



St Dunstons
Review
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Free to St Dunstaners

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Cover Picture: 'With one bound our hero escaped' — David Bray brings a lighter touch to the Archery Championships.

Note: The Tape Recording report has had to be held over to next issue.

From the Chairman



Not long ago a Working Party was set up to consider our system and methods of training. It included St Dunstaners and members of the Staffs of Headquarters, Ian Fraser House, Pearson House and the Welfare Department and it met under the Chairmanship of Ray Hazan.

Among its recommendations was one advocating the appointment of Training and Technical Officers. A decision to create these posts had already been made by the Council when the outbreak of the Gulf War with the threat of many blinded casualties served to confirm the need to keep our training facilities to the highest standard.

Mrs. Christine Dickens has already taken up her duties as Training Officer responsible for supervision and co-ordination of training at Ian Fraser House, liaising with outside organisations capable of providing suitable courses outside the scope of our in-house training — finding the best course at the best rate — and assisting St Dunstaners embarking on such studies. She will also be arranging for Staff training throughout the organisation.

Mrs. Lorraine Keitch joins the Staff this month as Technical Officer and she will teach daily living skills, support other members of the training team and carry out assessments in people's homes.

I know that everyone will join me in welcoming them and wishing them every success in their important work.

* * *

Over recent weeks I have received many, many kind letters and messages about Mary, all of which I have greatly appreciated. I shall, of course, answer each in due course but please forgive the delay.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



SUPPER TIME AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

As a result of a St Dunstaner's suggestion to the Chairman that supper at Ian Fraser House was served too early, a survey was carried out between March and May to discover whether an appreciable number of others shared this view. The survey covered all those who visited Ian Fraser House during that time and therefore took in a fair cross-section of holiday makers, trainees and those belonging to the various activity groups. The co-operation and helpful comments from those who took part in the survey were much appreciated. The result of the survey was a majority of over 2 to 1 in favour of putting supper back to 1830 hours for both sections of the dining room.

Therefore, with effect from Sunday, September 1st, 1991, supper at Ian Fraser House will be served at 1830 hours. Early suppers at 1800 hours will be available for those going on the Thursday evening theatre trips and similar arrangements will be possible for other individuals or groups wishing to attend an organised event or entertainment for which an 1830 hours supper would be too late.

PAY PHONES AT IFH

Telephones in all guest rooms have now been in operation since January of this year. They have been generally declared a great success and a very convenient facility. It therefore seems unnecessary to maintain all of the current number of pay phones at Ian Fraser House and usage does appear to support this assumption.

On July 1st, 1991 the pay phones were disconnected, however, two pay phones will remain on the main floor, one in the entrance hall and one on the first floor of the Annexe. Usage will be monitored over the next six months in order to determine future requirements.

SKIING 1992

A return trip is being organised to Sorenberg, Switzerland, from Saturday, January 18th to 25th, 1992. The approximate cost per person, before grants, is £410, which includes flights, accommodation (half board), lift passes, ski and boot hire, plus evening entertainments. Guides will be provided for St Dunstaners. A party of 20 is necessary to benefit from group rates, thus family and friends will be welcome.

Would anyone interested please contact Ray Hazan at HQ as soon as possible and by the end of August at the latest.

SAHEEDA EFFENDI

If any St Dunstan's Eighth Army veterans are interested in returning 'up the blue' in '92 for the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the famous Battle of El Alamein commencing October 21st, 1992, they should contact Major and Mrs. Holt's Battlefield Tours, Golden Key Building, 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9DA, or telephone 0304 61 2248. A returnable deposit of £10 will be necessary for each person in order to register and for further information.

It is hoped that there will be a sufficient number of St Dunstaners interested to form a group to visit Egypt again and the War Cemetery at El Alamein — *Shukran*.

DON'T BE A TROUT

The Brighton Fishing Club has arranged a day's fishing at a local trout farm on Wednesday, September 18th. The cost will be around £10 for the day. Those wishing to fish will be expected to pay £4 of this.

If you wish to be included in the party, please get in touch with Fred Bentley, c/o IFH.



Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Daniel and Staff Sergeant Jim Reynolds look on as Bill Weisblatt welcomes Gary Lomas.

New St Dunstaner at Gulf War Parade

Sapper Gary Lomas was among about 100 VIP guests who stood beneath the Royal Box from which Her Majesty The Queen took the salute as the Gulf War Parade passed through the City of London on June 21st.

Gary, who is 26 and comes from Blackburn, was injured in a mine explosion in the Gulf on March 12th, serving with 49 EOD, 33 Engineer Regiment. On June 27th he was formally admitted to St Dunstan's by Mr. Bill Weisblatt in the presence of his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Daniel and his Troop Sergeant Major, Staff Sergeant Jim Reynolds. Jim Reynolds was with Gary when he was wounded and has only recently returned from duty in the Gulf.

Gary recalled his feelings as he stood with other wounded Servicemen and with the relatives of those who died, 'It was quite moving with the crowds cheering and all the banners up. I could tell when the bands were there, obviously, by the music. I could feel the body of men coming by because we were very close, virtually on the kerb and they were on the road.

Before the Parade Gary went to the

Mansion House, 'We were introduced to some of the Royal Family beforehand and we went on to the Guildhall afterwards for a champagne buffet. Something I don't do very regularly!' At the Mansion House after changing into his best Army kit Gary found himself in a group of people who were to meet The Queen, 'The first person I met was John Major, he was a nice bloke, down to earth. He asked me how I had sustained my injuries and what the chances of recovery were. The Queen was next which was an honour for me — to shake The Queen's hand was indeed an honour. I could make out that she is very pretty, small but very nice. She asked me how life was in the Gulf. I told her that I enjoyed it, which was true, and I am glad I was part of the experience. I don't think in my lifetime I'll ever go through anything like that again. She seemed genuinely concerned.

At the Guildhall after the Parade Mrs. Margaret Thatcher gave Gary her autograph on the Parade programme. Gary's mother went too and shared her son's VIP status, 'It made a great day for her, a good day out for my mother as well as myself.'

REFLECTIONS

By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

I had a jolly friend in Paddington — Mrs. Macey. She was quite elderly and lived in an old council flat overlooking the intersection of Harrow Road and Edgware Road. 'Long ago,' she said, 'after I had been married a year or two, I was lucky and got a couple of rooms to live in with my husband'. Those houses are now sought after, elegant terrace properties, surprisingly spacious inside. But she had just a couple of rooms and she said, 'We called them the dust holes of Star Street'. She was happy there.

