



JULY 1990

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Cover Picture: 'Singing to the piano.' Catherine Searles, sings along with David Vaughan Williams at the Liverpool Reunion.

From the Chairman

On 10th July, 1940 the Luftwaffe made its first heavy air attack on this country and the Battle of Britain began. France had fallen, our Expeditionary Force had been evacuated from Dunkirk, Winston Churchill had been Prime Minister for just two months and had made his famous 'We shall fight them on the beaches...' speech in the House of Commons.

The Battle of Britain was a very public one. It was fought, not on the beaches but in the blue summer sky above, mainly, Southern England. Those who were there on the ground in those days will vividly remember the vapour trails scribbled across the sky as our fighters took on the enemy. The newspapers carried the 'scores' as the battle progressed during July and August.

Perhaps because of this, modern historians and writers have tended to play down these events. Claims of enemy aircraft shot down proved later to be exaggerated. Had Hitler already decided not to cross the Channel? What is undeniable is that, by September, the Germans' blitzkrieg had suffered its first reverse. The invasion barges on the other side of the Channel never sailed. Britain survived alone, with the support of the Commonwealth, until the U.S.A. entered the war. The World would be much different today if the battle had gone the other way.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



READ THE TUBE MAP BY TOUCH

Just published is a tactile diagram of the central area of London's Underground system. It is a map which can be read by touch and has been specially produced for London Transport's Unit for Disabled Passengers by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The map covers the area bounded by the Circle Line, plus Waterloo and Earl's Court. It is moulded in a raised pattern with all the lines differentiated clearly, and with the station names, a key to the line markings and an alphabetical list of stations, with details of their opening times, all in braille.

The Tactile Diagram is available (free to registered blind people, price £5 to organisations and others) from the Unit for Disabled Passengers, London Regional Transport, 55 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BD. (telephone 071-227-3312).

NEW FIVE POUND NOTE

As you may be aware the Bank of England have issued a new £5 banknote. The note which came into circulation on June 7th is the first of a new 'E' series of notes to be introduced in the future. The new £5 note is smaller than the old one. 70 x 135mm compared with 78 x 145mm for the old one.

The new series notes will feature a new portrait of H.M. The Queen on the front. The design of the back of each denomination will continue to include a portrait of an historical figure. For the £5 note, that will be George Stephenson.

The new £5 note will circulate with the Series 'D' notes until the latter are replaced in active circulation by normal wastage. More information on the other denominations will be issued nearer the date of their issue.

FREEMASONS MEET

A special meeting for all members of St. Dunstan's Freemasons group will be held at Ian Fraser House from Wednesday, November 21st to Friday, November 23rd. Bookings should be made in the usual manner through Headquarters.

Guide Dogs at Ian Fraser House

Recently there has been some misunderstanding about guide dogs at Ian Fraser House. The position is that guide dogs are welcome at our Home and are able to stay with their owners in their rooms and to accompany them in the public areas, such as the lounge and the bar (although I am told that this is not always very popular with other St. Dunstaners). However, at busy times of the year, such as at Christmas, owners may be asked not to bring their dogs into the lounge and bar, especially if several dogs are staying in the House at the same time. Such a request will be made only if it is considered that the safety and comfort of St. Dunstaners are involved. Needless to say, in crowded conditions, there is a strong possibility of a dog being trampled on as well as being the innocent cause of an accident to a St. Dunstaner.

I hope that all guide dog owners will agree that the arrangements described above are reasonable and are intended for the well-being both of St. Dunstaners and dogs. If any problem should arise, St. Dunstaners are asked to contact the Manager or another senior member of staff without delay.

Owners are reminded that, when booking accommodation at Ian Fraser House, they should notify the Homes Bookings Clerk if they intend to bring their dogs with them. Dog food can be provided on request.

William Weisblatt
Secretary

Reunions

Southampton

At the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, on 2nd May there were 14 St. Dunstaners and 10 widows. With wives, escorts, guests and staff the company totalled 58 under the chairmanship of Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, who was accompanied by Lady Arrowsmith.

Mrs. P. McNamara, a local Welfare Officer of the War Pensioners' Welfare Service, was an official guest and another guest, very warmly welcomed, was Mrs. Yvonne Lyall, who was St. Dunstan's Welfare Visitor in the area until her retirement.

Sir Edwin, in welcoming everyone, said that he and his wife were pleased to be attending their second Southampton Reunion. 'I can't remember when the first one was but I think it must have been at least ten years ago.' He brought greetings from Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach and fellow members of the Council and continued, 'I think you will be pleased to know that Sir Henry visited Sir Mike Ansell on his birthday recently and found him in very good order. I always like the story about Sir Mike: a lady, being asked about him, said, "Oh, yes, he's the nice man who is so kind to those poor blind horses."'

Sir Edwin gave the latest information about the anniversary celebrations and scooped the *Review* with the announcement that the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace is to be graced by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra and her husband, Sir Angus Ogilvy. 'I think this is particularly appropriate because I was Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind for 15 years and Princess Alexandra was then, and still, is our President. She is a really likeable lady.

'I would like to say,' he continued, 'What a great privilege it has been to be a Member of St. Dunstan's Council for 25 years. I first met Sir Ian Fraser in South Africa

when I was Resident Commissioner in Basutoland, which is now Lesotho, and got to know him very well there. After that I went off to the Falkland Islands, where I was Governor from '57 to '64. When I came back he asked me to come on to the Council.

'At reunions I used to tell stories about the Falklands which in those days were a little place and nobody really knew where they were. We had, in fact two boys who came out to work on a farm and after about two or three days on the boat they asked why they hadn't arrived. They thought they were somewhere off the North coast of Britain instead of several thousands of miles away in the South Atlantic. In those days a ship called once a month. I used to tell these stories and I can well remember the look of horror on Douglas Wills' face, "Oh, no, he's not going to tell that Falkland Islands story again!" I do remember, from Headquarters in London, a message I received: "Please give details of the adult population of the Falkland Islands broken down by age and sex." How much it has changed and how much we owe our present Chairman that the Falkland Islands are still British.'

Sir Edwin said that, since knowing Lord Fraser, he had come to recognise how much St. Dunstaners depend on their wives, 'I remember how devoted he was to Chips, Lady Fraser. He dedicated his book to her and they couldn't have been a happier couple. To conclude his book he wrote some lines which I have always remembered, "Some good comes out of evil, and even war itself has produced its highlights of human conduct. Britain, and indeed the world, is better for the existence of St. Dunstan's, and its message will go on."

Keith Martin then called upon Reg Goding to respond, 'Sir Edwin and Lady Arrowsmith, on behalf of all my St. Dunstan's friends and colleagues, their wives and also their escorts I ask you to accept a



Dr. Stan Sosabowski chats with Sir Edwin Arrowsmith at the Southampton Reunion.

warm welcome from us all.' Reg recalled that on the last occasion Sir Edwin presided at Southampton he had been asked to respond for St. Dunstaners, 'You and I performed the same double act then!

