost and fork over lightly or use the hoe. The beds which are to be used for the cabbage family should be given a dose of fertiliser or compost and an added dose of lime. Those of you in the South may find it a bit difficult considering all the rain you have had lately. If the soil is muddy leave it for a time. Don't sow seeds in the North of the country until the end of the month or even leave it until the beginning of the next month when there is less frost about.

### Vegetables

Dig over and hoe all the beds ready for the seeds. Label the rows after you have sown the seeds so that you don't get the different types of seed mixed up. Many of the winter greens will have gone to seed so pull these up and consign them to the compost heap. Dig over the empty beds but don't sow any cabbage, keep them for other items such as broad beans, peas etc. Ensure that you have the runner bean beds really dug over to a depth and put plenty of manure at the bottom.

Early potatoes can be put in their beds which I hope you dug up well earlier with compost or manure at the bottom. Don't forget to label them all and take off the shoots at the bottom. Those living in the South can set lettuce, radish and other salad items sown when the frosts have

gone. See to it that the broad beans and peas are sown in sunny places and it might be a good idea to set some stakes and string at various heights so that you can tie the plants as they grow, or even twist the peas to the string in case the winds break them. Tomatoes can be started from seed if you have a greenhouse, they grow rapidly in small pots where there is a bit of heat, one can even grow them on a window-sill in a warm kitchen.

### Lawns

The grass will be starting to grow so make certain that you have the mower in good shape ready for immediate use. A bit of lawn fertiliser plus weed killer should be put on the lawns towards the end of the month, this will give the grass a boost and kill off the weeds.

### Fruit

Pruning of fruit trees which was not completed in the last two months should be done now as the frosts will be fewer, so get it done by the end of the month. The soil around the soft fruit bushes should be hoed when there is no frost about and this will keep the weeds down. Also add some fertiliser in pellet form which will last a long time. New plants of the bush type can be planted when there is no frost around. Towards the end of the month it might be a good idea to spray all types of fruit trees with an insecticide as the pests will be starting to show.

### Flowers

Get all the vacant borders cleared and forked over ready for the hardy and half-

hardy annuals later on in the year. Clear all the leaves which have accumulated during the winter. Put some extra soil over the perennials which have a tendency to show their roots when starting to grow well. This will stop the late frosts from damaging the roots.

Work can be started on transplanting and dividing the alpines and you should firm-in any plants that have been lifted out by frosts. Hardy bedding plants should be placed in the flowering positions when there is no frost about, plants such as, carnations, chrysanthemums, dahlias (which were stored through the winter) plus late flowering gladioli, pansies and violas.

Roses can be planted in the Southern areas but left a bit later in the North. The roses which are in beds and have been there for some time can be pruned when the frosts are over but I would suggest leaving them a bit longer. Many shrubs such as rhododendrons, laurels and hollies can be pruned hard if getting out of hand.

### Greenhouse

Keep the temperature at about 50°F at night but give all the potted plants and those which you are starting from seed for the garden plenty of air during the day. Those half-hardy seedlings should be transplanted into larger troughs, so they can grow to a good size, as they make good plants in the late summer. Begonias sown last month should be pricked off and any tubers left over should be started now. The same applies to other tubers such as gloxinia, achimenes etc.

Many items which were giving fine shows earlier on can be thrown out except azaleas and cyclamen, these can be for next season and put outside for the summer. Cuttings of abutilons, carnations, chrysanthemums, fuchsias, geraniums etc. can be taken for later flowering plants. Earlier cuttings of these items should be potted ready for indoor flowering, or for show in the greenhouse or in a special place outdoors.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON SOCIAL CLUB ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

On December 13th, the Christmas party took place, 24 members were present for the domino drive and several games of bingo, for which an assortment of prizes were won. We welcomed Flo Pike, one of the older members.

We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Dacre was unable to join us because of illness, get well messages were sent by Miss Stenning.

For a very enjoyable tea we thank the catering staff. Sue Reynolds entertained with a monologue, and Tony Ross played the piano for a sing-song. We thank Bob and Joan Osborne for a lovely afternoon and we thank Major Neve for the transport arrangements.