Outside the front door she had a cage with a songbird (a linnet perhaps). One day a well dressed man, walking down the street stopped and admired it. He said, 'Will you sell it to me?' Mrs. Macey refused — she liked the bird. But later a neighbour remarked that she should have sold it, saying, 'You'll never keep it now'.

Cage and Songbird Disappeared

And so it happened. The cage and songbird soon disappeared. I asked her was it the man who admired it? She said, 'Oh no, they were going for a shilling'. I asked was it someone who lived near who saw the chance of making a few pence? She thought not. But she remembered the neighbour's warning so long ago with some slight sorrow. And I was wondering whether this meant that poor people could never hope to hold on to everything of value. Or, perhaps it was an age old understanding that when something is recognised as good the chances of losing it were greatly increased.

How can one believe in God when the happiness of human beings is so fragile, so passing? It is, to me, an understanding (refined, polished, reformed over the centuries) that such is not only possible, but right, and that there is substance in that eternal dream.

London to Brighton by Bike!

by Jonathan Ridge

A pathetic figure drew up beside us, angry, exhausted, soaked. He raised his mountain bike above his head and hurled it across the car park. "Enough!" he screamed, collapsing into a nearby minibus. That was one fellow entrant speaking for all London to Brighton bike-riders, as we huddled together in the shelter of our buses at the Turners Hill halfway rest-stop. Yet all had gone well earlier as the St Dunstan's team of five tandem pairs and seven solo riders boarded the buses at Ian Fraser House and set off for London. Debussing at Purley Way, we rode off to the start in good spirits.

World's Largest

Due to the growing popularity of this event, the world's largest organised ride with 35,000 cyclists this year, the start had been moved to a park in 'leafy Surrey'. As we arrived a shambles was developing. Thousands of cyclists were stuffed into a six foot wide country lane at the exit from the park, producing a massive cycle-jam. Many cyclists were trapped in the start pens for four hours! Luckily our team was directed past by police, trying to keep the roads clear. Even so we had to stand in a crowd, walk with the bikes, maybe ride a few yards, then stand and wait again, adding up to around two hours delay. For the first half of the 'ride' we walked more than we cycled.

A sudden thunderstorm, typical of June '91, burst upon us, soaking everyone and flooding the roads. As the rain began to fall we pushed our bikes through the throng at Turners Hill. Lionel Scott, on guard duty at the roadside counted us in; and we rejoined our support crew who had been waiting patiently as we were long overdue. We relaxed in the welcoming shelter of the buses as the rain lashed down outside.

London to Brighton — continued

Our relief that everybody had arrived was soon tempered by realisation that three of the team had taken a fall. With so little actual riding done, and with so many other riders to hit, Carl Williams and Vanessa Smith had still managed to collide with April Hadert. Carl and Nessie losing their brakes, a pedal, and several square inches of skin each. April took a bad bang on the head as she went down, reminding us how near tragedy can be even on a 'fun' ride. Incredibly she remounted and rode on to Turners Hill, but with blurred vision and slurred speech she was persuaded not to continue. Dave Parker came to take her to hospital, where she was released after treatment for concussion. Carl and Nessie, their gravel rash bandaged, determined to continue. They joined in the fight for waterproofs going on inside each bus. John Gilbert, along as a supporter after injury stopped him riding, was stripped of his tracksuit. The backs-to-the-wall spirit of 'finishing the job'

Adrian Loska and Martin McCrorie.



drove us onward. Back on the bikes, in the pouring rain, we joined the melee heading for Brighton.

Now riding along the crest of a hill with lightning flashing around does wonders for the imagination, especially with an aluminium saddle post under the backside. But actually the second half of the ride was uneventful. The wet roads and wet clothes literally put a damper on. The riding was much quieter and safer. From Turners Hill to Ditchling, Ray Sheriff and I let the tandem have its head and we ate up the miles, constantly passing the stream of sodden cyclists. We were almost the fastest thing on the road. Going much faster however were Martin McCrorie and Adrian Loska, who roared past us in a cloud of spray, their stolen waterproofs flapping.

Martin and Adrian, their heads down, were really flying. They were the only tandem pair from our team that managed to ride up the immense barrier of the South Downs at Ditchling Beacon. Halfway up they were applauded for their effort. "We'll stop soon" said



Ray Sheriff and Jonathan Ridge who, it seems, has developed a thirst!

Adrian, "I'll die first!" countered Martin, driving on to the top.

The euphoric descent into Brighton ended in more queues and more delays. We walked through the finish line on the seafront and pedalled on to Ian Fraser House, yearning for a hot bath and a rest. Ray and I finally caught up with Tony Haskey and Justin Weaver at Roedean. Everybody got home, Carl and Nessie dragging their broken bike in, shepherded by Trevor Fitzpatrick on his solo.

From all who took part, our grateful thanks to our drivers, Michael Varney, and John Payne who backed us up and checked on us all the way down. Also to Dave Parker for his ambulance act. Thanks, too, to the PBK boys and girls for the massive packed lunches, and to Dave Cotton for his cycle maintenance.

My apologies, to any St Dunstaner tandem riders out there who may have been able to take part, but were unaware of the ride. This year's entry was an experiment from which we have learnt a lot. There are six staff members here at

IFH who are competent front riders, and the tandems are here to be used, so come and ask.

We intend to enter the ride next year, and to do organised rides ourselves, maybe starting with a Brighton to Portsmouth ride in the autumn. We would like any interested tandemers to contact us stating whether they have their own tandems and front riders, or not. Martin McCrorie would like to start a St Dunstan's Tandem Club, so please write to: Martin McCrorie, 'Tandems' c/o Sports/Mobility Office, Ian Fraser House. Thanks, and here's to LBBR '92!

TEA DANCES AT IFH

As from September 29th. Sunday tea-dances will be held at Ian Fraser House. These will take place on the last Sunday of each month in the Lounge from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. All will be welcome.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Bray.

REUNIONS

Sheffield

From Allenton and Borrowash they came, from Chapel St. Leonards, Mickleover and Tibshelf, from Wath upon Dearne, Withernsea and Wyke. You could start a song this way but these are, in fact, some of the towns and villages from which St Dunstaners and widows travelled to Sheffield on June 13th for the Reunion at Grosvenor House Hotel. 26 St Dunstaners and 16 widows in all, together with guests, escorts and staff representatives, made up a company of 72.

