

St Dunstons Review July 1991



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Cover Picture: Stan Tutton, resting on the South Downs during the annual walk, being closely inspected by two of the pack.

From the Chairman

Until a few years ago most journeys made by St Dunstaners and their families when visiting Headquarters or our Homes in Brighton or attending Reunions were by rail with, perhaps, a taxi at each end.

It is well understood that, with the passing of years and the deterioration of public transport, travelling by rail, especially with heavy luggage, has become more and more difficult and in many cases impossible. With this in mind I have increasingly authorised the use of hired car, minibus or coach to convey people from door to door and to a large extent this transport has been provided by Mr. Colin Bentley and his drivers.

It seems certain that there will be a continuing demand for such assistance in the years that lie ahead and we are prepared to go on providing it to meet the needs of those we care for. However, it is essential to contain the inevitably high costs of such a personalised service and accordingly instructions have been given that, where appropriate, passengers should be asked to share vehicles with others travelling to or from the same locality. Occasionally this necessitates an adjustment to the time or (rarely) even the date of the journey. Furthermore, journeys may not always be by what seem to be the most direct routes but there should never be more than a slight delay.

These measures have been introduced so that we can continue to provide a very valuable facility for the large numbers of people who need it. I am sure you will agree that this makes good sense and that you will give every co-operation and support to St Dunstan's Staff who make the arrangements and to the Drivers who give the service.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



NUGGETS

By Kay Lord

Many of you will already be aware of our braille publication *Nuggets*, which is available, on request, through Headquarters.

The format of the publication is proving to be popular amongst our braille readers and we are now considering making *Nuggets* available on tape.

Nuggets is compiled with a view to offering a wide scope of interesting reading, with subjects ranging from architecture to the environment, food and wine, topics of immediate interest, such as the fire-fighting companies in the Gulf, history and scientific breakthroughs.

This little magazine has been described as a braille *Reader's Digest* which just about says it all.

If you would be interested in receiving *Nuggets* on tape, or indeed receive the braille version, please contact David Castleton at Headquarters.

RECORDING OF ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NEWSLETTER

The recording of the bi-monthly magazine onto cassette is being considered. If anyone is interested in receiving such a tape would they please contact Ray Hazan at HQ. There would have to be sufficient numbers to make this project worthwhile.

R. F. 'NOBBY' CLARK

Last month we reported the retirement of Mr. Ray Clark, who became better known to his friends among St Dunstaners and staff as 'Nobby' over the many years he served as member of the Estate Department staff. It has been

suggested that St Dunstaners he visited over those years might like to contribute to a presentation fund. Mr. Bill Weisblatt has agreed to act as treasurer and asks that donations be sent to him at Headquarters by cheque — no cash, please — made out to St Dunstan's.

TIVERTON COUNCILLOR

Randall Williams of Tiverton, in Devon, is now a Tiverton Town Councillor. Although he did not top the poll in his ward, he gained a place on the council after the local elections. We are sure that this St Dunstaner's breadth of experience will be of great value to the community at large.

TELEPHONE CALLS AT IFH

All visitors to Ian Fraser House are advised that it is more convenient for them and the staff if incoming telephone calls are received on their room extensions and not the call box.

Recently, there have been one or two calls received on the call box for guests at Ian Fraser House and the message has not been passed on correctly. This can be avoided by ensuring that incoming calls are received by the Hall Porter at Reception, who can then direct to any extension in the House.

According to Lieutenant Colonel David Bray, residents can save money by using the room extensions to make external calls as the calls made from here are charged at a lower rate than calls made from the call box. This also eliminates the need to carry the small change needed for the call box.

To help us to ensure that messages reach you promptly and correctly, please use the communications system which is now in place at Ian Fraser House.

Reunions



Harry Wheeler with Matron King and Col. David Bray and Clive Manning at the Brighton reunion.

BRIGHTON

Those attending this year's Brighton reunion congregated in a sunblest Metropole Hotel, which stood resplendent in white, on this most beautiful of Spring days. On days such as these, you find yourself in agreement with the sentiment of William Makepeace Thackeray, the English author of *Vanity Fair*, when he noted that 'Brighton is a clean Naples, that always looks brisk and gaudy, like a harlequin's jacket'. Though some of the glitter may have dropped off a bit, and the pier not stretch out into the Channel so resplendently as it once did, Brighton remains a vital location, especially for St Dunstaners, who descend on this promenade annually to consolidate old friendships, forge new ones and celebrate the spirit of St Dunstan's.

After welcome drinks and a fine meal, Mr. K.S.G. Wills, presiding, who was accompanied by Mrs. Wills, started by welcoming friends of the new variety: the Official Guests. He thanked The Worshipful The Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs. Christine Simpson, for attending, and did likewise to Mr. J. Piper, the

Mayoral Secretary, and Mrs. D. Scott who is Welfare Officer for the War Pensioners' Welfare Service.

Among the old friends he offered his high regard for Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre who had, he said, 'been to more Brighton reunions than one could imagine. We are delighted to see her here today for her contribution to St Dunstan's over the years has been unrivalled'.

In a comical vein, he expressed his relief that St Dunstaners had been 'behaving themselves' recently. As the ex-schoolmaster of a large school, he told of how those under his care would often find themselves in battle with the local community. Not so, our St Dunstaners, who occupy a special place in the affections of the local community. He paid tribute to the Welfare Visitors, who work so hard on behalf of St Dunstaners everywhere.

Mr. Wills expressed a special welcome to John Gasston who was attending his first reunion as was Colonel David Bray, the new Manager at Ian Fraser House. This year's Brighton reunion had, in attendance, 61 St Dunstaners, 31 widows, 16 escorts and 13 guests and staff.

Mr. Jerry Lynch, responding on behalf of St Dunstaners, expressed the feeling that many St Dunstaners would be lost without the organisation. This was greeted by an approving round of applause. As was his comment that 'the inclusion of widows in the activities of the organisation has been long overdue. We are very glad to see it. We would never have achieved so much without them'.

Mr. Lynch eloquently expressed his gratitude to all the staff of St Dunstan's, particularly the Estate Department, who coped so well with recent innovations in local government tax. His thanks also went to Helen Stewart, Welfare Visitor responsible and Vivien Jackson assisting, and Miss Mosley's team at Headquarters.

Once the speeches were over, the crowd moved around from table to table and many of them took to the dance floor. An enjoyable day was finished off with tea, cakes and the excitement of the raffle.

LONDON CENTRAL REUNION

As usual, the Russell Hotel was the venue for St Dunstaners gathered from the Home Counties. In all, there were 137 people present of whom 38 were St Dunstaners and 27 were widows. Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, accompanied by Lady Arrowsmith, presided. He started

with a grace borrowed from the Guild of Fishmongers, and written in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I:

God give us meat,
God guide our way.
God give us grace,
Our Lord to please.
Lord long preserve in peace and health,
Our gracious Queen Elizabeth.

He particularly welcomed Jack Aylott, Des Bissenden and John Trent attending their first reunion. Sir Edwin paid a warm tribute to both widows and wives; St Dunstaners above all, realised how invaluable they are.

'We have to remember that St Dunstan's is an on-going concern. We have recently purchased a system which will enable a typist without any knowledge of braille to produce a letter in grade 2'.

Sir Edwin went on to relate amusing anecdotes of his time as Governor of the Falklands and as a new young member of the Administrative Service in the Bechuana Protectorate and Botswana. He said the relationship between black and white in that latter country was unique and a great example to the rest of Africa.

Margaret Heffernan, Miss Davis and Thelma Tetley at the London Central Reunion.



Reunions 1991 *continued*

Norman Walton responded on behalf of the St Dunstaners. He thanked the hotel staff, St Dunstan's and Barbara Davis, who had organised the day. He was not permitted to perform a tap dance routine on the table, and so made way for the band and dancing! There were several reunions within the reunion — three Royal Marine Commandos, Bill Shea, Bill Heffernan and Desmond Bissenden merely assaulted the afternoon tea! The raffle followed and many satisfied customers made their way home after tea.

