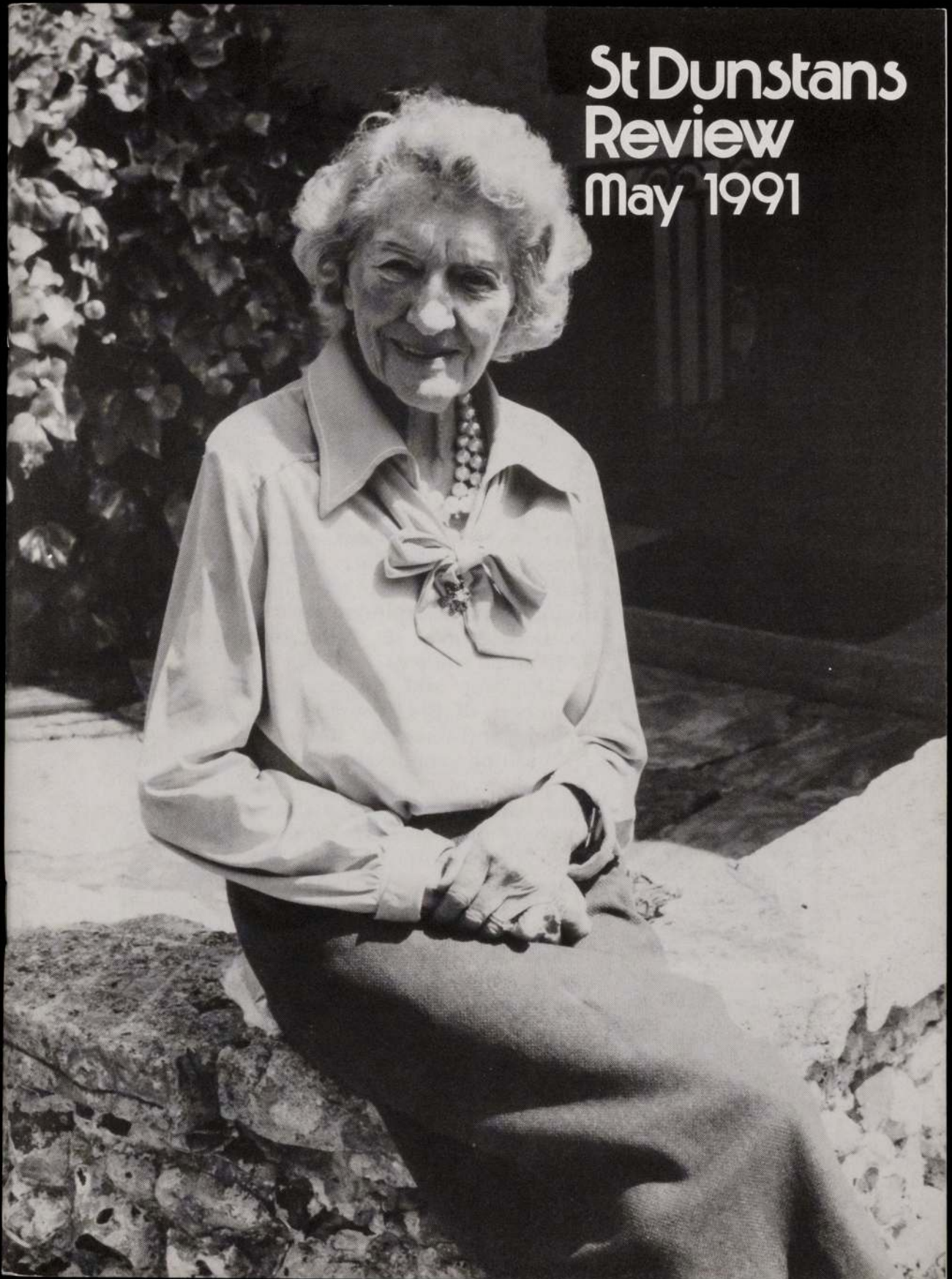


St Dunstons
Review
May 1991



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Cover Picture: A portrait of Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre who celebrated her 90th birthday on March 6th (see centre pages).

From the Chairman



The cease-fire in the Gulf War came more quickly than we dared hope and, thankfully, at relatively small cost in casualties. Although the shooting is over, many of our servicemen there are still in danger. The clearance of mines and unexploded weapons from the battlefield may yet bring disaster to any individual soldier.

The war and the possibility of large numbers of eye casualties quickened our minds and brought home the value of continuing to maintain our training facilities in a state of readiness for expansion. The plans we prepared and the contacts with military and civilian hospital services will not have been wasted. In fact, the mailing we carried out to hospitals all over the country has increased awareness of St Dunstan's and our facilities. As a result some ex-Servicemen whose loss of sight is attributable to their service have been reported to St Dunstan's and will be admitted to our family.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



EASTER BONNET PARADE

As usual the judges had their work cut out to sort out the prize winners in the Easter Bonnet Parade at Ian Fraser House. The bonnets ranged from the chic to the eggstra-ordinary. Mrs. Violet Howell's St Dunstan's roses and Mrs. Anne Wallace's chicken noodle creations were both highly commended. The sixth prize went to our visitor from New Zealand, Mrs. Betty McLean, a real Kiwi chick. Mrs. Kitty Young's Spring Flower arrangement took fifth place and Elsie Tucker's Bunny Hop was fourth. Jane Farrant hatched out in third place with a splendid topper, her favourite style.

The runner-up was Margaret Paterson with her eggstatic eggshell but the overall winner was Mrs. Brenda Thomas with all the fun of the fair, her fantastic Helter Skelter. Well done and thanks to all who joined in the fun.

* * *

THE RETIREMENT OF R. C. CLARKE

by Trevor Lloyd

On May 6th 1946 a young man, still I am told, wearing his RAF uniform, walked into St Dunstan's, then in 9-11 Park Place, to join Mr. Peter Matthews' team which he was forming to cover the country and to seek out and buy housing for St Dunstaners, as the need arose, once the St Dunstaners had finished their training.

The young man was R. C. Clarke who 45 years later, bar 36 days, on March 31st 1991, finally severed his connection with the Estate Department as a member of the team, by retiring from the part time work he had been undertaking since he gave up full time occupation at the end of April 1985.

Almost 45 years of continuous service to St Dunstaners must be one of the longest on record, certainly in the Estate

Department. Over this period he has been a tremendous prop to both Mr. Matthews and myself. To those of you who know him far better than I, he has been not only your advisor but also, I am sure, a firm friend as he is to me.

You will be wanting to wish him well for a long and happy retirement which I know will not be idle.

* * *

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

This year's show runs from 21st to 24th of May. There will be a Disabled Gardeners Advice Centre at the show, including representatives from: the Advisory Committee for Blind Gardeners, Horticultural Therapy, South Regional Association for the Blind and the RNIB.

Anyone interested in the show should contact Tim Spurgeon, Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset, BA11 3DW, or telephone 0373-64782.

* * *

PHYLLIS O'KELLY

Friends of Mrs. Phyllis O'Kelly, who was severely injured in an accident, have requested a 'get well' message in the *Review*. At the time of writing she was still recovering in hospital and all her friends send their best wishes and their hopes that she will soon be better.

* * *

SID JONES APPEAL

Friends of the late Sid Jones who wish to pay tribute to his memory are asked to make donations to the Naevus Support Group, 58 Necton Road, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AU. The appeal has been initiated by the St Dunstan's Archery Club.

IN THE NEWS



Carl Williams, centre, back row, with the Daedalus team of runners.

Not all mention of St Dunstan's in the last two months' media has been of a happy nature. The recent deaths of former Chairman, Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, and Council Member, Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Colahan, brought tributes and obituaries from many of the daily broadsheets. *The Times*, which ran full obituaries of both men, celebrated the exemplary nature of their lives and offered the deepest sympathy to their respective families. Of Mr. Garnett-Orme it was said that 'his very personal interest in the well-being of the St Dunstaners themselves extended to knowing them and their families individually' whilst *The Independent* remarked on his initiation of 'many improvements in the services the organisation provides for blinded ex-service people.' Air Vice-Marshal Colahan was similarly honoured for the care and 'sporting' humour he brought into his relations with servicemen and ex-servicemen alike.

On a happier note, the story in the

Brighton *Evening Argus*, under the headline 'Pals are on the run for cadet of courage', was a cracker. It told of how 'Royal Navy cadet Carl Williams has become the toast of his training pals after the courage he has shown in coping with a rare eye disorder'. Carl, who is 19 years old and from Kidderminster, was training at HMS Daedalus when he was struck by a rare eye disorder and is now in training at Ian Fraser House where he is learning braille, typing and computer skills. The BBC's *South Today* programme reported on how a nine-man team of Carl's old colleagues completed a sponsored run in order to provide cash for an audio-computer much needed by Carl. On ITV's *Coast To Coast* Carl said, 'I am amazed at what they are doing for me'.

Still with the theme of young people, *The Times Educational Supplement* reported on how Lewes Priory, in East Sussex, is undergoing changes which should see pupils at the school gaining wider experience in the community than is

Amateur Radio AGM

by Arthur Taylor
(Short Wave Listener)

Sadly, two members, Charles Bargery, G3OTB, and Alan Reynolds, G3VRI, had gone 'Silent Key', and members stood in silence to their memory. Tribute was also paid to Mr. Ion Garnett-Orme, Vice-President of the Society.

A warm welcome was extended to Norman French, Guest of Honour, and his wife Marie. Norman gave the Society a tremendous amount of assistance and advice in the early days, for which we were all very grateful. Congratulations were extended to Patrick Murphy for passing his Morse test. He had applied for his 'A' licence and hoped to be allocated the call-sign G0PAT — most appropriate!

The purpose-built talking clock, to the memory of Vic Reeves, G0IQJ, and John Cowan, Short Wave Listener, had been constructed by Brian Jordan, G4EWJ, and was available for inspection and

operation. It embodies a small receiver to obtain signals from the atomic clock at Rugby, thus ensuring the correct GMT at all times. The clock bears a plate inscribed 'In Memory of Vic Reeves, G0IQJ, and John Cowan, SWL. Donated by their Relatives and Friends — 1991.' The clock will be installed in the radio shack. In addition, an external speaker, fitted with audio filters, and a speech synthesiser were also obtained in memory of these gentlemen, and these items are for use with the ICOM 781 transceiver which was presented to the Society by H.M. King Hussein of Jordan during the visit of members last year.