They were greeted by St Dunstan's President, Mr. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, and his wife, Joyce. Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds was representing the Chairman and the Council and in his speech after lunch he brought good wishes from Sir Henry Leach. He specially welcomed three members of the War Pensioners' Welfare Service, Ms Mary Mitchell and Mr. F. Powell, Welfare Officers, and Mrs. Helen Singleton, Crafts Instructor. He also mentioned particularly three St Dunstaners attending their first reunion: Fred Field, Sid Hoyle and George Watt.

First War St Dunstaner

'We still have, fortunately, a First World War St Dunstaner with us,' said Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds, 'Joe Kershaw, welcome, it is wonderful to have you here.' He had further words of welcome for the widows and hoped that some of them would be attending the first Widow's Week-end at Ian Fraser House later this year.

'Some of you may know that Joyce and I have just been all the way round the world and the reason for that was to draw the St Dunstan's family together and to attend the St Dunstan's Reunion in Adelaide. Some of you have travelled 90, perhaps a hundred, miles to get here today. I am afraid that when one attends the Reunion in Adelaide there are people who have travelled 1,500 to 2,000 miles to be there.

'It did occur to us how in St Dunstan's we are inclined to take things for granted. First of all that matter of distance. We forget that some St Dunstaners wish to attend a reunion and make a whole week's holiday of it and travel all those miles or a flight of some four and a half hours.' Saying that, after a tour of a civilian blind centre in Palm Springs, he enquired about woodwork courses, Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds quoted the Supervisors' reply: "Well, no, we are not quite certain whether that's safe for blind people."

Woodwork Training

'Those of you who have come through St Dunstan's know that one of the first things we were taught was to use our hands and we went straight into some sort of woodwork. So that surprised us. Then one of the St Dunstaners was telling us in Adelaide that they are now working, as their numbers reduce, quite closely in with the civilian institutes. He told us how one blinded person had got hold of a cordless telephone and then was advised by his institute that it was not suitable for blind people to use and it was withdrawn.

Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds said he was told that computers were difficult to get hold of. 'The President of the Returned Servicemen's League had visited the civilian institute in Victoria and they were not particularly keen on computers for blind people in spite of the synthesised voice. Sydney, New South Wales was a little better. Luckily in Queensland there was a doctor who was an enthusiast and she was trying to convince the civilian authorities that computers were just the thing for the blind and would make the world of difference not only for those retired but also the young who were going into employment.

At a recent meeting in Blackpool of the Talking Newspaper Association Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds said there was



The Sheffield 'choir' (l to r) Dorothy Lewis, Mary Mitchell, Colin Mills, Pearl Mills and Hartley Mallinson at the piano.

praise for the Swedish initiative in providing a newspaper service on computer. 'The speaker went on "The Swedes believe in social equality and what they called main stream philosophy." I picked up my speech notes and found that I had referred to Sir Arthur Pearson in 1915 going in for St Dunstaners being fully integrated into the community, "mainstream philosophy", and taking a full part with everybody else, "social equality".

'So there we were in St Dunstan's thinking of things in 1915 and finding here it was being spoken about as something new. How often, in fact, we take things for granted in St Dunstan's and yet the spirit of St Dunstan's is really outstanding and I think most of us realise what a lot we have to be grateful for.'

Mr. Beaumont-Edmonds concluded with statistical information about the numbers of St Dunstaners and widows before wishing his audience a pleasant afternoon and a safe journey home.

Colin Mills responded on behalf of St Dunstaners saying, 'It's me again, folks, I

At Sheffield Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds shows her delight with the sugar bouquet.



Reunions — continued

only volunteered once but I have been dominated by women all my life! He went on to thank Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds, the Council, Mrs. Dianne Wye and Mrs. Doreen Inman, the Welfare Visitors responsible for arranging this reunion. 'Because it is only once a year we get together but it's well worth it and a sincere thank you on your behalf to the people who have provided this.'

Throughout the afternoon Mr. Hartley Mallinson played the piano, joined for a time by a spirited choir led by Colin Mills who sang when they knew the words and improvised when they didn't! Some had the lucky numbers in the prize draw carried out by Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds, who was rewarded with a basket of flowers with a difference. It was presented by Mrs. Kathleen White, who had made every beautiful bloom from sugar paste in what was a remarkable feat of patience and dexterity. Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds showed her gift to the guests and Mrs. White's skill was admired by everyone.

Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds admiring the playing of Elizabeth Baldry.



Exeter, June 18th

Exeter has a fine cathedral and the city was once again the venue for a reunion after a long time. This was in order to cut down the travelling time for the 23 St Dunstaners and eight widows from the West Country, and to have two smaller gatherings rather than one large. The Forte Hotel proved a suitable choice, the food good, and the staff caring. Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, accompanied by his wife, Joyce, presided.

Colin welcomed Tom Foot and Stan Pearce attending their first reunion. A warm round of applause greeted the organiser of the day Liz Pearce and her husband, Bill, who gives her so much support in her work for St Dunstan's.

Colin went on to describe some of his work, such as his recent trip to St Dunstan's, Australia, his speech at the annual conference of TNAUK (The Talking Newspaper Association of the UK), in Blackpool. He talked about Lord Fraser's life long ambition to gain easier access to the printed word. How, with Lord Nuffield, and the co-operation of the RNIB, St Dunstan's was instrumental in

the setting up of the Talking Book Service in 1936. The TNAUK records over 100 magazines and they are presently setting up a scheme whereby some of the recorded magazines are available in local libraries for access by blind people. The Association is trying to raise funds in order to set up new premises and St Dunstan's was helping with this appeal as many St Dunstaners benefited from their work.

Colin mentioned the few casualties from the Gulf and was pleased to see St Dunstan's was much involved still. He concluded that we in the United Kingdom enjoyed many benefits which were lacking abroad, and we should not take these for granted.

John Davies thanked Colin and Joyce for attending. He fully appreciated how well looked after St Dunstaners were compared with other handicapped people. He expressed St Dunstaners appreciation to their wives and members of staff. He finished with the words of a favourite song of his 'Good luck, good health, God bless you'.

