



# St Dunstans Review

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Free to St. Dunstaners

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Cover Picture: During the shooting of the Highway Christmas Special at Pearson House, Harry Secombe is seen with a youthful choir.

# From the Chairman

Peter Matthews died peacefully a few weeks before Christmas. A St Dunstaner for 46 years, he had run the Estate Department for 38 years and was a staunch Member of the Council for the last three. A good friend and a very remarkable man whom we shall all miss.

\* \* \* \*

Last year we looked back with pride on 75 years of fine and progressive achievement. It was appropriate that we did so and we had a little celebration. Now we have entered 1991 and all that is a happy memory. We need to look ahead, not astern; what do we see?

We see a Middle East in fanatical, obdurate turmoil and the beginning of a very unholy war. We see a Soviet Union in which at last the worm has turned and which is no longer a union at all. We see the death-throes of communism in a strife-torn and distressed Romania. We hear the selfish jabberings of dubious visionaries in the European Parliament, proclaiming what few understand and nobody wants. We wonder how many millions will die from hunger in Ethiopia and the Sudan. We pat ourselves on our complacent backs on having dug a Channel Tunnel (despite its monstrous cost-overruns), yet we remain incapable of diverting our food mountains into the starving mouths of Africa. It is a muddy picture and much of it stinks.

Amidst all this I like to hope that St Dunstan's continues as a stable 'sheet anchor' and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. What more can we do? Expect the unexpected.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



### OUR MAN ON THE BOX

Mr. C. McConaghy, of Belfast, was asked to take part in a special television programme which goes out each evening after the Ulster News and his contribution went out the week before Remembrance Day. For each of these programmes a bereaved family or a person who has been disabled in the services is interviewed.

Charlie McConaghy showed Mrs. Rountree, Welfare Visitor for Ireland, the video of his interview, and she commented that he spoke very well about his experience and was very positive about what he could still do, with a view to giving encouragement to others.

### DAEDALUS 1991

All those wishing to take advantage of the Royal Navy's invitation to take part in the holiday camp at HMS Daedalus from August 9th-17th, 1991, should contact Elspeth Grant, 0799-22874, or at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG, by letter. Application should be received by May 4th, 1991, at the latest. Applications from new campers would be welcome.

### BLIND MAN'S VISION — LATE DELIVERY

We apologise to St Dunstaners, and to readers ordering copies, for the delay in delivering 'Blind Man's Vision', the St Dunstan's 75th anniversary book. A technical problem at the binders meant most of the pages had to be re-printed. This was completed just before the Christmas holiday and binding was due to commence immediately afterwards. It is expected that this will have been completed by mid-January and copies should be delivered by

post about the same time as this edition of the *Review*.

Readers are reminded that, although this publication is a limited edition intended as a presentation to St Dunstaners, copies are available from the Books Department, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1A 4XB, at the reduced price of £10 (published price £14.95). Please send cheques only, made out in favour of St Dunstan's.

### THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

Sir Henry Leach has written, on behalf of St Dunstan's Council and all our St Dunstaners, to Her Majesty The Queen, thanking her for her generous Christmas gift to St Dunstan's. Sir Henry expressed his gratitude to our Patron for her continuing interest and support in the work of St Dunstan's.

### SCOT'S HONOUR

Sydney Scroggie, of Strathmartine, Angus, whose book *The Cairngorm Scene — and Unseen* came out last year, has been made an honorary member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club; not an honour, apparently, which is lightly bestowed.

### THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, Visiting Staff and those who have retired, thank the many St Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1991.



*Des Chandler faces the camera.*

## Highway visits St Dunstan's for Christmas

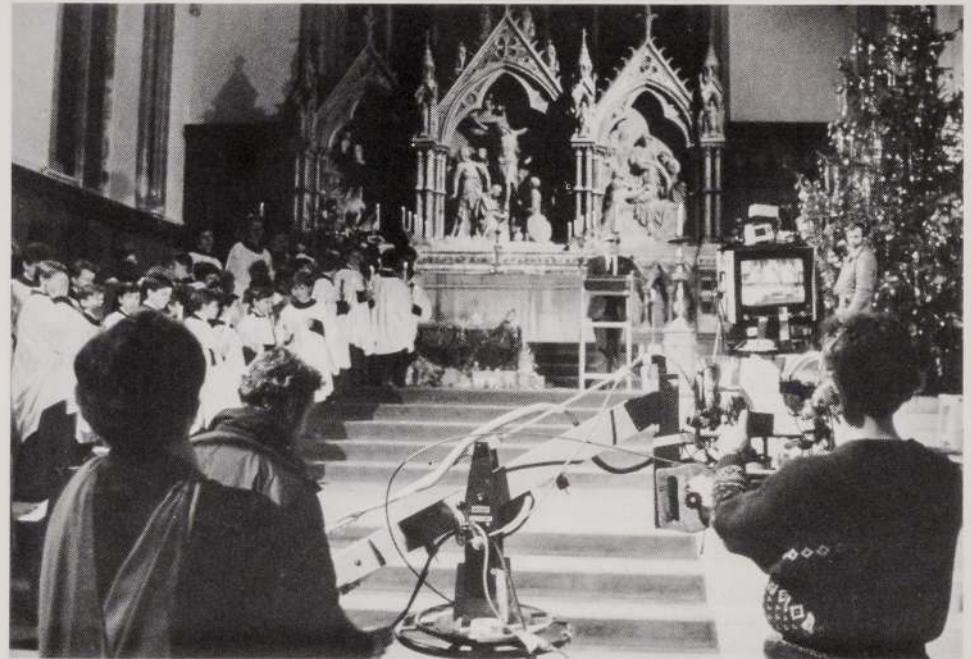
When Sir Harry Secombe is working for Highway he travels in a Winniebagoo, a large motor caravan emblazoned with the programme's name and the word 'space-ship'. In November this vehicle arrived at Ian Fraser House accompanied by a number of others and a large crew of video film makers.

Our visitors were like people from outer space — from another world, at least. We heard new exotic phrases like cut aways, gvs's, wraps and rigs. Ian Fraser House and Pearson House were festooned with cables. The TVS crew, who produced a memorable 300th and Christmas Edition of Highway broadcast on December 23rd, were very aware of the need for care and consideration for St Dunstaners as they moved around the two houses.

Christmas trees were put up early in both houses so as to create the right festive atmosphere for the programme. As well as the presence of Sir Harry, we had a visit from Dana, who sang 'Mary's Boy Child' in the Chapel.

Andrew Barr, the Producer/Director of the programme, built it around St Dunstan's and Hurstpierpoint College. It was in the magnificent Chapel at the College that our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, read Psalm 121, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills'. He was interviewed by Sir Harry by the inevitable Christmas tree in the Chapel.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach welcomed Sir Harry to Ian Fraser House, where there were more interviews with, and filming of, St Dunstaners involved in



*Colin Beaumont-Edmonds reads the lesson in the chapel at Hurstpierpoint College.*

*Harry Wheeler chats with a youthful guest at Pearson House.*



some of the activities going on there. These included amateur radio, archery, computers, physiotherapy and a song in the lounge by Bill Griffiths. Another braille reader, Elsie Aldred, who read a poem written by a blind man and chosen by Andrew Barr, was not included due to pressure of time when the programme was edited.

Pearson House was introduced by scenes of Fred Hobbs making his way unescorted to his favourite local shop. There was another invasion at Pearson House when we were visited by children from Southover Primary School, Lewes and the choir from Hurstpierpoint College. This was one of the highlights of an exciting week. The young people sang a beautiful arrangement of *Away in a Manger*, made by Ronnie Cass, Programme Associate. They stood on the sweeping staircase in the entrance hall, filling it from top to bottom, to sing with Sir Harry and make a Christmas card picture for the television screen.

Afterwards there was tea and cakes for all in the Winter Garden at Pearson

Elsie Aldred wired for sound.



Colin Beaumont-Edmonds.

House. Sadly, Sir Harry had to rush away to a press conference concerning his visit to the troops in the Gulf. Still, it was an animated scene as St Dunstaners and children chatted together.

Filming always takes a long time and being with the crew gives an understanding of the reasons for this. They are unusual in that they are perfectionists in a world that increasingly seems satisfied with second best. Every scene is filmed under the best lighting that can be arranged, the slightest background noise that could spoil the soundtrack must be eliminated. In one location at Hurstpierpoint, coats and cushions from the furniture were used to insulate a gurgling hot water pipe!

It is refreshing to see a group of people with different skills and talents working wholeheartedly and enthusiastically to produce the best programme they can. Probably the most used quote of the week was: 'Thank you that was fine but we'll just do it once more.' There were others – the

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness, but a feeling of happiness too, that I write these few words. Sadness for the passing of a very dear friend, and happiness for having known him. Norman Smith passed away early in December in his 82nd year. He was well loved and respected by all who knew him.

I first met Norman twenty years ago, when I was learning bridge and joined the National Club at Marylebone Road. I soon realised what an exceptional character he was, anything he did for any St Dunstaner was always above and beyond his duty, and invariably covered a big slice of his private life and leisure time.

Flora, his wife, and his son Ken, bore with great fortitude his dedication.

What a huge fund of stories Norman could tell of his early days in club cricket in Yorkshire, his R.A.F. service, the Y.M.C.A. days and not least his days with St Dunstan's. These stories were real gems and often repeated but we enjoyed them as much as the first time we heard them, indeed, we never tired of them.

He will be sadly missed but always talked about, just as long as two people who knew him meet. The little fat St Dunstaner with a bit of sight, as he was once mis-named in Harrogate, now gone but as he joins his old pals who have gone before, you can be sure the stories will be gleefully told again and again. Our deepest sympathy to Flora, his wife, Ken and Alla, his son and daughter-in-law. To finish as Norman would say, we all had a very jolly time.

Bill Phillips, **Bridge Captain**

## Television Special *continued*

electrician who, at Sussex Police Headquarters, whispered, 'I hope this doesn't take too long, we've got 40 amps on a 30 amp circuit!' The quote of the week, however, was at Pearson House, where a member of staff feeding the children and young people who had sung so well, bustled from the Winter Garden and was overheard muttering, 'This is the second time we've run out of cakes!'

## RELIC OF KING ALFRED FOUND

Early in January national newspapers and radio reported that a priceless gold manuscript pointer from King Arthur's legendary lost treasure was to be offered to the British Museum despite a bid of £3m from a wealthy collector from abroad. The patriotic finder of the treasure is Mr. Bernard Yarosz, son-in-law of our late St Dunstaner, Joe Collinson.