'This reunion is for us, we that have been here from year to year and some of us go back over 50 years, a reunion of friends, seeing people, enjoying their company and discussing what has happened over the year to us and our families and our children. That is one of the biggest things in our reunion and that is why we want to keep it alive. I would like you to go back to St. Dunstan's and take on our behalf to the Chairman and the Council our best wishes and our hope that they will carry on the work for the good of all of us. We have gone through the years of training and working careers and it has all been due to the co-operation at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House. They have suffered us with sympathy and understanding and we appreciate that.'

In expressing thanks to all the staff, Reg

referred particularly to Vivien Jackson, 'When she comes to visit us, when you open the door it's like a breath of fresh air. She speaks straight to you, black and white.' He concluded with a tribute to the wives of St. Dunstaners which drew warm applause from St. Dunstaners.

Mrs. P. Webberley presented a bouquet to Lady Arrowsmith to wind up the formal part of the day. As Reg Goding said, the Southampton Reunion is an occasion for friends to get together and exchange their news and so it went during the afternoon until tea and the final *au revours* until next year.

London (Central)

The London (Central) Reunion has in recent years become associated with fine weather and this year was no exception. Russell Square, in Central London, basked in the early summer sunshine as the guests arrived at the Hotel Russell, on May 19th.

Reunions *continued*

The London (Central) is one of the largest reunions and on this occasion the company numbered 144 altogether including 45 St. Dunstaners with their escorts and 26 widows. Mr. Michael Delmar-Morgan presided over the Reunion accompanied by Mrs. Delmar-Morgan. Also present was a retired member of our Welfare Staff, Miss Phyllis Rogers, and present members of staff represented most departments at Headquarters.

The marble columns and crystal chandeliers of the Bedford Room provided a fitting setting for the Reunion. A special buzz that only occurs when old friends meet filled the air, even the excellent lunch did nothing to subdue the conversation.

After lunch Mr. Delmar-Morgan said how pleased he was to be at the London Reunion. He went on to say how everyone was looking forward to the Garden Party, but warned it was going to be a 'long day' and everyone would need stamina. He drew attention to the fact that 1990 is the 70th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings. '1990 is the 70th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings when so many of our Commonwealth and Colonial compatriots lost their lives. I am married to the daughter of a New Zealander, so that battle has added poignancy. And over the years on regular visits to New Zealand and Australia we have tried to keep in touch with the loyal band of St. Dunstaners.' He said it gave him particular satisfaction that the Council persuaded our Chairman, Sir Henry Leach and his wife, Mary, to visit New Zealand in March to attend the Reunion.

Mr. Delmar-Morgan finished by saying that in a world of change one of the few things that did not change was the friendship of St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Alf Bradley responded on behalf of St. Dunstaners saying it was a great privilege to be given the opportunity to give this vote of thanks especially in the 75th Anniversary year. He said he very much enjoyed the 'Times Remembered' series in the *Review*. 'I find them so very interesting to see what built up to this great organisation, and this great work in which we place



Mrs. Marion Douglass presents a bouquet to Mrs. Delmar-Morgan at the London (Central) Reunion.

so much value.' He then thanked everyone who was involved in arranging the Reunion especially Miss Barbara Davis and Keith Martin. He also thanked all the staff at the Hotel. He then told an amusing story about an hotel.

'A story comes to mind about a couple who went to Paris for their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. They had not been abroad before, but they thought Paris was the place. In the salubrious hotel dining hall they sat that night perusing the menu, all in French. The lady thought she'd be safe in selecting the first course on the menu and as the waiter approached the husband pointed it out to him. The waiter said 'I'm sorry you can't have that madam.' The husband was a little put out and said, "It's off already?" "No sir, the lady has just ordered the orchestra.'"

Before finishing he asked Mr. Delmar-Morgan to take back his good wishes to the Council and said he would see everyone at 'The Palace' in 10 weeks time.

After the raffle and the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Delmar-Morgan, the dancing started and continued

until afternoon tea was served. After tea the band struck up again and the hardier ones took to the floor again. And while London thundered by outside on a busy Saturday afternoon the Hotel Russell was, for at least another hour, the embassy of a more elegant and tranquil age.

Liverpool

This year's Liverpool Reunion took place in a new venue, The Liverpool Moat House Hotel. Situated not far from the famous Albert Dock, the dining room has large windows overlooking a vista of lawns and trees. The presiding Member of Council was Mr. Ken Wills, accompanied by his wife, Nan.

In his speech after lunch, Mr. Wills welcomed everyone to the reunion on behalf of the council: 'For many of you, I know this is indeed a reunion of old friends and old comrades who have been coming to St. Dunstan's reunions for many years. Others, like me, are comparative newcomers and I would especially like to welcome

today Bill Grimes of the Royal Corps of Signals, who is attending his first reunion.

'I have to confess that this is the first time that my wife and I have ever been to Liverpool. We have, in fact, been bowled over by the city with its fine waterfront buildings, its magnificent setting and its deep sense of history. We have, too, within just a few hours, encountered scouse humour. At dinner last night in our hotel, we ordered a modest bottle of wine which I quite liked but my wife did not. When the wine waiter came round later in the meal to ask if the wine had been to our liking, she dared to say to him that it had a slightly metallic after taste. Such a suggestion of wine snobbery was quickly dealt with, "Madam should not have stirred the wine with a knife", he said. There'll be no such problems here.'

Mr. Wills also welcomed Mr. Terry O'Donnell, Deputy Chief Welfare Officer, War Pensioners' Welfare Service. He thanked Mrs. Carol Henderson, Welfare Visitor responsible for the reunion, Mr. Keith Martin, Reunions Administrator, and the chef and staff of the hotel.

Enjoying a laugh at the Liverpool Reunion (from l. to r.) Gladys and Bert Frost, Irene and John McDermott and Eileen and Walter Bromley.



'Today's gathering includes 40 St. Dunstaners, 34 widows and 57 escorts.' Mr. Wills continued by giving the statistics of St. Dunstaners and widows throughout the world, 'It's a big organisation still and it's one to be proud of.'

Saying it was a great pleasure to have the ladies present he said he suspected that not all his audience would agree: 'There is something very different about the all-male preserve which some may think is worth fighting for. The great institutions of our society fought long and hard for most of the last century: the law, the medical profession, big business, the old universities, they all battled strongly to preserve the all-male society and its strongholds. But they all succumbed eventually and only the Church of England remains adamant. I don't think Ladbrokes are quoting odds on the next Archbishop being a woman.'

'In my own occupation, boarding education, the change came gradually and largely willingly about 20 years ago. The Services have long welcomed women, so long as they kept their place which was definitely not the same place as the men. Even that is changing: women are to serve in Royal Navy ships which is going to make things quite a lot different from the way that some of you will remember them. In many ways a boarding school is not unlike a ship or a military unit. You have the same sense of close community, the shared lifestyle, the idea of dependence on others for your success or your happiness. A happy unit is very much the same sort of thing as a happy school.'