Throughout lunch and the afternoon, a musical background was provided by Elizabeth Baldry, a harpist of renown in the area. Her music provided a most soothing backdrop to a successful return to Exeter.

Bristol

With the reappearance of Exeter on the Reunion calendar and thus the absence of St Dunstaners and widows from the extreme south west of the country, the Bristol Reunion was a smaller affair than in the past. Nevertheless 29 St Dunstaners from the counties around the Severn Valley and in South Wales attended and there were 17 widows. With escorts, guests and staff, 98 people sat down to lunch under the chairmanship of Mr. Ken Wills, a Member of the Council, who was accompanied by Mrs. Wills.

Speaking after lunch Mr. Wills welcomed a special guest in the person of Mr. John Headford, local Welfare Officer of the War Pensioners' Welfare Service. There was warm applause for his

announcement of the presence of Mr. Norman Hopkins, a St Dunstaner and newly appointed Member of the Council.

Mr. Wills said he was brought up in Plymouth and that, to him, Bristol had seemed a far away city in the east. He had enjoyed his visits to Bristol but many visitors had failed to share his enjoyment.

'Tenacious Folly'

'Daniel Defoe in 1724 said, "The greatest inconveniences of Bristol are its situation and the tenacious folly of its inhabitants". Samuel Johnson visited the town, as he did almost every town in Britain. He found his inn to be so bad that he would rather be in Scotland. That being, apparently, the worst alternative he could think of. Fifty years later Sidney Smith was not impressed by the 19th Century version of community policing which he found going on in Bristol at the time. "Bristol," he wrote, "is a town remarkable for burglary. Everyone's house is broken open. All this comes of not hanging people. It is seven years since anyone was hanged here. How can 100,000 people live together in peace upon such terms?" I fancy our local traffic wardens take the same view today!'

Mr. Wills thanked Mr. Keith Martin, Reunions Administrator, Mrs. Liz Pearce, the Welfare Visitor responsible and Miss Irene Newbold. 'The Welfare Visitors do wonderful work in looking after the needs of St Dunstaners everywhere and we all owe them a very great debt of gratitude and our thanks, too, to the chefs and the staff of the Crest Hotel who have served us so well today.'

He mentioned the members of Headquarters Staff present and he also introduced the names of St Dunstaners attending their first reunion: Dennis Downes, Alfred Moody, William Moore, David Robertson, Leonard Walker and. 'Last, but not least, a very distinguished St Dunstaner indeed, Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, and you are going to have the pleasure of hearing from him as soon as I have sat down. I do hope that the newcomers will enjoy meeting new friends



Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, a new St Dunstaner, speaking at Bristol.

and that the old hands will, as always, enjoy the pleasures of comradeship and of times remembered which is what these reunions are all about.

'You may be interested to know that our latest returns are that in the United Kingdom there are 18 veterans of World War One and that of those 18, one is with us today — a very special welcome to Harry Perrett, from Devizes.'

Mr. Wills concluded by wishing everyone a very happy day. He was followed by Admiral Sir Frank Twiss who said, 'I'm one of the new boys. I am also one of the Second World War men and I am delighted to know that we have someone from the First World War who lives almost next door to me in Devizes. We are extremely lucky to be looked after by St Dunstan's and invited to an occasion like this.'

Sir Frank said, 'I was a sailor in the West Country Division, where they all cry "Oggi" at every possible moment, and, of course, Bristol was in the West Country Division and sailors who were recruited to the Devonport Division came from the whole of the West of England. So whereas I have no great experience of living in Bristol, I know it in many other ways including the fact that I came to defend this part of the

world for a short time in 1940 when it was thought we were going to have an aerial invasion.

'I also know Sir Henry Leach very well. In fact I have known him since 1948, a long time ago. We are extremely lucky to have a man with his drive and personality as Chairman of this organisation'.

Sir Frank concluded by saying, 'Today my job is very simple: to say thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Wills; to say thank you to all those people that he mentioned to do with St Dunstan's and to say how grateful we all are for this very splendid occasion. I hope that I shall be able to see you again next time we get together here and to get to know more people'.

For the energetic, and this included Mrs. Nan Wills, there was dancing in the afternoon and Mrs. Wills also made the prize draw. After this duty she was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. Lilian Channing. After tea, as the party was breaking up, it became known that the St Dunstaners from South Wales were barred out of their country! It was not that they were not wanted back but a high sided vehicle had overturned on the Severn Bridge causing it to be closed. We are pleased to report that they all made it in the end but rather later than planned!

London (Kent & Surrey), June 29th

The last of the 1991 reunions gathered St Dunstaners from Kent, Surrey and Northern Ireland at the Hotel Russell. On this occasion widows outnumbered St Dunstaners by 34 to 24. The day was warm outside as was the reception inside. It was the first time that Mr Francois Edwards, a Member of Council, had presided.

He explained how at a luncheon party at his house, the Garnett-Orme's and the Leach's had met for the first time. This had resulted in Sir Henry being invited to Chair the organisation on his retirement from the Navy. A year later, Sir Henry had invited Mr. Edwards to join the Finance Committee and hence the Council. 'So I really do feel I have done



A bouquet of real flowers for Nan Wills from Lilian Channing at Bristol.

St Dunstan's a very good turn because nowhere could we find a more conscientious and devoted Chairman, who continues through thick and thin to watch over all the interests of St Dunstan's'.

Gulf War

The Gulf War had fortunately not provided too many new members, a Sapper currently at Ian Fraser House and one more in hospital. However, the preparatory work in contacting Service and other hospitals had been fruitful and has resulted in several elderly war blinded veterans becoming members of St Dunstan's. 'What has happened has helped to create a greater awareness of St Dunstan's, which is likely to be very valuable in the years to come'.

Mr. Edwards mentioned the completed building works at IFH and the coming widows' weekends. He concluded with the sad news about Lady Leach.



Francois Edwards chats with Henry Price at the London Reunion.

The response was given by Mr. Price, of Hythe. This was only his second reunion. He thought of St Dunstan's in terms of caring and generosity. Caring meant Helen Stewart and Vivien Jackson, who visited everyone, listened to problems and frequently provided solutions. The *Review* kept him in touch with the family, and HQ always offered a helpful voice on the end of a telephone. He much appreciated the facilities offered by the two Homes in Brighton. 'I am very proud to be a St Dunstaner, and I am sure you are too'.