Bernard and Peggy Yarosz had found the piece when beachcombing with a metal detector at Bowleaze Cove, near Weymouth. It was only when Peggy cleaned it some time later that it was revealed as a pendant-shaped gold pointer with a blue cobalt bead centre, used 1,200 years ago as a manuscript reading aid. They realised it was something special when they saw a similar item illustrated in a book of antiques.

Bernard was quoted in *The Times* as saying: 'I want it to go to the British Museum. It is part of this country's heritage and should stay here. I'm just waiting for better weather and I'll be out treasure hunting again.'

## TEFAL WARNING

The rubber mains lead (Suraflex) was developed to overcome the problems of kinking and chafing, and to limit the degradation which occurs with traditional braided cables on domestic irons.

As a responsible manufacturer, Tefal continuously monitor all their products. This has shown that the rubber mains leads fitted to some Tefal irons are still subject to wear and may fail without visible warning.

As a precautionary measure, they would like to contact the owners of all irons concerned.

If your iron has a smooth rubber lead, you should stop using your iron.

Make a note of the numbers that appear at A and B on the identification plate, and with this information to hand, call the Tefal hotline on 0800 525554, where customers' service staff will advise you further.



Arthur Neve cuts the cake at Pearson House.

## THE LONG FAREWELL — Arthur Neve's retirement

'I have had seven years of fun and if it isn't fun then it is not worth doing a job.' These were Arthur Neve's words when he spoke to Ian Fraser House staff at a farewell luncheon on his retirement. Thursday, December 6th, was the second day of three farewell occasions which had begun at Headquarters with a presentation made by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach on behalf of staff there.

After the luncheon at Ian Fraser House there were presentations from the Staff Sports & Social Club there and from the management and staff of PBK, our caterers. Thanking everyone — his friends, as he put it — Arthur Neve was in humorous vein: 'I was asked by one of the staff, who shall be nameless, when I came in, "Oh, is this the workhouse master?" Well, as the workhouse master, I am quite appalled that this number of staff can spend from 12.30 until nearly 2.15 wining and dining. Sue Cameron will be at the door as you leave and she will hand you your cards. Quite clearly you are not required!'

On a more serious note he said, 'We work for a caring organisation and, when I took over, I think I stressed that our job is

caring. If you don't care then you shouldn't be here. We are not here for lots and lots of lolly, we are here for job satisfaction and doing a worthwhile job. I, myself, found that to be the case and I am sure most of you find the same thing.'

He said that we were fortunate to be part of an organisation with the resources to do things properly. 'I think it is the caring and job satisfaction that keeps us going. This is one of the things I will miss when I leave tomorrow.

*Major Neve has asked us to pass on his thanks to all St Dunstaners, wives and widows and members of staff who made his departure and retirement so memorable.*

'I would like to thank all of you because my job as the Manager is not much unless I have the support of all the staff. That I have had very readily and I thank you for that. All I can do is wish you well for the future. Although I look forward to retirement I will certainly miss the staff and the St Dunstaners.'

At a buffet party in the afternoon at Pearson House Matron King made another presentation in the presence of St



George Hewitt with Arthur Neve.

Dunstaners and staff, paying tribute to Arthur for all his help.

In accordance with tradition, the last act in Arthur's farewell was a presentation on behalf of St Dunstaners and the staff of Ian Fraser House at coffee time. Sue Reynolds was mistress of proceedings as she had been at luncheon the previous day. Once again humour burst into the proceedings with the presentation of a framed picture of Arthur performing in a

Christmas show. The three staff members in the picture with him — Mary Frith, Olwyn Jenkins and Trevor Smithson — made the presentation in the costumes they wore when it was taken. More thanks and a final goodbye from Arthur and he was on his way home to the New Forest. Goodbye? Surely not, for everyone will expect and welcome Arthur back for some future event in St Dunstan's calendar.

*The picture presentation.*



# Physios in Conference

St Dunstan's physiotherapists gathered at Ian Fraser House over the weekend of October 5th to 7th for their 1990 Conference. It began on Friday evening with the preliminary meeting of the Advisory Committee when members unanimously re-elected Des Coupe and Mike Tetley as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. This was followed by the social evening which has become an annual feature.

The conference opened on Saturday with the Annual General Meeting when the forthcoming World Congress of Physical Therapy, to be held at the Barbican Centre in London, in August, 1991, was one of the topics under discussion. There were no vacancies for the Advisory Committee but the terms of office of two members will expire next year.

The first speaker at the Conference was Carol Lohman, formerly physiotherapy superintendent at the Royal Marsden Hospital, whose subject was 'Palliative Physiotherapy'. She is now establishing a department at The Trinity Hospice, Clapham, London capable of dealing with large numbers of in-patients, out-patients and patients receiving care at home.

The subject of the next talk was 'Nutrition' and it was delivered by Marilyn Young who, as well as having advice to give on natural products to improve or maintain good health, is the co-founder of the Federation of Image Consultants. These are experts in providing a service to those needing help to improve their self esteem. A change of eating habits, she believes, can often make people more energetic and more confident.

After luncheon the speaker was Dr. Philip Evans, whose subject was: 'Peculiar Peripheral Pains'. An Honorary Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia, Dr. Evans is also a Fellow of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists. His talk was most instructive and entertaining. It revealed his wide experience of arm and leg problems.



Des Coupe.

He touched on a number of interesting cases, stimulating many questions and much discussion.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, accompanied by Lady Leach, presided over dinner that evening. The guest-of-honour was Sir Allan Davis, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1985/86. He was accompanied by Lady Davis.

After dinner, Des Coupe introduced Sir Allan, whose account of what it means to be Lord Mayor of London fascinated his audience and gave listeners some idea of the demanding nature of this high office. The toast of St Dunstan's was proposed by Eric Foster, a member of the Advisory Committee, and Sir Henry replied to conclude the formalities of a good finale to the 1990 Conference.

**Editor's Note:** We apologise to readers and, particularly, to physiotherapists for the late publication of this report.

## TRIBUTE

### Peter Matthews

The whole St Dunstan's family will be grieved at the death of Peter Matthews on November 29th. When Peter retired, in December, 1977, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme wrote in his Message from the Chairman in the *Review*: 'No one has cared more deeply about St Dunstan's and no one has given more generously of himself to the organisation and his fellow St Dunstaners. We were indeed fortunate to find such a man and to have his services for over thirty years.'

Peter's thirty-two years with St Dunstan's began in 1945 when he arrived at Church Stretton blinded by an exploding anti-personnel mine. In 1936 he and Marjorie, both Plymouth born, were married. He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in the same year and established his own practice in his home town. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in 1944.

By that time he was serving with the Royal Engineers. Having joined the Territorial Army before the war, he was embodied into the Regular Army in 1939. At first he was posted to the Royal Army Service Corps in France. After escaping from Dunkirk, he was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1941 and volunteered for work on bomb disposal. Peter survived three years of this risky business until he was wounded, in September 1944, by one of our own mines planted on the beach at Penzance in an explosion which cost the lives of two fellow Sappers.

After a spell in hospital and at Stoke

Mandeville he came to St Dunstan's and within six months had joined the staff as Settlement Officer. His was the task of finding homes for St Dunstaners who had completed their training and needed to live where occupations could be found for them. His precept, laid down for a loyal and devoted staff, was 'The housing of a St Dunstaner, whatever the reason, must come first.'

In 1952 Peter Matthews became Estate Manager and his Settlement Department was merged into the main department. He worked to the same priorities there until he retired. Retirement for Peter was in no way a life of armchair reminiscence. He continued his active work in Rickmansworth with the Royal British Legion and Toc H. A man of strong faith, he served his church on the Parochial Church Council and, not content with all this, he began to study for a degree with the Open University.

He took up a general arts and sociology course and in 1981 he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later he earned an honours degree and set off on further studies on 'The Rise of Christianity'. This was a choice that was hardly surprising given that Christianity has guided his life and that of his wife Marjorie, whose unfailing support, especially over recent months of his declining health, had always sustained him. To Marjorie and her family we extend sympathy from all at St Dunstan's who knew and admired Peter.

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### FROM MRS. MARJORIE MATTHEWS

A very few words with a big thank you from my heart for all the help, the prayers and comforting messages from so many of you which carried me through my great burden by the loss of dear Peter.

St Dunstan's, I know, was very dear to his heart and he often said he would never

have changed his life, and because of his disability, he had been able to have this opportunity of serving in such a wonderful organisation.

For sure his faith, his brave and cheerful spirit, his gentleness, his laughter and so many more qualities he possessed will remain with us forever.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**From: Margaret Bingham, Macclesfield**  
Dear Sir,

May I, through the *Review*, thank Dr. Knott, Matron and Staff at Pearson House, for a most wonderful experience. That of getting First Class Treatment and being spoiled rotten!

Kind regards.

**From: Mrs. G. T. Betteridge, Nottingham**  
May I, through the *Review*, say with all sincerity, thanks enormously for all the kind help and support I have received from all the staff at Headquarters, Ian Fraser House and, of course, the best nursing care at Pearson House during my husband's stay there. Not forgetting Dr. Janvrin in London and thanks to our many friends George and I made during our visits to I.F.H. for their messages and cards and beautiful flowers.

Thank you.

**From: Mrs. Dorothy Bennet, South Africa**  
*The following letter has been sent to the Review by Michael Norman, Chairman of St Dunstan's in South Africa; it having been sent to him in September of last year. Since receiving this we have learned, sadly, of Mrs. Bennet's recent death.*

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as I have been interested in the talks about St Dunstan's the last few Sunday mornings on the radio.

I am now 98 and went to teach at St Dunstan's in Regents Park in England in 1915 as a V.A.D. and stayed until 1919. As I had been to school in Switzerland I was able to teach the French Blind Officers who came to St Dunstan's. One day Sir Ian Fraser sent for me and asked what I could suggest we could do to help a man who was blinded and had also lost both hands. He gave me permission to do anything that I could think of. I got an engineer from Remington and between us we constructed a metal cape for the typewriter with holes over each letter and a channel

up the middle and so with the peg on a tin hand the St Dunstaner could slip up the centre and drop the peg into the letters. It took me over a year to teach him, but I gave him a lesson every day and then finally he was able to type a letter to Sir Arthur Pearson.

During this time I became friends with Sir Arthur and Sir Ian. Then I was asked to take on a man, a Czechoslovakian who knew no English, but spoke a little French which he had picked up in the trenches, and some Italian. I found that very difficult! Speaking French, reading Italian and the typewriter had to have two extra letters — but I did manage it!