In 1990, to celebrate the foundation of St Dunstan's some 75 years ago, Special Event Stations, using the call-sign GB75STD, were set up during the year as the Society's contribution to the Anniversary celebrations, in the course of which some 2,000 contacts were made. It would appear that the special QSL card, sent out to confirm a contact, which bears a photograph of the South Coast of England, pinpointing Ovingdean and taken from the satellite 'Challenger', is a prized possession. An article on this project appeared in the January/February issue of the *Review*, very kindly contributed by Alf Lee, G4DSQ, the Society's logkeeper and QSL Manager. A vote of thanks was passed to all who had taken part in this most successful venture, as well as the staff at Ian Fraser House for their many kindnesses and those tireless and selfless supporters, John Houlihan, Dave Mitchell and Alf Lee.

The Treasurer, Ted John, was pleased to report that the Society's finances were sound and expressed his thanks to Beryl, his wife, for preparing the books and to Ted Nicolas for his audit and presenting a statement of account, which was accepted by the meeting. He, too, commended all those who, during 1990, had given their time and energy to making sure that the station was on the air.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the members for their support and encouragement during

In The News — Continued

usual. It reported that 'the pupils have focused on the difficulties encountered by people with a physical or sensory handicap. Visits were made to places like the Searchlight workshop for disabled adults and to St Dunstan's home for blind ex-servicemen and women.'

School children have much to learn from those resident at St Dunstan's Brighton Homes.

So, finally, from members of the new school to celebrated members of the St Dunstan's 'old school'. Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, who has been connected with St Dunstan's for almost her entire life, celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by 80 people involved in our organisation. Mrs. Dacre, MBE, whom the *Evening Argus* called 'one of Rottingdean's best-loved and respected villagers' has a long record of service both to St Dunstaners and to the members of her own community. We raise our glasses to a remarkable lady.



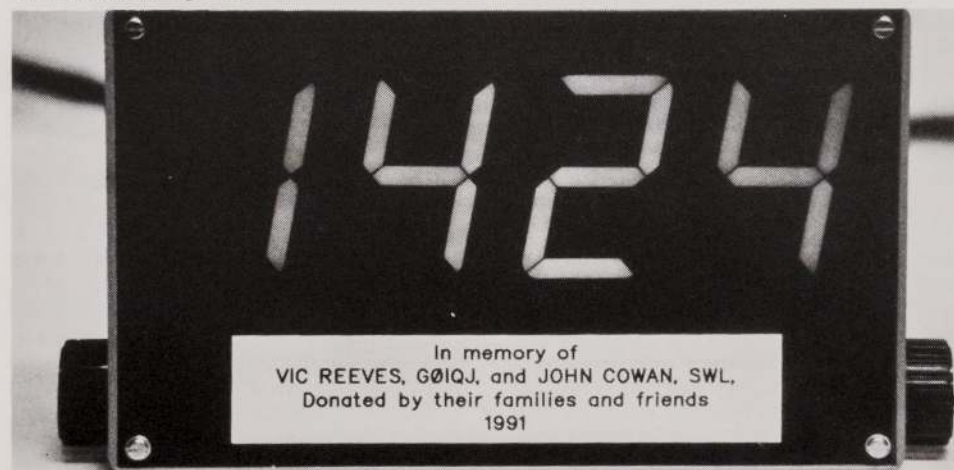
Arthur Taylor, Bill Shea and Ted John calling Canada.

Amateur Radio AGM — continued

the previous year, and the existing members of the Committee were promptly re-elected!

Further reference was made to George Cole's kind offer to take a Morse class if members so wished. The class would be held at Ian Fraser House for those interested, who should contact George direct. Suitable equipment was being obtained for this course of instruction. Plans to visit Gatwick Airport are in hand, and members interested will be informed of the arrangements as soon as possible.

The inscribed talking clock.



During the afternoon, attempts were made to raise the ex-Brit net in Canada to try to contact Jane Taylor's brother, Frank Green, VE4FA, who lives in Winnipeg. Jane is the wife of the author of this article. Unfortunately, although we were able to copy his transmissions he was unable to read us. Conditions improved on Sunday afternoon, however, and Jane, Arthur, and their son, Brian, a visitor to Ian Fraser House, were able to pass greetings messages to Frank. An excellent effort!

In the evening, members greeted their

Amateur Radio AGM — continued

guests in the Winter Garden and sat down to an excellent dinner at tables which were most tastefully decorated. Appreciation was expressed to the escorts and guests for their continued support, and the Chairman was particularly delighted to welcome Frances Casey, who looks after our travelling and accommodation arrangements so well, attending our dinner for the first time, and also Bob Higgins, G0DOE, the new RAFARS representative for East Sussex.

The Chairman then called upon Norman French, our Guest of Honour, to present the G3MOW Memorial Trophy to the person voted by the membership in a secret ballot. The recipient — George Cole, G4AWI — and he was greatly applauded as he stepped up to receive the award. George is a member of the prestigious 'First Class Operators' Club (FOC) which has only 500 members throughout the world, and of which he

and the Society are justly proud. George said that it gave him great pleasure to receive the award which meant more to him than anything else, and thanked the Society for the honour bestowed upon him.

The remainder of the evening was most convivial with members and their guests chatting about the hobby that had brought them together and gave so much pleasure. It was a most pleasant and enjoyable occasion spent in good company — but then, that is what makes the hobby so special.

I have left one item on which to close, and this must be a unique record in the life of any organisation. The Society has now been in existence for 15 years and, in all that time, our very respected and hard-working Secretary, Ted John, G3SEJ, has not missed a single meeting. Congratulations Ted! The next meetings are on the 20th July and the 12th October.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT REUNION

On the initiative of the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Michael Reynolds, St Dunstaners, who have been in any of the six founding regiments, were invited to lunch at The Duke of York's Barracks in London on the March 7th.

In the absence of Mike Reynolds, due to illness, Col. John Francis, Secretary of the Regimental Association, presided over the gathering, for he, with Major Bill Marshall, had made all the arrangements. Nine St Dunstaners, with their wives or escorts, attended the lunch, and received a very warm welcome from the Chairmen and Secretaries of the founding Regimental Associations, which were The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), the East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (The Buffs), The Royal East Kent Regiment, the East Surrey Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment. Although the Royal Sussex Regiment was one of the founding regiments, it was not represented as there were no St Dunstaners from it.

After lunch John Francis gave a formal welcome to the St Dunstan's party, and

explained that in spite of the amalgamation, which took place on December 31st 1966, the regimental spirit and pride in one's unit was as strong as ever, and great interest was still shown in the history of the regiments. He concluded by presenting a picture to St Dunstan's, which had the regimental badge in the centre surrounded by five smaller pictures of the uniforms worn in the regiments in by-gone days.

Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, received the picture on behalf of St Dunstan's, and thanked everyone, not only for the picture, but also for the delightful lunch. He then recalled the various nicknames of the founding regiments with their historical links. Finally, in again expressing appreciation for the picture, he said that it would be hung in a prominent place in Ian Fraser House.

Our thanks go to the Regimental Association, who ensured that we sat with people from our old regiment, and to our own staff at Headquarters, who dealt with the invitations, accommodation and transport, all of which resulted in a most happy reunion.



The Personal Challenge Award winners pose with Bill Weisblatt.

Awards Scheme for Blind People

Story and Picture: David Castleton

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Department of Health presented awards to blind and visually handicapped people at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, on March 20th. The awards scheme was organised by the Association for the Education and Welfare of the Visually Handicapped.

St Dunstan's sponsored one of four categories: Personal Challenge. The other categories and sponsors were: Community service — Guide Dogs for the Blind Association; Arts — Clio Press, and Outstanding Achievement — Royal London Society for the Blind.

The winner of the St Dunstan's section was Glyn Heddwyn Jones of Trawsfynydd in Wales. Glyn won the judges' verdict through his enterprise in establishing his own workshop despite his diabetic condition necessitating frequent dialysis. He is a cane-worker and repairs chairs and

stools as well as tray making. In his spare time he gives talks and, as befits a Welshman, sings in the male voice choir.

Bill Weisblatt, St Dunstan's Secretary, was there to give his congratulations to Glyn and to the other prize winners: the young lady who came second: Lisa Boocock, of Oxenhope, West Yorkshire, who is a solo canoeist on sea and lakes and plans to be the only blind student among a team of eight who are canoeing around Lake Titicaca in Mexico in July. Specially commended were: Sarah Blasebalk from Cardiff, who is an accomplished musician on the piano and flute; Mrs. Beryl Armitage of Shrewsbury, who despite her handicap, has nursed her adopted daughters who are also handicapped, and David Hurst, of Stockport, who organised a climb on Mount McKinley in Alaska for blind young people and who is a water skier and an exponent of judo.

The Restored Llandaff Cathedral

By George Roberts

Llandaff Cathedral is situated in what has remained very much a village setting some two miles from the centre of Cardiff. Llandaff being the medieval city and Cardiff its Victorian and industrial counterpart.

However, although the post-war development of Cardiff has surrounded Llandaff it is still possible to walk to Cardiff through parkland and along the River Taff. The Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul nestles in a hollow between the village green and the river and is predominately 13th century with some Norman work and some 20th-century work, indeed George Pace's Pulpitum in concrete with its figure of Christ in Majesty by Epstein dominates the interior of the building which was extensively damaged in the war (1939-45). Since the restoration after the war no major work had been done at the cathedral until an appeal was launched in 1985 and it was to close this appeal and to give thanks for its success that a service was held on the feast of the patron saint of Wales, Dewi Sant (St David).

This service was to be attended by the Princess of Wales and Prince William, who when his father succeeds to the throne, would himself become the Prince of Wales and was undertaking his first public engagement. All arrangements were thrown into some disarray by the announcement (whilst service papers were at the printers) that the Prince of Wales would also be present at the service before flying West to an engagement at R.A.F. Brawdy near to St David's itself.