Remembering Friends

St Dunstan's has lost several friends during this reunion season. These gatherings provide an opportunity not just to meet staff and old and new friends, but an occasion to remember these colleagues. Much hard work is put in by Keith Martin and the Welfare Visitors in organising these events, and their efforts are much appreciated.



With Sir Henry in their garden.

Greeting Geoff Bunting at an Ipswich Reunion.



TRIBUTE

As sadly reported in last month's issue, Lady Leach died peacefully at home on June 28th.

LADY LEACH

So much loved and appreciated had she become that it is hard to realise that St Dunstan's family has known Lady Leach for only just short of nine years. In late 1982 Sir Henry became a Member of St Dunstan's Council and St Dunstaners first met Lady Leach when she accompanied him to Reunions, beginning in London in July, 1983.

Her gracious, modest manner, her sense of humour, and her genuine interest in everyone she met soon endeared her to St Dunstaners, Wives, Widows and Staff. She was a warmly welcoming hostess in her own well-organised world, Wonston Lodge. There she and Sir Henry would entertain St Dunstaners and Wives for tea and croquet on the lawn in the spacious garden they both

maintained in immaculate condition despite the demands on their time. She established a wide circle of friends among the family of St Dunstan's, maintaining contact with many and offering support in times of illness or bereavement. She became a Governor of St Dunstan's in 1984.

St Dunstaners will have their own memories of Lady Leach. This one, from that hot and busy anniversary day in 1990, is typical. Caught up in the rush to change in the London hotel, a St Dunstaner and his wife found themselves arriving late for dinner. Seeing their predicament, Lady Leach left her table to greet them personally and see them to their places. They have never forgotten this kindly action.

As well as adopting St Dunstan's, Lady Leach had her own family. In 1958, then Mary Jean, daughter of Admiral Sir Henry McCall, she married Henry Leach and they have two daughters and two grand-daughters. That family's grief is shared by the larger, St Dunstan's, family. To them we offer profound sympathy.



With a floral display she created for the Entrance at Headquarters.

A bouquet from Vi Delaney.





ARCHERY SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Norman Perry

For the past few years the greenhouse effect on our climate was very much to the fore in conversation, not so this year, thoughts turned more to an impending new ice age. It was in cold and windy, though fortunately not wet, conditions that twelve members of the St Dunstan's Archery Club (S.D.A.C.) battled it out on the green in front of IFH.

Encouraged by their spotters, sustained by hot tea and coffee sent down by sympathisers from the 'big house' and with great fortitude demonstrated the skills taught by the various coaches. In spite of the grim conditions a great deal of fun was had by all, especially during the fun shoots and the demonstrations of the archer's war dance by Ted Bradford, our chief coach.

The results of the three main competitions as usual were not announced until the prize giving at the Annual Dinner held on the Friday night. Our principal guests on this occasion being Major-General Friedberger and his wife, Joanna. It was in 1989/90, as Officer Commanding, Cyprus, that Major-General Friedberger and his wife entertained the archery team during their visit to the Joint Services Archery Club. So it was with great pleasure that we were able to entertain them at IFH.

After welcoming the guests our Vice-President, Mrs. Dacre, gave a somewhat amusing account of the historical origins of the title 'Lady Paramount' after which I, as Chairman, duly invested Joanna Friedberger with the badge of that office. The duty of the Lady Paramount on this occasion was to present the trophies and medals to the successful contestants, a duty Joanna performed with charm and wit, captivating the hearts of everyone.

The result sheet showed that in spite of the inclement weather conditions some excellent scores were obtained, especially by Eric Bradshaw and Bill Grimes. The full results of the competitions were: Curly Wagstaff Memorial Trophy, 1st - Bill Grimes 1480; 2nd - George Hudson 1420; 3rd - Tom Hart 1405. The Dacre Trophy: 1st - Bill Grimes 1547; 2nd - Eric Bradshaw 1466; 3rd - George Hudson 1437. R.U.C. Pairs: 1st - Jerry Lynch and Bert Wood 808; 2nd - Eric Bradshaw and Norman Perry 762.

Saturday morning saw everyone down on the field preparing to take on a team from the Cuckfield Archery Club. This is an annual event and the score to date is in S.D.A.C.'s favour, but not this year. On this occasion the competition was shot over a 'stafford round', 30m using an

80cm target face. Though the shoot started in not too bad weather conditions, as the day progressed the temperature gradually lowered and woollens were called into action. Soon body warmers and anything that could offer warmth were called upon. It was as if the weather knew that the round we were shooting is used by many archery clubs as a 'frost-bite' during the winter months. The result of this competition was the closest that any team can win by. Cuckfield won by one clear point. We will get our revenge next year.

After two days which were used to rest and lick our wounds we were ready to take on the Army Archery Team, always a most enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to meet friends of long acquaintance and to make new ones from the younger members of the services. The event was being filmed by an Army public relations unit to use in demonstrating the contact between



Kath and Bill Grimes demonstrate one way for the spotter to take a rest!

Bert Wood seems very calm about his arrows in the gold admired by his young Army opponent.





Vicky Haley, former junior international, shooting for the Army.

serving and ex-members of the forces. Perhaps it was due to the presence of the cameras that put the S.D.A.C. archers off their shooting, but credit must be given to the Army Team for some excellent shooting. Thus it was with great pleasure that Major Sherriden, Adjutant of the Brigade of Guards, presented the Guards Cup to the Army Team.

At seven the next morning the archers were on their way to Halton, in Buckinghamshire, to take on the R.A.F. Archery Team. S.D.A.C. were met there by Group Captain Brampton, the Station Commander. The day was fine and sunny with the exception of one heavy shower which occurred when everyone was indoors at an excellent lunch. Once again St Dunstan's were not able to match their opponents and lost by a margin of eighteen points. Next year the



Lawrie Austin coaching Vito Lupo, one of a party of Italian blind people studying our aiming system.

match will be on our own field at IFH and hopefully the result will be different.