I was sent by St Dunstan's to the Crystal Palace for a week to demonstrate what blind people could do in order to help them find jobs and King George V came to watch my best pupil who was taking a letter in braille-shorthand and then typing it.

I am going blind myself, but thought this might interest you.

**From: Mrs. Anne Moore, Watford**  
Dear Sir,

Thank you so very much for all the messages of sympathy we have received from Alan's friends, the staff at Headquarters and Ian Fraser House.

We have found comfort in receiving so many many expression of sadness. Thank you all.

**From: Jack and Rita Pryor, Peacehaven**  
Dear Sir,

We would like to thank the Bowlers, their wives and other St Dunstaners, who were so kind to us during our recent bereavement, and for their generous contributions to the Robert Williams Bud Flanagan Ward Fund which has now reached over £2000. The monies collected will go towards buying a piece of equipment desperately needed in the Bud Flanagan Ward of the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey, where our young grandson spent so many painful months, after his bone marrow transplant.

Our grateful thanks also to the staff and care assistants at Ian Fraser House who were so helpful and thoughtful during our stay in the house.

# National Bridge Report

by Secretary, Reg Goding

The year started off very well for us when we headed our group in the Sussex League but alas were beaten in the finals play-off. Nevertheless we all enjoyed it and hope to do better next year.

The club was pleased with the return to form of Bob Evans after a very bad illness a year ago. Not only did he finish top of the individuals but he shared with his partner top place in the pairs — well done Bob.

We played Horsham in the latter part of the year and beat them well and truly. It was a case of revenge for us as their team consisted mainly of the players who had beaten us in the finals of the Sussex League.

The Three Way Competition was very well attended and a good weekend was had by all. The Provincial Team came first followed by the London Team, and Brighton were unplaced.

The London Business League Team has had a reasonably successful year and will carry on in the ensuing year under the direction of Wally Lethbridge.

The Masters and the four London Bridge Drives will carry on more or less as usual, although there will be some administrative changes in London. Our guide and marker, Ian Dickson, will no longer be able to assist us, owing to ill health. Our thanks to Ian and Nancy for making our London Bridge go smoothly and also thank you Ian for all your help at Harrogate.

So to the end of our current year which culminated in what I must say is the highlight of our bridge calendar: namely, the congress held at I.F.H. from November 30th to December 4th.

The Congress was opened by Bill Phillips, Captain, in his usual inimitable way. Introducing Geoff Connell, who is our tournament director, helped by his wife Ennis and his merry band of markers and helpers, the congress progressed over the three days to a very successful end.

During the course of these few days history was repeated and by that I mean the

hands were discussed, usually over a pint in the bar, by then everyone could see how their hands should have been played.

We held our A.G.M. on the Friday during which we presented Major Neve with a retirement gift: a pewter tankard inscribed from St Dunstan's Bridge Club.

On Saturday evening our Dinner Dance was very well attended. Our guests were Bill and Betty Weisblatt who joined us all for an evening of music and merriment.

At the conclusion, on Sunday afternoon, the cups and prizes were presented by Mrs. Dacre followed by our farewell to Geoff and Ennis. Many thanks are due to Geoff for more than 21 years of cracking the whip. Geoff has kindly offered to give a teach-in the day before the 3-Way competition and they will be having the usual teach-in.

There has been an alteration to both dates: the 3-Way Competition is now April 26th to April 29th and the congress is from December 5th to 9th.

How pleased we were to welcome a number of beginners at our teach-in namely Des and Sally Chandler, Dave and Brenda Thomas, Brian Lang, Julian Stevens, Mabs and Bill.

It now remains for me to thank all of those who support the club.

Thanks to our committee, Ian and Nancy Dickson, and all the markers and helpers in London and Brighton.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

*Since completing this article I have learned of the death of Norman Smith. All members will be deeply sorry at the loss of a very good friend, guide and mentor. His passing leaves a big gap. On behalf of the bridge fraternity I extend our sympathy to his family.*

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## NEW APPOINTMENT

Tom Page has been appointed Provisional Grand Primo of the Lancaster Province, Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes for 1991.



## ST DUNSTANERS REMEMBER

There were 9,000 ex-servicemen and women on parade at the Cenotaph on November 11th this year for the Service of Remembrance. The St Dunstan's contingent numbered 82, so with their escorts: wives, friends, Daedalus 'dogs' and staff it was a goodly column that finally marched past the Cenotaph.

Remembrance Day is an emotional occasion but for a sighted person, marching with St Dunstaners, it is doubly so. The column swings on down Whitehall and Parliament Street, through Parliament Square, up Great George Street and into Horse Guards Road. There is applause all the way from the crowds who line the route and there are tears on a good many faces.

This year the final salute, as the columns approached Horse Guards Parade, was taken by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent. Once back on Horse Guards Parade it was, 'dismiss' and back

on board the coaches for the Hotel Russell and a well-earned luncheon.

Speaking afterwards, Sir Henry Leach welcomed everyone and especially four First World War veterans: John Kershaw, 93, Harry Wheeler, 94, George Pullen, 95 and, lastly, Albert Grimshaw, 96: 'With whom I had the privilege of marching today.'

The Chairman also welcomed those attending their first Remembrance Day Parade and expressed thanks to all those who helped as escorts. 'It may interest you to know,' he went on, 'that a few months ago I wrote to The Queen's Private Secretary proposing that some member of the Royal Family (other than The Queen, herself, for security reasons) should take the salute from the ex-servicemen whose day it is, primarily. This idea was widely welcomed and this morning the Duke of Kent *did* take the salute.'

'There is much to remember today: the

## REMEMBRANCE DAY *continued*

fallen — the disabled — those who came through unscathed but a great deal older in mind — the wonderful support of wives and widows and families over long years. Much of this is enshrined in the funeral oration of the famous Greek Leader, Pericles, who perished in 429 BC — 2,419 years ago:

'Let your thoughts dwell day to day on your country's true greatness, and when you realise her grandeur, remember it is a heritage won for you by dauntless men who knew their duty and did it.'

'In the hour of trial the one thing they feared was dishonour — they failed not their Motherland but laid their gallant lives at her feet. In one great host did they give themselves to death: but each one, man by man, has won imperishable praise; each one has gained a glorious grave — not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined, remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over.'

'For the whole earth is a sepulchre of heroes; monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on the far off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living heart of humanity.'

'Take these men for your example. Like them remember that prosperity and true happiness can only be for the free; that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.' Sir Henry concluded: 'Enjoy this afternoon. Have a safe journey home.'

Bill Griffiths rose to reply for St Dunstaners. He began by recalling the reaction of a sighted acquaintance when he told him that he was going to attend the Handless Reunion: 'He said, "Won't that be a bit depressing?" "Actually", I said, "it will be the most refreshing, stimulating, interesting weekend of the whole year." This Remembrance Day with St Dunstan's is, in many ways, like the Handless Reunion. We meet many friends for the first time or old colleagues for a chat.

'Of course, on this day, naturally, we have thoughts of relatives, friends and colleagues who suffered and still suffer as a consequence of war. At this moment, actually, I am thinking of a Member of St Dunstan's Council, Air Vice-Marshal Ted Colahan, and his wife, Ann. Ted is critically ill in a London hospital and we wish him well.'

'Many of us will think of our life and times with St Dunstan's. I recall vividly my being at Ian Fraser House, as we now call it, as a young lad at the end of the war, almost overwhelmed by anxieties and doubts about how I was going to cope with the future. It was the knowledge and perception by the staff at that time and the irrepressible optimism of St Dunstaners that soon gave me a signal that life was not going to be too bad after all.' Bill went on to acknowledge the contribution of the staff to, 'The enrichment of our lives,' and to say how good it was that they were there on this occasion with the friends, mentioning particularly those from the Fleet Air Arm.

This led Bill to recall on occasion when he was swimming in the 100 metres breast stroke event at an international games for the disabled in France: 'As I was swimming the first length of the pool I felt my swimming trunks slowly and inexorably coming down but I raced on and did my first turn and, as I did so, there was my little bottom in the air as naked as could be. Afterwards I learned there were ten million people watching on French television! It was just as well I wasn't doing the backstroke!'

'The Australian Ex-Prisoner of War Association have a motto and it goes: "We honour our dead by caring for our living." That end continues to be achieved, and well and truly achieved, by St Dunstan's.' To Sir Henry, to the Members of the Council and to the staff, Bill expressed the thanks of St Dunstaners. In mentioning staff members he particularly thanked Keith Martin, who was responsible for the organisation of the occasion. He also thanked the hotel staff before sitting down to generous applause from the company.



**D.F. Robinson's**

## GARDENING NOTES

May I wish you all the best of luck doing the garden work for the year 1991.

When you find that the garden is getting a bit too much for you cut down the growing areas and put down some more lawn which will cut down the work a bit but still sets out the garden well. However, if you still hope to carry on as before get all the vegetable beds dug over ready for use. Put in a little extra lime where you are to grow the greens and don't grow items in the same beds each year.

Get in all the orders for seeds needed for the flower beds more especially the annuals. In addition get some extra seeds for the vegetable garden which are not in the collection of seeds that come along from us.

### Vegetables

Get all the beds in a good state for the sowing of seeds as and when frosts have gone by. One can still sow seeds of broad beans and peas now if you can give some protection in the shape of plastic sheeting.

Most of your vegetable seeds can be sown by the end of February in the South but leave it a bit longer in the North, or put some plastic sheeting over all the seeds that you sow.

Don't sow the same seeds in the same place each year but leave for at least three years before getting them in the same areas as they tend to take out different fertilisers. Do dig in extra lime where you are to plant the cabbage family.

Where you have dug over beds fairly early on in the season it would be a good idea to get the hoe going fairly regularly as the soil may solidify, especially where you have heavy soil and also weeds will grow at any time of the year.

Some of the rhubarb can be forced for early use in the house if you cover a few roots with such things as old buckets. Some seeds of radish and lettuce can be

sown towards the end of February in a warm spot and given a covering of plastic sheeting which should be kept in place by using some small canes.

To get some early vegetables plant some seeds in propagating boxes and put in frames if you have any available. Leave the seedlings until the leaves have grown fairly large and then put them in their permanent places in the garden. They can be put out in March.

### Fruit

Ensure that you have all the pruning done by the end of January, and do any pruning left over only when there is no frost around. All the trees should have all the soil round the base forked over and some manure or compost added. It might be a good idea to water with some liquid manure as an added boost for the new season.