December 16th was the Christmas Dance which was quite well attended in spite of the weather and 'flu epidemic. Dr. and Mrs. O'Hara joined the dancers, Mrs. Dacre was still unable to join us.

Dr. O'Hara presented the trophies and everyone enjoyed the evening. Once again our thanks to Major Neve for the transport and to the catering staff for the buffet.

We send peace and goodwill to everyone in 1990.

### BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

The 1st match in the Sussex Inter Club league was played at Ian Fraser House on Sunday January 14th, against East Grinstead. Brighton won by a margin of 16 victory points to nil after a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon.

The team members were:  
W. Lethbridge and Vi Delaney  
J. Whitcombe and B. Allen  
R. Goding and B. Phillips  
B. Fullard and M. Tybinski

### BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

#### The January Pairs Match

#### Played on Saturday 27th January

1st	Vi Delaney & D. White	72.5
2nd	Bill Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	69.2
3rd	Wally Lethbridge & Mr. R. Goodlad	50.0
4th	Bill Allen & Mrs. A. Clements	45.8
5th	Bob Fullard & Miss Stenning	45.0
6th	Reg Goding & Mrs. McPhearson	42.5
7th	Joe Huk & Mrs. Douse	39.2
8th	A. Dodgson & Mrs. L. White	35.8

### BRIGHTON BRIDGE CLUB CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Twenty-six St. Dunstaners and markers made up 6½ tables. At the close Reg Goding asked Mrs. Dacre to present the prizes and he went on to thank all the members and staff of the house for their help throughout the season. Mrs. Dacre then presented prizes as follows:

1st	Reg Palmer and Mrs. A. Clements	2420
2nd	Mrs. P. Padley and D. Barnes	1130
3rd	Mrs. V. Delaney and Don White	1020
4th	Joe Huk and Mrs. Holborow	950

Two prizes for minor scores:  
Wally Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad — 660  
Mrs. R. Bushell and Mrs. Evans — 1620

At the presentations Mr. Douse added his personal thanks for help received from Messrs. Goodlad and McMillan, Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Pacitti as Directors and to all markers for their ready assistance throughout the season.

### WEST SUSSEX INTER CLUB LEAGUE

The second match was played on Sunday 28th January against West Sussex B. A very pleasant and enjoyable match resulting in a win for St. Dunstan's by 89 match points to 59.

The score for league table purposes was 12 victory points to 4.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Jessie Wilson, widow of the late *John Wilson*, of Crediton, who celebrated her 100th birthday on January 6th.

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Mrs. M. J. Armstrong, of Formby, Merseyside, widow of the late *Patrick Joseph Armstrong*, who had the honour of reading the Lesson at the blessing of the flag for the Nuclear Veterans which took place before Christmas at the Church of St. Nicholas, in Liverpool.

Dawn, daughter of *Mr. W. R. Crombie*, of Horsham, who has been accepted as an entrant in this year's London Marathon. Dawn, who is blind, will be guided by her husband, Colin. She is running for the Guide Dogs and the Rain Forests Foundation and is looking for sponsors.

*Bill Hodder*, who has recently won the Premier Division of the Braille Chess Association British Correspondence Championships.

Mark Naris, grandson of *Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Newton*, of Smallfield, Surrey, who was successful in passing Examination 3 of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Mr. Naris is now a qualified accountant and eligible to join the Institute.

*Tom Page*, who has been made Deputy Provincial Grand Primo, Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

*Mr. Michael Pirrie*, of Eastbourne, who has gained a degree as Bachelor of Arts from the Open University with credit passes in computer science and eighteenth century economic and social philosophy.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Cook*, of Purton, Wilts, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 10th.

*Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Henderson*, of St. Austell, Cornwall, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 21st.

*Harold and Annie Holden*, of Wigan, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on November 6th, 1989.

*Arthur and Amy Holmes*, of Southampton, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 13th.

*Bertie and Eva Williamson*, of Wivenhoe, Essex, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on January 27th.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. John Fullerton*, of Belfast, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Alexandra, on October 18th, to their daughter, Cherith.

Mrs. Esther Knappe, of Horsham, widow of the late *H. Knappe*, on the birth of her 9th grandchild, Elizabeth Esther, born on December 8th, to Philip and Mandy Knappe.