LIVERPOOL REUNION

One could not get nearer to the station than the Crest Hotel, which was the new venue for the reunion this year. A car park and very few steps made this a good location. Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, and his wife, Joyce were there to meet the 39 St Dunstaners and 31 widows as they arrived.

Colin welcomed two retired members of staff, Norman French and Douglas Holt. There were two St Dunstaners attending their first reunion, Richard Morcel and William Wilcock.

Colin went on to describe how three weeks prior to being in Liverpool, he and Joyce had been enjoying temperatures in the 90's in the dry heat of California. One week previously had been the humid 90's of Hong Kong. But the prime reason for his trip has been to attend the bi-annual conference of the blinded soldiers of St Dunstan's, Australia. Whilst there, he and Joyce had taken the opportunity to visit a game park in the hills above Adelaide to feed and touch a kangaroo. So tame were they that one took it upon itself to poke its nose into Joyce's handbag and steal her cheque book. Is that the origin of a bouncing cheque?

There are 145 Australian St Dunstaners of which 30 attended the conference. With the distances involved out there, it was as if members attending the Liverpool reunion had travelled from Helsinki or Moscow. One of the

resolutions adopted at Adelaide was to make wives and widows full members of St Dunstan's. Life is organised very differently in Australia. There is no St Dunstan's H.Q. or welfare visitors. The State has taken over organising care and welfare. Colin emphasised how lucky we were over here, and how the Australian St Dunstaners treasured their contacts with 'the old country'.

He went on to give the figures for the U.K., 656 St Dunstaners and 654 widows. A warm round of applause greeted the news that Tom Taylor had been appointed a Member of Council of St Dunstan's. He concluded in the hope that all would enjoy the afternoon.

The response was given by Charlie Hague: 'We are always grateful to the Headquarters staff who travel up here to meet us'. He gave particular thanks to Cynthia Mosley and Carol Henderson of the Welfare Department.

'I'd like to talk about the special relationship between St Dunstaners and the Staff. Most of us were in our early 20's when we lost our sight. Most people said we would be devastated by the shock and we would never be able to carry on with a normal life. We were shocked, but the expertise and experience of the Staff taught us that we were as good as the next man or woman. The stress and worry we had at the time was lifted from us, and it was replaced by a little thing called confidence. That confidence has so grown that many St Dunstaners have shown sighted people the way!'

At the same time Charlie spared a thought for the civilian blind who did not benefit from the same welfare services that St Dunstaners enjoyed. 'The country may be going through a recession, but I know that our welfare service is safe in St Dunstan's hands for many years to come'.

A lively afternoon continued. It was over tea that Charlie Hague told of his guide dog's predilection for golf balls! The story has a safe ending for his dog searches out and deposits the golf balls in Charlie's hands. The first count of 160

balls raised £40 for the Guide Dogs Association. The count is currently running near the 200 mark, which should raise another £60. All that the rest of us found after tea were just a few crumbs!

NEWCASTLE

The Newcastle Reunion this year was a contradiction in terms because it took place in the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, just across the Tyne. This did not deter a company of 68 from attending on Thursday, May 30th. They included 13 St Dunstaners, 17 widows, 17 guests and members of staff and 21 wives or escorts.

The presiding Member of Council was Sir Richard Pease, accompanied by Lady Pease. This is a home fixture for them living as they do at Stocksbridge, a village further up the River Tyne. Welcoming everyone on behalf of the Chairman and Council, Sir Richard had a special word for Mrs. Kathleen Kerr, the new Welfare

Henry Robinson talks with Sir Richard Pease at the Newcastle reunion.



Visitor in Scotland and for Miss May Anderson, whom she is succeeding. He also welcomed two official guests in Mrs. Eileen Gardner, who is a Welfare Officer in the War Pensioners' Welfare Service, and Mr. Peter Orchard, who advises the Estate Department in housing matters in the North-East.

Sir Richard said that he and Lady Pease had attended last year's Newcastle Reunion and that it was nice to see so many friendly and familiar faces. 'A year ago I told you about the arrangements that had been made for our 75th birthday celebrations, and a good many of you were present at the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and at the dinner at the London Hilton Hotel that evening. These were splendid occasions and most people enjoyed them thoroughly despite the searing heat.

'We did not, of course, realise that, within 24 hours the Iraqis would invade Kuwait and set in train a sequence of events that might have had the most terrible consequences. Fortunately, our worst fears were never realised. However, there are still British service men and women in the Gulf, and we have in training at Brighton a young Sapper who was blinded and received other serious injuries while clearing mines after hostilities ended.

Sir Richard reported on the completion of the work of refurbishment in the North Wing at Ian Fraser House, re-opened last June by Lord Henley, the Minister responsible for War Pensions, which now has 30 comfortable bedrooms, each with bathroom en suite. He also gave his audience the up-to-date figures on the population of St Dunstan's.

He concluded, 'My wife and I hope that you enjoy the rest of the afternoon and have a safe journey home. We look forward to seeing you again another year'.

Mr. Ernie Ford responded on behalf of St Dunstaners and opened his remarks by saying that when asked to give the reply he felt speechless. By the time of the Reunion he had obviously recovered. Referring to the presence of Mrs. Gardner he said that he had met a young lady from the Ministry at Ian Fraser House. 'She told me she had come down to pick up a few hints, so I said,

Reunions 1991 *continued*

"What is your job?" "Well", she said, "going round making old men very happy". So there's some consolation, don't be worried about age overtaking you. The Ministry has already set up a system!"

Saying that this charming young lady would have little need for concern for St Dunstaners, Ernie said that St Dunstan's had had such an impact on his life that, 'I am just beginning to wonder when does the age of retirement begin and end? A doctor said to me a few years ago, 'Now that you've finished work go home and pursue your favourite thing' and that was going to be sitting down and listening to music. Now I find that is severely rationed because I'm so busy doing all these things. I would like to ask you, Sir Richard, to take back to your Council our gratitude for the thought that you put into these hobbies'.

Ernie concluded with an expression of thanks to the Staff, those present and those working in every aspect of St Dunstan's activities.

At tea-time Lady Pease kindly made the draw for a handsome collection of raffle prizes and there was warm applause for Mr. and Mrs. Dalton who were winners at their first Reunion. Afterwards the company dispersed having enjoyed an excellent afternoon thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Doreen Inman, Welfare Visitor responsible.

COMPUTER COURSES

The Training Officer at Ian Fraser House is in the process of organising a two-day computer course at Northbrook College in Worthing. This first course will be on PCFILE, a database that can be used in conjunction with the Apollo Voice Synthesizer and can be used with an IBM compatible computer.

We are planning the course for September and would like to hear from any St Dunstaners who would be interested in attending either this database course or from those who have any suggestions for future computer courses that we might run in conjunction with Northbrook College.

Please contact the Training Officer, Christine Dickens, on 0273-307811 ext. 3218.

REFLECTIONS

By Reverend C. Le M. Scott

Birthdays are for children; but my young memory is of beloved but Puritan parents who said that a birthday party was likely to make the younger even more self-important than before and, therefore, best limited to the family. And, later on, to admit 'It's my birthday' brought demands to pay for drinks all round beyond the scope of due generosity.

Heartwarming

It is, however, heartwarming to receive the little flow of cards and messages from old friends which marks such a day. As the total of birthday remembrances gets beyond that 'three score years and ten' referred to in the burial service such kindnesses mean even more.

Eternal importance

Does one long for lost youth? It may not have been all that perfect, but one does regret its passing. To desire to be, however, twenty-five years younger must carry with it a willingness that some long period of one's life should be lost; a host of efforts, friendships, growth-in-experience would be swept away. Few would welcome that:

'Whate'r the passion, knowledge, fame
or pelt
Not one will change his neighbour for
himself.'

We would not exchange part of being, past life, however afflicted, for the assumed happiness of another person. So, we are forced back to understand that every moment of a life, each decision, each joy, each pain is of eternal importance. Now, there's responsibility for you. To have all these goodnesses, those badnesses, arrayed in public. This is what a person is. We are doomed; but also, we are told, we are redeemed. Thank God. Amen.