'Introduce women into it and what happens? Being a male chauvinist, I think efficiency will suffer catastrophically! The rigger teams will lose all their matches. Socially, the more obvious advantages may seem to be outweighed by more practical considerations. There are precious few loos in the place anyway, without having half of them earmarked for the girls!'

'Some of the older boys' schools, fearful of the impact of the female invasion, devised elaborate forms of segregation

and restriction to avoid the more unthinkable consequences of co-education. One of the quaintest was a rule that no boy should approach a girl within nine inches! How the authorities arrived at that particular distance I have never fully understood! Although I have heard some ingenious suggestions!'

Following his light-hearted venture into male chauvinism Mr. Wills returned to St. Dunstan's affairs with details of the plans for celebrating the anniversary which appear elsewhere in this issue. He concluded with good wishes to all for an enjoyable afternoon at the reunion.

Responding on behalf of St. Dunstaners, Ted John thanked Mr. and Mrs. Wills, 'For sparing the time to be with us. This 75th anniversary is a very special one in the annals of St. Dunstan's. Since I have been a St. Dunstaner, and I hope I speak for everyone here, I think every year has been a very special year. We think of Sir Arthur Pearson and there is no pun intended when I say how great was his vision in those very early days when he put all his efforts into helping those men who came back from the First World War. Since that time, as Mr. Wills so rightly says, times have changed, peoples attitudes have changed towards the blind, in particular, they now look upon us as if we can now do a job and I know that Sir Arthur would be as proud of us as we are of St. Dunstan's.'

'The lead has been taken on from Lord Fraser and carried on by Sir Henry Leach. We now have married accommodation down at Ovingdean where two people are allowed to stay in the same bedroom without any question!'

Ted went on to say how good it is, and only right, 'That we have the pleasure of the company of ladies of late St. Dunstaners. It is great that we are able to share their company and they, hopefully, ours and with people that they knew and their husbands knew. I hope that they do not feel so cut off now as they once did. They can also now enjoy the pleasure of going down to Ian Fraser House.'

'All that remains for me to say is how lovely it is to be here and on your behalf may I thank Mr. and Mrs. Wills for being with us and just reiterate Mr. Wills' thanks to Carol Henderson, to her band of happy

workers and our guests and all the staff of the Moat House for a very splendid meal'. Ted John asked the company to rise and drink a toast to St. Dunstan's.

There was dancing and singing to the music of David Vaughan Williams, who played many requests at the piano. Later Mrs. Nan Wills drew the lucky raffle tickets and in return received a bouquet presented by Mrs. Mary Armstrong.

Newcastle

Sir Richard Pease, accompanied by Lady Pease, received guests as they arrived at The Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, for the Newcastle Reunion. The company numbered 62 in all: 16 St. Dunstaners came with their escorts and there were 13 widows as well as guests and staff. Among the guests was Mr. John Stone, Chief War Pensioners' Welfare Officer of the North Eastern Region of the D.S.S. and two retired members of staff in Mrs. I. Plaxton and Miss. M. Skinner.

After lunch Sir Richard extended a warm welcome to St. Dunstaners, wives and escorts, and said how pleased he was to be back on 'home ground' at the Newcastle Reunion. He went on to detail the schedule of events at the 75th Anniversary celebration at Buckingham Palace, on August 1st.

He also announced that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, and her husband, Sir Angus Ogilvy, would attend the Garden Party, and hoped that Dame Vera Lynn would also be there. He said full details of the Garden Party would be sent shortly to those who are going.

Sir Richard said he was glad to see that several widows were present, 'St. Dunstaners have often said to me how much they owe to their wives, and we, at St. Dunstan's are delighted to keep in touch with the ladies who have done so much to care for their blind husbands over many years.'

He finished by extending the greetings of the Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, and the other Members of the Council to everyone at the Reunion.



Sir Richard Pease speaks at the Newcastle Reunion. Also in the photo are Alan and Susan Milne.

In responding for the St. Dunstaners, Professor Alan Milne, pointed out that for the second year running he had been 'drafted' by Doreen Inman into making a speech at the Newcastle Reunion. He said he was glad to do this, but his experiences in the Army should have warned him not to volunteer for anything.

He explained how when he was a fresh recruit his Sergeant had come into the barrack-room and asked if anyone could drive a car. He had just passed his test and together with a few other young soldiers proudly claimed that they could drive, only to be sent off to clean the depot garage. He said he rarely volunteered for anything since then.

Professor Milne went on to tell some amusing stories of his academic life, and finished by thanking the staff at the hotel for organising such an enjoyable Reunion and he looked forward to meeting his friends again next year.

TIMES REMEMBERED



*Sixth in an anniversary year series
of articles*

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

*Ray Hazan looks at St. Dunstan's past,
present and future*

Anniversaries are generally a time for reminiscing or looking back. However, they can be converted to a forward and more positive glance by using the occasion to learn lessons. St. Dunstan's was born within a century that has seen the greatest changes the world has known so far — from the horse drawn carriage to men walking on the moon. From the heliograph to satellite communication. From steam to nuclear power. These are 'factual' changes, for better or for worse. But there have also been social, economic and moral changes, which have had as much effect on the life of St. Dunstan's as the practical developments.

As with a child, the first few years are the formative ones. It was the nature of the man, his vision, his example his leadership that set the environment into which St. Dunstan's was born. Sir Arthur Pearson, it is alleged, claimed he would not be remembered as a 'blind man', but 'the blind man'. It is he who transformed the world of the visually handicapped from one of 'passive acceptance' into active determination to lead an independent whole and fulfilling life within the community. The first generation St. Dunstaners are to be regarded as the pioneers of this new attitude. Not for them the gen-



Ray Hazan at the keyboard of his computer.

erous pensions and allowances, the aids and technology that make life easy and full as it can be today. They survived by their own endeavours and were the first in their particular field, despite much opposition. Men like Tommy Milligan, who used a rolled up newspaper and steel tipped heels as mobility aids; those who blazed the athletics tracks in Regent's Park with Avis Spurway, and many others.

Between the Wars

The interval between the wars saw the baby turn from child to youth as the learning process proceeded apace. Sir Ian Fraser's work with the long playing record, and with Lord Nuffield, later on, the forming of the Talking Book Service, facts frequently overlooked by today's managers, opened up to thousands of blind people both knowledge and entertainment through the written word. Sir Ian's entry to Parliament afforded the chance for the general public to learn more about

handicap and recognise the added difficulties with some financial recognition. Many of the lessons learnt from the first generation were translated into bricks and mortar in the construction of Ian Fraser House in 1938. Its modernistic design for that period, its innovative layout and facilities for the blind must have been a trail blazer in its time, though that time was to be delayed by the conception of the second generation St. Dunstaners as war broke out once more.