### Flowers

Get all the borders dug over well and add some manure or compost on the top for the plants in the Spring and early Summer. Ensure that you have ordered all the seeds that you need for the annuals which you may grow in the greenhouse or in other spots where there is a bit of bottom heat towards the end of January or March.

For those of you who have no greenhouses it would be a good idea to order some fairly well grown plants which are delivered late April or May. I have done this for the last two years and had a good show outside. You can also get young plants from nurseries to put in the garden at once. The items that I suggest are ageratum, antirrhinum, fibrous rooted begonias, busy lizzies, lobelia, nemesia, phlox drummondii and verbena. Also geraniums which have been grown from cuttings.

Keep the hoe going as weeds always grow in any weather and sprinkle some Growmore in all the beds in order to give all the plants a good start. This fertiliser will also help to get all the shrubs and perennials going quickly. Roses can do with some manure or compost but don't do any pruning till Spring probably in the middle of March. The taller varieties should have some canes put in and all the stems tied to these as a protection against strong winds.

Keep all the planting of perennials and shrubs till late spring. Don't cut away the old flowers from the hydrangeas' till late Spring when frost danger has passed.

### Greenhouse

Keep the temperatures at about 50°F especially in the frosty weather and give them plenty of bottom heat so that they will germinate well. Ensure that you have plenty of seed trays and pots in which the seeds are sown. Remember that some seeds are dust like and need little or no covering of soil: begonias and gloxinias etc.

Make sure that you have the compost moist so that you don't have to push them to one side when watering them in. Do put labels on all the trays and pots and put a date on the label so that you can have a good idea when they are due to germinate. Put some plastic sheeting over the trays which will stop the moisture going too quickly.

I have always found that it is better to get the made up compost from the garden shops and keep it in the greenhouse so that it is a little warm when sowing the seeds. It is also better to keep the seed trays and pots inside as well.

Any geraniums and fuchsias which are in cutting form and growing well should be transferred to larger containers, so that later on you have good sized plants to put in the beds and will come into flower almost at once. All the tuberous items should be started off at once such as begonias, gloxinias, dahlias and achimenes. Put the larger fuchsias which are cut down a bit into bigger pots and they will come into flower very quickly. Those potted hydrangeas which you wish to grow should be transferred to larger containers and watered in the well.

## CORDLESS TELEPHONE APPLICATIONS

A marriage has been arranged between a door entry phone and a 'Liberty, Telecom approved' cordless phone.

A patented electronic interface transfers the well proven intercom function to the entry phone usually fitted outside your front door.

A visitor pressing its call button causes your handset, which may be in your pocket, to bleep until your press the 'page' button, after which you can hold a two-way conversation.

You can talk to your visitor while letting them in; alternatively you may give instructions like 'please leave the parcel on the doorstep' or avoid facing a salesman, whilst enjoying the security of not having to open your door!

To end the conversation press the 'page' button again; this resets the system for the next visitor and normal telephone use.

This normal telephone, however, has adaptations which may be of specific help to visually impaired people. It has, for instance, a capacity for memorising 12 separate telephone numbers; which may be of great use to blind people in an emergency. Any key on the dialling pad can also be 'dimpled' on request to enable the user to locate certain numbers quickly.

Developers of this system are currently working on an application which would allow smoke detectors and burglar alarms to be connected to the base unit, thus allowing neighbours, if they are in possession of the handset, to listen in to any emergency signals from the user's home.

The door entry box can be positioned on or near the door easily, is moisture resistant and comes with a volume control. A mains power transformer, switch and door release are available. This enables visitors to be let in from chosen locations.

The cordless phone and door phone costs £160, the door release kit costs £40 and there is an additional charge of £5 for post, packing and insurance. Anyone interested should write to Cordless Telephone Applications, Eureka House, 7 Highwold, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3LG or telephone them on 0737 554824.



ve: A patriotic Chris King at Pearson House.  
 row: Jim O'Donnell and Peter Parker.



Maureen Looney and Kerry Winters as 'the girls who can't say no' with Arthur Chapman who says 'Yes!'



The finale at Ian Fraser House.

## Christmas Celebrations at The Brighton Homes

It may be true that Christmas comes but once a year yet for St Dunstan's two Brighton Homes — Ian Fraser House and Pearson House — the festive season is really no less than a celebration of the companionship and care which can be felt there every day throughout the year.

Christmas at Pearson House started two weeks early when 41 children from the Southover C.E. Primary School, Lewes, "invaded" the Winter Garden to sing a delightful selection of carols for the St Dunstaners and staff. They gave a lovely performance and had their reward when, to shrieks of delight, Father "Bomber Bangs" Christmas appeared with a sackful of presents.

A week before Christmas, St Dunstaners at Pearson House, their guests and

staff, were entertained, serenaded and amused by the annual Christmas Concert. The concert seems to go from strength to strength each year. The scene was set with a superb backcloth designed and painted by the artistic Clive Manning.

The wide variety of talented staff were ably augmented by four St Dunstaners: Harry Wheeler, Fred Dunn, Les Copeland and Jim O'Donnell. Among the many highlights was some rousing singing by the "Floor Aces", a sexy, scintillating song from the four "Bevy Sisters" and Matron Chris singing about her now well-known "Last Cigarette". And where would the performers be without the magic fingers of Tony Ross on the piano?

On Christmas Eve a Carol Service, conducted by the Reverend C. Le M. Scott,

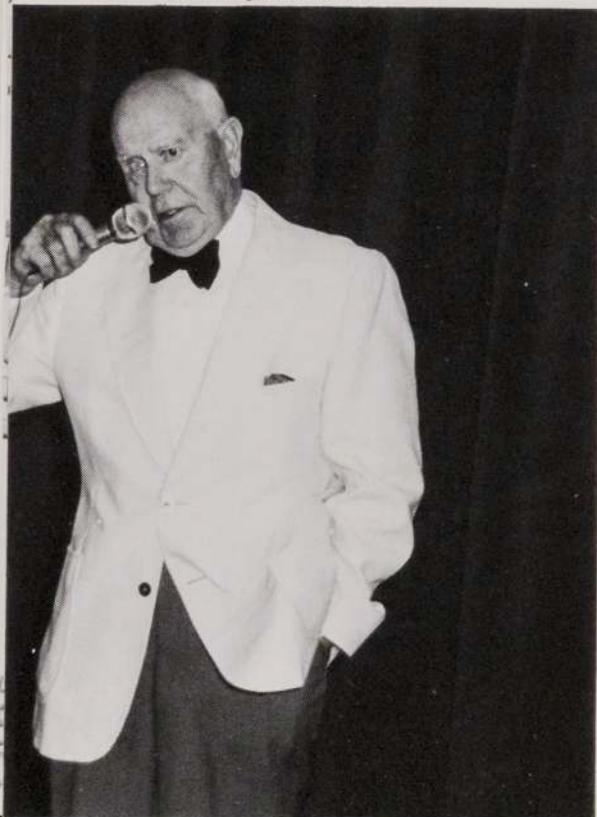
was held in the Winter Garden. Several "holidaymakers" travelled from Ian Fraser to Pearson House to listen to the traditional Christmas readings and sing some favourite carols. The lovely voices of the choir of St George's Church added some beautiful harmony. At the end of the service the dry throats were lubricated with several glasses of hot, spicy, mulled wine.

Christmas morning at Pearson started with many cheerful Christmas greetings and kisses being exchanged — the gales and driving rain outdoors seeming only to accentuate the warmth and goodwill to be found indoors. A few sturdy souls braved the elements to attend the Christmas Day church service at Ian Fraser House and after their safe though windblown return to Pearson House, Father Christmas



Pearl Smethurst as the gypsy.

Raconteur Jack Boorman.



appeared with a large sackful of presents for distribution to all St Dunstaners. The traditional Christmas lunch was followed by a singalong in the afternoon and in the evening a great party was attended by all.

Good food, drinks, parties and entertainments continued on Boxing Day, onwards to the New Year, testing the stamina of St Dunstaners, their guests and staff. However, most were still energetic enough to join in fully with the Grand New Year's Eve dance, swinging along to the music of Tony Ross and welcoming 1991 with champagne and good cheer.

With the building work finally behind them, residents at Ian Fraser House had more room available than ever, so nearly 100 people gathered for Christmas and the New Year.

The festivities began on Thursday, December 20th with the regular concert given by the Rottingdean Scouts to get them all in a seasonal mood. On Saturday everyone was pleased to welcome the Salvation Army back, they were missed last year when a suitable date could not be found. Saturday was also the night of the Grand Christmas Dance with Ernie Took and his band providing their usual high standard of playing.

Sunday was the night of the Staff Christmas Concert which this year was preceded by the showing of *Highway*, the T.V. show which included items on St Dunstan's. After a short break the concert got under way with last year's team of Ernie Elliott and Tony Ross providing the production and musical skills for which St Dunstaners and staff at Ian Fraser House offer their thanks. Thanks must also go to Terry Walker for writing some of the material and Chris Sear for his elbow grease backstage.

The concert was a fine mix of music, dance and humour, and opened with the whole company in *'How do you do'*, a cockney sing-song. In praising all who took part special mention must be made of Pearl Smethurst and guest star Ted Harris, who brought a professional gloss with their singing and dancing.

Ernie Elliott, the producer, shared the compere's role with a St Dunstaner, Jack Boorman, who described himself as a raconteur and certainly had a fund of sto-



Ernie Elliott leads the applause for 'The Hooker's Lament'.

ries told with great panache. The St Dunstan's carollers managed to introduce the names of all our welfare visitors and their superintendents at headquarters in some variations written by Terry Walker. It was another of Terry's sketches that brought the house down. "Lili Marlene or The Hooker's Lament" starred Mary Frith, Olwyn Jenkins, Joan Peskett and Pearl Smethurst who, suitably scantily clad, put over Terry's lyrics to full effect.

There was generous applause after the finale from a packed lounge and it was generally agreed that the concert had left everybody full of the Christmas spirit.

On Christmas Day, Ian Fraser House did not escape the awful weather which kept Matron King's flock safe and warm indoors at Pearson House. The Chapel had to be abandoned in favour of the Winter Garden for the Christmas service. However, Father Christmas was undeterred by the wind and rain and arrived on time without losing any presents on the way.

Boxing Day saw Ernie Elliott's Tea

Dance and a visit to the pantomime for those who could take the pace. The New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Ball was well attended. Ernie Took and his band played and Tony Woolmer stepped in to play the bagpipes so that the New Year would be brought in with style.

The fancy dress was splendid with a record number of entries which made the judging doubly difficult. The non-prize-winners all deserve a mention as "Highly Commended" and we hope they will not be deterred from trying again in future.