Robert Pringle is handed a cheque by the Bagors Wood Young Farmers Club

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mr. Bill Kennedy, Peterborough
Dear Sir,

Although I reside in Peterborough, I am at present on a two week training course at Ian Fraser House. During my stay in the House I participated in a raffle for two FA Cup Final tickets and was lucky enough to be the winner. I received two tickets, one for myself and one for an escort to accompany me.

It turned out to be a very successful day in respect of both the weather and the football. Setting off from Brighton in mid-morning we reached Wembley in the early afternoon after a leisurely journey with no problems. Both my escort, Trevor Fitzpatrick, and myself were privileged to a feast of wonderful football, my escort watching the game and myself listening to transistor radio with one ear while listening to the atmosphere of the crowd inside the ground with the other.

At the final whistle all hell broke loose

at one end of the ground while silence reigned at the losers' end. The journey home proved a little more hazardous as we all got out of the ground at the same time.

Many thanks go to Dr. O'Hara who donated the two tickets for a St Dunstaner and an escort to attend the match. Thanks also go to my escort, Trevor who did a good job in getting me to and from the ground undamaged, which was no mean feat considering all the obstacles encountered. Thanks also go to St Dunstan's for providing transport.

From: Bagors Wood Young Farmers Club, Staffordshire

Dear Sir,

We want to send a great BIG thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Pringle, your St Dunstan's speakers, for travelling so far to give us such an excellent talk. I'm sure it was obvious how much everyone

Romania At Heart

By Margaret Hawkins

The plight of children in orphanages in Romania has touched our hearts in recent times and many of us have asked: what can be done to help? Jim Faithfull, the Maintenance Manager at the Brighton Homes, and his daughter, Louise, have not only thought but have responded positively. By the time you read this Jim and Louise will be working at an orphanage in Galatia, which is in Eastern Romania. Jim is giving up two weeks of his annual leave to help these unfortunate children and Louise hopes to be able to stay for two months.

Jim and Louise are forming part of a long term project organised by the Romania At Heart group who have been involved in relief work of this kind since the revolution in 1989. This new project is to carry out emergency repairs to plumbing, sanitation, lighting and heating at one of these 'stately homes' which houses 160 boys, 50% of whom are handicapped in some way. They are

undertaking a programme of 'caring' which will continue until they are confident that the boys' quality of life has sufficiently improved and can be sustained unaided. The teams will work alongside the Staff at all times and help teach them to 'care' for their charges.

St Dunstaners and Staff at both Pearson House and Ian Fraser House are organising collections, raffles and taking part in sponsored activities to help raise sufficient funds to help pay for the travel and living expenses for Jim and Louise during their respective stays and to provide items for the improvement of the orphanage buildings and to benefit the children.

If you wish to help donations can be made through Margaret Hawkins, Secretary to Services Manager, Ian Fraser House, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS. Please make your cheques payable to 'Romania At Heart' and not to Margaret personally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *continued*

enjoyed it and how interested we all were.

We hope our donation will prove useful and the members would like to add their best wishes to all the courageous people who benefit from St Dunstan's work.

With lots of love and best wishes.

From: Richard Bingley, Newton Abbot

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank all Garden Club members and St Dunstan's staff who generously supported my 10 mile sponsored walk, raising £228, and providing handicraft items for sale at the Bring & Buy stalls at my several coffee mornings, raising a further £600. Happily, the landscape project for the Sensory Garden in Courtenay Park, Newton

Abbot, is reaching fruition and is all very exciting. Thank you very much indeed.

From: Mrs. Grace Renshaw, Gotham

Dear Sir,

Tom and I would like to offer our grateful thanks to the medical team, the care assistants and our many St Dunstaner friends for their help and kindness shown to me while I was ill at I.F.H.

From Mr. Cooke, Sydney, Crewe

Dear Sir,

My family and I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy at the loss of my dear husband. We would especially like to express our gratitude for the loving care given to George at Pearson House. Our thanks to everyone.



Feliks Musiol, centre, and his wife, Sylvia, holding her flowers, are surrounded by colleagues from IFH, who hold up his retirement gifts.

Farewell to Feliks Musiol

Friends among St Dunstaners and Staff crowded the Lounge at Ian Fraser House on May 31st, when Mike Hordell, Service Manager, conducted the proceedings as presentations were made to Feliks Musiol on his retirement as Transport Manager after 36 years service.

Mike produced Feliks' sickness record. 'On December 26th, 1956 Feliks Musiol injured his shoulder and remained off work for seven days. Seventeen years later he had the audacity to go sick again — a full week with tonsillitis! A total of 14 days sickness in 36 years!

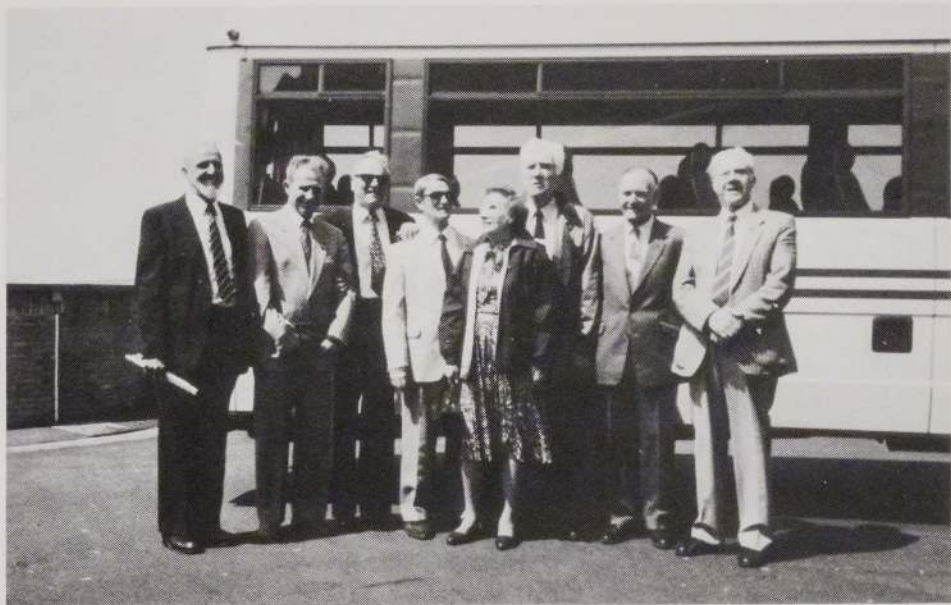
'We know that on January 10th, 1955 you commenced work here as a General Orderly.' Mike went on, 'In fact we nearly lost you because on the way to the interview you found yourself in Roedean. I am not sure whether you are in the wrong building today but we are glad that we didn't lose you because there are many here and those past who will have

benefited from your kindness, your thoughtfulness and your help over many, many years.'

Mike Hordell introduced several presentations beginning with a cake beautifully iced in the shape of a pool cheque, recognising Feliks' voluntary activity in collecting pools money from his colleagues. It was made out for £2m but, sadly, it was unsigned! There was a sugar shaker from PBK for the man whose taste for sugar was notorious, a signed football from his drivers, and his original driver's cap, soon to be specially mounted.

Feliks chose a camera as the gift bought with the proceeds of a collection and there was a generous surplus in the form of a cheque — signed this time. A surprise was the garden lounge from the members of the Ian Fraser House Staff Sports and Social Club. Finally, St Dunstaner Tom Hart presented a bouquet to Feliks' wife, Sylvia.

Concluding, Mike said, 'To you and to



ST DUNSTAN'S BRIDGE CHAMPIONS

A team of St Dunstaners have walked off with the West Sussex Inter League Bridge Cup. The team of eight beat the Horsham A Team (who are sighted) by 26 victory points in the final.

Team captain Reg Goding, of Rottingdean, admitted that all the team members were over 65 and seven of them were completely blind.

Those in our team photo (above) are, from left to right: Alf Dodgson, Wally

Feliks Musiol *continued*

your wife, we wish you a long and very happy retirement together and we would like to thank you for your loyalty, your help and your kindness over very many years.