This time, St. Dunstan's was better prepared. Several of the first war St. Dunstaners were able to pass on their knowledge and experience, carrying out the duties of instructors in braille and other subjects. The name of Church Stretton, temporary training centre during the Second War, features strongly in the lives of many of the 'second generation' St. Dunstaners. The men and women arrived with apprehension, but departed as fully paid up members of a very special club. The trainees were surrounded by many others in the same boat. There was

competition, support and pranks. How much more meaningful is the encouragement of a comrade, who is also blind. It was not all plain sailing, and one cannot forget those tales of the railway bridge patrols as the express trains approached. Not all could envisage a life of handicap.

The child born during the First War, nurtured and now adolescent by the Second, grew to maturity post 1945. St. Dunstaners began to make their mark in the community as stalwart members of industry, telephonists, shopkeepers, university lecturers, mayors, politicians, owners of businesses and teachers. How many people know that the biro pen, whilst patented by Laslo Biro, a Hungarian, owes its development to Richard Dufton. As St. Dunstaners made their mark in the field of employment, so they did in the fields of sport and hobbies. 'Making a mark' does not mean winning all the medals. It was the participation in a widening range of activities and pursuing them outside in the able bodied community, which caused the mark. From bowling

The late Miss Mary Jameson pioneered the optophone reading machine for St. Dunstan's.





Mrs. Bliss, Miss McVeigh and Dr. Henry Heath during the evaluation process.

to marathon running, archery to evening classes, amateur radio to gardening, all have helped to break down the barrier of the unknown between the able bodied and handicapped community.

Lord Fraser's dream

The contribution has not only been in human terms. Technology has brought about great changes, and not just in recent times. Lord Fraser's great dream was 'to make the printed word talk'. The Optophone of 1917 converted print into musical tones, but did not become a viable proposition. Reference has already been made to his involvement with the talking book. But as technology began to take off following the arrival of the micro-chip in 1958, so the dream began to seem more possible.

St. Dunstan's sponsored a scientific conference in the 1960's. St. Dunstan's carried out evaluations on the Optacon in the 60's and the Kurzweil Reading Machine in

1979. It was Walter Thornton who brought the long cane over from America. Thus, the adult had now begun to put back into life objects both material and moral.

The 1970's saw the arrival of a more substantial number of 'grand children'. The so called years of peace since 1945 had always produced some St. Dunstaners, quite apart from accident and disease, and the aftermath of the Second War. Northern Ireland's latest troubles began in 1969. But these and other entrants have caused some problems due to the age gap. Gone is the moral support of comrades one's own age, competing and helping one through the struggle. Financial compensation and materialism in general can be a double edged weapon, damping down drive, energy and resolve. A greater awareness of materialism can lead to dissatisfaction 'the more you have, the more you want!' But, on the plus side, are the enlarged opportunities and scope for work thanks to greater awareness

amongst the general public and the enlarged capabilities of blind people thanks to technology.

St. Dunstan's has, and is striving to keep up with developments. The task is hampered, perhaps fortunately, by the low number of younger trainees joining. In 1989, a working party was set up to investigate current training practices, and to recommend any changes. The working group emphasised the need for enhanced teaching of daily living skills, the upgrading of the computer handling courses, the need for counselling, the greater involvement of the family in the rehabilitation process and more staff training. A flat has been built at Ian Fraser House, in which a trainee can learn skills to enable independent living. Many of the other recommendations are gradually being put into effect. The age gap, however, will continue to pose a problem.

Within the past decade, many St. Dunstaners have become senior citizens. Whilst still placing emphasis on hobby and leisure activities, the welfare department has had to concentrate much more on the problems of advancing years, rather than blindness. The lack of movement and the aftermath of injuries exacerbated by age constitute more of a problem than the lack of sight. The importance of personal contact makes the tasks of the surveyors and welfare visitors more crucial than ever.

Thus, as St. Dunstan's moves into the 90's, it has a beneficiary age range more widely dispersed than ever before, from the First War St. Dunstaners to those barely in their 20's. 75 years of existence has seen two generations, yet each one has presented its own problems. It could be said that the 1990's are witnessing the start of a new generation. We can look back with pride, satisfaction and gratitude to those who gave birth to the organisation, underwent the pangs of growing up and maturity and set the standards for succeeding generations. The welfare state and its materialism has sometimes worked against St. Dunstan's philosophy of helping its beneficiaries to achieve independent living. St. Dunstan's is at a major cross roads. With 95% of its members retired and only a handful of young

trainees arriving. Shall St. Dunstan's change its Charter to enable it to recruit more widely? Shall we amalgamate with other service or blind organisations? Shall we just fade gracefully? There may be just one or two readers who will tell us in 75 year's time!

BILLY SCOTT-COOMBER

St. Dunstaners who followed the dance bands in the 'thirties' will remember the name of Billy Scott-Coomber who, we are sorry to report, died on 6th May. He was a singer with the B.B.C. in the Savoy Hill days and was a vocalist with Jack Payne from 1931 to 1939. He made more than 1600 records in his career and entertained the services in North Africa with ENSA during the Second World War.

After the War he became Senior Producer for Light Entertainment, BBC Manchester. He was organising the Television Top Town Contest in Oxford when he met Jo and Ken Revis and they became firm friends.

In his later years, from 1965, Billy Scott-Coomber made his home with Jo and Ken. They formed a production company, Sandra Productions. Together they produced summer shows for seaside resorts until Billy's retirement. 'He ran a programme on Radio Oxford for several years. He was also an artist of great ability, a pupil of Sir William Orpen. Since he came to live with us he has been a member of the family. We are going to miss him terribly', said Ken.

MEN OF THE RED BERET

A book entitled *The Men of the Red Beret* has been published to coincide with the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the 1st Parachute Brigade. In the book author Max Arthur covers the unique history of the Airborne Forces, told in the words of those who fought. Priced at £18.50 (inclusive of postage and packing) copies can be obtained by sending for an order form to R. G. Sheriff, 73 Elvin Crescent, Rottingdean, East Sussex, BN2 7FF.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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

Mr. Henry John Bennett, of Norwich, who joined on May 23rd.

Mr. Bennett served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, and afterwards worked as the manager of a wine shop.

Mr. Bennett is married, and has one adult son.

Mr. Percy Archibald Sydney Clarke, of Leytonstone, who joined on May 22nd.

Mr. Clarke, who is 79, enlisted in the Queen's Bays in November, 1940 and held the rank of trooper. He was wounded serving in North Africa in 1942. He was subsequently evacuated to South Africa and was for a time at our training centre at Wynberg before being transferred to Church Stretton in 1943. Despite losing one eye Mr. Clarke was able to return to civilian life, and was discharged from both the Army and St. Dunstan's in that year.

Mr. Clarke and his wife, Ivy, have been married for 55 years and have a son and a daughter. His hobbies are cooking and toy-making and he is a member and regular attender of his local ex-Services Club.