In spite of the unseasonal weather conditions and the disappointment of not winning any of our team events, on the whole everyone had a most enjoyable ten days shooting. A big thank you must go to Lt. Col. David Bray and the staff at IFH for their catering and in-house arrangements. Our thanks also go to Ernie Elliot and Roger Mullen for setting the field each day, also to our Chief Coach, Ted Bradford, and in-house coach, Lawrie Austin, for their endeavours to improve our techniques. Above all our thanks must also go to those stalwarts who endure all without complaining who try their very best to will our arrows into the gold, our gallant band of spotters, long may they stand by us binoculars at the ready.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Paul Baker, Sidmouth

The lovely article on the Nick Faldo of St Dunstan's reminded me that, as Rob Wilton said, 'The day war broke out' I was on the fourth at Dover. We had driven down onto the green when the siren went. We stopped and looked up into the clear blue sky. Nothing. We then went on to the fifth tee, and was higher up, a pretty high bank went up to the fairway. We were stopped by a Vickers M G Crew, who told us to get lost. I wondered what good they would do where they were.

By now I had migrated from original hickory shafts, with superbly rusty heads, and a driver which had parted company with its head, to 2, 4, 6 and 8 irons, a driver and a putter. Some seven years later having survived a sniping of my head, I ended up near R.A.F. Halton which was near a small golf course. I found with the aid of friends that placing a strip of 'elastoplast' down the front of the grip enabled you to place the head at a right angle. By having someone point my left shoulder in the direction required and placing the club face you could have a lot of fun. Putt well, rattle the old tin hole and if you did have one leg shorter than the other on that course so much the better.

Sadly, after some enjoyment and some success I had to leave there, and with it my golf. So Mr. Morris were it not for my dodgy undercarriage who knows, we just might be fighting it out. Good luck old chap, and hope the back holds out.

From: Mr. Jack Aylott, of Hornchurch, Essex

Thank you for your letter advising me of £10.94 to be credited to my bank account following my good luck in the Derby Sweepstake. I'm sure the lottery required much effort to organise and thanks to all who contributed to its success.

I am looking forward to the next occasion.

From: Les Thompson, Tenerife

My compliments to Mr. Dufton on his 30" leek.

I have many friends today who grow competition leeks and often spend all-night vigil against vandalism. The subject of leeks reminds me of an incident in my youth when a well known Durham builder went down to Cambridge to work — he was also an undertaker.

Whilst in the Cambridge area he attended a local horticultural show — took one look at the leeks and was so disgusted that he wired home for the largest leek to be sent down.

It was said that it duly arrived all 4'6" long . . . in a coffin!

DON RETIRES

After more than thirty years working for the handicapped, Don Roskilly is calling it a day. Don (65) has officially retired as Director of the National Listening Library, but will continue to work part-time.

Don, who lives in Pinner, joined Talking Books in 1957, after working in the film and television industry. Seven years later he joined St. Dunstan's Research Unit at the National Physical Laboratory where he helped in research on sensory equipment for the blind, particularly the sonic-torch guidance device.

He became Director of the British Talking Book Service for the Blind in 1969. In 1982 he became Technical Director of the Talking Book Service for the Blind, moving to the National Listening Library four years later.

Don served with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War and although he held a pilot's licence he was prevented from flying due to eye problems. Married with five children, Don lists work as his main hobby.



Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Loot!

Author: Russell Chamberlain

Reader: Robin Holmes

Duration: 9.25 hours

Catalogue number: 5066

Because of the strong possessive instinct in all humans, the average tourist finds it quite natural to want to acquire mementoes on his travels abroad. As a result, many a wily native earns his daily bread by selling worthless souvenirs to silly visitors, and many a portable artefact finds its way into a foreigner's pocket when the natives are facing the other way.

It's been happening like that for ages; dishonest monks used to sell 'genuine' holy relics to gullible pilgrims, and light-fingered crusaders were 'liberating' everything that took their fancy, centuries before modern soldiers thought they had invented the practice.

But it is not cheap confidence tricks or petty pilfering which occupies Russell Chamberlain in this absorbing book. On the contrary, it is deceit and larceny on a global scale. Beginning with the 'Elgin Marbles' and ending with the incredible art thefts committed by the criminals of Hitler's Reich, he takes his reader to countries in every continent and describes how objects of national importance have been taken from their rightful place and set up in private houses, art-galleries and museums in foreign lands. Without such help as this book provides, the remarkable extent to which these removals have occurred would probably not be appreciated by more than a handful of people. For instance, most of us, I imagine, have seen

a mummy case at some time or other, but would they know how many thousands of mummies have left Egypt over the years? I doubt it, and the same holds good, I'm sure, for Greek statues, African shields and such like, not to mention the almost unbelievable fact that New Zealand nearly lost all the ceremonial war canoes that Maori craftsmen had ever carved.

Not unreasonably, you might think, since they consider such things part of their national heritage, the New Zealanders want all their property back again, just like the Greeks say Elgin's Marbles should be returned to Athens; and the Hungarians wanted the return of St Stephen's crown. However, as this book makes crystal clear, not only is legal ownership frequently difficult to establish now, but moral rights to treasures are debatable too, for often it can be justly claimed that priceless objects would not have survived at all without the intervention of the so-called 'thieves'.

Now, as you might imagine from the book's nine hours duration, the questions and the answers are too involved for me to catalogue them here, but I would urge you not to be put off by the apparent complexity of the subject, because Mr. Chamberlain has written a very readable book indeed. You'll not only enjoy it as much as a 'thriller', but the next time your friends are discussing Cleopatra's needle, or other everyday topics like the Rosetta stone, you'll be able to astound them with your erudition.

* * *



ONCE A GUNNER ALWAYS A GUNNER

by David Bray

Two ex Lance Bombardiers, Philip Dyke and Albert Grimshaw, 96 and 97 years of age respectively, were presented with Royal Artillery ties at Ian Fraser House, on June 14th, 1991. Both fought in the First World War with the Royal Field Artillery in the battles of the Somme, Arras, Vimy Ridge and Ypres, until being wounded by mustard gas in 1918.

It was a great pleasure for me to be able to make the presentation to two very senior members of St Dunstan's from my own Regiment. My thanks to the Royal Artillery Association for providing the ties for two grand and distinguished gentlemen.

Long may they continue to grace Ian Fraser House with their presence, they are indeed quite remarkable old soldiers.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

We expect to receive a small allocation of tickets for the afternoon and evening Presentation of the Festival of Remembrance, at the Royal Albert Hall, on Saturday, November 9th.

St Dunstaners are invited to apply before September 9th, to Mr. K. Martin at HQ for two tickets per St Dunstaner. Please state any preference for afternoon or evening Presentation. Priority will be given to those who have not attended a previous Presentation and a ballot will be held. Those successful will be assisted with both the cost of travel and overnight accommodation in London, if necessary.