As you can imagine the cathedral staff were thrown into a flurry of work, not least to ensure that all was clean and tidy (didn't want a note from the palace about cobwebs and the like) as well as to rearrange the seating so as to give everyone present a reasonable view of the Royal party, even those sitting behind pillars were given a chance of a view as the party moved from the church to the Regimental chapel and then to the St Illtud chapel where they

would sign the visitors book and view one of the major works of art in the cathedral — a painting of Rossetti — which had recently been restored.

St David's Day dawned bright and clear, which was just as well as soon after 6 am the police were on the Green and about the cathedral to conduct a bomb search, now, alas, a necessary part of any state occasion, and by 7.30 the public were beginning to occupy the better spots from which to view the proceedings outside the cathedral and entertained by the band of R.A.F. St Athan.

The bells began to ring soon after 10 for the service at 11.30 and the hill was soon lined with the children from the Cathedral school. During the service the children went back to school and were replaced with children from the village school, many in traditional Welsh costume and with flowers to present to Her Royal Highness.

At 11.20 the Royal party arrived at the preaching cross on the Green and where in 1190 Gerald of Cambriensis had preached for people to enlist for the crusade with King Richard. They were met by the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor and his sword and mace bearers and were conducted to the cathedral; there to be met by the Bishop and the Dean of the Cathedral before being heralded by a fanfare of trumpets and led into the Cathedral by the Dean's verger. After both the English and Welsh national anthems the Dean read a bidding prayer which had been hastily altered to include a prayer of thanks for the ceasefire in the Gulf.

During the anthem, a modern piece by Richard Shepherd, organist at Salisbury, the Prince of Wales was spotted looking at some of the more modern pieces in the Cathedral and I wondered if he didn't quite approve!

With a hymn in Welsh and a Welsh blessing the service was soon over, the bells pealed out again and the Royal party stepped out into the sunshine and to the



Mrs. Elizabeth Fawcett sounds the bell.

Bell Commemorates 'Comm'

Mrs. Elizabeth Fawcett unveiled a memorial to her husband on Thursday 28th March at Ian Fraser House, the Home to which Lawrie Fawcett devoted so much of his life. This memorial takes the form of a brass ship's bell mounted on the wall in the St Dunstaners' dining room.

Thirty-Three Years Service

This is particularly appropriate as Lawrie Fawcett served during the Second World War as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm before beginning his 33 years service to St Dunstan's in 1947 as Commandant of Pearson House. Less than two years later he became Commandant of both our Homes in Brighton.

'Comm', as he became popularly known to hundreds of St Dunstaners, never spared himself and brought the same efficiency, laced with humour, to supervising many V.I.P. occasions including Royal Visits, and the horrendous task of keeping the services of the Homes going during comprehensive re-building operations while liaising with builders, surveyors and architects. In 1977 he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his work for St Dunstan's. He died in 1984, only four years after his retirement.

Dedication

Speaking after the unveiling, Elizabeth Fawcett recalled her husband's dedication to his work and to St Dunstaners. She rang the bell for the first time and then joined her daughter in meeting St Dunstaners and retired staff who had come along to join in this tribute to the 'Comm'.

In opening the proceedings Lieutenant-Colonel David Bray had read out the inscription: 'Presented by Elizabeth Fawcett in memory of her husband Commander Lawrie Fawcett, M.B.E., affectionately known by the St Dunstaners as "Comm", Commandant of the Brighton Homes from 1947-1980.'



Allan and Betty McLean at Ian Fraser House.

NEW ZEALAND VISITORS AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

Visiting Ian Fraser House last month were Allen and Betty McLean from Christchurch, New Zealand. It was Allen's first visit but Betty was here in 1987. Then she was Betty Black and she attended the Handless Reunion with her husband, Bill, making many friends. Bill died in 1989 and Betty is now Mrs. McLean.

'We met at the St Dunstan's Reunion in Auckland a year ago,' Betty explained, 'Bill had died in the October and we just met and that was it.'

Allen went on, 'My wife died in May 1989 and Bill died in October. I took my eldest daughter, Jennie, as my escort to the reunion, because May had passed on. Betty was up there with her daughter. We sat at the table together, we got chatting and there we are. I'm sure Betty has created some sort of a record in as much as she's married two St Dunstaners — certainly as far as New Zealand is concerned. I'm very grateful that she

accepted me. It has been a very happy year.'

Allen served in Italy during the Second World War with the 14th Brigade, 19th Armoured Regiment of the NZEF. 'I was blinded in Italy at the end of the war. I was in the Third General Hospital, there was some pretty miraculous surgery and after four months I got my sight back. I got home and had a good married life, had good sight for forty years.'

Allen ran a small supermarket in Wellington as a family business for some twenty years and after that worked for an investment company in the city centre. His sight finally failed him in 1982 and he became a St Dunstaner through contact maintained by the Commercial Travellers of New Zealand, who have always been closely associated with St Dunstan's.

Betty's memories of her last visit persuaded Allen that a trip to England would be a good idea. 'It was prior to our marriage that we arranged this. Betty had talked to me a lot about her visit over here with Bill and she also read her diary to me which she'd kept of the various things she did with Bill and I was interested. So when we decided to get married we said, "What about going?" and here we are. Betty wrote to Cynthia Mosley and we had a reply back within days of arranging this visit.'

'It's tremendous, that's the only word I could use, really. We've been taking all the rides that are available to various places on Friday afternoons. We've been visiting Brighton, doing a little shopping, to Eastbourne, we've been round quite a bit. I enjoy the night's festivities, the bingo and the dominoes, which I've been educated to play and I'm proving quite successful I might add, too! I enjoy a visit to the bar upstairs. I haven't quite got used to the English beer. I don't believe I have been here long enough to get the real taste for it. I have found a brew I like up there — Fosters, the Australian beer — it's the nearest thing to our local brew in taste. I think I'd have to be here about six months to get the taste for English beer.'

Well, Allen, come back again any time to educate your palate in the subtleties of English beer. You and Betty will both be most welcome!

Swiss Roll! — Alpine Adventure 1991

by Mike Thorpe, Gerry Jones
and Ray Sheriff

Once again March 1991 saw the return of the 'St Dunstons Ski Club' to the snowcapped Alps of Central Switzerland. Against all logistical odds a party of skiers numbering fourteen inclusive of families and guides assembled in Sorenberg, thanks to the hard work and endeavours of Ray Hazan in the UK and Peter Zamudio now living and working in Switzerland.

The flight to Zurich was not without drama however, whilst the party of St Dunstaners were reporting to board the aircraft at terminal one Heathrow Airport, the youngest and most intelligent member of the group, Richard Wortley, son of Alan and Joan, was patiently waiting at terminal four wondering why the remainder had not turned up for the flight. Eventually he realised that there was a possibility that he could be wrong and found his way to terminal one with minutes to spare.

After a very comfortable flight the party were met at Zurich Airport by head guide and administrator Peter Zamudio who had organised a mini bus which doubles as an ambulance in the village to transport us to Sorenberg. Transfer time to Sorenberg was about two hours (or several repetitions of Gerry Jones's repertoire of rugby songs) where we were met by two more guides from Germany: Martin (Slaphead) Blank and Phil (never on time) Beaton. The fourth guide Mick Thorpe eventually arrived on a later flight but still in time for the evening get-together and initial training sessions in the bar.

Gerry Jones writes: Twelve stout hearts arrived in Sorenberg, Switzerland on Saturday the 3rd March and met up with our old friends and guides Peter and Maja Zamudio who have the good fortune to live in this charming little village. Three of the aforementioned were our old friends and guides: Capt Mick Thorpe, Sgt Martin Blank and Bombardier Phillip Beaton.

Without this merry band of devoted guides our skiing is totally impossible and to them we offer our sincere gratitude. It was time once again to don the heavy ski boots and planks and attempt the tricky task of falling off the mountains.

By Sunday we four St Dunstaners, our guides, Joan and Richard Wortley, along with his friend Tom, were enjoying our first taste of the slopes. Tom had joined us at 24 hours notice when Sian Wortley was taken ill. We were sorry that several of our regular members could not make it this year for one reason or another. Never fear, the St Dunstan's skiing holiday is firmly established and is taking bookings for January 18th-25th 1992.

So once again St Dunstaners were facing the rigours of the mountains and the formidable apres ski programme. With screams of delight, mixed with those of sheer terror and laughter, we combated the Alpine Horns, yodelling, T Bars, Gondel lifts and the buzzing of the rescue helicopter. Everyone improved their skiing the proof of which is plainly visible on the video film taken mainly by Peter whilst skiing backwards. Next year Ray Sheriff has promised to reverse this situation by filming Peter in the same manner! The Staveley awards presented each evening for the most ridiculous performance, statement or situation on or off the slopes reached its normal heights of humour. No one is safe, even Betty and Marian who gallivanted around the area helping with the general administration on or off the mountain were liable to claim the feared award, a double Malibu. No one is safe, even your guide who is doing his best to keep you alive is considered a fair target. Life is vicious in the mountains!

Although most European ski resorts suffered from a general thaw in March the slopes and skiing facilities of Sorenberg were excellent, enabling both guides and St Dunstaners to renew old confidences in record time. After only several hours of instruction Messrs. Alan Wortley, Charlie Daly and Gerry Jones were throwing

themselves off the wide red/green graded slopes with great style and enthusiasm, impressing their guides and earning great admiration from the local skiing fraternity. Meanwhile Ray Sheriff, the youngest member of the team, metaphorically speaking, was perfecting his snow ploughing techniques under the expert tuition of Peter Zamudio.

As the week progressed the snow conditions deteriorated making the skiing much more difficult and challenging, but encouraging all skiers to improve their techniques, enabling them to cope with the different situations. Alan Wortley, with guide Martin Blank, went off to tackle the more advanced slopes of the Redhorn mountain whilst Charlie Daly, Gerry Jones and Ray Sheriff together with their guides Mick Thorpe, Phil Beaton and Peter Zamudio continued to hit the slopes and cafe bars with great gusto.

The final part of the week culminated in the making of a video film on and off the slopes enabling the party to take home a souvenir of a fabulous holiday and hopefully encourage members new and old with families to attend next year's adventure.