Mr. Lionel Frank Scott, of Plymouth, who joined on May 22nd.

Mr. Scott joined the Royal Marines as a Boy Bugler at the age of 14 in 1942, and was posted to *HMS Pembroke* followed by a tour on *HMS Kenya*. Subsequently he qualified as a Marine Naval Gunner and served continuously at sea until 1953 when he became a Naval Gunnery Instructor. Mr. Scott was discharged from the Royal Marines in 1968 when he became a radio

operator with the Plymouth Police Force, for whom he worked for the next 15 years.

Mr. Scott has been married to his wife, Jean, for 36 years, and they have two sons. He enjoys walking and runs a local club for the disabled.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Albert Hobson, Hastings

Through the *Review* may I thank friends, staff at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House and fellow St. Dunstaners for their kindness, sympathy and support during the prolonged illness of my dear wife, Hilda, and for the kind condolences since her passing.

Your kindness and sympathy is sincerely appreciated by myself and my wife's family.

From George Jakins, Guildford

May I take this opportunity to thank all my St. Dunstan's friends and fellow P.O.W.'s for the many letters and cards I received during my stay in hospital. Sorry I was not able to be with you at the P.O.W. Reunion, many thanks for the group photo with your signatures.

From R.J. Stinson, Redditch

We have just heard the sad news that Dickie Brett has passed on. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife and his many friends at St. Dunstan's.

My wife and I were very saddened to hear the news, as were all members of our family who had met him, he will be sorely missed by us all. He was a man who by his courage won the respect of his many friends, amongst whom I count both my wife and myself.

A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

WHERE IS THY STING

In addition to lion-tamers, clowns on trampolines, high-wire artists and elephants perched on upturned buckets, Bertram Mills' circus had a crumpled old man they exhibited, sunken of cheek, skinny of frame, a Turk by nationality, who was billed as Zaro Aga, the oldest man in the world, 167 years of age.

Now this a pretty extravagant claim, however plausibly blazed forth, for in fact the ultimate biological expectation of life, in a man or woman perfectly endowed with longevity, is 120 years. We've got so many vital organs, heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and so forth, and it only takes one of these to fail and it's us for the crematorium.

If biologists are right none of these organs has an expectation of life longer than this 120 years. Zaro Aga certainly looked 167 years old, the make-up saw to that, but requests to see his birth certificate were blandly parried by his exhibitors, these less interested in the veracity of their claims than in the money they could get by asserting them. Perhaps James Hilton had visited Bertram Mills' circus in his day, taken stock of Zaro Aga, for when he wrote his *'Lost Horizons'* he conceived a Shangri La where such was the atmosphere that it was conducive to life far in excess of what is normally expected amongst humans in general.

There are glens in the Caucasus, we are told, where men and women live to a very great age, but nothing has ever been claimed for the oldest of these to compare with what Hilton alleges must have been the age of a monk in his imaginary Shangri La monastery. This chap sat down at the piano and played a nocturne by Chopin, an unpublished one, and it turned out he had learned it from Chopin himself.

Now Chopin died in 1849, this was now 1939, so this monk, perhaps forty in

appearance, must have been getting on for 120. Bernard Shaw was wont to say it was a pity life was so short, for what benefits might not accrue to society from people of 300 or 400, the repository by that age of such knowledge as might have it to solve all the problems of the world.

If everybody lived to the age of Methuselah all would be well in the best of all possible worlds. There's little doubt that there are worlds like this, millions of them, in the infinite depths of the cosmos, but where we are concerned we'll just have to muddle along with what possibilities of social cohesion are comprised in the average terrestrial lifetime. Mind you, if it were advantageous to our species to live as long as Hilton represented them in Shangri La, if the longevity even of Zaro Aga, if genuine, could somehow advance the status of mankind, then you can be pretty sure that evolution would by now have arranged things that way.

It's a blessing life's no longer. If you haven't achieved it, whatever it is, in 70 or 80 years then you're not likely to ever. An extra century or two would be a period of mere vegetation. Let us therefore cease upon the midnight of our allotted span, as Keats hoped it would be in his case, with no pain.

EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

A new branch of The National Federation of the Blind has been formed in the East Sussex Area. The group aims to be an effective and active forum for promoting the interests and requirements of blind and partially sighted people at local level. Anyone wishing to join the branch should contact C. A. Borowski, Tel: 0273 514344.

Observations

by Patrick Flanagan

The news that almost a million young people in England and Wales experience reading problems will come as no shock to many. A recent survey of about one thousand 16-20 year olds found that 26 per cent reported reading difficulties, and more than a third said they had problems with spelling. More disturbing is the finding that 24 per cent of students questioned said they had trouble with their studies because of spelling.

The reasons behind these startling figures are not clear. In a society where free education is available to everyone who wants it, few excuses can be offered in defence of those who have not acquired the basic tools of human communication. Teachers and teaching methods take a lot of criticism, but even the most gifted and dedicated teacher cannot teach a student who cannot or, will not learn.

That old reliable culprit 'modern technology' in the form of TVs, videos and computers is again in the dock. There is some truth in this, in so much as it diverts attention away from that time-honoured form of communication, the humble book.

It is estimated that half the young people in the country rarely or never read books. It is much easier to sit back and watch the video or pop on the headphones and listen to the music. It doesn't take any effort, you don't even have to use your imagination! The trouble is the information relayed through these mediums are transient, seldom stimulate and almost never educate. You could spend a month watching video movies (some do) and still be no wiser. Whereas if you spent the same time reading, no matter how infantile the material, you would at least have exercised your brain, and perhaps have learned to spell a couple of words.

It wasn't always like that, in the past people went to extraordinary lengths to

acquire books. Compare today's youngsters to New York attorney, Joseph Feldman — who without a library card had 15,000 books 'overdue' from the New York Public Library. In 1973 firemen accidentally discovered the mountains of books in Feldman's apartment on an inspection tour after there was a fire in the building. When asked why he had hoarded so many books, Feldman explained, 'I like to read.'

Another famous book-borrower was British author John Campbell. Campbell once became engrossed in a book in a bookstore, purchased it and didn't realise that he had written it until he was half way through.

British author, Dugald Stewart became so famous for failing to return books that he publicly confessed he was deficient in arithmetic, causing a wit of the time to reply, 'That may be true; but he certainly excels at bookkeeping.'

DAWN'S RUN

Mary and Russ Crombie would like to thank all St. Dunstaners, their wives and the staff at Ian Fraser House for their kindness and generosity in sponsoring their daughter, Dawn, and her husband, Colin, for the London Marathon. They would like especially to thank their friend, Dot Stepney, of the Catering Department at I.F.H., who worked so hard to find sponsors and collect money.

They also thank Pat Collins (their very first Welfare Visitor) and her friend, Virginia, along with Vivien Jackson, who is their present Welfare Visitor. The very generous response of all concerned will help swell the total amount collected to over £5,000 to the joint benefit of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and the Rain Forest Foundation.