*Mr. and Mrs. J. Ormond*, of Burgess Hill, on the birth of their grandson, Ryan David, on December 6th, to their son, David and his wife, Hazel.

### GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

*Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fearn*, of Derby, on the birth of their great grandson, Joshua James, who was born on June 2nd, 1989.

Mrs. Esther Knappe, of Horsham, widow of the late *H. Knappe*, on the birth of a first great grandchild, Thomas, who was born on December 30th, to Peter and Lynne Jeffs.

### MARRIAGES

#### Congratulations to:

*George Hudson*, on his marriage to Mrs. Joyce Brooks, on January 20th.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

*George and Marie Yale*, of Dudley, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 24th. Unfortunately, Mrs. Yale had to spend it in hospital, but we wish her well again soon.

### DEATHS

#### We offer condolences to:

*Mr. Reginald Botley*, of Worcester Park, whose wife, Eileen, died suddenly on January 11th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Lily Brooker, Sydenham, widow of the late *Mr. Charles Brooker, M.M.*, who died on January 26th, aged 91.

The family and friends of Mrs. E. M. Carthy, of Horsham, widow of the late *William James Carthy*, who died on January 28th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Sarah Green, of Oldham, widow of the late *Lawrence Green*, who died on January 11th.

The family and friends of Mrs. A. K. McCarthy, of Salisbury, widow of the late *Daniel McCarthy*, who died on January 27th, aged 93.

The family and friends of Mrs. Elsie Robinson, of Goring-by-Sea, widow of the late *Joseph Lawrence Robinson*, who passed away on January 20th.

# In Memory

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

## **W. J. Bond, Royal Air Force**

We are sad to report the death of William Jeffrey Bond, of Galt, Ontario, Canada, who passed away on January 18th. He was 68 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1944.

Jeff Bond was a Boy Entrant to the Royal Air Force and lost his sight while serving as a Corporal Electrician in Malta, in 1944. He came to St. Dunstan's later that year and after a short period at Church Stretton, went on to take training in physiotherapy. Upon completing this in 1948, he went to Canada intending to join his parents who had moved there from Surrey, but very soon after arriving in the country he married Sybil Stopps whom he had met at Church Stretton, and who had escorted him on his voyage.

Mr. Bond then opened his own physiotherapy practice in Galt, and established a very successful practice. He and Mrs. Bond had four children. One of their daughters qualified as a physiotherapist herself and assisted her father in his practice.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond made a number of visits back to England and during some of these he was able to attend our physiotherapy conferences at Brighton, the last time being 1986. He gained his Amateur Radio Licence in 1987, and enjoyed keeping in touch with some of his fellow St. Dunstaners on the air.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and all other members of the family.

## **L. Brown, Royal Artillery**

We are very sorry to record the death of Leonard (Topper) Brown, of Frinton-on-Sea, on December 15th. He was 70 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 42 years.

Mr. Brown served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, and spent four years as a Far East Prisoner of War. For a few years after the war Mr. Brown was in very poor health, but he recovered from this and in 1952 he took up shop-keeping, opening a business in Bedford which, with the help of his wife, he ran very successfully for many years until he retired in 1977.

Mr. Brown's hobbies were fishing and gardening, and after he and Mrs. Brown moved to Essex, he was able to enjoy some deep-sea fishing with his brother. Mr. Brown also kept busy by working in his garden and greenhouse

where he produced vegetables and also grew exotic flowers.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Doris, their son, David, and all the family.

## **H. R. Cope, Gordon Highlanders**

Henry Richard (Johnny) Cope passed away in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, on November 7th. He was 66 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1943.

Mr. Cope enlisted in 1942, and served as a Private with the 6th Battalion of The Gordon Highlanders until his discharge in September 1943, as a result of gunshot wounds perforating both eyes. After admission and training at St. Dunstan's, he worked as a tiler, and later ran a mobile canteen. He was also a skilled upholsterer and enjoyed canework. He designed and made a splendid drinks cabinet, a photograph of which appeared in the *Review*. Woodwork and gardening were other favourite hobbies, but he excelled particularly at bowls, and was a member of the England International Bowls Team, representing his country in Australia in 1985. He was involved in many other sports, including swimming, and won the Victor Ludorum Trophy at Daedalus Camp in 1982. Four years later he joined the climb on Tryfan, 'Queen of the Mountains'.