St Dunstan's Gardening Club

by Margaret Bingham

A crowd of some 50 gardeners assembled in the Winter Garden at Ian Fraser House for the first half of the Gardeners' Spring Meeting and our Chairman, Tom Hart, welcomed two new members, Ken Walker and Jim Caldwell and their respective wives, Mary and Maggie. We stood in silence for a minute in memory of Sid Jones a valued member of the Club and keen gardener who died recently. An apology for absence was received from Bert Frost due to the illness of his wife, Gladys. Tom outlined the week's programme including a visit to Wisley, it sounded both interesting and varied. Referring to the week at Church Stretton last September, he said what an enjoyable time it had been and then he gave more details of the rose named *St Dunstan's* which will be on sale in the autumn. He had received a letter from Mr. Keith Jones, international rose specialist, who had created this rose, and I quote '... there will be 1,000 bushes price about £5.25 with a 10 p.c. discount to St Dunstaners. I have as yet to contact the R.N.R.S. about having an official *Redex* of the rose at the Festival at Hampton Court, but I am sure there will be no problems with that. The rose is now protected by plant breeders rights.' Tom wound up by referring to our proposed visit to Devonshire in September and said the hotel is large enough to accommodate all the nominated members. Elizabeth Walbrugh read the minutes of the last meeting held at Church Stretton. John Walbrugh, our Treasurer, said the Club is in a very healthy condition financially.

On Monday afternoon we had a visitor from Chichester, Miss Cherry Burton, a garden designer, who was to give us a talk on herbs and their uses from the 17th century. Because of the sweet aroma of these plants they were made into 'tuttie-muttis' or nosegays to try to combat the evil smells by which people were surrounded in those days. It

is understood the Lord Mayor of London carries such a posy on certain occasions. By gently wafting them in front of the face and inhaling deeply people thought this would be a means of preventing them catching diseases and maybe there was some substance in the idea because medicine as we know it today was not evident at that time. Miss Burton gave a very interesting and instructive talk, then walked amongst us handing around leaves from various plants to handle and get the aroma. Her first visit was rather short and sweet but she brought a selection of sweet-smelling plants for sale and these were soon snapped up.

Wisley

An early start for Wisley, in Surrey, on Tuesday, but it was a pleasant day and we were all looking forward to roaming the gardens at leisure until lunchtime. As we passed through countryside and woodland adjacent to the M23 and the M25 we saw plenty of golden yellow gorse and now and then a splash of vivid blue from bluebells which were by now at their best. Fields were a lovely lush green and the rape fields gave the impression of bright patches of sunshine. With trees in full leaf this was rural Britain at its best. After an excellent lunch at the restaurant we made our way into the gardens where we were joined by Mr. Malford, a member of the staff at Wisley, who was to give us a guided tour through the grounds. Mr. Malford proved to be very knowledgeable on all aspects of the gardens and with a great sense of humour and a friendly disposition we took a liking to him. The orchid house was visited and he said Singapore Airlines have donated an Orchid House so there will be many more of these exotic blooms to be seen. We gathered that to counteract the effects of more dry summers they are

mulching to a much greater degree now. Every bed had a deep layer, even the very large herbaceous beds on either side of the wide grass walk leading up to the rhododendron and azalea collection.

The rhododendrons and azaleas were originally in a woodland area and it was thought that this dappled shade was the ideal situation for them. When the trees were destroyed in the hurricane of 1987, it was then found that the frost and cold winds were more detrimental. The rhododendrons and azaleas are still surviving quite well and new trees have been planted. At the lower end of the rhododendron plantation there is an underground stream which keeps a portion damp enough to grow marsh plants and the ground is visibly wetter at this point, which is interesting since it is still halfway up a hill!

Coffee on the Lawn

Wednesday was a beautiful day though with a coolish wind but when we arrived at Heaselands, near Haywards Heath, the lawn was laid out with tables and chairs so that we could have coffee and biscuits supplied by Mrs. Kleinwort the owner of the Gardens. Later we wandered at will over the springy turf which was slightly damp from the early morning dew. The whole vista looked perfect to the untrained eye but many well established trees were lost in the hurricane as well as exotic plants and shrubs. It will take many years for new trees to reach maturity but it is still a glorious venue for enthusiasts. The area round the well-stocked pools was beautifully landscaped with conifers, heathers, etc., and also by moisture loving plants. There are four pools connected by tumbling and meandering sandstone-edged streams and the fish — rudd, carp and golden orfe — could be seen very plainly in the beautiful clear water. The banks of a woodland ravine were a mass of bluebells and I understand that due to a good many trees being destroyed here with the extra sun and light they have spread to make a vivid blue covering in the valley. Wherever we walked groups of rhododendrons, azaleas and

many other flowering shrubs and plants could be seen making Heaselands one of the most delightful of the gardens we visit.

Dinner held in the Winter Garden on Wednesday evening was one of the best the Gardening Club has had. Our guests were Lieutenant-Colonel David Bray and his charming wife, Beth, and our own Sue Reynolds. David Bray gave us some very amusing anecdotes and Beth recited a lovely poem which I think was called "The Garden". We adjourned to the Annexe later for drinks and dancing to Ernie Took's Band.

Denman's Garden

Thursday was not such a good day and we had to put up with some drizzle and dampness on the grass for most of the day. Our venue was Denman's Garden, Fontwell, and on alighting from the coach we made our way to the dairy tea-shop near the entrance. This adjoining country shop, used to be two separate cattle stalls together and with other farm buildings formed the home farm to an estate built for and owned by Lord Denman in the 19th century. Some 45 years ago, the dilapidated house and some 32 acres of neglected land were bought by a Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and turned into a very interesting garden. But the development took 40 years. A walled garden with such favourites as old fashioned roses, perennials and herbs and a stream which runs down to a newly created butyl lined natural pool. Most of the plants here are bamboo and grasses and other water loving species, whilst dotted around are a large variety of shrubs and trees. We come to the Clock House and from this area the landscape designer runs the garden and his School of Garden Design with students having the facility of the whole garden. Mrs. Robinson, now elderly and disabled, roams around the area in an old fashioned golf buggy (with a personal number plate) keeping an eye on the place and mixing with the many visitors. A delicious lunch at The Swan, Arundel, then another few miles in the coach to Yapton, where we visited Mrs. Turner's Garden, at Berri Court.