Because of this year's success Gerry Jones has made a provisional booking for next January securing an excellent package with the management of the Hotel Mariental with a view to seeing more members of St Dunstons in attendance on the slopes and in the bars in 1992.

It was a great holiday, a great group of people who once a year gel into a fun-seeking band of merry revellers. Once more we have made new friends in a beautiful country. Why don't you come and join us next year. As a tribute to our guides not one of our party sustained any injury on the slopes. Finally our congratulations go to Maja and Peter who have managed to produce the first of our next generation of guides: to Maja and Peter a (boy girl Fred Liza).

Ray Sheriff writes: Normally, as *Review* readers will appreciate, the St Dunstan's annual skiing event is covered so vividly and professionally by our competent skier, Ray Hazan. Unfortunately, this year, due to personal circumstances, he was

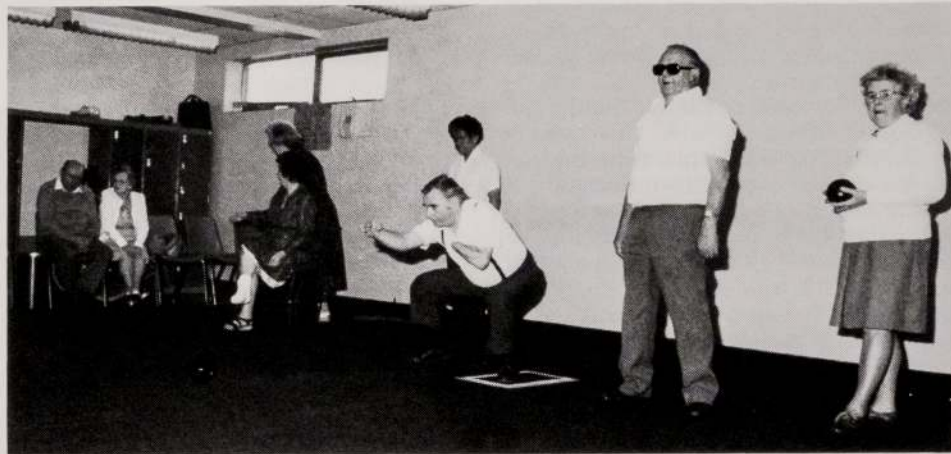
unable to join the party. It rather goes without saying that he was greatly missed by fellow St Dunstaners and equally so by our 'hosts' in Switzerland: Peter and Maja Zamudio.

All concerned look forward to seeing you back on ski's next year.

At around midday we boarded a Boeing 757 for our flight to Zurich, the flight was quite pleasant and comfortable and looked after most efficiently by BA staff. We duly landed in Switzerland around 2.40 local time.

We were warmly welcomed at exit point by our host, Peter Zamudio, a very respected and loyal friend of St Dunstan's skiers for the past decade. After friendly salutations we were directed to our transport which duly conveyed us to the skiing resort of Sorenberg, a journey of around two hours. We were accommodated at the Mariental Hotel situated in the picturesque village of Sorenberg surrounded by snow capped slopes and peaks. Here again we were welcomed by the other half of the Zamudio family, Peter's wife, Maja. Here we also met up with those gallant military mentors from the 5th Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, who so willingly give their time for our pleasure and safety whilst on the slopes. Capt. Mick Thorpe has a full time job holding Charlie Daly back, Sgt. Martin Blank normally skis with Ray Hazan but on this occasion kept his eye on Alan Wortley. Bdr. Phil Beaton has a full time job keeping Gerry Jones on the straight and narrow. Finally, in my case, as a very old new boy, I was fortunate enough to have Peter as my guide and tutor for my second year.

Though I say it myself I think I made some progress. In fact, all concerned enjoyed their week's skiing. The hotel accommodation was quite ideal, food and service excellent. Our hosts laying on a variety of entertainments to occupy each evening. Our profound thanks to Peter and Maja for keeping us occupied and entertained for our most memorable week as their guests in Sorenberg. Thanks to Ray and Roberta for their part in the arrangements of this event and thanks to St Dunstan's for making this exciting venture possible.



Bob Osborne bowling in his final with Percy Stubbs.

BOWLS MARCH HANDICAP

Story and Pictures: David Castleton

Alan Mitchell used a specially designed wheelchair for use on the bowling green in his match with Jesse Mills. They produced some accurate bowling.



Thirty St Dunstan's bowlers took part in this year's March Handicap at Ian Fraser House. The two week programme was organised by Joan Osborne and Rita Pryor under the supervision of the committee. It is a great tribute to them and their sighted helpers that the programme went through so well.

The highlight of the competitions this year was the clash of the two scratch men in the Totally Blind Singles Final: Bob Osborne and Percy Stubbs. In a thrilling match fortunes swayed from side to side over ten ends. Bob got away to a flying start with three shots on the first end but then Percy found his most devastating form to build up a lead of 10-3 at the halfway mark.

Bob hung on by his finger-tips and began to chip away at that lead one shot at a time. Winning the ends by this narrow margin gave him the opportunity to send the jack down to a slightly shorter length, a tactical ploy to gain him some advantage.

At 10-6 it seemed his tactics had failed. It was the eighth end and Percy had woods 4" and 13" from the jack while Bob's first three had all been long and lay beyond the jack. Then came the shot that turned the match, his fourth wood took the jack out and gave him four shots — 10-10!

With two more in the ninth end, Bob was back ahead for the first time since the opening end — 12-10. Still Percy came back. His last wood on the tenth end was shot but it was not enough and Bob won an exciting and sporting final 12-11. These two bowlers have played each other many times but both agreed this was the best yet as they subsided exhausted after a match that must have tried their nerves to the limit. Who said bowls was an old man's game?

PERCY STUBBS writes:

Every competitor seemed to enjoy taking part and, whether winning or losing, seemed to have enjoyed every game he played. Throughout the fortnight the programme ran very smoothly thanks to the hard work of Joan Osborne and Rita Pryor, who spent many hours arranging each day's matches. We all thank you both for your efforts in organising the competition. We should also like to thank the many wives who helped both on the green and selling raffle tickets. We could not have had our tournament without you.

On Friday March 15th we had our annual dinner in the Winter Garden with several guests of honour and we were pleased that our President, Major Arthur Neve, was able to attend as he said he now has less time to spare in his retirement than when in full-time work! The meal was excellent and we thank the catering staff for their hard work in preparing it. Later that evening we attended a social gathering in the Annexe for dancing and drinking.

The tournament ended with the last game being played at 6.15 on Friday March 23rd and the following day the Brighton Bowls Club entertained a team of sighted bowlers from Southampton. This gave a splendid finish to our tournament with a dance and buffet in the Annexe when the President of our visiting team presented the trophies and prizes to those who were successful in the March Handicap.

Finally, may we thank all the staff at Ian Fraser House for all their help during our stay.



A handshake between Percy Stubbs and Bob Osborne at the end of a sporting final.

P.S. Singles

Winner:	Alan Mitchell
2nd	Josh Callum
3rd	Jesse Mills

T.B. Singles

Winner:	Bob Osborne
Runner-up	Percy Stubbs
3rd	Tom Renshaw
4th	Jackie Pryor

Pairs

Winners:	Josh Callum Tom Renshaw
Runners-up	Bill Allen Reg Palmer

Consolation Triples

Winners:	John Hopkins Ernie Hannant Arthur Whittington
Runners-up	Peter Surrige Eric Church John Perfect

Fun Fours

Winners	Jesse Mills Ernie Hannant Arthur Whittington Renee Bushell
Runners-up	John Hopkins Joe Harris Mary Whitley Edna Maple

Winner of the Rose Bowl: John Hopkins.

Elizabeth Dacre's Birthday Party

by David Castleton



A special serenade for Elizabeth Dacre at her party.

'The Queen Mother hopes that you will have a very happy day.'

It was a cross-section or an opinion poll sample of Elizabeth Dacre's family and friends who gathered in the Winter Garden at Ian Fraser House on March 6th. It had to be — there would not be room for them all. It was a happy occasion as is appropriate for a celebration of the birthday of a lady who has spent most of her 90 years in the service of others.

Our caterers, PBK, put on a superb meal enjoyed by a company which included St Dunstaners and their wives, Members of St Dunstan's Council, representatives of staff of Headquarters, Ian Fraser House, Pearson House, and voluntary helpers.

Presiding was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, whose speech summed up not only a remarkable life but also the affection Elizabeth Dacre has inspired in those around her. He began by reading a letter:

'Dear Mrs. Dacre, Elizabeth The Queen Mother has heard that you celebrate your ninetieth birthday on March 6th and has bidden me write to offer you Her Majesty's congratulations on this special occasion. The Queen Mother hopes that you will have a very happy day and Her Majesty sends you her warm good wishes for the future.'

Sir Henry continued: 'The Bible tells us that the average human existence is three score years and ten. Though extremely

human, our guest of honour is in no way average. She has made an opening, winning bid for four score years and ten. Now I understand that she has made arrangements to be index-linked!

'Those of us assembled here to do her honour tonight are a mix of close friends, St Dunstaners and blood relations. In fact, as Elizabeth herself has often told me, she regards the St Dunstaners as almost as bloody as her relations! I'm sorry I don't think I got that quite right! I meant to say almost as close in their ties. Anyway they are all thought of as part of Elizabeth's family.

Saying that a comprehensive catalogue of her exploits would make his guests late for breakfast, Sir Henry singled out a tiny cross-section of her activities: 'Elizabeth became a Girl Guide well before the start of the First World War. She still is one. She served continuously as an Officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force throughout the whole of the Second World War and had the rare distinction of being one of only two women to be awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration. For twenty-three years she was a Justice of the Peace on the Brighton Bench and I am reliably informed that local crime has never been quite the same since!

'She presented her beloved Royal Air Force with the Dacre Trophy, three bronze archers firing arrows depicting first flight.

This much-coveted award is presented annually to the best Royal Air Force Squadron in the whole of the United Kingdom.

'Her work for St Dunstan's is too well-known and certainly to us here for repetition: the blind/handless, the prisoners of war, the archers, everyone.