Replying Feliks said, 'I am lost for words. With all that has been going on I really got a shock. For all that has been done for me I thank you. I don't know what I am going to do from now on! You will probably find me here on Monday! I shall find some more time with my grandson and my grand-daughter-to-be in October. I do thank everybody for everything.'

Lethbridge, Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Vi Delaney, Bill Allen, Ron Freer, and Reg Goding.

THE NEW PHONE FLASH

Phone Flash is a compact, wall-mounted unit which produces a repeating bright flash — just like a camera flash gun — when your telephone rings. It could be useful for wives and widows who may be hard of hearing.

You can use Phone Flash instead of the normal telephone ring if you want silence: perfect for sound and recording studios, or for nursing situations where noise can be a serious problem. It may also be helpful if you are hard of hearing, or working in a noisy environment, where the flash, along with the ringing tone, will make doubly sure that you know when there is a call.

Fitting Phone Flash takes seconds and requires no special tools. Just plug it into a standard telephone socket and connect it to your normal mains supply.

Phone Flash is made in the UK by Austin Taylor Communications — who can be contacted for further information on 0248 600561.



Dennis Robinson

TRIBUTE

Mr. D. F. Robinson

Dennis Robinson, who died on May 7th, served St Dunstan's for over thirty years, both in his capacity as the Country Life Visitor and Superintendent and as the regular gardening contributor on the *Review*.

He joined the staff as Assistant to the Country Life Superintendent in June 1955, himself being promoted to that post in 1960. His qualities, which were noted by all those he worked with as well as the St Dunstaners he served, were perhaps best summed up by ex-Chairman Ion Garnett-Orme:

'Any St Dunstaner who has met Robbie through the years — and his connections have been wide — has found him not only a helpful member of staff, encouraging and guiding anyone with farming or gardening interests, but also a wonderfully kind friend.'

After his retirement he continued to write the Gardening Notes for the *Review* and was always keen to offer advice and support to those St Dunstaners who, like himself, were keen gardeners. He felt that

St Dunstaners and gardens were well suited. In March 1968, in an article called 'Country Life Today', he wrote that:

'Many St Dunstaners need some kind of interesting occupation, especially after retiring from a life-long job and I find that a small garden with a conservatory or a greenhouse provides a real answer.'

Many St Dunstaners found that to be true and Robbie was as committed to cultivating this love of horticulture in St Dunstaners as he was to bringing on his own plants.

Dennis was always a lover of sports, especially cricket, which he played at one time for Hampton Hill, and rugby, which he played for Hoylake when younger. His wife, Dorothy, to whom he was married for 46 years, is an accomplished pianist and Dennis loved to hear her play. He was a fine example of robust energy in retirement, up until the time of his illness, and he continued to be active even after that. He will be sadly missed by all staff, St Dunstaners and widows.

We offer our most sincere condolences to his wife, Dorothy, and their only daughter, Leslie.



Both ten and fifteen milers on this year's South Downs Walk.

Down Your Way

by Ray Hazan

If you like the idea of fresh air, exercise, picnic lunches in the sun and a colourful description of the flora, fauna and places of interest around you, then read on! This year's annual walking holiday took place over the South Downs during the last week in April. It was perfect walking weather — clear blue skies and a cool wind. This was all part of the arrangements laid on by IFH, all of which could not have been more perfect and efficient!

As in previous years, Ray Sheriff and his escort Jim Wild had organised two daily routes covering 15 and 10 miles respectively. Ray and Jim had originally intended walking the whole of the South Downs Way in four days, but there was a shortage of escorts willing or able to tackle the 20 miles a day, not surprisingly! However, the 10 milers were swamped with offers of guides, and the seven guide dogs needed no

prompting at the prospect of all those lovely smells and rabbits to chase!

Altogether seventeen St Dunstaners took part, accompanied by wives, family, friends or members of staff. They were a cheerful, loquacious bunch who boarded the buses daily, with never a moan or complaint about feet, food or fresh air. Again, Jim had skillfully combined the start and finishing points for both groups, and thanks to Ted John, the two parties kept in contact via radio.

The walkers would leave IFH at 9 a.m., and be receiving their first description of their departure point some 45 minutes later — more of this anon. Five miles or two and a half hours later, we would encounter the cheerful welcome by our admin/transport team, Michael from IFH, Betty Sheriff and Catherine Johnston. Picturesque pubs with suitable gardens had been selected — pleasant surroundings in which to consume a

mighty packed lunch provided by PBK. It was safe to say that no one lost any weight during this week! A similar pattern of time and distance followed in the afternoon and we were generally home in time for a shower or bath before dinner.

The leader of the 10 mile group was a member of staff, Jonathan Ridge. The local library had seen much of him prior to the walk as he mugged up on local history and geography, which, added to his own already extensive knowledge of the area, made the walk entertaining and amusing. We think that Jonathan's home may weigh as much as the local hills as he seldom returned without a lump or three of fossil or metal picked up along the route! It is assumed that the fifteen milers were going too fast to notice such fine details!

Sussex is a beautiful county and the views from the Downs both South towards the sea and North were impressive. Add the sweet smell of turf



Arthur Taylor tastes some wild garlic found on a grassy bank.

The St Dunstan's Emergency First Aid Team go to work on a cut paw.



and sea together with the occasional touch of farmyard, the soft grass under one's feet contrasting sharply with the flinty, hard packed earth of the paths and the feeling of expanse uncluttered by sound or smell of the motor vehicle made a colourful palette to tickle the senses. The walkers generally only encountered habitation at the departure and lunch stops. Alfriston, Jevington, Bishopstone, Berwick, Falmer, East Chiltington and Seaford swept past on the maps. The final day was a round trip from IFH itself with a hard pavement slog back through Woodingdean — not so much fun for dogs or human feet alike!

A highlight of the week is the final dinner in the Winter Garden. Whether the cause is the sense of relief, the food or some witty speeches, is unknown. We were to be disappointed in none. Trevor Tatchell spoke on behalf of St Dunstaners to thank the many people involved in making the week run so



Sitting inside the antiquated church at Berwick.

smoothly. He compared each of the Seven Sisters, which we did not walk over this year, with several of our party. Stan Tutton's guide of many years, Peter Westbrook, responded on behalf of the escorts. He made up a short poem summing up the week:

ODE TO THE WEEK

Open fields for the dogs,
 Jumping over sawn-up logs.
 All those trees, this is bliss,
 Can't stop now, too much to miss.
 Here we are, another Monday,
 A short bus ride, we're on our way.
 Good old Trevor with his lip,
 Poor John Gilbert with his hip.
 Fifteen miles in a day,
 We can do it, so they say,
 Given time, wait and see

The rough terrain done Martin's knee.

Jolly sportsmen that we are,
 Even cricketers from afar.
 Lunch time stop for some grub,
 Our secret's out, they're all pubs!
 An enjoyable week from the start
 Sadly now it's time to depart.
 I've enjoyed the week, never fear,
 Please put my name down for next year!

During dinner, a musical background was provided by a much appreciated trio, who continued with dance music in the annexe afterwards. Yes, there were several fit and healthy enough to take to the dance floor and so add several more miles to their pedometers! One felt that some might have even danced on until next year's walk!

IN THE NEWS

In the past, St Dunstaners have occupied themselves in civilian life perhaps by being successful tradesmen, businessmen or physiotherapists, yet — in what might be seen as a dramatic sign of the times — Richard Jenkins, an ex-serviceman who trained at Ian Fraser House, has recently been cruising the catwalks as a successful *male model!*

Richard, whose day job is with American Express in Brighton, was featured in a double page fashion spread in the *Evening Argus*, modelling clothes stocked by a local fashion store. Richard has a good sense of fun and his modelling efforts have helped raise money for such charities as Guide Dogs for the Blind.

'When I first lost my sight', he said, 'I used to ask "why me?" But now I find I can take life a bit easier. I've had to develop a sense of humour.'