Audrey Page made a splendid "Roly Poly", if they have a vacancy she could audition; the name of Mills is well known in Circus circles but it is perhaps less well known that Jesse Mills has got in on the act. King Arthur came as Eric Church, or was it the other way round. Marje Mills must have heard something from the caterers because she provided a Chinese Take-Away Service whilst Iris Church came to ring in the New Year as the New Year Belle and the News Headlines were hot off the press of Sally Slade. Bob



The Floor Aces Singalong at Pearson House.

Osborne obviously didn't realise that fancy dress means the whole outfit and so confined his effort to one finger, a gold one — he was given the booby prize!

Before the judges left the country, in case of retribution, they awarded runners-up prizes to Brenda Rea who came to us fresh from the Folies Bergeres and Elsie Aldred who also found herself on the wrong side of the Channel as a delightful French poodle.

The most original couple this year were Arthur and Kitty Lowe who couldn't cope with such a long holiday and elected to carry on picture-framing and toy-making. The most topical contributions came from Ken Walker resplendent in cricket

gear as England's last hope, although from the size of his moustache he could have switched sides and been Merv Hughes. The overall third prize went to our evacuees from Hemel Hempstead — Ernie and Gwen Hannant, Dorothy Martin took second prize as Little Miss Muffet complete with a gruesome spider but the overall first prize was awarded to our Pools winner Marjorie Ball where eight drawers must have left Marks & Spencer short of stock!

All at Pearson House and Ian Fraser House must be looking forward to next year's festivities, where these splendid standards are sure to be maintained and where all those who make up St Dunstan's will once again join in celebration.

### BRITISH RAIL CONCESSIONS FOR THE BLIND

A Disabled Persons Railcard, costing £12 a year, entitles the holder travelling alone, or both the holder and a companion travelling with them, to one third off Saver and Network Away Break returns and half-price Cheap Day Returns.

Blind persons who do not hold such a railcard, however, can still claim concessions on certain types of ticket — open

returns, full price day returns and season tickets.

British Rail encourage you to ask at the station office if you are unsure of your entitlements and visually handicapped travellers who encounter problems that cannot be resolved at railway enquiry offices should contact Sheridan Hughes, Liaison Manager (Disabled Travellers), British Railways Board, Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1DZ.

## Small World

by Andrew O'Hagan

If you listen, you'll hear that the sounds of war echo over world history and through British literature at one and the same time. So much so, in fact, that the dawn of our modern culture can be seen to coincide almost exactly with the beginning of the First World War.

After the declaration of war, world literature, like everything else, was never to be the same again. Innovations in the methods of mass destruction were immediately matched by startling new techniques in poetry and fine art. Today, as literature begins to seem more and more like a specialist activity, rather than common knowledge, I beg the question: will people ever be as receptive to the immediate meaning of poetry as they were between the World Wars? Does post-war literature ignite the imagination and provide a means of reading the world, as the greatest British writers from Shakespeare to Lawrence did, or does it dwell in an empty room: barely heard, cut-off and dim?

An old man sat beside me on a bench in Hyde Park the other day. Seeing that I was reading a pop magazine he told me, at length, how most people born since 1960 get their whole notion of human conflict from sources as blatantly trivial as *Neighbours* and *Commando Magazine*. From nowhere, in other words. This is certainly a popular enough view of young people, but is it accurate?

I think not, for the sound of poetry — and it is the sound that matters, as Milton, blind to the page, always insisted — plays its orchestral magic on the ears of the young in a way which baffles the pessimists and augurs well for the future of our culture.

Young people read their own conflicts and their own modern images in the works of such as Owen, Sassoon and

Brooke, the War Poets. In this sense, British literature connects young and old and maintains an emotional and intellectual connection between one generation and another in a way that historical facts alone cannot. In 1917, a shell-shocked Siegfried Sassoon, resident in Craiglockhart War Hospital, wrote sheets of poems which were to fire young minds, and dwell in old, for years to come.

A group of 16 year olds I recently tutored for GCSE English fell silent and entranced at the marching sound of Wilfred Owen's 'The Letter'. Like thousands of school children each year, they respond to the anguish, squalor and courage in the lines of our greatest writers in a way which defies the negative image of today's teenagers as gum-smacking idiots without grief or care.

Nicola, born in 1974, seemed to stare into space as she heard the words of the poem. She said it made her think of her dad's unemployment, her parents divorce and the threat to the environment, all at once. The girls thrilled, and the boys scoffed, at the notion of their own career potential on hearing of the milk-girls, van-ladies and butcher girls in Jessie Pope's 'War Girls'.

The last time I saw the girls, they had just come out of the latest smash American Sci-fi movie 'Robocop 2'.

'Any good?', I asked.  
'Rubbish', said Nicola, 'square-headed trash'.

I laughed in recognising a favourite expression from the American part of our war poetry seminars.

As I walked away, I thought of how respect for tradition can take many forms, and how, despite the outward changes, the younger generations of today are as alive to cultural debate as any you care to mention.



**Balancing the Books**  
by Ted Bunting

**The Appleby File**

Author: Michael Innes

Reader: Andrew Timothy

Duration: 7 hours

Catalogue number: 2939

They don't often write books like this now-a-days; for which fact we should all be truly thankful! What a heap of rubbish this is. It's a series of short stories with the shared theme of crime and detection, but instead of being thrilling, humorous, or even slightly ingenious, the tales are remarkable only for being incredibly boring.

The central character is this chap Sir John Appleby, sometime Commissioner of Police, apparently, and he (with his wife on tow as likely as not) miraculously happens to be right on the very spot where mysterious crimes have been or are about to be committed. They turn up on cue with unerring accuracy, and then... Sir John solves the case... to show how clever he is, presumably, but I'll wager a penny to a pinch of snuff that the reader has unravelled the riddle well before Sir John gets around to it; despite his supposed brilliance.

I must say a word about the locations of these triumphs too. Not for Sir John the council house, the peasant's hut or the terraced cottage of the low-born or the humble. Heavens no! Perish the thought. Sir John does HIS detecting in superior dwellings, Norman castles and the like, grand stately homes, and in the ancestral country seats of eminent gentlemen of exalted rank.

The impression one is most likely to acquire, supposing one should ever enter the artificial world which Mr Innes has attempted to create, is that the members of the British aristocracy are as dishonest as their pedigrees are long, or else they are attended exclusively by servants recruited from the Mafia. The stories are really too bad to be true. At any moment I expected the upper-class criminal to snarl: 'Yes, I did it, damn you... but you'll never take me alive' and his inferior counterpart to whine: 'Alright guv, it's a fair cop... I'll come quietly'. As I mentioned before, they don't write books like this any more.

So I can't recommend 'The Appleby File' I'm afraid. Actually, I have a sneaking suspicion that it was sent to me without my having requested it. I hope it doesn't come through YOUR letterbox, but if it does, take a tip from me and send it right back.

**The Intelligent Universe**

Author: Fred Hoyle

Reader: Gordon Dulieu

Duration: 7.5 hours

Catalogue number: 5070

Professor Fred Hoyle, if the terrible truth must be divulged, is a cleverer man than I am! He's an awful LOT cleverer, to be brutally frank; because this remarkable book of his, which purports, amongst other things, to prove that life on earth came trickling down from outer space, is about as intelligible to ME as medieval Latin would be to a cretinous goat.

Oh, I followed his devastating argument against Darwin's theory of evolution alright; I even appreciated that 'Maxwell's Demon' somehow proved that nothing happens purely by chance. But the moment he started discussing 'big bangs', 'little big bangs' and something else which he called 'quantum mechanics', I'm afraid he left me several furlongs in the rear.

Some people, or so it seems to me, are not yet quite ready for the delights of theoretical physics; and I'm sure many more wouldn't know what to do with the trio of 'quarks' even if their very lives depended upon it.

Strangely, though, in spite of what I've just said, I must admit to experiencing a certain enjoyment from the great professor's arguments... even the many footnotes in the book only added to the pleasure. No doubt the author's benign consideration towards his less gifted reader accounts for much of this, for although his themes are quite fantastic to the layman, at least he mostly uses everyday words to describe them. So why not give it a try? There's a fair chance that you'll find it worthwhile, I'm sure of that, although I'm much more sure that you will have a lot in common with Gunga Din if you understand it ALL; it will definitely make you a better man than I am.

**The Origins of the First World War**

Author: James Joll

Reader: Crawford Logan

Duration: 9.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5842

On Sunday June 28th, 1914, a 19 year old student named Gavrilo Princip, stepped out of the Sarajevo crowd and assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Hapsburg crown. This famous episode in European history is generally accepted as the incident which triggered the First World War. Another piece of fairly general knowledge is that in only five weeks and two days following the Arch-Duke's demise, the whole globe was plunged into a disastrous conflict which was to last for four long and bloody years.

But what is not so widely understood, I imagine, is why events followed each

other with such rapidity during July 1914, and how an apparently insignificant crime in the Balkans should have led so inexorably to the carnage of trench warfare in Belgium and France.

Well, this is where this excellent book comes in; for in it, James Joll looks afresh at every aspect of the situation as it occurred at the time and he explains clearly and rationally just how and why things happened as they did. It is an extremely interesting book for anyone wishing to know plain, unvarnished facts it is a rather disturbing one too, in some respects. For example, the author shows how secret clauses in international treaties can severely restrict a government's freedom to decide the best course of action in a given situation, and one is bound to wonder whether similar covert and dangerous agreements are still in existence today. Similarly, the book describes how unwieldy and inflexible is the execution of military strategic planning. There is more than a suggestion, for instance, that at the eleventh hour the Kaiser and the Tzar may both have wished to draw back from the brink of war but they were sadly unable to do so because once the order for mobilisation had been issued on one side it was impossible to halt the cumbersome machinery of war on the other.

It is obviously impossible for me, here, to describe in just a few words what James Joll needs almost ten hours to explain, but because his examination of the past so often exposes pitfalls to avoid in the future, I feel that nobody would be wasting their time if they listened to what he has to say.

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**APOLOGIES**

We offer our apologies to Mr. David Brown, of Worcester, who we welcomed to St Dunstan's in the November *Review*. We mistakenly said that he lived in Norwich.

In the November *Review* we mistakenly noted the marriage of Mrs. Wilkinson's niece. In fact, it was her Grand-daughter Jill Wilkinson who married Mr. Alan McQuinn on June 30th last.

## 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.*

**Henry Robinson**, of Darlington, who was admitted to St Dunstan's on the November 8th last.

Mr. Robinson served as a L/Sgt. in the Green Howards from 1930 to 1944. He was wounded in Northern Italy in 1943 and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He is married with two grown up daughters.