'That is but a brief and inadequate outline. The person I know better as Elizabeth Dacre is the virago who surmounts petty bureaucracy and impassable obstacles with consummate ease; who orders the Archbishop of Canterbury to have tea ready at a time to suit her St Dunstaners' programme; who instructs the Lord Mayor of London to have the Mansion House open with guides standing by and drinks before departure; who persuades the Duke of Richmond and Gordon to hold a dinner party at Goodwood and conduct a tour of the whole house afterwards and who, in short, is ruthless in her pursuit of good things for St Dunstaners. To my knowledge there is only one target where her unrelenting persuasion has so far failed to score a bull, though she can record a number of inners, Buckingham Palace. Perhaps in another ten years or so she will con the Monarch into laying on some very intimate events.'

'Ruthless in her pursuit of good things for St Dunstaners'

Sir Henry said that, over the years, he had come to regard the guest of honour rather as he used to regard a battleship: 'That is to say, with great affection tempered by the knowledge that when you put the wheel over for an alteration of course it takes a little time before any noticeable change occurs and you have to ring down 'stop' about three-quarters of a mile before you require all way to have been taken off.

'In honesty I have to say that there is just one area which causes me an annual problem: the Prisoners-of-War Reunion. It is Elizabeth's practice to invite a minimum of six V.V.I.P.s as guest, in the singular, of honour in case one or other should drop



Jocelyn — later known as Ian — and Betty Fraser, Johannesburg, 1907.

Wing Officer Dacre, London, 1940.





The top table in the Winter Garden, Ian Fraser House.

'You St Dunstaners have become my family'

out. Such is the awe of the recipients of this command that none of them ever dares to decline. I am then asked to sort out the unsortable protocol!

'But if that is the only charge we can level against her, it hardly merits even a caution. Betty, my dear, I could go on for ever but you will want to get your own back. We love you dearly, we admire you greatly and we thank you warmly for all you have done, still do and will, I have no doubt, go on doing.

'I give you the toast of the evening: to Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre — Happy Birthday.'

In her reply Mrs. Dacre said: 'What a time you've given me! Thank you so much for these wonderful gifts.

'You know, I lost my husband, I lost my son, and then you people came back into my life and you St Dunstaners — and I'm looking at you, Joan there and you, Bob

there and David Bell over there and the other St Dunstaners here. You have become my family. As long as I am well and able and not too silly I intend to do what I can for you and in return I get your affection. You know:

'We do not make our friends we find them only where they have waited for us for many years.

One day we wander forth a little lonely and, lo, a comrade at our side appears.

'Tis not discovery, 'tis recognition, a glance, a touch and then we grasp the hand.

No explanation needed, no conditions; that we are friends, we understand.

'The blind/handless are my favourites. I shouldn't have favourites in St Dunstan's but I think they put up with so much and,

David, it's lovely to see you here. I would have liked all of you here but we couldn't manage it. So, David, my love to you and all of you and tell them how much I respect you and your lovely wives.'

Mrs. Dacre concluded, 'All I can say is thank you so much, I can't thank you adequately. God Bless you all.'

'I am deeply, deeply touched'

From: Mrs. Elisabeth Dacre, Rottingdean

I just don't know how to express my gratitude to my friends in St Dunstan's and in the village for the gifts, good wishes and flowers. Although I asked them not to I am deeply, deeply touched. Just over £800 has come in cheques from local friends and my family and it will be divided between the RAF Benevolent Fund, Scouts and St. Margaret's College.



Elisabeth Dacre with the solid-silver framed picture presented by the Council of St Dunstan's.

A DEVON COFFEE MORNING

by Tom Hart

'Coffee and Biscuits — 40p' was the greeting to all those who arrived at Richard Bingley's home in Newton Abbot on March 9th 1991. The occasion was a Bring and Buy Coffee Morning to raise funds for seats and waste bins for the Scented Garden which Newton Abbot Council hope will be complete in time for the Gardeners September visit. St Dunstan's was well represented by myself and John Walbrugh; we were in the area to 'recce' the September visit; locals Norman and Bertha Drew; and our South-Western area Welfare Visitor, Liz Pearce, and her husband, Bill. We had taken with us a donation of various handicrafts made at Ian Fraser House and Elizabeth Walbrugh and Mary Frith were immediately press-ganged as stallholders.

Richard has many friends and is a member of various local organisations, so it was not long before the house resembled a Sunday market. At 10.30 a.m. the Mayor of Newton Abbot, Councillor

Mrs. Rowena Forster, arrived resplendent in her chain of office and the Bring and Buy was officially declared open. Our party had to leave midway through the morning but a later telephone call revealed that the event raised £350. In addition, Richard aims to raise more cash with a sponsored walk in May, he still has vacancies for more sponsors and any offers or contributions may be sent to him via Headquarters.

Waiting List

May I take this opportunity to mention to the Gardeners that John and I spent two days touring this part of Devon and checking the hotel accommodation for September. Unfortunately, we may not have enough accommodation for everyone who has put their name down. As agreed at the AGM at Church Stretton last September, those who have only recently joined the club may have to go on a waiting list. John and I hope to have all this finalised before our May meeting.

GARDENING NOTES

Get all the half hardy annuals in their places by the end of the month and any other hardy annuals that you have around, to give the garden a good show during the Summer and early Autumn.

See that all the soil in the beds is forked over lightly and hoed regularly to get rid of the weeds and leave the soil open for any new plantings and let the rain get in to the roots of the new plants. Most of the vegetables could be put in their places so that they can grow rapidly. Where you have some dry spots, get the hose out as long as they are not banned, and spray where you have those young plants in place. Sprinkle some fertiliser round the plants both in the flower and vegetable gardens.

Vegetables

Keep the soil free of weeds between the rows of growing plants by using the hoe regularly and in some places fork over the soil lightly. Sprinkle some fertiliser round all the plants and it might be a good thing to add some extra lime where you have the members of the cabbage family to stop club root forming.

Get out all the seedlings in their places and firm them in their positions where you plant them. Some late potatoes can be planted in some empty beds since these are always useful for use in the kitchen. All varieties of vegetables can still be sown so that you have plenty of plants in hand if your early ones were not too good. Where you are fond of peas some late ones can now be sown for picking in August. Get runner beans sown in their beds if you haven't any growing plants to set in place.

Every variety of salad items can be sown now and regularly throughout the year such as lettuce, beetroot, radish, etc., plus a few spring onions.

Plant outdoor tomatoes in warm spots and give plenty of manure or compost at root level. Use the dwarf varieties which

won't need any staking, plus the normal items normally grown in greenhouses. These, of course, will need stakes put in at the time of planting. Water in well after you have put them in.

There will be plenty of slugs and snails about now, so spread some of the pellets which are easily obtainable from the garden shops. In addition, the greenfly will be about, so spray as soon as they are noted.

Lawns

Keep the mower going regularly and set the blades down a little. Tidy up all the edges with shears, especially the long-handled type. Give the grass a feed and mix in some weedkiller this month when there has been some rain to moisten the soil. Put all the grass cuttings into the compost heap which will break down well for future use in the garden.

Fruit

All fruit trees on dry ground will benefit from a mulch of manure or compost to keep the soil wet after any rain that comes along. Any fruit that has formed on new trees should be thinned out to about half a dozen. Peaches and nectarines should be disbudded.

Raspberry suckers ought to be thinned out and all strawberry runners which are not wanted for new plants should be cut away.

Pests will be arriving on the trees so get the spray out and spray regularly. It might be a good thing to give a dose of fertiliser to all the fruit trees and bushes in order to get good quality fruit.

Flowers

The beds where you are to plant out the Summer bedding plants should be ready now and all the plants in their places by the end of the month since frosts should be a thing of the past until the late Autumn.

See that all the plants are set out well so that roots are pushed in well with your fingers when planting. Water them all in well and this will settle the roots in. It might be a good thing to sprinkle a little fertiliser after you have set them all in place.

Remember to put in the taller items such as the antirrhinums, petunias, African marigolds and calendulas plus the geraniums at the back and keep the others such as begonia semperflores (that is the types with no tubers), busy lizzies, lobelia, nemesia, phlox drummondii and the verbena for the front. All these plants will give you a good show of colour right through the Summer.

Other items such as dahlias, tuberous begonias and gladioli as spot plants and these latter will need stakes to keep them straight. In addition, see to your sweet peas which you may be growing on frames and tie in regularly plus cut away any dead flowers.

Many of the perennials will be growing pretty fast now and many may need staking such as delphinium, pyrethrum and chrysanthemums; even the tall dahlias get to quite a big height, so put in canes.

A number of the Spring flowering bulbs can be lifted now and kept in boxes of sand till the Autumn when you put them out again. Daffodils and narcissus can be left in their present positions but tie in the leaves for a few weeks then they can be cut down.

As I have already said in the vegetables section, slugs and snails will be a nuisance so sprinkle some pellets around. Greenfly and other flying pests will be about so get your sprayer out at the first opportunity.

Greenhouse

Where you are not going to use this for the rest of the year it can be cleaned up ready for use later on.

Certain plants that you have growing such as begonias, gloxinias, achimenes, plus some cuttings which are growing nicely for a later show such as geraniums and chrysanthemums should be coming along well and buds may be showing. Pinch out some of these to get large blooms later on.

REFLECTIONS

By Reverend C. Le M. Scott

To compile a list of old friends, for a family celebration, brings memories of people. Women, men and youngsters come up in the imagination, almost as a queue, a procession of names thought about, as they pass, with gratitude. In our allotted 'three score years and ten' there must have been, for each one of us, so many whom we have been happy to know. Perhaps as far as friendship — but more often rather short of that — avoiding the very real follies and meannesses which might turn the memory sour — one could recall the kindnesses of their lives.

For myself, amid the gratitude, comes a regret that I have done so little to feed true friendship. So many have gone — in war and sickness and in mere forgetfulness. And, of course, there is the balancing judgement that those of whom I thought much may not have had much time for me! It is often true, as sometimes said, 'I love my friend more than my friend loves me'.

Yet there has been great delight — shipmates, fellow students, parish friends and neighbours and especially family (they survive neglect best) and the marvel of a respected marriage partner.