A 'model' citizen of a different kind is St Dunstan Don Planner, who was recently the subject of the 'Survivors' series in the *Poole Advertiser*. Don has raised thousands of pounds for charity by his sporting efforts, especially from his participation in the New York and London marathons. *The Advertiser* says:

'Add to all this Don's passion for swimming, sailing, fishing, golf, ten pin bowling and darts as well as water skiing and you have a quite remarkable man who clearly sees blindness as anything but a disability.'

Such men and women exist in St Dunstan's across the country. Many of them take the time to give talks in various parts of their community, many of which have been reported in the regional press. Members of Worsthorne Mothers' Union and St John's Men's Group were treated to a highly entertaining talk by local celebrity Bill Griffiths, MBE. *The Burnley Express* reported:

'Mr. Griffiths recounted his World War II experiences when, while serving in the RAF, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese and subsequently blown up by a

British booby trap while clearing them for the Japanese.'

Mr. Frank Bayford recently gave a talk to the Arnos Grove Townswomen's Guild, Enfield, in which he described the way that ex-servicemen and women are re-trained and rehabilitated at St Dunstan's. The *Enfield Gazette* quoted him as saying, 'Men and women who lost their sight while serving with HM Forces are taught braille and a trade to a high standard, which enables them to support themselves while living in the community.'

It is fortunate that the work of St Dunstan's and St Dunstaners can be communicated to the public at large by such experienced and capable teachers.

On the subject of teaching, there has been much heated debate in the news over the last few months on the subject of the future of the North London School of Physiotherapy. Proposals to close the school have come up against strong opposition, especially from St Dunstan's, who are concerned that future prospective blind ex-service physiotherapists will have no training centre. *Therapy Weekly* pointed out that:

'Protesters say that this will mean an end to physiotherapy as a career for blind people, as an RNIB survey shows that no mainstream college is prepared to take on blind or even severely visually impaired students for PT training.'

The RNIB argues that the number of blind applicants is now too low to make the school viable. Many of the opponents see it more as a cynical cost-cutting exercise. Mr. D. I. Marshall, himself a retired blind physiotherapist, writing in the letters column of *The Times*, feels dismay in the face of the proposed closure:

'Throughout my career it was the "sighted camp" who opposed our gaining equal status in the profession; yet, now that this parity has been achieved, it is the "blind camp" who are closing the college.'

GULF MEMORIAL SERVICE — GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

by Jamie Cuthbertson

The Gulf Memorial Service was held at Glasgow Cathedral on Saturday, May 4th, 1991. The service, to be attended by Her Majesty The Queen and other dignitaries, was to be conducted amidst tight security, with many streets surrounding the Cathedral being cordoned-off for that purpose.

I had been asked to attend the Service as St Dunstan's representative, myself being probably the closest St Dunstaner to the Cathedral. Shauna was not going to be able to come with me as she had a friend visiting from Ireland and so, instead, I enlisted the services of a good friend from my days in the Officer Training Corps at Glasgow University. As it turned out it was to be a really special day for both of us.

We had been asked to gather at the Excelsior Hotel at Glasgow Airport from where we were to be bussed into town for the Service. This was to make the security arrangements more effective as there were a large number of people coming from London and other locations, travelling by air. Driving to the Cathedral would have been difficult, with many areas restricted, not to mention the parking! We therefore duly turned up at the allotted time and were ushered into a large room which was absolutely packed out with military uniforms bedecked with gold braid and medals. I felt quite out of place with my grey pin-stripe suit!

A complimentary glass of port soon put an end to any concerns on those grounds. Shortly afterwards we were asked to board the buses. As we travelled along the motorway heading towards the centre of town we noticed that the traffic was particularly light. It then became evident that one lane of the motorway had been reserved purely for our coaches... if only you were able to do that every time you wanted to use the M1 or M25!

On arriving at the Cathedral we had our passes checked and were allowed to select

our own seats within a block reserved for people with our colour of tickets. As it happened, Andy managed to select seats which, despite being towards the rear of the Cathedral, turned out to be extremely prominent. Slowly but surely the remainder of the congregation took their seats and awaited the arrival of Her Majesty.

However, as those of you who watched the coverage of the Service on television will know, the locomotive which was pulling The Queen's train broke down and consequently The Queen arrived some 17 minutes behind time. Most of us attending the Service did not notice the delay as the organist and the band managed to play through the extra time prior to The Queen's arrival. It also gave some of the dignitaries who were waiting to meet Her Majesty time to mingle with the crowd and chat. Andy and I were not to be left out of the surprises for as we waited an authoritative voice asked us, 'Are you relatives of the Soldiers who died in the Gulf?' Having explained that I was representing St Dunstan's and was not related to any of those killed, the voice, realising that I was blind then said, 'I do apologise. How pompous of me! Do you know who I am?' I of course did not and nearly fell backwards into my chair when in response the voice said, 'I am General Sir Peter de la Billière.'

I found it touching that a man of his position and notoriety had been almost embarrassed when he realised that he had been assuming that we would know who he was, until he realised that I was blind. In my opinion, that straight forward, genuine reaction says a great deal about General Sir Peter which all the news reports will never have mentioned!

That excitement over, The Queen arrived shortly afterwards and the Service began. It was a very moving ceremony with participation from a number of

Gulf Memorial Service *continued*

different people including children from three religious backgrounds — there was a Christian child, a Jewish child and a Moslem child who all took part. I felt that it was a very well-balanced Service paying due reverence and respect for those who had died whilst at the same time thanking God for bringing the war to a swift end and avoiding any more deaths than had been sustained. It was a very moving Service altogether and did not cause any offence to anyone who I spoke to at the Cathedral, despite the initial controversy which had occurred when the Service was being organised.

After the Service was over, all the dignitaries left in order of rank. Our next surprise was that Her Majesty was to sign the register at the West Door to the Cathedral. This happened to be right next to Andy and as a result I understand that both Andy and I ended up in direct line of the television cameras. As one might imagine there were a number of phone calls later on that night to say 'We saw you and Andy on the telly earlier'. Of course having been to Buckingham Palace and mixed with royalty before (remember the 75th Anniversary?) this was all old hat for me! Actually I must admit that my palms were getting rather hot and sweaty and I was somewhat nervous when Andy first pointed out that we were on 'Candid Camera' to the nation.

COPING WITH PAIN

Many of the techniques being used in the Pain Management Programme at the Centre for Pain Relief, at Walton Hospital in Liverpool, to help people with chronic pain to reduce and cope with their pain, have for the first time been produced on a special audio-cassette by the Pain Relief Foundation.

The cassette, presented by Magnus Magnusson and Simon Weston and produced with the Pain Relief Foundation, aims to make these successful techniques available to all people with chronic pain. It also includes general advice by doctors at the

The long 'conga' of dignitaries then followed The Queen out of the Cathedral to make their onward journeys. Having said that we were still in for a last surprise. Just as we were about to leave General Sir Peter de la Billière returned with A. N. Other person whom he was calling 'Sir' and he introduced 'Sir' to both Andy and myself. By this stage I was a nervous wreck but managed to maintain my composure. 'Sir' turned out to be none other than the Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent. He mentioned that he knew our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, and he also commented on the good work which is done by St Dunstan's for all of us.

We found the Service provoked a whole mixture of emotions. On the one hand we were very solemn as we remembered those who had died fighting for their countries, we were heartened by the underlying hope for peace and finally we were excited as the day had proved to be such a completely unexpected one with regards to our meeting such impressive people. After all the dignitaries had left, Andy and I then headed home. There was no chauffeur driven car for us, no red carpet and Guard of Honour — just Shanks's Pony, British Rail local rail service and the glorious sunshine. It had been a moving and thoroughly memorable day!

Centre on coping with pain and it is already proving to be of immense benefit in helping large numbers of chronic pain sufferers to reduce their pain.

It is unfortunately the case that many of these sufferers have to wait up to two years to get help from specialist pain clinics and often never get to a pain clinic at all. By producing the cassette doctors at the Centre hope that the techniques can be practised by anyone, anywhere, suffering from chronic pain.

The cassette, 'Coping With Pain', costing £6.25 (including postage, packing and VAT) can be obtained from 'Pain Tape', PO Box 1, Wirral, L47 7DD.