He and his first wife, Irene, who sadly died in 1975, lived for many years in Staffordshire. After her death he moved to Brighton and in 1983, married Mrs. Edna Cunningham. We send our sincere condolences to his widow, his two daughters, Joy and Mary, and all other members of the family.

## **F. Harley, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment**

We are sad to report the death of Frederick Harley, of Bedford, on December 23rd. He was 73 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 43 years.

Mr. Harley joined the Territorial Army in 1932, and then served as a Corporal with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment during the Second World War. He spent some time as a Far East Prisoner of War, and joined St. Dunstan's in 1946, following his discharge from the Army. He went to Ovingdean and in addition to training in braille, typing and woodwork, studied music.

In 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Harley took over a small holding where they bred poultry and

grew flowers, fruit and vegetables. They did however have some bad luck, losing their stock in a serious fire and then losing more after some very heavy gales. Subsequently they turned their hands to something else, and began a fire-wood business which they ran initially with Mr. Harley's brothers and later with their son, Malcolm. The business was a great success and is still thriving.

Sadly Mrs. Eva Harley died in 1977, and Mr. Harley lived on his own for some years, although his children continued to help him. He married his friend Mrs. Edith Coultts in 1982.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and all members of the family.

## **W. Haslam, Royal Air Force**

It is with regret that we record the death of Walter Haslam, of Crewe, on December 21st. He was 92 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for nearly 60 years.

Mr. Haslam served as an Airman with the Royal Flying Corps and then the Royal Air Force during the First World War, and was discharged in 1918, as his sight began to fail during his military service. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1930, and went to Brighton for his training in typing, rug-making and mat-making.

He was a home worker for some years until the late 1940's, when his sight improved for a while. He then started his own business and left St. Dunstan's for 15 years, returning in 1962 when his sight deteriorated again and he retired from work.

Mr. Haslam enjoyed his retirement, and had many holidays at Ian Fraser House. Sadly, Mrs. Ethel Haslam died in 1984, but he managed on his own, with a great deal of help from his daughter, Gladys, and his son-in-law, Neville.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Gladys and Neville Brooks and all the family.

## **J. T. Madden, Royal Air Force**

We are sad to report the death of Jeremiah Thomas (Tom) Madden, of Kintbury, Nr. Newbury, Berks, on January 23rd, whilst on holiday in Southern Spain. He was 83 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1983.

Mr. Madden enlisted in 1929 and served with the Royal Air Force, attaining the rank of Flight Lieutenant. After he retired in 1954, his eyesight gradually deteriorated due to illness. Mr. Madden and his wife, Mary, to whom he was married for over 53 years, lived abroad for a time before settling in Kintbury. They both enjoyed travelling, and regularly escaped the rigours of the English winters by spending

several weeks in the sun. Mr. Madden was very interested in horse racing and also enjoyed regular holidays at Ian Fraser House.

We send our sincere sympathy to his widow, their three daughters and five sons, grandchildren and all members of the family.

## **J. Monaghan, Northumberland Fusiliers**

Mr. James Monaghan, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, passed away on December 22nd, aged 96. He had been a St. Dunstaner for 15 years.

Mr. Monaghan was a professional footballer with Sheffield Wednesday before the First World War. He joined the Army in 1915, serving as a Lance Corporal with the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was very badly injured on the Somme in 1916, and was discharged from the Army in 1917.

After the war he worked for some years as a telephonist, but had to take early retirement because of the after-effects of his multiple injuries. Mr. Monaghan joined St. Dunstan's in 1974, when his sight became further reduced. He shared a home with his sister, brother-in-law and niece, and also greatly enjoyed visits from other members of the family. Unfortunately in 1987, Mr. Monaghan became very frail and had to become a permanent patient in a nursing home, but he had many friends among the other residents, and of course his family visited him often. He also kept up with all the racing news, which was his hobby.