Coach Ted Bradford with St. Dunstaners and escorts.

ST. DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS IN CYPRUS

by Jerry Lynch

Our merry band set out from Gatwick Airport on Wednesday, April 11th. We were pleased to accept an invitation from the Joint Services Archery Club in Cyprus. Our party included coach, Ted Bradford and his wife, Brenda, our Honorary Secretary and our team of five: Eric Bradshaw who was accompanied by his wife, Norman Perry and his son, George Hudson and his wife, Sid Jones and escort and myself and my wife, Pat.

We arrived at Paphos Airport in the late evening and as Ted had booked us through Amathus Tourism Department there was a mini-coach waiting for us at the airport and we were in the hotel within half an hour.

The next morning Thursday April 12th, Ted had us up early for a day's practice at Happy Valley. The weather was beautiful and it was lovely shooting in good conditions. During the course of the morning I gave a short interview to local radio for British Services.

On Friday there was more practice this time over longer distances as we were expected to shoot up to 60 yards in our matches on the following Saturday and Sunday.

The competition on Saturday, April 14th was won by J.S.A.C. Very well done by their team, we all enjoyed it.

The Sunday competition was an individual event for all archers and we fared a little better on handicap. The results were:

- 1st — Bryn Caless, J.S.A.C.
- 2nd — Eric Bradshaw
- 3rd — Jerry Lynch

During this contest Eric beat his handicap. Afterwards, J.S.A.C. provided a barbecue and we had a most enjoyable day. There were two six gold ends, one was by Jorg Mund and the other by Norman's son, Ian.

Monday it was a matter of choice, archery or shopping, and Tuesday was the same, but we had an invitation for afternoon tea from Major General John

Archers *continued*

Frieberger and his wife, Joanna, at their lovely home with its beautiful gardens and views. Another treat was also in store for us. Squadron Leader Brian Pile showed us his archaeological finds from local beaches which included Roman coins, flints and fossils of miniature elephants and hippos which were about the size of pigs. All very interesting.

On Thursday those of our party who had not returned to England the previous day went on a day's tour of Troodos-Kyko Monastery and saw the tomb of the late Archbishop Makarios. On Friday we visited Lefhara, famous for lacemaking and its silversmiths.

We owe a great deal to J.S.A.C.'s Chairman, J. B. Paterson, Vice-Chairman Wendy Le Gassick, Treasurer David Roper and all members of the Club for their help.

Special thanks to John Paterson who organised transport to and from Happy Valley, Ron and Micki Hackett for providing refreshments, Headquarters staff, Mr. Weisblatt, Major Neve and the transport department at Ian Fraser House.

Last but not least, many thanks to Ted and Brenda Bradford for all their help during the fortnight and for organising the travel facilities.

GARDENING WITHOUT SIGHT

A new edition of the book *Gardening Without Sight* has been published by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The publication covers methods and tools suitable for thousands of visually impaired gardeners.

The book, written by Kathleen Fleet, costs £2.50 and is available in large print, on tape and in braille. There is an accompanying volume to the braille and tape versions of over 30 tactile illustrations.

Copies can be ordered from Customer Services, RNIB Production and Distribution Centre, Bakewell Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough. Telephone orders can be made on the RNIB local charge line by calling: 0345 023153.

HONEY

by Michael Pirrie

I have just come in from the garden where I have been burying my first guide dog, Honey. All owners must think that their guide dogs are very special but a first guide dog always has particular memories for its owner.

The confidence and trust that develops between dog and owner as they work together has to be learned and Honey was being asked to do something which I did not know that I could do anyway and so I depended on her all the more.

Leaving Southampton University in the summer of 1978, I had to spend at least a year in London taking my barrister's exams and then a further year in London courts doing pupillage training after I passed those exams and, since I had not lived in London for many years that in itself was a challenge. Leaving aside the daily travelling from lodgings to college and the intellectual grind that involved typing up notes from tapes often until the early hours of the morning.

Fortunately Honey was a remarkably unruffled dog and although I had to change my lodgings several times in the course of the first year she remained calm even in the most crowded circumstances. She was a large golden labrador/retriever cross and carved her way across Victoria Station to the underground with a minimum of fuss which usually meant a straight line with Honey dropping her shoulder to lever people out of the way, alternatively she would just lean on the backs of people's legs which must be peculiarly disconcerting if unexpected. On London buses she would perch incongruously on the footrest of the bench seat and rest her head on my knee while watching the other passengers carefully as they boarded or alighted.

The legal square mile of the Temple and Gray's Inn was soon Honey's hunting ground and once the benchers of Gray's

Honey *continued*

Inn had been convinced of her continent habits she was allowed into the gardens of the Inn which was a godsend in the middle of London. She only once disgraced herself and that was when in a mood of youthful abstraction she stole a croquet ball during a keenly fought match between the judges.

Her manners in court were impeccable except on one occasion when she was nobbled by an over friendly policeman who fed her a pint of tea which she noisily and with much drama vomited at Epsom Magistrates Court during the defence submissions at a committal hearing but since I was appearing for the prosecution Honey's response while being less diplomatically phrased than any speech I could make, it nonetheless adequately expressed my opinion. Again her contribution to pleas in mitigation of sentence were always most welcome since she would lie in front of the benches and fix the judge with a benevolent gaze.

When she retired at the age of thirteen she threw off all the old disciplines and formed that habit of roaming around the dustbins of the better class of hotels in Eastbourne and put on a great deal of weight as a consequence, but after her years of hard work in London it was difficult to chide her. She liked to walk on the Downs above Eastbourne but this was always a pleasure and when I tried to introduce my new guide dog Honey kept on looking after me when the moments arose, but she was usually behind leaving Oakley, my new guide dog, to charge seagulls roosting on the cliff edges, a habit that Honey gave up years ago.

Honey was a hard working guide dog who contributed enormously to my life and without whose help I would have been unable to introduce myself, or her, to the highest courts in the country. As it was only the House of Lords which admitted me but forbade my guide dog, without whom I would have been of little use. Sense comes slowly to the Bar of England.

D.F. Robinson's

GARDENING NOTES

The weather has changed from the earlier part of the season which was like a really hot summer. But it is nice to have some rain about for all the plants in the flower and vegetable plots. Fruit will be coming along well and some of the apples and pears may need thinning out a little to give you good quality and size.

Vegetables

Add some extra compost round the carrots and thin out the beetroot so as you get a good sized beet. A final earthing up of the main crop potatoes should be done now, especially after you have given them a good watering or rain has arrived. Ensure that you have the stakes and strings in place around the runner beans. Give plenty of water and fertiliser at root level and it might be a good idea to spray the flowers and small beans every so often to get good size and quality.

Lettuce and raddish seeds can be sown in any empty beds to give extra salad items for the autumn. Tomatoes will be coming along so spray all the flowers with water and pick off side shoots of the taller growers and don't forget to tie them in as they grow. Even the dwarf types can be tied on to canes in case winds blow them down.