POETS' CORNER

TERRITORIAL ARMY

By the late Ken Gray

Moved by a name, they did not stop to pry
Into what the end would be; enough to try
A glamorous new hobby. Camps were fun,
Hard work and play under the summer sun.
Freedom, new friends, fresh scope for everyone.
This was a leaven for the flat stale task
Of earning daily bread.

But now they ask
Secretly of themselves what it all means.
Their liberty is changed for a machine's
Confined and controlled motion. They
are as gulls
Whose wills surrender to wild autumnal
gales
Which sweep them from their haunts.

Dark ways they toil,
Befouled with dirt and blood, whence
they recoil
To recoil at comradeship, with what vain
hands!
In this stripped wintry ruin nothing
stands
Substantial; mist-bemused, themselves
are wraiths,
Their friends chance shadows which the
swift wind wreaths;
Laughter is sand-built; spider-thin home
ties,
Their faces thin with suffering, and their
eyes
Heavy with unexpressed anxieties.

ADDITION TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

G50. C90. Two pamphlets from the Office of Fair Trading about how to cope with shopping problems, faulty goods, complaints, etc., and the do's and don'ts of borrowing on credit. Please send a cassette to the PR Department for a copy.



Mr. and Mrs. O'Shea cut the cake.

LONG SERVICE AT PEARSON HOUSE

John O'Shea Retires

A picnic hamper and binoculars were just two of the many gifts and tokens of appreciation presented to John O'Shea at his Retirement Party held at Pearson House in March.

Irish Humour

John has worked as a Charge Nurse on night duty at Pearson House since 1967. In his 24 years of continuous service he has seen many changes and has admirably coped with all that St Dunstan's and St Dunstaners have thrown his way, his quiet manner and Irish sense of humour never deserting him.

John has been a good friend to St Dunstaners and his colleagues and will be greatly missed by everyone.

We wish John, his wife, Barbara, and his family a long and happy retirement.

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

The Mill On The Floss

Author: George Eliot

Reader: Gabriel Woolf

Duration: 21 hours

Catalogue number: 1118

From the brilliant pen of arguably the most gifted of all the Victorian novelists, *The Mill On The Floss* is not only a wonderful word-picture of family life in 19th century England, but is also an amazingly powerful drama in which the whole spectrum of human emotion is brought clearly into focus. George Eliot was certainly a literary genius, for with the most consummate skill and apparent ease she displays, examines and transmits to her readers every feeling her characters experience. And, following the fortunes of the Tulliver family, the reader experiences them too . . . ugly envy and selfish greed, puffed-up vanity and pride in its many misguided forms; not to mention the most important ones in this gripping tale, which are a hatred which grew from friendship turned sour, and the unshakable love of a highly passionate and courageous heroine. Oh yes, the book is quite superb; the plot and the characterisation are inspired; the dialogue and the descriptions are incredibly good; the author's choice of words is close to perfect . . . but I hated it!

I'm a sucker for the happy ending, you see; I have a horror of sad stories, and this one ends in the most tragic manner imaginable . . . I'll not say anything more than that, because if you chance to be the sort of person who enjoys shedding

a tear or two, you could be in for the treat of a lifetime.

* * *

Cyprus

Author: Christopher Hitchens

Reader: Rosiland Shanks

Duration: 7.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5733

It's really very regrettable, but without beating about the bush, I must tell you that I have seldom been more disappointed with a supposed history book than I was with this one. Mind you, I suppose it was my own fault to some extent, because I stupidly imagined that a book called *Cyprus* would tell me something of the island's past and of the peoples who ruled it . . . like the Greeks, the Romans, and the Knights of St John. I never for an instant imagined that all I would get would be blatant hero worship for the dark and sinister-looking Archbishop Makarios; coupled with a dreadful dismal dirge on the dubious theme of: 'everybody is responsible for the misfortunes of modern Cyprus, including its partition, except for the innocent Cypriots themselves'.

Now here, if I'm frank, I must admit that it could all be true for all I know. Maybe Makarios *was* whiter than white; perhaps the British government *did* act unfairly when it insisted on retaining sovereign bases on Cyprus after granting independence; and perhaps the Americans *did* cause instability in the Mediterranean with their power politics. But I do know this much: if claims of

that kind *are* true, they certainly didn't become so just because Christopher Hitchens says they are. Nothing, let's face it, becomes a fact on somebody's say so; statements like: 'The moon's made of green cheese and you can take my word for it', can be repeated a thousand times over without bringing dinner any closer for the lunar mouse. An argument, needless to say, needs much more than repeated assertions to make it valid; but this self evident fact seems to have evaded Mr. Hitchens completely. Time and again he lays charges of duplicity and double-dealing at the feet of politicians and government officials, but search as you might for reasonable grounds for his accusations, you'll find them as scarce as pineapples on a plum tree.

And it is this lack of genuine evidence in support of his claims which is the major objection I have against Christopher Hitchens's book. Perhaps if I instinctively regarded all Turks as ogres and all British Prime Ministers as criminals, I would have found it much easier to overlook the blemishes and to sympathise with the book's anti-British, anti-American sentiments. But I don't, and that's the end of it!

Being an Actor

Author: Simon Callow

Reader: Gordon Dulieu

Duration: 9.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5989

Residing, as I do, in a bit of a cultural backwater, I don't have much opportunity to 'attend the play', as I think the expression goes. But before anyone exclaims with pity, 'Oh what a terrible shame', let me quickly add that even if I lived right next door to the best theatre in the land, it's extremely doubtful if I'd bother to go inside, because frankly, the thought of listening to people strutting the stage and pretending to be somebody else appeals to me almost as much as stuffing a roasted hedgehog down my Y-fronts.

Does that brand me as a Philistine then? Well I suppose it might, in fact I'm sure it does, but it explains too why I'd never so much as heard of Simon Callow before listening to his book and the same holds true, I confess, for the supposedly famous names which he sprinkles so liberally throughout the text. Not that it's a bad book, I hasten to add; in fact I'm sure it's a splendid example of its kind and very interesting indeed . . . if you happen to share Mr. Callow's obvious conviction that acting is the vitally important profession which towers like a colossus above all others, and that actors, somehow, make a monumental contribution to the rest of society. But it's not *my* view, that's all, because praise heaped on the thespian by the adoring playgoer is woefully misplaced if you ask *me*. Just think about it for a second; actors and actresses only repeat another's words, when all is said and done, and even trained parrots are capable of that; my old granny, in fact, had an African grey which could squawk: 'In a handbag?' with the best of 'em. And it's my firm opinion also, that a bit more honesty and humility would benefit the average actor much more than all that: 'Oh you were absolutely marvellous Duckie' from the fawning sycophant. The danger with that kind of nonsense, of course, is that the poor misguided creatures are likely to believe it, in time, and just think what trouble that could cause them if they ever joined the Navy!

SINGAPORE PILGRIMAGE

To mark the 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore, The Royal British Legion is organising a pilgrimage of ex-service men and women to visit the island and city from 12th to 20th February, 1992. The price will be £1,075. It is expected that there will be a commemoration Service and that the occasion will become a world-wide reunion. Any former Far East Prisoner of War interested in participating in this event should write, please, to the Editor of the *Review* at Headquarters.



Bill Weisblatt presents a bouquet to Pat O'Brien.

PAT O'BRIEN RETIRES

The lady behind the scenes who provided some St Dunstaners with their correspondence from Headquarters in braille retired on June 6th. Pat O'Brien joined St Dunstan's in January 1957, more than 34 years ago.

She worked in the Northern Area section of the Welfare Department. Speaking at a presentation Bill Weisblatt said of her, 'She has been a tremendous support to Cynthia Mosely and to the rest of us who have worked with her all those years.' Pat often had to deputise for her boss and she built up a fund of knowledge about the work of the Welfare Department.

As a blind member of staff it became part of her duties to read and write braille in correspondence with St Dunstaners. In Lord Fraser's day she was responsible for preparing all the braille he needed both for his work as Chairman of St Dunstan's and in the House of Lords. Before the Annual General Meeting of St Dunstan's she and another blind colleague, Dora Penstone, would each spend two days at the Chairman's office preparing all the braille versions of the documents Lord Fraser needed to conduct the proceedings.