**Leonard Walker**, of Melksham, Wiltshire, who was admitted to St Dunstan's on November 22nd.

Mr. Walker, who is 70 years of age, joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and trained as a Gunner Rating at HMS Drake followed by a course at a Liverpool establishment. He was then drafted to a merchant ship bound for Archangel as a DEMS Gunner, remaining in this role with the Merchant Navy throughout his service. Our St Dunstaner was wounded when his ship was in the Port of Barrie close to an American ammunition ship which was blown up in an enemy air-raid. Unfortunately, this ship was carrying mustard gas which severely affected his eyesight. On Mr. Walker's discharge from the Navy in 1946 he was employed as a storeman by Avon Rubber with whom he remained until retirement.

Mr. Walker and his wife, Joan, have been married for 48 years and have two sons and two daughters.

**John Michael Doughty**, of Peterborough, who was admitted to St Dunstan's on December 13th last.

Mr. Doughty served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Anglian Regiment between 1963 and 1967 and was posted to Germany and the Middle East. He is married with two grown up sons.

## TRIBUTE

Norman Smith, formerly Manager of St Dunstan's London Club, died on December 14th. During the ten years that he held that post it would not be an overstatement to say that he was loved by St Dunstaners. His warmth and genial personality endeared him to all but more than this was his genuine interest in, and friendship for, his Club members.

Norman joined St Dunstan's in 1965 and, as well as running the London Club, became closely involved with the Bridge Club. In retirement he continued to help on the annual visit to Harrogate until deteriorating health prevented this. With his wife Flora, he was well enough to attend the celebration of St Dunstaners' fiftieth Harrogate Week in October, 1989.

Perhaps the best way to sum up Norman's contribution to the life of St Dunstan's is to repeat something St Dunstaner, Bill Miller, wrote in the *Review* at the time of his retirement: 'So devoted to his friends did Norman become, that he travelled all over the South of England visiting members at their homes, joining them in their good times and their sorrows. Any member could guarantee that, should he fall ill, Norman would be along on his day off bringing with his cheery self a cheering word and some small token of good tidings.'

To Flora, who has taken care of Norman devotedly in the recent years of his illness, and to her family we extend our sympathy.

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## CALENDAR AMENDMENTS

The Masonic Week will take place on the week February 22nd-24th, 1991 and Bridge will take place from April 26th-28th, 1991.

It should also be noted that this year's Daedalus Camp will take place on August 9th and the National Metro Sports will be held at the New River Stadium, Haringey, on July 6th.

**These new dates replace the old ones which were printed on the *What's On* supplement enclosed with the last issue.**

## ST DUNSTAN'S INDOOR BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1990

by Ted Brown

It doesn't seem very long since we were outside bowling with the hot sun beating down on us, and almost turning us into cinders at times. But here we are again back indoors at Ovingdean in another type of heat. This championship will be remembered by the sudden death of yet two more bowlers just before we started. The first one being Alan Moore, a well-liked and respected bowler wherever he went. I'm sure he will be missed by everyone and our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Anne, and family. The second one was Mr. Bowler and Bookie himself. Yes, I mean Micky Robinson, the man that ran the tournament for years. He gave up bowling after he lost his dear wife, Betty. Since November, 1989 we have lost five bowlers and with one or two doing hobbies the numbers were down. Nevertheless, the tournament went off very well and the players had more games this year. Its success was due to a lot of very hard work and long hours by Joan and Rita. I am sorry I was not able to do much this time, my wife couldn't either, as we were both getting over operations. To be honest, I was lucky to be able to get through the tournament, but we are much better now.

The tournament started on the first weekend as soon as the bowlers arrived and most people were kept busy one way or another. Not forgetting the ladies, Grace and Margaret, who worried everyone every day with raffle tickets, and a wonderful job they did too — well done girls!

It never ceases to amaze me, but every competition seems to get harder, and very much keener, the standard now being very high indeed. The improvement by some of the players will be shown in the results. Half way through the tournament Brighton Club held their annual dinner and, as we are members, we attended and had some very good food and some good after-dinner speeches. After this we all retired over to the annexe where we had a

dance and a large raffle. A jolly good time was had by all.

After church the next day it was back to so-called battle stations, but instead of bombs it was bowls, and the serious end of the tournament: the finals. The pairs and triples having already been decided in both classes, the singles finals started for the totally blind and the partially sighted. What games they were too. It was anybody's game right up until the end, just as it should be. The result was Tom Renshaw winning the Totally Blind section and myself winning the Partially Blind section. Mansell Lewis was runner-up.

At the end of the tournament we had a dance and the presentation of the trophies. This was carried out by Major Neve who, although he has now left St Dunstan's, accepted the invitation to remain as our President.

After the Major did his bit, it was the chairman of the club's job to make a presentation to him for all the hard work he had done since he has been at Ian Fraser House. And being a keen gardener, so his wife said, he was presented with a wheelbarrow which was made up like a tank with a gun on the top. He also received a portable green house where he can breed the enemy for his gun, ha, ha, ha!

After that, Mrs. Edna Cope presented to the club a Memorial Tablet, roll of honour, on which all the names of the St Dunstaners bowlers who have passed on to the great greens in heaven are inscribed. Thank you very much Edna it was very moving and a wonderful gesture on behalf of Johnny.

While the mammoth raffle was being drawn, everyone was either eating or on their way to getting something from their massive buffet which I'm sure was enjoyed by everyone.

Before I end this short report, I would like to say how sorry we all felt when we heard of the death of a very young man who had fought for his life more than anyone that I have ever know. I am, of course,

### Bowling 1990 *continued*

referring to the grandson of Jackie and Rita Pryor. I am sorry to bring it up again, but you had worked so hard for so long only to miss this time of celebration.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Ian Fraser House for making our stay a pleasant one, the catering wing and all the office staff for what they've done.

Before I really stop, I would like to say how nice it was to get a chance to speak to the man who is taking over from Major Neve. So all I have to say is: welcome aboard to Lt. Col. David Bray. I hope you won't be too disappointed with your large family. Still, everyone can't be good. That's all for now, so keep those arms swinging and not your legs. See you on the greens later on.

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### HOME INTERNATIONAL BOWLING, AUGUST 1990

I'm very sorry you have had to wait so long for this report but I think health comes before anything. After we arrived back home from the United Kingdom Singles Championships which were held this time in a lovely little town in Ayrshire, called Girvan, I had to go into hospital to have a hernia operation, which kept me immobile for quite some time. During this period all my jobs were piling up in the garden and in the workshop and, to add to our troubles, my wife had to go into hospital to have an implant in one of her eyes. Things were in a turmoil for a while. But thanks to our son, and more help from other quarters, we are now back in our normal routine.

It was certainly a lot warmer the day we left here to go to Scotland but it certainly didn't stay that way. We arrived at Girvan after a very long and tiring journey, and we were more than ready for a shower and a nice cup of tea. After unpacking, we went down to the dining room and met the rest of our party. As the bowling greens were not very far away, we went and had a walk to see how they were, and what a surprise! When we left England everywhere was scorched and dried up. But the scenery changed as we got nearer our destination

and the bowling greens were in wonderful condition. They remained the same throughout the tournament despite the rain and wind at different times of the day and night. We were forever putting on and taking off our wets.

As usual the standard of play was very high, and it got more so towards the end. The gold, silver and bronze medals were evenly spread out between the three countries. But I must say one thing: if everyone had been in the same category the story would have been a lot different.

England's tally was two gold, four silver and two bronze medals, and I was fortunate enough to be one of the silver medallists.

The presentation was held in the Girvan Leisure Centre, where a meal was laid on for everyone connected with the tournament. The place seemed to burst at the seams. But everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. The only trouble was that we were so long in getting to the Centre from the greens after the meal, speeches and presentation, it was almost time for dinner!

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves during their stay.

After fond farewells to the different members of the teams, and to the hotel staff, we all departed and went our different ways, looking back on what might have been, if only.

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### TRIBUTE

Miss Elame Tatham, who died on December 15th, served St Dunstan's for 20 years. She joined as secretary to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale in 1958, assisting him, as Chairman of St Dunstan's, in his Parliamentary work and with family matters until his death in 1974. She then became secretary to Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme as well as continuing to help and support Lady Fraser, particularly during the later years of Lady Fraser's illness.

Elaine retired in June 1978. St Dunstaners who had the pleasure of meeting her, and the staff with whom she worked, will remember her warmly as a gracious lady, a caring friend and a supremely efficient organiser — a rare combination of talents.

## ST DUNSTAN'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

### *An Anniversary Year on the air*

by Alf Lee, G4DQS

How far do you think the news of St Dunstan's 75th Anniversary spread? Would you be surprised to know that it actually was spoken about in every continent in the world? From the local villages of Rottlingdean, Saltdean and Peacehaven, throughout the county of Sussex and other local counties, to the farthest points of Asia, North and South America, Australasia, India, Pakistan, Russia, the Far East, South Africa and the whole continent of Europe and the Middle East.

How was this done? Well, you will be aware of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society. Knowing that they needed to prepare their ground well in advance, they applied for a special call sign in late 1989, and planned at least four weeks during the course of the year in which to operate from the shack at Ovingdean using the special call of GB 75 STD.

On each occasion at least six and sometimes more of the Radio Amateurs worked literally day and night to make their contacts. This necessitated three and sometimes four rigs operating at the same time. One for the local VHF contacts, one used exclusively for morse transmission and two more used for both 'phone and morse.

Ovingdean is an ideal site for operating, as it is possible to erect antennas at a height of approximately 150ft above sea level, and that is a great help, as is seen from the number of contacts made throughout the world. Each contact is acknowledged by a special card printed for the occasion and the number already sent is rapidly approaching 2000. Fortunately, this does not mean that cards are posted individually and stamped. A world-wide network of bureaux exist for the special purpose of circulating the cards and getting the return cards sent back. The St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society Bureau, The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and the National Radio Society of Great Britain Bureau takes the majority.

Within a few days of writing the cards from the logs and sending them off, cards start pouring in from all over the world. From New Zealand, Australia, every state of the U.S.A. and the South American countries of Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and from the Eastern countries of Japan, India and Pakistan. The list is endless and the cards provide some very interesting insights into Amateur Radio, geography and the good humour which is a large part of the hobby. These cards, and others received in previous years, make a splendid display wherever the Society meets.