The long sea-swell of forgetfulness threatens to submerge these portions of imperfect love. But they, I would urge, are not in fact to be seen as loss. There are points of steep pleasure and clear identity, which have been very dear. And, in truth, they are part of that unlimited, unquenchable friendship which I know is offered to us at the end of time.

Gardening Notes — continued

Tomatoes will be coming along well with some fruit just about ready for picking on the plants that were started early. Pick out any side shoots as they arrive and spray the whole plant with water to make the fruit settle better. Tie in the plants to canes which are up to the top of the glass and stop any further growing at the top by pinching out the growing point. Water regularly and feed every ten days or so with one of the special feeds for tomatoes.

STAFF MEMBER JOINS ST DUNSTAN'S

by Andrew O'Hagan

Mr. Louis Cheong, of Camberley in Surrey, has recently been made a member of St Dunstan's. Louis, who is 60 years old, is a former Warrant Officer Class 2 in the RAOC. Yet to find the roots of Louis's service we need to look back quite a bit further than that.

Louis was born in Penang in 1930. After moving to Singapore, where his family were to remain throughout World War II, he became one of a gang of children who regularly smuggled food and drugs parcels in to the British Prisoners of War in Changi, during the Japanese occupation. Louis admits that he was only 12 years old when he started this initial period of service.

It was not, however, until the fairly late age of 30 that Louis actually joined the British Army, in 1960. Although he initially enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps, he transferred to the RAOC in 1965. He enjoyed an excellent career, spending much of his time on staff work at Headquarters and for the Army Legal Services.

Louis possesses medals for Brunei, Borneo and the Malay Peninsula. He has served in countries as far apart as Germany and Malaysia and, in 1978, he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. His former employing officer, of Army Legal Aid, in Germany, described him as a 'man of total integrity' and 'An extremely reliable and trustworthy chief clerk of exemplary conduct and character.'

This is an assessment which has the full agreement of Louis's present Manager, Mr. Trevor Lloyd, under whom Louis works at the Estate Department in St Dunstan's headquarters. He has worked for St Dunstan's since 1983 and has shown invaluable commitment and effort on behalf of his fellow ex-servicemen and women.

Major General D. F. C. Botting, CBE, Director-General of Ordnance Services, presented Louis with his St Dunstan's membership badge and a braille watch of the type that is given to every new St



Louis Cheong is welcomed by General Botting.

Dunstaner, on Thursday March 21st. During the ceremony, held at St Dunstan's H.Q., Major General Botting welcomed Louis to St Dunstan's and said that 'Louis, more than most, will know what the benefits of St Dunstan's mean.'

Louis, whose eyesight has been deteriorating since the days of his army service, was thanked by St Dunstan's Secretary William Weisblatt for his continuing efforts on behalf of St Dunstaners. At the same time he also expressed his confidence in Louis's future welfare now that he himself had become 'one of the club'. That club, which he had served so well, would also now serve him.

After the presentation Louis enjoyed a reception of drinks, followed by lunch, in the company of General Botting, Mr. Weisblatt and several senior staff members of St Dunstan's. He said, 'I am elated. I now feel very secure about my future days and that of my wife and family. I know that I am in very good company here at St Dunstan's.'

And how, I asked, did he feel to be with a General from his old Corps?

'Great', he said, 'although I never served under General Botting it was a real honour to have him present me with my St Dunstan's membership.'

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

All Quiet on the Western Front

Author: Erich Maria Remarque

Reader: Robert Gladwell

Duration: 7.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5771

Excepting those far-off days when warring barons and kings went into battle at the head of their troops, those who make wars have never been the ones to fight them. The politicians, in other words, have kept themselves away from the soldiers. Furthermore, the lowly 'cannon-fodder'... those who risk their lives at the sharp end, are similarly remote from the generals and their staffs.

They are, however, almost indistinguishable from their counterparts on the opposite side, and never has this been so clearly demonstrated as in this truly remarkable book which everyone should read. Without the references to German towns and the prior knowledge that it was written by one of the very few German soldiers to serve his country through the First World War, it would be easy to imagine the book to be the work of an infantryman of any nationality. The things he writes of are those matters which, in the First World War especially, occupied the thoughts of fighting men in every army... the food, or want of it, the lack of warmth and bodily comfort, the stench, the filth, and the ubiquitous vermin. He transmits a feeling of resignation which is a close relative to utter hopelessness.

Beginning as a schoolboy, encouraged to enlist by others who would not be going, Erich Remarque traces his own development from a green recruit to a hardened veteran, tough and wise in the ways of trench warfare, but brutalised by

his terrible experiences. For Remarque's war was a brutal affair where death was commonplace but never glorious. Life, in his story, came to an end at the point of a bayonette, at the edge of a sharpened spade, or with a jagged fragment of the exploding shell which disinterred both the corpses of his comrades and the bloated rats which fed on them.

And death came also in the first aid posts and the hospitals. Erich Remarque brings every aspect of war into the open, the amputations, the gangrene, the poor soldier's wife who lost her husband, and the shell-shocked men who lost their minds. Nothing in the whole madness of war escapes his scrutiny, which is probably why some people find it too distressing to read. I hope you are not one of them, for this surely is the greatest war story of all time.

H. G. Wells

Author: Anthony West

Reader: Ray Jones

Duration: 19.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5748

Herbert George Wells, physically puny but a giant of English literature and the author of more novels, short stories and pamphlets than you could poke a stick at, was also, according to his biography, as sexually promiscuous as any tom-cat in a dark alley. In many of his writings Wells advocated the concept of 'free love' for both the sexes, and in his private life quite heedless of what even his wife might think, he practised it. Trusting Mr. Wells with one's wife or daughter, it seems, was about as sensible as leaving a steak-pie in the care of a hungry bull dog.

Balancing the Books — *continued*

Nevertheless, born as he was, with a brilliant imagination and an insatiable curiosity for all things scientific, his career, both public and private, could hardly have been other than it was — interesting and controversial.

However, the fact that this particular history of the famous man is written by his illegitimate son, does not guarantee its complete success. There is, I fear, a little too much of Anthony West himself, for my liking. It's not that I blame him for bringing himself to the fore as he does, but it is not very important I think: Wells' involvement with West's mother, Rebecca, was not, for all that it encompassed many years, the object of primary focus in Herbert George's life.

But that small criticism aside, it has to be said that this is a well written book and one which gave me considerable pleasure to listen to. And more than that, I heard things in it of which I was quite ignorant before; the way servant-girls were named, for example, and the fact that H.G.'s father, Joseph Wells, was the first professional cricketer to take four wickets with four balls, for Kent. What better way to increase one's knowledge than when enjoying something?

So why not give it a go yourself? I doubt if you'll find much to approve in Wells the man, but I can promise he's worth learning about.

Cold Comfort Farm

Author: Stella Gibbons

Reader: Elizabeth Proud

Duration: 9.25 hours

Catalogue number: 1714

As so-called 'Classic' pieces of English prose go, surely few of them deserve their high reputation any less than this . . . 'thing' does. I can only call it a 'thing', I'm afraid, because to me it fails so miserably and utterly to measure up to the successful satirical novel which some reviewers have thought it to be.

Now being as fair-minded a man as ever drew breath, I'll be the first to admit that the most widely-read person in the world

is not yours truly, but equally, if the 'popular rural novels' which *Cold Comfort Farm* purports to be poking fun at were really so 'popular' as some would make out, I'm sure I'd have heard of at least one of them. But I haven't. And I'll tell you something else: I've yet to meet anyone who says he or she has. In any case, aren't satires supposed to contain an element of humour? Of course they are, but what Miss Gibbons has written, poor woman, is about as funny as an empty piggy-bank; it's bankrupt in fact, and contains nothing mirth-provoking whatsoever.

And yet the book begins with such a promising theme. After the deaths of her parents, London-bred Flora Poste, nineteen years of age but possessing no means of making a living, sets off to reside with her country cousins in Sussex. What a pity Miss Gibbons didn't abandon her silly flippancies and continue in a serious style. Perhaps this could have been the one rural novel people *have* heard of. But treating it her way, the promise of the satire is soon dishonoured. One's initial high hopes decline rapidly through a series of changing emotions, from optimism to puzzlement and from frustration to annoyance, until at the end, seething with rage at never even discovering what was so 'nasty in the woodshed' one is echoing the chorus of the discerning soccer-fans watching Lincoln losing heavily to Scarborough again: 'what a load of rubbish.'

RNIB BRAILLE PUBLICATIONS

The RNIB is starting to charge again for braille publications. Although St Dunstan's meets this charge it has been discovered that the RNIB computer system does not register this fact in the mailing records and individual invoices may be sent out.

Until the problem has worked its way through the RNIB computer system any St Dunstaner receiving an invoice for braille publications should send it direct to the Supplies Department at HQ for payment.

Return to the Orient

THE 22nd SAS GOLDEN JUBILEE TRIP TO MALAYSIA AND THAILAND

by Jack Fulling

Horrendous weather conditions, the Gulf Crisis and threats of terrorism added to our pre-journey tensions. Thankfully all came to nought. Our original party of twenty-four reduced to eleven found ourselves safely in Bangkok where we were met by two former members of the regiment and where we spent two glorious days. Bangkok is noisy and bustling; the old buildings are spectacular and the people very open and friendly and seem to smile from the heart. The grand palace is awe-inspiring, being covered with precious stones and gold plate. Another must was the Temple of the Emerald Buddha which is in fact one-piece jade and sits high up on an altar of gold.

Two days later, a 21 hour train journey saw in Butterworth, Malaysia. In spite of the air-conditioned first class sleeper accommodation we longed for the comfort of BR Supersaver class! I'm sure I travelled in that same train 40 years ago! However, we were able to see the lush countryside. Interesting was the use of modern combine harvesters in the rice fields. We passed sugar cane, oil palms and rubber plantations and fields of cultivated lotus flowers. Did I say it was hot? It was, very!

An air-conditioned luxury coach met us at Butterworth and we were warmly welcomed by our couriers Zionel and Dahman who accompanied us on our tour. We crossed the 13 km bridge to Penang Island disbelieving the sheer luxury of the hotel to which we were taken.

The Park Royal Hotel, completed just before Christmas, is the last word in comfort and service and is situated on a glorious tropical sandy beach among coconut palms. (Get the picture?) We spent three days of paradise here.