We send our sympathy to Mr. Monaghan's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Loughran, and all the family.

## **A. Purser, Royal Norfolk Regiment**

Mr. Arthur Purser, of Gants Hill, passed away at Pearson House, on January 22nd. He was 79 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1975.

Mr. Purser enlisted in March 1940, and served with the Royal Norfolks as a Private until his discharge in the autumn of 1946. He was mentioned in dispatches. In 1941, he became a Prisoner of War and was in camps in Singapore, Jahore and also worked on the Burma Railway. As a result of the privations suffered, his sight began to fail after five months of imprisonment, and his general health remained poor.

Before the war he had worked for Marks and Spencer and afterwards was employed in industry until his retirement in 1975. His main interests were gardening and listening to the radio. He married in 1971, and he and his wife, Mary, lived in Dublin for a time before settling in Essex.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and all members of the family.

**V. D. Reeves, Royal Air Force**

It is with regret that we record the death of Victor Douglas Reeves, of Tunbridge Wells, who died in hospital on January 6th, after a short illness. He was 68 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1947.

Vic Reeves enlisted in the Royal Air Force in July 1941, and was injured in an accident in May 1945. Following his admission to St. Dunstan's he trained as a physiotherapist, and in 1953, took up his first appointment at Bedford County Hospital. Four years later he moved to Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, where he remained for a few years before deciding to go into private practice. This he did most successfully and was still working part-time at the end of his life, ably assisted by his wife, Evelyn, for many years.

His hobby was Amateur Radio and he was a regular visitor to Ian Fraser House in recent years for the radio and computer weekends. He will be sadly missed by his friends, colleagues and staff of St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and their daughter, Janet.

**J. Shaw, Royal Army Service Corps**

Mr. John Shaw, of Gosforth, passed away on December 30th, aged 69. He had been a St. Dunstaner just over 18 months.

Mr. Shaw served as a Private with the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War and was discharged with damaged eyesight after being injured. After the war he worked for the Ministry of Defence Packing Directorate until retirement age.

Mr. Shaw joined St. Dunstan's in 1987, and soon afterwards he went to Ian Fraser House and took a refresher course in woodwork, which had been one of his hobbies in the past. Apart from this and DIY, Mr. Shaw was interested in gardening and enjoyed his Talking Books.

We send our sympathy to his widow, Joyce, their two sons and all the family.

**E. Sturgess, 52nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment**

Mr. Edwin Sturgess, of Speen, near Aylesbury, passed away on January 15th. He was 76 years of age and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1969.

Mr. Sturgess enlisted as a Private in the 52nd

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment in June 1940, and was seriously injured by gunshot while on active service in France in 1944. As a result of his injuries he lost the sight of one eye, and the vision in his other eye was greatly impaired. He was discharged from the Army in 1945.

In civilian life Mr. Sturgess had been employed as a cabinet maker and upholsterer and on admission to St. Dunstan's undertook a period of industrial training. From 1970, he worked as an inspector in a company based in High Wycombe, retiring in 1978, on health grounds.

In earlier years, pigeon racing was Mr. Sturgess's favourite hobby at which he was highly successful, and won several awards. He was, however, highly skilled in woodwork and subsequently his main interests were toy-making for charity, carpentry, picture-framing and leather-work. Until recently he was also a very keen gardener.

Mr. Sturgess and his wife, Winifred, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in October 1988. They shared their home with their daughter, Edwina, their son-in-law and grand-daughter who provided tremendous support at all times. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

**A. White, Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery**

We are sad to report the death of Mr. Alfred White, of Cheltenham, on January 1st. He was 93 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for two years.

During the First World War, Mr. White served as a Gunner with the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, and he lost the sight in his left eye after being wounded. After the war, he worked in industry as a foreman checker until he retired.

Sadly, Mrs. White died in 1982, and Mr. White managed on his own for a few years, after which his daughters looked after him. From 1987, he shared a home with his daughter, Marcia Bennett.

Although Mr. White was not always very well during the last few years of his life, he did manage to have some holidays in Brighton and also went out to a local day centre to meet his friends when he was fit enough.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Marcia Bennett, and all the family.