It would be invidious to single out operators by name, everyone worked hard, sometimes getting on the air through the night. The reward comes from knowing that St Dunstan's is publicised throughout the world and operators are individually thanked for their part in a wonderful experience. Messages such as "Good luck Taffy"; "All the best Bill, Ted, Ray, George, Tom, Arthur, Alan"; and so on are appended to the cards. The cards will continue to come in for several months yet, but it is obvious that the Society will have qualified for several awards.

These awards are given for exchanging contacts with certain areas and countries of the world, one of the most prestigious being the DXCC for making contact with 100 countries. Another achieved several times over for Working All Continents. Other similar awards may be claimed, e.g., contacting all the American states, Working all Europe and many others. Moscow provides many such awards and they are much sought after.

The last batch of cards to arrive contained some from New Zealand, most of the U.S.A., Faroe Islands (a rare one!), East and West Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Malta, South Africa, Spain, N. Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Eire.

International contacts made by the Society are up to the 2000 mark. These include some of the farthest and rarest of

## AMATEUR RADIO *continued*

contacts which include ones to Taiwan, which is very rare, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia and a Russian on the Soviet/Chinese border. We have also made exciting contacts with two Canadian St Dunstaners in Toronto: Mac (VE3GZQ) and Ray (VE3BNV).

A complete story of the weeks of operating would take as long to tell as it takes to do. However a couple of examples will give you a taste of the atmosphere, enthusiasm and good will of the Amateur Radio game. Imagine the scene, late evening, a hard day in the shack, and suddenly out of the blue a call comes in, loud and clear, from Hong Kong. The operator is almost speechless with excitement; (a rare thing with this lad!) because you don't hear many stations from that neck of the

woods. The operator was on top of a skyscraper building, which of course helps a lot. So Hong Kong receives the low-down on the 75th Anniversary celebrations. The lads who operate the VHF station don't get much of a chance at this kind of thing, but imagine their surprise when the Queen Elizabeth II answered up from the channel on its way up to Liverpool. Later in the week the boys on 80 metres spoke to the same operator while the ship was in Liverpool Bay. Once again, the news of the 75th Anniversary spreads. Such is the attraction of Amateur Radio.

**Alf is an Honorary Life Member of the Society, and is log-keeper and QSL Manager.**

## The Daily Digital News

In April last year, the RNIB demonstrated to the Press a system which brings the daily newspaper into the house of a blind person, within hours of its publication — the Daily Digital News. The system works very similarly to Teletext.

The entire newspaper, *The Guardian*, is transmitted at 11pm via the TV network. You must have at home, a computer with a special 'card'. A teletext card will not do, unfortunately! The contents of the paper are recorded automatically on disk while you are asleep. This operation takes 90 minutes.

The next morning, using a simple computer programme, and speech synthesizer, you can access any of the nine sections of the newspaper, news, sports, finance, etc, searching by headline, paragraph and even look for a key word within the text. The computer needs to have a hard disk or capacity to store 500k in one go.

About a dozen people and public libraries are trying out the pilot scheme which will last until September. For those who already have an IBM compatible computer the addition will simply involve the

plugging in of an extra decoder card in the expansion slots and an aerial lead to your TV antenna socket. No prices are quoted as yet. It is hoped that more publications might become available in the future and transmitted earlier in the day. At the launch, the Editor of *The Guardian* foresaw this as a medium for most publications to be sent into the homes of the general public. Thus, the visually handicapped could be called pioneers in this field.

An interim report, just published, states that the project is proceeding well. People find the system easy to use and the contents comprehensible. A cost of £300 in the first year is anticipated, for the decoder including a year's subscription to the newspaper, followed by an annual figure of £100. A wider choice of newspapers is also foreseen as well as the capacity of the decoder to receive teletext as well, thus answering my earlier comment. In order to iron out one or two bugs and improve the software, the project has been extended for a further six months until next April. We shall keep you informed.

## COMPUTER WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 17th-18th, 1990 AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

This was a most interesting weekend with several machines available for 'hands on' experience: new devices on display; new and old programmes to test out; and above all, the company of many 'experts' to quiz.

The first device on view, the Arkenstone Optical Character Reader (OCR), was demonstrated by Sensory Vision Aid Systems and consisted of a print reading facility. Those who remember the Kurzweil Reading Machine will have some concept. Text is placed on a scanner and 'read', in this case, into your computer. The speech system of the computer then reads out the print, which is also saved to disk and can be further edited in your word processor. A menu from a Chinese take away provided an amusing but excellent read out. The 'In Touch' hand book proved beyond its capabilities. One of our guests, David Calderwood, uses the Arkenstone reader daily in his work and gets 100% comprehension, so much depends on the style of print fed in. The reader costs £3,500 but before you get excited, it does require a 286 computer, which most of us do not possess at the moment.

By the time you read this, the 'Talking Teletext' will be in production. We were shown a pre-production model on the Sunday. Both the BBC and ITV networks transmit many hundreds of pages of information from current news, through TV and Radio Times to racing results. Readers may be more familiar with the names Ceefax and Oracle as they are also known. In many cases, the pages are updated every 15 minutes. Sighted people can read these pages on their television screens. This small device is just a little larger than a desk top telephone. It has 22 talking keys of which 10 are like a telephone key pad to dial up the page numbers.

The unit can be connected between the aerial socket in the wall and your TV set. The user can be listening to any teletext channel while the viewer is watching another TV channel, just like a video

recorder. Or the device can stand alone, no computer or TV licence required. The pages are read out by an Apollo voice chip, whose speed and pitch are adjustable. Pages can be read whole, by lines or individual words spelt out. On the back is a 3.5mm jack for earphones or external speaker. The unit costs £599 and is VAT exempt if the right form is filled out. St. Dunstan's is purchasing a unit, which will be located at Ian Fraser House.

During the weekend, a means of communicating between computers connected to a telephone line was also tried, though some work still needs to be done on the speech output. Those with the BBC system had their own get together and several new or 'about to be new' users of the IBM compatible PC were able to get many hints on setting up.

The dates for the year's meetings have already been published. If anyone can suggest an item they would like demonstrated, will they please contact Ray Hazan or John Walker. Our grateful thanks to all the staff at IFH and to Phil Duffee for making many of the arrangements.

For further details contact: Portset Systems, Devonia House, Clewors Hill, Waltham Chase, Southampton, SO3 2LN. The PR department has some order forms.

## BRAILLE MEDICINE LABELS

Warner Lambert Health Care have produced tie-on medicine labels in Braille and large print as a safeguard against incorrect dosage for blind and partially-sighted people on medication. The scheme is sponsored by Benylin and supported by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Look for the window sticker which indicates that your local pharmacy is taking part, or ask the pharmacist for details.



## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON SOCIAL & SPORTS CLUB

On November 14th we had a tournament of 5s & 3s, the return match with Hastings Blind Club.

Albert Hobson's team beat us in April and today we have won by one table, 28 played.

We thank Major Neve for his hospitality; the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

*P. O'Kelly*

The Christmas dance on December 15th was to be a very enjoyable evening, quite well supported by the different sections of the club.

Trophies were presented to the prize-winners by Mrs. Dacre and a varied collection of prizes were won in the raffle. The music was played by Ernie Took and his band and we thank him, thanks also to the caterers for a tasty buffet.

Many thanks to Bob and Joan Osborne, helped by Rita Pryor, thanks also to Colonel Bray for the transport.

A very happy evening was enjoyed by all. We wish all members a very healthy 1991.

*P. O'Kelly*

### Brighton Club Bridge Congress 1990

The congress was held on December 3rd when 40 people attended. Seven of these were from the beginners class whom we were very pleased to welcome.

Each of the beginners played with a sighted partner, and some very creditable performances ensued. At the end of the afternoon Mrs. Bertha King very kindly presented the prizes.

In order as follows:-

1st Mrs. King - Mrs. Meleson	2500
2nd H. Ward - Mrs. L. White	1910

3rd J. Huk - Mrs. D. Barnes	1530
4th V. Delaney - Mr. D. White	1450

#### Beginners prize

Des Chandler - Peter Surriddge	620
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#### Low score prizes

Mrs. E. Chandler - Mr. Douse	+200
Mrs. B. Thomas - Bill Phillips	-780
Both Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. B. Thomas were beginners.	

### BRIDGE CONGRESS - IAN FRASER HOUSE November 30th - December 3rd

#### RESULTS OF THE BRIDGE CONGRESS:

##### Sir Arthur Pearson Championship

1st Vi Delaney - Walley Lethbridge
2nd Bob Evans - Bill Phillips
3rd Alf Dodgson - Ralph Pacitti

##### Paul Nuyens Memorial Trophy - Teams of Four

1st Bill Allen - Ron Freer Sylvia Meleson - Bertha King
2nd Bill Phillips - Bob Evans Johnny Whitcombe - Bill Miller

##### Alf Field Memorial Trophy - Datum Pairs

1st Ron Freer - Bill Allen
2nd Bill Phillips - Bob Evans
3rd Bertha King - Sylvia Meleson

##### Lord Fraser Cup for Individual Championship

1st Bill Allen
2nd Johnny Whitcombe
3rd - Ralph Pacitti Reg Palmer

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

1st Alf Dodgson - Ralph Pacitti Sylvia Meleson - Bertha King
2nd Vi Delaney - Wally Lethbridge Jo Huk - George Hudson

##### Drummer Downs Trophy

1st Peter McCormack - Bob Fullard
2nd Bill Allen - Sylvia Meleson
3rd Wally Lethbridge - Johnny Whitcombe

##### Gover Cup Brighton Brighton - Bob Evans

## CLUB NEWS *continued*

### Brighton Club Bridge

We played the 1st round of The West Sussex Inter League Competition on Sunday, November 25th, 1990 at Ovingdean.

Our opponents were West Sussex (A) and after a very pleasant well contested afternoon we won by 11 victory points to 5.

Our team was:

Reg Goding, Alf Dodgson, Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Bob Evans, Bill Allen, Jo Huk, George Hudson.

The Christmas drive brought to an end bridge for 1990 when 30 St Dunstaners and markers enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

At the conclusion of play the prizes for the competitions in pairs and individuals were presented by Mrs. Dacre as follows:

#### PAIRS

1st Bob Evans
2nd Alf Dodgson
3rd Bill Phillips
4th Bill Allen

#### INDIVIDUALS

Bob Evans
Jo Huk
Alf Dodgson
Reg Goding

Mrs. Dacre then presented prizes for the winners of the drive as follows:

1st Bill Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	1710
2nd G. Hudson & Mrs. D. Barnes	1580
3rd Reg Goding & Mrs. McPhearson	1050
4th Miss Sturdy & Mr. White	790

#### Lowest positive score

Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Douse	150
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#### Overall low score

Jo Huk & Mrs. Combridge	-1940
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## FAMILY NEWS

### PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. Bob Fullard on passing his exam on Shakespeare which is part of the Open University course.