We learned at this stage that the Sultan of Pahang (a friend of our leader Colonel

Richard Lea) had invited us to extend our tour by two days as guests of the State of Pahang at his Coral Beach Hotel Resort in Kuantan. Hasty fax messages were sent and regimental strings pulled in the hope that we could alter our flight arrangements. A packed schedule saw us as guests of the 2nd Division Malay Regiment H.Q. Staff where we were given a conducted tour followed by tea on the terrace of the Officers' Mess. We talked of past glories and were warmly invited to return. An evening was spent enjoying a sumptuous Chinese banquet of countless courses, accompanied by a cabaret of Malaysian dancers wearing traditional costume.

We toured the island visiting a Butterfly farm, a Batik factory and many other points of interest. Our tour continued to the State of Perah (Northern Malaysia) where we were entertained to lunch at the Ipon Club by former servicemen, planters and local businessmen. Many kind things were said of the Regiment. It was in the jungle nearby where I collected my grenade wound in 1951.

We were taken to Batu Gajah, a military cemetery, affectionately known as 'God's Little Acre', which is administered and maintained by the club members at their own expense. Several members of the regiment are buried here, as are the first two planters killed at the onset of the Emergency in 1948. I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association.

We continued to the State of Pahang and spent a night in the Cameron Highlands at the Lakeside Hotel. Flower arrangements and baskets of fruit greeted us in our bedrooms, courtesy of the Sultan. Our particular bedroom had an en suite bathroom with three baths, a circular sunken affair, a hip bath and an ordinary bath. The local Chief of Police and the District Officer visited us and offered their services, which included a police escort for our coach during our stay in Pahang. Any traffic we encountered was alerted by police siren and had to give way to our coach!

Return to the Orient — *continued*

Then it was on to Kuala Lumpur where we were to spend four nights at the Hilton Hotel. On route we stopped at Fraser's Hill where Sir Henry Gurney, the former High Commissioner, was ambushed and killed. He stepped out of his car into the ambush to protect his wife and driver and was struck by 34 bullets. Sir Henry is buried at Chevas Cemetery in Kuala Lumpur, where several members of the regiment are also buried. We visited this cemetery and once again I had the honour of laying a commemorative wreath.

Our busy schedule then took us to the war memorial and the Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur — for whom I had formerly played rugby. The Padang is now hallowed ground, the ceremony to celebrate Malaysian Independence having taken place here on August 31st 1957. We were guests of the Royal Commonwealth Club, in Kuala Lumpur, where we had a delicious evening meal of curried chicken, sweet and sour pork, chilli and many other dishes followed by the wonderful tropical fruits to which by this time we had become accustomed: mangoes, pineapples, starfruit, water melon, and papaya. All this served outside by the swimming pool. Our hosts were personal friends of our leader, Richard Lea and were former serving members of the Regiment and members of the Legislature. Speeches were made and our virtues once again extolled. We learned our flight could be changed and so it was sadly farewell to our Reliance couriers and coach driver, who were, by that time, good friends.

An early start next morning found us awaiting a coach from Pahang provided by the Sultan. It arrived complete with two drivers and a protocol officer and we were soon on our way to Kuantan, crossing Malaysia from west to east — a journey of some five hours.

On arrival at the Coral Beach Hotel we were received by a deputation of senior police officers of Pahang and a girl in local costume garlanded each one of us with fresh orchids! Once again our bedrooms had flower arrangements, baskets of fruit

and gifts of T-shirts with the hotel logo as well as matching hats. Space prevents discussion of all the courtesies we received but the highlight must have been our visit to the Royal Palace where, after signing the visitors' book and being led on a conducted tour, we were entertained to afternoon tea.

Then it was off to Singapore for our flight back to the U.K. We had started our journey at Bangkok and zig-zagged all the way down the Malay Peninsula ending up two amazing weeks in Singapore. Phew!

The Malaysian people are warm, charming and very anxious to please. They are still extremely grateful for the help we gave them during the Emergency. We were given many generous invitations to return. For all of us, this truly was the trip of a lifetime.

Letters to the Editor

From: Mrs. Phyllis O'Kelly, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank all the many friends, far too numerous to list individually, for over one hundred get well wishes. I am getting better slowly, but with patience I shall make it, and all the prayers and good wishes help. Thank you everyone.

From: Mrs. Marnie Simmans, St. Albans

Dear Sir,

I was so sad when I read in the March Review of the death of Michael Lawton.

During the six years I worked as a care assistant at Ian Fraser House, I felt privileged to have met Michael and Mary, his wife. His wonderful humour and

Letters — *continued*

courage still make me smile amid the tears I now shed at his passing.

From: Mrs. Flora Smith, Wimbledon

Dear Sir,

My family and I wish to thank all St Dunstaners, their wives and friends, also members of staff who wrote so many kind messages of sympathy to me on Norman's death. We especially appreciated the thoughtfulness of the St Dunstaners who travelled with their wives to be with us on

the day of greatest sorrow.

I know that the happiest days of Norman's life were spent at St Dunstan's. Thank you all for being a great comfort in our loss.

From: Mrs. Ada Cook, of Purton, Swindon

Dear Sir,

On behalf of my son and daughter, their families and myself, I wish to thank everybody who sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy at the time of our bereavement. Thank you so much.



Peter Leicester with Lieutenant-Colonel David Bray.

Peter Leicester Retires

Peter Leicester has retired after a total of 19 years working as a Staff Nurse at Ian Fraser House. Peter came to St Dunstan's in 1958 for a short period but returned to senior posts in the National Health Service until 1972 when he rejoined as Charge Nurse (Night Duty).

During the Second World War Peter survived the London Blitz and service with the Royal Army Service Corps

through Belgium, Holland and Germany. He trained initially at the Whittington Hospital in London for his R.G.N. and later added the qualifications of Registered Mental Nurse and Ophthalmic Diploma (Nursing).

In 1984 he left St Dunstan's again, temporarily on health grounds after a long spell on night duty, returning in 1986 when a day duty post became available.

Letters — continued

From: Mrs. M. Hamilton, Shrewsbury

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank the many friends who have written to me and for the expressions of sympathy at this sad time.

From: George and Alice Poole, Peacehaven, East Sussex

Dear Sir,
George and I would like to say that we sincerely appreciated the kindness and thoughtfulness the staff at I.F.H. gave us in so many ways when I had an accident in February 1991.

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.

Louis K. L. Cheong, of Camberley, who became a St Dunstaner on March 21st in the 'Guiding Vision' category.

Louis, now aged 60, did not join the army until 1961 and served in the Royal Army Service Corps until he retired in the rank of WO2 in 1983, and came to work as Insurance Officer in the Estate Department at St Dunstan's.

He is married and has four children, three daughters and one son. Two of his daughters are married, one living close by, one still living at home and his son, aged 18, should be taking his A Levels this year.

Mr. Leonard Radwell, of Hadleigh, Essex, who was admitted to St Dunstan's on March 14th 1991.

In World War II Leonard served for

Welcome to St D's — continued

three and a half years in the Welsh Guards from 1941-45. He landed in France on D-Day, fought through France and Germany, and was wounded in his battalion's last battle in Northern Holland early in 1945. On his discharge he returned to *The Times* where he had been an apprentice printer before the war. He was no longer able to be a printer but remained with the newspaper until his retirement in 1987 from the publishing department.

Leonard's main interests have been golf and the theatre. Sadly, he was widowed last year and his only son lives in Brazil.

Mr. Edgar Ian Hunter, of Brighton, who joined us on March 6th 1991 and went to Pearson House on March 11th. He will be remaining at our home until April 3rd.

Mr. Hunter will be 90 in July and although he enlisted in 1918, he just missed out on serving in the First World War. He then served an apprenticeship as an electrical engineer and spent his working life with the Chloride Company in the development and research of batteries.

In 1937 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Corps of Signals (TA), and in 1939 was in the first convoy of British troops to set off for France just before the declaration of war. Unfortunately his vehicle was involved in a road accident and he suffered chest and facial wounds, including the loss of one eye. He was discharged as medically unfit in 1941 and returned to the Chloride Company where, for the remainder of the war, he worked on submarine batteries and also the development of the X-craft.

In 1951 he got married and he and his wife have one son, now a Chartered Accountant. His main interest is rugby, which he played for Lancaster until 1939, and he represented Lancashire in the 1930s. On moving to Brighton he became an official of the Brighton and Hove Rugby Football Club and he enjoys listening to BBC commentaries on this sport.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

We played the last match in our section of the West Sussex Inter League on Sunday March 3rd against East Grinstead.

We ran up a big lead of 56 match points in the first half but the second half was more evenly contested giving us a further advantage of five points, making 61 in all. As a result we won by fifteen victory points to one.

We are hopeful that we have done enough to qualify for a place in the semi-final.

Our team was: Bill Phillips, Vi Delaney, Wally Lethbridge, Ron Freer, Bob Evans, Alf Dodgson, Bill Allen and Reg Goding.