Outside St Dunstan's, Pat is a member of

the Merton Sports and Social Club. She plays bowls and darts, occasionally, but only for fun. 'My game's going down as I get older!' Pat says she is not a committee person so she holds no office in the Club. Nevertheless when anything needs to be done the members know where to turn.

The same applies in the Braille Chess Association and Pat does not play chess! Her husband, Sean, does. 'I am a chess widow,' she says, but she is recruited when arrangements are to be made for tournaments all over the country, booking hotel accommodation and making travel arrangements. The back-room side as she puts it.

Pat did hold one office from which she has just retired. She was Treasurer of the London Taxi Card Association which has over 4,000 members. This is a scheme for people with disabilities of many kinds which enables card holders to travel the first nine miles of any taxi journey for £1 only. It is funded by the London Boroughs and administered by a users' group of which Pat was a founder member. Now that the scheme has expanded and there is an office with paid staff Pat has retired.

With a home and garden as well as her other interests Pat is going to be busy in her retirement. She takes with her the good wishes of all at St Dunstan's.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

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

Mr. William Edgar Riley of Hassocks

We welcome Mr. William Edgar Riley, of Hassocks, who was admitted to St Dunstan's on May 1st. He is in his 98th year and a widower, his wife having passed away in January of this year.

Mr. Riley joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1915 and for two years served with a Battalion on the Western Front where he received gunshot wounds to his eyes, wrist and foot. As a result he was transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps where he attained the rank of Corporal and was finally discharged from the Army in 1919. Mr. Riley then became a Civil Servant until retirement at 65.

Our St Dunstaner has one daughter who lives close by and provides a great deal of support.

David Hood Stevenson Robertson of Goodwick

We welcome to St Dunstan's David Hood Stevenson Robertson of Goodwick, Dyfed, who was admitted to Benefits on May 15th last.

Mr. Robertson joined the Seaforth Highlanders (now the Queen's Own Highlanders) and served as a L/Cpl with the 8th Army. He was wounded in the Battle of El Alamein. He is a widower.

Jack Mawson of Sheffield

We welcome to St Dunstan's Jack Mawson of Sheffield who came to us on May 29th last.

Mr Mawson joined up in 1942 and after completing his basic training, joined the Durham Light Infantry. He was then posted into the 9th Battalion of that regiment where he soon won promotion to the rank of Lance

Corporal. He was wounded in Normandy but recovered and six months later rejoined his battalion in time to cross the Belgian border into Holland. During the second Battle of Nijmegen in January 1945 he was seriously wounded in the head, eyes and left ear. Mr. Mawson is married and has four married children.

St Dunstan's Music Club

At an A.G.M. held at Ian Fraser House on May 30th, Lt. Col. Bray made a brief statement hoping that music would continue in the House although actual musicians are very few.

The Colonel left the meeting which then agreed to form a new society calling itself St Dunstan's Music Club.

Ken Revis was then elected Chairman and he agreed to liaise with the appropriate staff to arrange an interesting week commencing Monday, August 26th, 1991.

Many suggestions were made about this and it was hoped that any other St Dunstaners interested in music would book in through HQ for the week.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

The annual three-way competition between Brighton, London and Provinces, was played at Ian Fraser House on April 27th/28th and resulted in a close contest between Brighton and London for the Spring Bridge Club Trophy. Brighton won with 12 victory points to London 11 and Provinces 7. The teams were:

Brighton

W. Phillips (Capt.)	Bob Evans
W. Lethbridge	Ron Freer
Pat Lynch	Reg Goding
Gerry Lynch	Mrs. V. McPherson

London

A. Dodgson (Capt.)	Bertha King
G. Hudson	Mrs. Meleson

Bill Allen	John Whitcombe
Billy Miller	Dr. Jane Goodlad

Provinces

Vi Delaney (Capt.)	Ralph Pacitti
Bert Ward	Reg Palmer
Peter McCormack	Peter Surridge
Mrs. K. Pacitti	Mrs. S. Holborough

On the Sunday afternoon a General Bridge Drive was held comprising St Dunstaners and markers to the number of 36, making 9 tables.

The winners of the drive were:

Mrs. V. Delaney & Mr. D. White	1450
Reg Palmer & Mrs. A. Clements	1220
Bob Evans & Dr. Jane Goodlad	970

Prize for little slam:

Reg Goding & Mrs. Vi McPherson

Low score prize:

Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Holborough 610

Mrs. Dacre presented the prizes, and Bill Phillips thanked her for doing so and also for arranging the tea. He also thanked the markers for their work at the Congress, and also for all they do throughout the year.

Maurice Douse was presented with a handsome writing-case for his work at the bridge matches for which he suitably thanked Bill Phillips, also adding his personal thanks to all the markers for the help they give him.

Individual match played at Ian Fraser House on Saturday, May 11th, 1991

Results	Name	Score
1st	R. Freer	64.8
2nd	G. Hudson	56.8
3rd	W. Allen	54.5
4th	J. Huk	53.4
5th	P. Lynch	52.3
Equal	G. Lynch	48.9
6th	W. Phillips	48.9
8th	R. Goding	46.6
9th	W. Lethbridge	45.5
10th	A. Dodgson	44.3
11th	R. Evans	43.2
12th	R. Palmer	40.9

ST. DUNSTAN'S WIN BRIDGE LEAGUE FINAL

On Sunday, May 12th we met Horsham A at their very pleasant club house in the final of the West Sussex Bridge League. At half way we led by 11 match points, we increased this by a further 15 match points in the second half, making a total of 26 match points, thus winning by 12 victory points to 4. The team was accompanied by Don and Louie White, Vi McPherson and Audrey Clements who acted as markers and provided moral support.

Our team comprised:

Bill Phillips (Captain) & Bob Evans
Ron Freer & Bill Allen
Reg Goding & Alf Dodgson
Vi Delaney & Wally Lethbridge

May pairs played at Ian Fraser House on May 26th

Results

1st	Bill Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	59.5
2nd	Mrs. Clements & Mrs. White	56.0
3rd	A. Dodgson & Mrs. Holborough	55.5
4th	Mrs. Douse & Miss Stenning	52.5
5th	P. Surridge & Mrs. McPherson	51.0
Equal	Vi Delaney & Mr. White	49.5
6th	W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	49.5
8th	Bob Evans & Mrs. Barker	49.0
9th	Jo Huk & Mrs. Combridge	42.5
10th	Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Bushell	35.0

TANDEM REQUEST

Mr. Jeffrey Parker, of Anstey in Leicestershire, is looking for a tandem. If you have one available, could you send details to The Editor, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

FAMILY NEWS

GRANDCHILDREN

We offer our congratulations to:

Mrs. Caroline Bulbrook, widow of *Mr. G. E. Bulbrook*, on the arrival of her second grandson, Ashley, on March 25th, 1991. Ashley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bulbrook's son, Robert, and his wife, Karen.

Alf and Elsie Lockhart, who are the proud grandparents of newly born grandson, Mark Lawrence Bryce, who was born on May 25th, to their daughter, Jean and her husband, Peter Neal.

Mrs. Dorothy Barlow, widow of *John Robert Barlow*, of Sheffield, who is pleased to announce the birth of another grandchild. A boy, Paul Alexander, was born to her daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Trevor Cook, on April 5th — the couple are now the proud parents of a daughter and a son.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Freddie and Gwen Mills of Tavistock, who are delighted to announce the birth of their first great-grandchild, Amber Victoria, on May 1st, 1991. Amber is the daughter of Freddie's grand-daughter, Alison, and her husband Andrew Wise.

Mrs. Joan Bingham of Leeds, widow of our St Dunstaner, *Mr. D. Bingham*, who is happy to announce the birth of a great-grandchild. A baby son — Russell Eduards — was born on May 15th to Mrs. Bingham's grand-daughter, Laura, and her husband Ian.