Conrad Wagstaff, son of the late *Curly Wagstaff*, of Whimple, Devon, on his entry into the R.A.F. as a trainee M.T. mechanic. His brother, Damien, also in the R.A.F., was posted to the Gulf on the same day.

Mrs. E. Hornsby, widow of our late St Dunstaner *Alfred James Hornsby*, may hold the record for having the largest number of members in her family. All told, she has a total of 84 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren combined. Whether she holds the record or not, we think Mrs. Hornsby, a fit 96 years old, should be applauded for this wonderful achievement.

*John Wellings*, of Neston, South Wirral, has recently won an award for his exhibits of brass rubbings in the War Pensioners National Home Craft and Art Competition. It is a considerable achievement for John to receive such an award given that so few are presented nationwide.

### THANKS

Mrs. *Angela Prendergast* wishes to thank all members of staff and care assistants at I.F.H. and the many bowlers' wives for their help during Joe's stay in hospital. A special thanks to the medical staff at Ovingdean for their prompt action. Joe is now on the mend. Thanks to you all.

Mr. *Jack Jarrold* would like to thank all those who sent greetings to him on the occasion of his 90th birthday, which was in December.

### GRANDCHILDREN

#### Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. *Tom Cox*, of Bristol, would like to announce the birth of their first grandson, Thomas Samuel Cox, on September 10th, 1990.

Mrs. *Sylvia Charlton*, widow of the late *Mr. W. Charlton*, of Brighton, on the marriage of her eldest grand-daughter, Julia Everett, to Steven Jarvis, at St Nicholas Church, Portslade, in September.

## GRANDCHILDREN

### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Annie Singleton, widow of the late Clarence Singleton, of Kirkham, announces the birth of her first grandchild, Ashleigh Ann on August 24th to her grand-daughter Susan Littlefair and her husband Kenny.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Morton, of London, have a second great grandson. James Alexander, born in Watford on September 1st, 1990.

## GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILD

### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Riches, of Camberley, on becoming a great grandmother for the first time. Samuel Patrick was born in July to her great grandson Paul Cato and his wife Kirsty.

## MARRIAGE

### Congratulations to:

Dennis and Betty Freeman who are pleased to announce the marriage of their son Steven to Debbie Pittaway, which took place on September 8th at St James's Church, Coventry.

## SILVER WEDDING

### Congratulations to:

Bob and Joyce Bunting, of Suffolk, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on Tuesday, December 4th.

## RUBY WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Norman and Joan Follis, of Cardiff, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on Sunday, December 2nd, 1990.

Dennis and Betty Freeman, of Coventry, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on Sunday, December 23rd.

Mr. & Mrs. D. F. Crouch, of Walthamstow, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 25th, 1990.

Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Dadswell, of Perivale, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 26th, 1990.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Ormond, of Burgess Hill, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on December 27th, 1990.

## BIRTHS

### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Mary Petherwick of Steeton, widow of our late St Dunstaner Daniel R. Petherwick, who is pleased to announce the birth of her great grandson, Cory Daniel, born on September 20th last to her grand-daughter, Kirsty, and her husband Andrew.

The daughter of James Morris, who is called Jacqueline, and her husband Charles, on the birth of their first child on September 12th, 1990 — a daughter named Rebecca Holly.

## DEATHS

### We offer our condolences to:

Mr. Eddy Allchin, whose brother died in October following a severe stroke.

The daughter, Janice, and family of Mrs. Florence Blakeley, of Farnworth, near Bolton, who passed away on November 16th. She was the widow of James Blakeley who died in 1979.

Dennis and Joan Brown who mourn the deaths of two family members, Dennis's younger brother and Joan's sister.

Derek Cribben, of Leigh, who mourns the death of his wife, Winifred, who passed away on November 2nd last.

Frederick J. W. Field, of Chapel St Leonards, Lincolnshire, who mourns the death of his wife, Brenda, who passed away on November 28th. Our sympathy also goes to their daughters Debbie and Beverley.

Mrs. E.A. (Alex) Fullerton, of Belfast, who mourns the death of her husband, John, who passed away on December 15th.

The daughter and family of Mrs. Jessie Lenderyou, of Kent, widow of the late Arthur Lenderyou, who died on November 19th. Mrs. Lenderyou celebrated her 100th birthday on July 10th this year.

The family and friends of Mrs. Ruth Patterson, widow of the late Mr. R. Patterson, of West Twyford, who died on November 27th 1990.

## 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.

Percy Charles Bargery, *Civil Defence*  
Mr. Percy Charles Bargery died on December 30th, 1990. He was aged 80 and had been a St Dunstaner since February, 1947.

He joined the Civil Defence at the outbreak of war and became an Air Raid Warden, and in 1940 lost his sight as a result of a bomb blast. After his admission to St Dunstan's he received training and worked in industry and then ran a shop until his retirement, on health grounds, in 1957. His interests were playing the piano, Ham Radio and he also enjoyed caravanning holidays with his family, including his grandchildren.

He married in 1932 and he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1982. Sadly, Audrey had been ill for some years and died just two weeks later. Charles contin-

Rita and Jack Pryor, of Maidstone, and their family, on the sad passing of their grandson, Robert, at the age of 15 years. His funeral took place on November 9th following three years with a serious illness which Robert bore with great fortitude.

Mrs. Freda Simpson and family who mourn the death of Mrs. Evelyn Taylor, of Gateshead, who passed away on December 7th last after a short illness. Mrs. Taylor was 85 years of age and the widow of Eric Taylor who died in 1970.

Thomas Sidney Tonge, of Flixton, near Manchester, who mourns the death of his wife, Jeannie, who passed away on November 30th. Our St Dunstaner is now with us at Pearson House.

Mrs. V. Boustead, whose mother, Mrs. Iris M. Walker, of West Bridgford, Notts., passed away on December 14th, 1990, at the age of 98. She was the widow of Alfred Walker and they had their home for many years in South Harrow, Middlesex. He died in 1973 and a few years later Mrs. Walker moved to West Bridgford to make her home with their daughter.

ued to live with his daughter Jean and her family, who cared for him devotedly up to his death. We extend our sincere sympathy to them and to all other members of the family.

Leonard Walter Cook, *The (Queen's Own) Buffs*  
Mr. Leonard Cook died in hospital on January 1st 1991, after a short illness. He was aged 78 and had been a St Dunstaner since December, 1941.

Mr. Cook enlisted in 1932 and served as a regular soldier with the 2nd Battalion of The (Queen's Own) Buffs until his discharge in 1944, having been wounded in action on the Somme and lost his sight. He was taken Prisoner of War and while in Germany, he studied Braille in the school set up by the Marquis of

Normanby, where he formed many friendships.

On his return to England he received training at Church Stretton and worked as a telephonist until his retirement on health grounds in 1970. In his leisure hours, Len derived a great deal of pleasure from gardening, toy making and picture framing. With his wife, Ada, he also enjoyed many holidays at Ian Fraser House. In 1990 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which was recorded by the local press, with a party given by their son, John and daughter, Jean.

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

**Andrew Dugdale**, *Royal Corps of Signals/Parachute Regiment*

We regret to record the death of this St Dunstaner who passed away suddenly at home on November 24th last at the age of 66.

Mr. Dugdale joined the Army in 1942, serving first as a wireless operator in the Royal Corps of Signals and then with the Parachute Regiment in France and Palestine. He suffered gun shot wounds in France, in 1944, which damaged his sight in one eye and was discharged from the Army in 1946. In civilian life he worked at a paper mill, eventually becoming the Manager, but was made redundant in 1981.

With the failure of his remaining sight Mr. Dugdale came to St Dunstan's in 1984. In retirement, and although he suffered with a heart condition, he was a keen and skilful gardener making abundant use of his large greenhouse and he kept two aviaries in which he bred some exotic birds and he also enjoyed chess. During his visits to Ian Fraser House, he added picture framing and wrought iron work to his hobbies and also took advantage of a woodwork course at Headquarters.

Sadly, his wife, Margaret, passed away in 1988, but after giving some thought to moving nearer members of his family, Mr. Dugdale remained at home in Langwathby where he had some good friends in the community, not least his home help and her husband who assisted him in so many ways.

Our sympathy goes to his son and daughter, John Dugdale and Anne Redfern, and their families.

**Joseph Hamilton**, *Irish Guards*

It is with much sorrow that we announce the death of this St Dunstaner on November 27th last, at the age of 72. His health had failed during the last six months during which time he

was nursed devotedly at home by his loving wife, Margaret.

Mr. Hamilton joined the Irish Guards in 1935 and lost his sight while serving in Palestine. He became a St Dunstaner in 1944, trained in upholstery and then in 1946 settled in this form of employment with a bedding and mattress making firm in Nottingham. This was the start of a long career which lasted until 1973 and was only curtailed when the heavy lifting his work entailed caused a problem with his back.

For many years Mr. Hamilton played the drums and at one time was a member of a band playing at local social clubs. In retirement he took up his drum-playing again and many of us will recall the times when he 'sat in' for a few numbers with the band at our Birmingham reunions. On a couple of occasions in recent years he had joined our Music Makers group in the sessions at Ian Fraser House which is where he and Mrs. Hamilton also spent many happy holidays. Another interest for him was toy making and after attending a few courses at Headquarters, Mr. Hamilton was able to considerably extend the range of toys he made.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, Margaret, their daughter Susan, and their grandchildren.

**D. P. H. J. Matthews**, *Royal Engineers*

We are sorry to report the sudden death of Mr. D. P. H. J. Matthews, B.A., F.R.C.S., on November 29th. He will be greatly missed by all at St Dunstan's and we offer sympathy to his widow, family and friends. A personal tribute appears on another page.

**H. Patience**, *Royal Army Service Corps*

Mr. Harry Patience sadly died at Pearson House, where he was a permanent resident, on Sunday December 9th 1990. He was aged 85 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1943.

Before the war he had been a plasterer and enlisted in August 1941. He served with the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver and was wounded by a mine explosion in South Africa in 1943. On his return, he received some training and worked in industry until his early retirement, on health grounds, in 1956.

He and his wife, Mary Agnes, were married for almost 53 years but she died in April of 1989. Following his bereavement, our St Dunstaner went to Pearson House as a permanent resident, and he will be greatly missed by Matron King and her staff.

We send our sincere condolences to his daughter, Barbara, and to all other members of the family.