Lawns

Cut the grass at least once per week, but even more when you have moist weather. Use a rake over the whole area to get rid of any dead grass which has been missed by the mower and it may get rid of some of the moss. Make sure that you have the blades of the mowing machine at the lowest level at this time of the year, and keep the edges of the lawns cut regularly.

Fruit

There should be plenty of fruit on the apple and pear trees plus the plums and damsons if you have had a fair amount of rain. It would be a good idea to thin out the fruit on the apples and pears which will give you quality fruit when the time comes to pick them.

Give plenty of water at root level plus a mulch of manure or compost. This you will find keeps the water at a good level during dry weather. Pick all the fruit from the soft fruit bushes and where you have loganberries they can be layered for next season. New strawberry plants can also be started from the young plants that show some distance from the main plant.

Flowers

Keep the hoe and rake going regularly to contain the weeds and open up the soil for any rain that may come along. Before you water with a hose, make sure there are no restrictions from your local water board. Cut away all the dead heads from the tall perennials and other flowering shrubs and annuals. This will make them flower a bit later on and give plenty of colour later in the season. Sprinkle some Growmore pellets or put some manure down. Insects may be about so get the spray out and use every two or three weeks. Put some slug pellets down as well.

Roses may be suffering from black spot so cut off all the leaves which are suffering from the disease and it may be wise to cut off the branch further down. You may also use a spray for this disease which may stop further spread. Put all the leaves and cuttings of stems in the rubbish bins or burn them. Give all the bushes a dose of fertiliser such as manure or well rotted compost.

Stake up all the tall growing plants especially the chrysanthemums, it might also be wise to stop the growing plants in order to make them a bit bushier. Remember to stake the taller dahlias and put plenty of slug pellets at the base of the plants as slugs like these plants. Cut away

all the dead flowers on sweet peas plus those which are going to seed. Tie in the growths regularly to the frames or tall sticks.

Greenhouse

Open up all the ventilators during fine and sunny weather. Make sure that you have put some white paint on the outer glass. This is not taken off by the rain and you can rub it off at the end of the season. Water all plants regularly and give some liquid feed to those which are growing well. Pot up calceolarias and cinerarias from good size seedlings into their flowering size containers and water in well. Seeds of schizanthus should be sown and then you will have good size flowering plants for the winter.

Cuttings of geraniums and fuchsia can be taken now to have good sized plants in the spring, either for pots or for use in the flower beds. Chrysanthemums should be disbudded now to give good quality flowers later on. The same can be said for the carnations. Achimemes, gloxinias and tuberous begonias will be flowering well and some can be brought into the house but do remember to water and feed well.

The tomato crop will be coming on well and quite a bit of fruit can be picked for use in the kitchen. Pinch out all the side growths and if the plant has grown to the glass it might be a good thing to pinch out the main growing tip. Spray the leaves and flowers several times a week so the whole plant is kept moist. Water the container regularly and also add fertiliser.

DAVID BAIN

News has reached us of the death of David Bain on May 19th. David trained at Church Stretton during the Second World War, and made many friends there including Gwen Obern and Eric Foster before he returned to the care of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. He is survived by his three children, to whom we send our sincere sympathy.

CLUB NEWS

ST. DUNSTAN'S BRIDGE CLUB

Duplicate Bridge Three Way Competition

The annual competition for teams of eight between representatives of Brighton, London and the Provinces was held at Ovingdean on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th May, 1990.

Twenty-two St. Dunstaners took part, with the Brighton team being made up by Mrs. V. McPherson and the Provinces team by Mrs. A. Clements.

The three matches each ended in a tie at five victory points and the destination of the cup was settled by reference to match points. Provinces gained 10 match points, London 3 and Brighton 0; and so Provinces were declared overall winners. Those taking part were as follows:—

Provinces

- Captain* — Mrs. V. Delaney
- R. Pacitti
- Mrs. K. Pacitti
- B. Ward
- M. Tybinski
- R. Palmer
- R. Surrudge
- Mrs. A. Clements

London

- Captain* — B. Allen
- B. Miller
- H. Meleson
- Mrs. H. Meleson
- R. Fullard
- Mrs. B. King
- J. Whitcombe
- R. Freer

Brighton

- Captain* — W. Phillips
- W. Lethbridge
- B. Evans
- A. Dodgson
- G. Hudson
- J. Huk
- R. Goding
- Mrs. V. McPherson

During play of the matches, mini competitions were arranged by Mr. D. White for St. Dunstaners and markers not engaged.

On Sunday afternoon there was a general drive in which 19 St. Dunstaners and 13 markers took part.

At close of play Mrs. E. Dacre presented the cup to Vi Delaney as Captain of the Provinces, individual prizes to members of the two leading teams and also to the winning pairs in the general drive who were:—

1. Alf Dodgson and Mrs. L. White — 1910 points
 2. Reg Goding and Peter McMillan — 1520 points
 3. Bob Evans and Mrs. A. Holborow — 1210 points
- Low score — Bert Ward and Mike Tybinski — 560 points

Bill Phillips concluded the proceedings by thanking Mrs. Dacre for presenting the prizes and made her a suitable present. He went on to thank all the markers for their help at the competition and over the past year. He made presentations to Peter McMillan and Maurice Douse and thanked them for their work.

In a brief reply, Maurice Douse expressed appreciation for the present and kind expressions, offered personal thanks to Peter McMillan and Bob Goodlad (absent on holiday) for their assistance in directing competitions and to all the markers for their ready help throughout the year.

Pairs match

Played on 13th May 1990

RESULTS

1st	Bob Evans & Mrs. Barker	63.0
2nd	Reg Palmer & Mrs. White	57.5
3rd	Reg Goding & Mrs. McPherson	55.0
4th	M. Tybinski & Miss Stenning	53.0
5th	G. Hudson & Mrs. McCally	51.0
—	J. Huk & Mrs. Barnes	51.0
7th	Vi Delaney & Mr. White	50.5
8th	Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Holborow	46.0
9th	Bill Phillips & Mrs. Andrews	43.0
10th	Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Douse	30.0

Individual Match
 Played on 19th May 1990

RESULTS

1st	A. Clements	67.0
2nd	B. Evans	60.2
3rd	Mrs. McCauley	58.0
4th	Mrs. Barnes	55.7
5th	W. Lethbridge	54.5
6th	G. Hudson	52.3
7th	B. Phillips	50.0
8th	R. Goding	48.9
9th	A. Dodgson	46.6
10th	M. Tybinski	
-	J. Huk	38.6
12th	Miss Sturdy	29.6

FAMILY NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. John Taylor, of Whitton, Middlesex, acknowledges with thanks donations totalling £135 sent in memory of his wife, Mabel, to the Linden Lodge School for Blind Children.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

John Kevin Heffernan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Heffernan, of Chingford, on attaining an engineering degree in March. John is now a Chartered Engineer.