SILVER WEDDING

We offer our congratulations to:

Alan and Patricia Mitchell, of Cheshire, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding

Anniversary which they celebrated on June 25th, 1991.

DEATHS

We offer our condolences to:

Wally Rundle, of Paignton, on the loss of his brother earlier this year.

The family and friends of *Fred and Dorothy Collingwood* will be sad to learn about the death of their daughter, Pat, on May 9th — she was 43 and had been seriously ill since the beginning of the year.

Our sympathy goes to Fred and Dorothy and Pat's two children, Spencer and Toby.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted John, of Wallasey, who mourn the death of Ted's sister Margaret, suddenly on March 1st. We send our deepest sympathy to them and all their family.

Mrs. Sybil Parker of Stamford, Lincs, widow of our St Dunstaner *Bernard Parker*, who mourns the death of their son, Keith, who passed away on May 30th at the age of 52. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Parker and their other children: Alastair, Thelma and Ian.

Our lady St Dunstaner, *Mrs. Margaret Jones*, of Maesteg, who has suffered the loss of her husband Oswald. Our sympathy goes to Margaret and her daughter, Anita Lewis, and all the family.

The family and friends of Mrs. Alice Christian of Onchan, Isle of Man, who died on May 8th, 1991. She was 89 years of age and was the widow of *William Christian* who was wounded at Guillemont in 1916. He passed away in 1966 not very long after retiring from the shop which he and his wife ran together for some years.

They had two children to whom we

FAMILY NEWS *continued*

send our deepest sympathy — daughter, Sylvia Webb, and her husband, Howard, and son, Bernard, who is in New Zealand.

The family and friends of Mrs. E. Riches, widow of the late *Charles Riches*, of Frimley Green, who died on Friday, May 24th, 1991.

The family and friends of Mrs. Joyce Finch who died on May 18th, 1991. She was the widow of *Ralph Finch* who died in 1987. Our sympathy goes to her daughter, Valerie, who lives in Germany and her son, John, who lives in Canada, and all members of her family.

The family and friends of Mrs. F.

McClintock who died on Thursday, May 23rd, 1991. She was the widow of *James McClintock*, who passed away in 1976.

The family and friends of Mrs. Jean Muir who died on May 26th, 1991. She was the widow of *John Muir* who died in 1987 and our sympathy goes to their two sons, two daughters and all members of the family.

The family and friends of our widow Mrs. Katherine (Kitty) Taylor, who passed away on April 22nd. She was 82 years of age and the widow of *Robert E. Taylor* who died in 1988. Our sympathy goes to their son, James, and daughter, Mrs. Sheila Craig.

In Memory

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

Albert Harry Boseley, RAOC

We regret to report the death of Mr. Albert Boseley at the age of 71. Mr. Boseley had been admitted to hospital in March and it was hoped that he would soon be discharged but sadly his condition deteriorated and he died on May 1st.

Mr. Boseley was a boot and shoe machine operator in his father's boot manufacturing business before the Second World War. He enlisted in 1939 and was severely injured in a phosphorous bomb explosion in North Africa in 1944. He was admitted to St Dunstan's the same year and decided to take up shop keeping.

He opened his first shop in 1946 and continued running his own business until forced to give up owing to health problems in 1973. During these years Mr. Boseley worked very long hours and faced severe competition but he persevered and always managed to maintain his independence. In this he was ably supported by his devoted wife, Elizabeth, who took over the running of the shop when Mr. Boseley had spells in hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Boseley had four children — two boys and two girls — and theirs was a very happy family in spite of the struggle during the early years.

After he retired, Mr. Boseley found much joy in tending his garden and growing vegetables and he and Mrs. Boseley were able to visit relatives in Canada and Scotland.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Elizabeth, and their children Senga, Sandra, Brian and Ian.

Mr. Victor Charles Buck, Labour Corps

We are sad to announce the death of Victor Buck at Pearson House on May 25th at the age of 93. He had been a St Dunstaner for twenty-six years.

Mr. Buck served for one year in the Labour Corps before being wounded in March 1917. On his admission to St Dunstan's in 1964 he was living in Leeds where he was verger of his parish for over thirty years. He was also Chairman of the Committee for the Blind and Handicapped in Leeds and a Freemason. On the death of his wife in 1967 he moved

south to Brighton and for several years lodged with one of St Dunstan's widows, Mrs. Sarjeant, until 1983 when he became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

We extend our sympathy to all members of his family and his many friends.

Horace Medlock, Royal Engineers

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Medlock who passed away at Pearson House on May 15th at the age of 74.

Mr. Medlock worked in industry before the Second World War and trained as a vehicle repairer in the Army. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1940 and was captured by the Japanese in Singapore in 1942. He remained a POW until the end of the war and suffered malnutrition and privation while working on the railway.

He was discharged in 1946 but rejoined the Army in 1948. He was promoted to Corporal and was again posted to the Far East. However, in 1952 the effects of his long captivity took their toll and he was discharged medically unfit in November 1952. In the same year he married his wife, Mary. Mary had been married previously and had two daughters who were very close to their step-father.

Mr. Medlock then worked on road repairs but his deteriorating eyesight made this work increasingly hazardous and he was forced to resign in 1967 and became a member of St Dunstan's.

Mr. Medlock worked for a firm in Leeds for several years before becoming redundant, with others from the firm, in 1972. After this, due to the high unemployment in the North and his deteriorating sight, he was unable to find further work. However, he occupied his time with making string bags, rug making and carpentry. He became very skilled at toy making and presented his finished work to local nurseries, schools and hospitals, receiving many compliments and much gratitude from the establishments and children concerned. He was also very interested in his garden and devoted to his wife and family.

He remained in reasonably good health until the early part of this year when he became seriously ill. In order to spare his wife, whose own health was not good, any further distress, Mr. Medlock expressed the wish to be cared for at Pearson House and here sadly he died a few weeks after his arrival.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, Mary, to his step-daughters and his brother, Geoffrey.

Michael John Oliver, Army Training Corps

We regret to announce the death of Michael John Oliver of Pearson House and formerly of West Wickham, Kent, on May 3rd following a chronic illness. He was aged 59 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1945.

Michael was wounded accidentally as a schoolboy whilst on manoeuvres with the Air Training Corps. He trained as a shorthand typist and was employed all his working life by the same firm in Croydon where he did a first class job and was very popular. He was made redundant in 1987 and following a spell in hospital became a permanent resident at Pearson House. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

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

James Ritson, Pioneer Corps

We are sad to announce the death of Mr. James Ritson on Wednesday, May 1st at the age of 79. Mr. Ritson had been in hospital for a short time but was discharged home on April 5th and it was hoped that he would soon fully recover but sadly this was not to be.

Mr. Ritson was a Sergeant in the Pioneer Corps, in the Second World War, and after his discharge in 1943 he lived in the Carlisle area for many years.

He became a St Dunstaner in November 1980; by which time he had moved to Ballycotton, a village in Eire. He and his wife had returned to Ballycotton — his wife's birthplace — but sadly she passed away five months after the move. Mr. Ritson decided to remain there and was fortunate to have the support of the close knit community although he missed his family in England. We send our sympathy to his son and daughter.

**Mr. Leslie Rogers, North Staffordshire Regiment/
East Surrey Regiment**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Leslie Rogers on May 21st, two weeks after his admission to St Dunstan's. Mr. Rogers was aged 79 and enlisted in the North Staffordshire Regiment in July 1940, later being transferred into the East Surrey Regiment where he gained the rank of Sergeant. He was wounded in February 1944, taken prisoner and then released a year later, receiving his final discharge in January 1946.

Mr. Rogers was single and his only remaining relative is his sister who has lived in Canada for the last 50 years.



Message From the Chairman

After illness bravely borne Mary died peacefully at home on the evening of 28th June. Almost her last words were to send you all her love.

Henry Leach

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for Lady Leach will be held in the Parish Church at Wonston, near Winchester, Hants., at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 19th July.

It would be helpful if those intending to go would get in touch with Bill Weisblatt at Headquarters.

Note: *The sad news of Lady Leach's death was received after the text of this issue of the "Review" had been printed.*