PAIRS MATCH PLAYED ON MARCH 10th 1991 AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

1st	Vi Delaney & D. White	61.9
2nd	Mrs. Hannant & Mrs. White	61.5
3rd	G. Hudson & Mrs. McCauley	60.7
4th	W. Phillips & J. Goodlad	58.3
5th	R. Goding & Mrs. McPhearson	55.6
6th	R. Evans & Mrs. Barker	54.8
Equal	W. Lethbridge & R. Goodlad	54.4
7th	W. Allen & Mrs. A. Clements	54.4
	R. Fullard & F. Andrews	54.4
10th	A. Dodgson & S. Holborrow	46.2
11th	Mrs. Barnes & Miss Stenning	42.5
12th	J. Huk & Mrs. Combridge	33.7
13th	Lynne Evans & Mrs. R. Bushell	31.3
14th	R. Palmer & Mrs. McMillan	30.2

THE EASTER BRIDGE DRIVE HELD ON SUNDAY MARCH 24th 1991

Fourteen St Dunstaners and 16 markers took part giving seven and a half tables. We had a very enjoyable afternoon and the winners of prizes are as follows:

1st	Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Holborough	2390
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2nd	Mrs. Barnes & Mr. McMillan	1500
3rd	Ron Freer & Mrs. White	1370
4th	Mr. McCliffe & Mrs. Douse	1260

Little Flam Prize

Jerry & Mrs. Lynch

Lowest Score Prize

Bill Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad 2230

AN INDIVIDUALS MATCH WAS PLAYED AT IAN FRASER HOUSE ON SATURDAY MARCH 16th

Results

1st	Reg Goding	61.4
2nd	Jo Huk	59.1
3rd	Mrs. L. White	58.3
Equal	Bob Evans	54.5
4th	Reg Palmer	54.5
6th	Bill Allen	51.5
7th	Vi Delaney	50.8
8th	Mrs. A. Clements	50.0
9th	Wally Lethbridge	49.2
10th	Bill Phillips	47.7
Equal	Mrs. P. Lynch	46.2
11th	Jerry Lynch	46.2
13th	Alf Dodgson	45.5
14th	Peter Surrridge	42.5
15th	Bob Fullard	41.7
16th	Mrs. G. Hannant	40.9

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

We offer our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Cheryl Christine Ellis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Ellis, who passed her nursing final examinations after more than three years of study and is now a qualified RGN. Her mother and father, who are thoroughly delighted, bought her a large silver belt buckle to go with her new uniform.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Andrew and Nicola Bull, who are pleased to announce the birth of their third child — a little boy, Rhys William, who was born on March 17th, a brother for Benjamin and Charlotte.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Josephine Hamilton, of Anglesey, who is the widow of our late St Dunstaner *Frank Hamilton* and we offer our congratulations upon the birth of her 16th grandchild. A baby daughter (4th child) was born on the 1st March to her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Denise.

Mrs. Hamilton has 12 grandsons and now 4 grand-daughters.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Margaret Joan Burnham, who is pleased to announce the birth of her first great-grandchild — Carl Stuart — born to her grandson, Stephen, and his wife, Melanie, on February 20th last.

Mrs. Burnham is the widow of our late St Dunstaner, *A.J. Burnham*.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Joan and Chris Brinklow, daughter and son-in-law of our St Dunstaner *Mr. Alan Budd*, of Gosport, who were married on December 14th 1990.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Slade, of Bognor Regis, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on March 18th 1991.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Seth and Alberta Bennett, of Wyke, near Bradford, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday, March 8th 1991.

Bertie and Doris Partington, of Over Hulton, Bolton, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on March 29th 1991.

Frank and Charlotte Howe, of Westerhope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on Friday, April 5th 1991.

DEATHS

We offer our condolences to:

The family and friends of Mrs. Joan Stent, of Gosport, who died on March 1st 1991. She was the devoted companion of the late *Alan Noakes* for many years.

Bob Osborne, of Saltdean, whose mother, Mary Bridget, died on February 12th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Annie Bocking, of Barnoldswick, who passed away in hospital on the March 8th last.

Mrs. Bocking was the widow of our late St Dunstaner *John Arthur Bocking* who died in 1985. Mrs. Bocking spent many happy holidays with her son John McWhinney and his family in Edinburgh to whom we now send our deepest sympathy.

The family and friends of Mrs. Gladys Stinson, of Redditch, who died on March 24th. She was the husband of *Dick Stinson*, who died five months previously.

Family and friends of Mrs. Mary Louise Jones, widow of the late *'Taffy' Jones*, who died on Easter Day, March 31st, aged 90.

Leslie Constable, of Adelaide, South Australia, upon the death of his mother, who passed away on February 20th at the age of 98. Leslie, of course, had his home in England until he and his family emigrated to Australia in 1967 and he tells us that a few of his fellow St Dunstaners very kindly kept in touch with his mother over the years.

The family and friends of Mrs. Marie Inman, of Boreham Wood, widow of the late *Mr. Bernard Inman*, who died on April 4th.

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.

William Charity, East Kent Regiment

Mr. William Charity died on March 30th. He was aged 97 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1973.

He enlisted in 1914 with the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs, now The Queen's) and was wounded at Lourdes in 1916. He was discharged in 1918, following the loss of his sight in the left eye. After the war, he worked as a caretaker, watchman and later as a 'Lollipop Man' until his retirement. His main interests were talking books and the radio.

He married in 1915, but this ended in divorce and his second wife, Hilda, sadly died last year, in the same month as his daughter by his first marriage. We send our very sincere sympathy to his remaining three daughters and his son, Phillip, as well as all other members of the family.

Thomas Samuel Cox, Devonshire Regiment

Mr. Cox, of Bristol, died on Saturday March 2nd. He was aged 71 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1984.

He enlisted in May 1939 and served as Lance Corporal with the Devons until his discharge in 1942. This was as a result of wounds, including a fractured skull, which he sustained in France.

After the war he worked as a warehouseman until his early retirement, on health grounds. During his leisure hours his greatest pleasure was gardening. He was also a lover of birds and spent hours listening to them in the wood near his home. Tom enjoyed cooking, which he often did with his family, and went to Ian Fraser House regularly for various handicraft courses.

He and his wife, Mary, celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 22nd 1987 with a family party, including their three adult sons and daughter Ann. We send our sincere condolences to his widow, their children, and all other members of the family.

Sidney Alfred Dodd, Worcestershire Regiment

We are sad to say this St Dunstaner passed away on the March 4th last. He was 72 years of age.

Mr. Dodd served as a Corporal in the Worcestershire Regiment from October 1939. He was taken Prisoner of War in Singapore in February 1942 and the privation he endured in captivity eventually caused his loss of sight. He became a St Dunstaner in 1979, having been able to follow employment until a year before. In retirement, and in spite of a chest complaint, Mr. Dodd enjoyed his garden and greenhouse and took instruction at Ian Fraser House in wrought iron work and picture framing and also did a toy making course at Headquarters. He became a very enthusiastic bowls player, participating in many matches as a member of the St Dunstan's team, as well as joining a local club.

Sadly, Mr. Dodd suffered a stroke last August and came into our care at Pearson House. In the months that followed his devoted family spent as much time as possible with him.

It is to his widow, Nancy, and their son and daughter, Trevor and Sandra, and all the family, that we send our sympathy.

Cyril Hemmings, Royal Army Pay Corps

We regret to have to record the death of this St Dunstaner who passed away on March 1st at the age of 79.

Mr. Hemmings served as a Private in the Royal Army Pay Corps from May to December 1940, during which time he suffered an injury which caused the loss of sight in one eye. However, he then served as a Corporal in the Home Guard and worked in the textile industry for 50 years but eventually his remaining vision failed and he became a St Dunstaner in 1989. By this time he was already in poor health with chest and heart problems but nevertheless Mr. Hemmings enjoyed some bowling and was very proud to be a member of our wheelchair contingent in our Armistice Parades during the

last two years. Unfortunately a deterioration in his health at the end of February required a major operation from which he did not recover.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, Olive.

Sidney Jones, Royal Air Force

We are sad to announce the death of Mr. Sid Jones on March 12th (two days before his 69th birthday), following a short illness. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1950.

He enlisted in 1941 and served in the RAF as a Leading Aircraftman until his discharge in 1945. This was on account of his eyesight which greatly deteriorated while in Bangalore and resulted in chronic bilateral glaucoma.

Before the war he had been an apprentice engineer and after receiving training, following his admission to St Dunstan's, he ran the Men's Supplies Department at headquarters for some time. He then moved to Manchester and opened a launderette which he ran for many years. In addition, he started a car hire business which he finally sold in 1972. His leisure activities were numerous and varied, from growing mushrooms in the cellar to Transcendental Meditation, which he took up at Keele University and where he completed a course which qualified him as a teacher. His skill as a ballroom dancer was undoubted and he gained his Gold Medal, with high commendation. His main interests, however, were archery and playing the organ and these are recorded, including photographs, in many issues of the *Review*. He also took part in toy making and joinery courses.

He married Phyllis in 1951, who was a great help and support to him, but sadly she died in 1978. Some years later, Sid moved away from Manchester to Saltdean and was a regular visitor at Ian Fraser House. We send our sincere sympathy to his two sons, Brian and Andrew, and to all other members of the family.

Frank Edward Miller, Royal Artillery

We regret to record the death of Mr. Frank Edward Miller, of Peacehaven, on March 9th. He was aged 78 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1986.

Mr. Miller enlisted in the Royal Artillery in September 1940 and served in North Africa with the Eighth Army. He was taken prisoner at

Tobruk and spent three years doing forced labour in a Polish coalmine until his release in 1945. Subsequently he spent ten years in a sanatorium for the T.B. contracted during his years as a POW. His health never recovered and his vision also was affected, ultimately leading to his admission to St Dunstan's.

In 1987 he moved from Streatham to Peacehaven and he and his wife enjoyed staying at Ian Fraser House and attending the POW reunions. At first able to walk along the seafront, Mr. Miller's health deteriorated and he was nursed devotedly by his wife at home for months before his final admission to hospital.

He and Doris had been married for 56 years and to her, their sons, and all members of the family we extend our sincere sympathy and condolences.

Reverend Father Frank Tierney, Royal Engineers

Father Frank Tierney passed away on February 28th at the age of 92.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1917 and suffered the effects of being gassed on the Somme in 1918 but, after discharge from the Army the following year, he studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1930. Father Frank's first appointment was at St. Alban's R.C. Church in Blackburn, followed by many parishes in the Salford Diocese which included eight years as Chaplain to the Whittington Hospital in Manchester. In 1949 he became Priest at the Church of the English Martyrs, in Whalley, near Blackburn, and after taking his retirement in 1969 he continued to live in Whalley Village.

Father Frank came to us in 1979, the final effects of his diminishing sight having been brought to our notice by our late St Dunstaner Frank Hamilton to whom he had been an adoptive uncle for very many years. Because of his age and increasing frailty Father Tierney had to give up his own home in 1989 when he became a resident at Nazareth House, in Blackburn, and Miss Mary Field, his devoted housekeeper for such a long time, moved there with him. Mrs. Field, herself, died at Nazareth House, on March 27th.

It was at Nazareth House on June 1st 1990 that Father Frank celebrated 60 years in the priesthood with a Mass attended by many of his friends in the clergy.