Mr. A. Rimmer, of East Grinstead, who recently took part in a 24 hour bowling marathon as part of a team of eight, and managed to raise £2,000 for charity.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wiles, of Newquay, on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Charles Dean, born on May 10th.

Mrs. Mary Duxbury, of Buxton, widow of the late *Herbert Duxbury*, on the birth of a great grand-daughter, Grace Mary Carrington, born on May 1st.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Chappell, of Chorleywood, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Harriet, to their daughter, Tessa and her husband. Also, on the birth of twin grand-daughters, Katherine and Sarah, to their son Crispin and his wife.

Mrs. Mary Goodhead, of Sheffield, widow of the late *Roland Goodhead*, on the birth of a grandson, Thomas Daniel, born on March 27th, to her daughter, Denise, and her husband, John Taylor.

Arthur Morris, of Ongar, Essex, on the birth of a grandson, Craig Murray, on May 4th, to his daughter, Heather, and her husband, David.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Forshaw, of Bognor Regis, on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah, on May 19th, to Mr. Simon Boxall at St. Magdalene's Church, Bognor Regis.

Mrs. Marie J. Hamilton, of Menai Bridge, Anglesey, widow of the late *Frank Hamilton*, on the marriage of her son, John Nicholas, to Sioned Wyn Ellis, on May 12th.

Mr. and Mrs. Heffernan, of Chingford, on the marriage of their son, John Kevin, to Karen Perry, on May 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Munday, of Norwich, on the marriage of their daughter, Diana, to Garry Oglin, on May 26th.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Earnest and Edith Brown, of Northants, on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on May 24th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Eric and Peggy Foster, of Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which took place on June 10th.

Ellen and John Fullerton, of Belfast, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on May 18th.

Horace and Lilah Wandless, of Wakefield, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which took place on June 3rd.

Charles and Jane Williamson, of Darlington, Co. Durham, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on June 3rd.

DEATHS

We offer condolences to:

Mrs. Eve Cowan, of Rottingdean, widow of the late *John Cowan*, on the death of her younger brother, George Lucioni, in April.

Mrs. Doris Vera Hazelgrove, of Blean, Kent, widow of the late *Ronald Hazelgrove*, on the death of her uncle, William Prested, on March 9th.

Mr. Albert Hobson, of Hastings, on the death of his wife, Hilda, who passed away on May 6th.

Mrs. Rita Pryor, wife of Mr. J. Pryor, of Peacehaven, whose sister Miss Rosamund Smart passed away on April 27th.

Mrs. Mary Purser, of Gants Hill, widow of the late *Arthur Purser*, on the death of her brother, Patrick Joseph Foran, who died in Ireland, on May 18th.

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, family and friends.

J. R. Barlow D.C.M., Queen's Own Hussars

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. John Barlow, of Sheffield, on May 15th. He was 72 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Barlow served as a Trooper with the Queen's Own Hussars from 1934 and was injured by an explosion in 1941 while serving in Libya. He was discharged from the Army in 1945, and joined St. Dunstan's in the same year. He went to Church Stretton and took training in braille, typing and woodwork.

Mr. Barlow was fond of animals, and in 1946 he and Mrs. Barlow opened a boarding kennels for dogs, and also bred dogs. Although they found this work very interesting and enjoyable, they decided in 1949 to have a change and took

over a small tobacconists/newsagents which also had a lending library. They did extremely well with this venture, until in 1953 the shop and stock room were destroyed by fire.

Mr. Barlow then went to Ovingdean to take training in telephony, and from 1955 until 1977 he worked in the steel industry ending up as an inspector with the British Steel Corporation in Sheffield. He retired in 1977 on health grounds.

Mr. Barlow and his wife enjoyed travelling and had many holidays abroad. Although he was in poor health he still led an active life and continued to travel, and recently returned from a cruise on the *Canberra*.

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

Major G. Briggs-Swifte, Royal Fusiliers

We are sorry to record the death of Major George Briggs-Swifte, of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, who passed away on May 6th. He was 89 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for just under 14 years.

Major Briggs-Swifte was commissioned from Sandhurst into the Royal Fusiliers in 1920 and served with them in Europe and Chanak (Turkey) until 1926, when he retired from the Army. In 1939 he was recalled to the colours and served with the Gloucestershire Regiment, until 1942 when he was transferred to the Indian Army and continued serving in Burma and India until 1949, where he was Commandant of the 41st Indian Sillidar Camel Regiment.

In 1964 he married and settled in Co. Kilkenny, where his family had lived for three and a half centuries, and Major Briggs-Swifte and his wife took great pleasure in attending their beautiful garden there. Major Briggs-Swifte was a great correspondent, writing many interesting letters to St. Dunstan's. He was also a fine horseman, and had been Master of Foxhounds of the Lahore Hunt. His other interests were his furniture and paintings of which he had superb collections.

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

H. S. Holden, 67th Anti-Tank Regiment

Mr. Harold Holden, of Wigan, passed away on May 15th. He was 83 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 45 years.

Mr. Holden served as a Gunner with the 67th Tank Regiment from 1931 until 1945, and was wounded whilst serving in Italy in September 1944. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1945 and studied braille, typing, woodwork and basketry as well as having some industrial training. In 1946 he and Mrs. Holden took over a tobacconists shop in North London, shortly after the birth of their first child. A few years later they moved up to the North of England, and after a period of re-training he began work as a capston lathe operator. Unfortunately, Mr. Holden had some serious illness and had to take early retirement from work.

Following his retirement he spent as much time as possible with his family and took a lively interest in his grandchildren.

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

A. Miller, Royal Navy

We are sad to record the death of Mr. Aubrey Miller, of Saltdean, who passed away at Pearson House on May 12th. He was 69 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1966.

Mr. Miller served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1942 until 1946 and then returned to his former employment with Swan Hunter's shipyard at Wallsend, Tyneside, until his sight failed. On admission to St. Dunstan's he trained as an audio-typist and worked for the G.P.O. in Ealing. He took early retirement on health grounds in 1978 and moved to Saltdean two years later.

He was always a regular visitor to Ian Fraser House and with his wife enjoyed holidays abroad in recent years. He will be sadly missed by his many friends at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our sympathy to this widow, Jean, to whom he was happily married for 21 years.

B.R. Rahim, Merchant Navy

We are sad to report the death of Mr. Brian Abdul Rahim, of Burnham-on-Sea. He was 72 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 43 years.

Mr. Rahim enlisted in the Merchant Navy in December, 1940 and served as a Quarter Master. He lost his sight in 1945 and suffered serious injury to his left shoulder while he was a prisoner of war. Before the war he had worked as a rubber broker and following his training at Ovingdean, was employed in industry until he retired in 1978 on health grounds. He spent his leisure hours pursuing many hobbies, most particularly gardening, picture framing and canework. He was also very much involved in raising funds for his local blind club.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Ruth, their sons, and to all other members of the family.