Only small in comparison with the others but it was a picture with the rounded flower beds full of a colourful display of rhododendrons and different hued azaleas making a brilliant splash of colour against their dark green leaves. Aquilegia and many other flowers added to the spectacle. A feature had been made of a couple of big trees which had either been pollarded or had lost the tops in gales by planting a rambler rose and a large leafed variegated ivy and training them around the trunks. The lawns were beautifully kept and the camomile lawn gave off a lovely scent as we walked over it. The whole aspect of Berri Court was homely and this was enhanced by a view of laundry on a circular dryer wafting slightly in a gentle breeze as we rounded the house to reach more lawns and a little pool. This was a seated area surrounded by hedges on three sides and a small flight of steps off the gravel path to a lovely house. As well as some 'friendly' fish in the pool there was a fountain and the droplets tinkled as they hit the water below. Being a private garden there was no toilet facility and the sound of running water could have caused an awkward situation!

Anniversary Congratulations

We had our wind-up meeting in the Winter Garden on Friday morning and all agreed the first week had been a great success and very enjoyable. We sang happy birthday to Alan whose birthday had been the previous day and congratulated Jim and Gloria on their 34th wedding anniversary. A visit to Newhaven Garden Centre concluded the first week's activities very nicely.

A slightly smaller number for the second week but all rarin' to go after Tom had told of the successful first week. Two new members were welcomed, T. Johnson and G. Roake and their respective wives. There was an apology from Tom Morrison to say he had been ill and reluctantly he and Doris had to cancel. The itinerary would be as for the first week but there would be no guided tour at Wisley and also our special guests at the Wednesday dinner would be Betty,

widow of our late Chairman, Reg Newton, and Ricky who accompanied Reg to the meetings and was such a great help to him and a good friend to us all. At dinner on the Wednesday Tom welcomed the two ladies and later they moved around talking to their many friends.

In his winding up speech, Tom said week two had been just as good as week one and all seemed to have enjoyed it immensely. It is quite possible our Autumn 1992 away meeting will be in Derbyshire, staying either in Matlock or Buxton. Elizabeth read the minutes from the wind-up meeting at Church Stretton and John concluded with a statement of our expenses for the two weeks which were somewhat more than had been bargained for. It is possible our subscription will be slightly increased from September next. The day and week ended with a visit to Roundstone Garden Centre.

Dates for your diary:
Devonshire, Tuesday,
September 3rd-10th
Ian Fraser House.
May 11th-15th, 1992
May 18th-22nd, 1992

I will end by thanking everyone who helped us in any way whatsoever from Lt. Col. Bray onwards and it all constituted in making our Gardening Weeks such happy, memorable ones.

FREE TAPE LIBRARY

St Dunstaners wishing to avail of the extensive range of material available from the Free Tape Library for the Blind can get a catalogue of tapes available from: Mrs. M. Bennett, Royal London Society for the Blind, Salusbury Road, London, NW6 6RH. Telephone 071-624 8844.

ARMY CATERING CORPS

Tony Parkinson asks if there are any other St Dunstaners who served in the Army Catering Corps. If so he would like to get in touch. Please write or telephone the Editor, *St Dunstan's Review* at Headquarters.

Poet's Corner

DAWN IN ABBOT'S WOOD

By Ron Smith

The early morn beneath majestic pine
I glance the lace-effect of starry shine.
The barking fox returns from nightly
prowl
Through firry cloak the screech of
tawny owl.

Still spangled sky, but stars fade in the
east
And lift the nightly spell for bird and
beast.

Jackdaws, rooks, lift in wild array,
Doves, crows, woodcock announce the
newborn day.

Now dawn has come, pink tipped the
clouds afar
And passes on to kiss the morning star
That spreads a hand of golden beams
To welcome nature's child from dreams.

A blackbird here screams for her mate
And scolds him so for being late;
He wipes a sleepy eye ere long
And then bursts into flute-like song.

It echoes o'er the forest floor
And sea birds cry on nearby shore.
On woodland rim the curlew pipe
And skylarks soar in choral flight.

There's robin, song and mistle thrush
Sing from vantage height
And tiny crest and finches too
In polyphony unite.

There's one so small and seems to have
The power of ten;
He claims to have the highest song,
That adorable minute wren.

Sunbeams light the scars of stormy days
And fill the Maytime screen with
dazzling haze.
And yellow archangel lift the autumn
strife,
They nod and whisper softly for nature's
gift of life.

The titmice sing from nesting seat
And warble their continuity repeat.
Magpie chuckles and looks demure,
Laughs and croaks a belated overture.

Humble bee vibrates on gorse head,
Tortoise shell dries out on campion red.
Silken webs, they too must share what
sunlight brings
And ease the trap for unwary satin
wings.

I leave the hide of greenery drape
On passage then to exit gate
Past bluebells and primrose they stand
aloof
So fragile now from boot and hoof.

Now chorus fades until the morrows
dawn
And circling Earth brings forth a new
day born.
Perchance so few will hear the Maytime
melody
This cherished gift of feathered
euphony.

WHERE WERE YOU?

(Anonymous cautionary tale)

O where were you when I wanted you
For support in my hour of need?
You were playing golf with Toby Mann
Another of your breed,

O where were you when I needed you
To lighten my load of care?
You were down at the pub with the rest of
the crowd
Do you call that being fair

And where were you the whole of last
week
Instead of at home here with me?
You were living it up at a conference
At a four star hotel by the sea

And where did I spend those empty
nights?
On my lonely couch full of woe?
You bet your sweet life I didn't my love.
I was shackled up with your dear old pal
Joe!

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.

Gary Lomas, of Blackburn, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's on June 19th.

Gary enlisted in the Royal Engineers in May, 1988, and was trained as a Combat Engineer. He had a secondary trade of Bomb Disposal Engineer. He served in Gibraltar, Norway and the Gulf. He was severely injured in a mine explosion in the Gulf on March 12th this year.

Gary is at present undergoing training at Ian Fraser House.

James Williams, of Barnsley, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's on June 27th.

Mr. Williams volunteered for the Regular Army in 1936, joining his local regiment, The West Yorks (now The Prince of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment). He completed his training and joined his battalion in India before the outbreak of the Second World War.

In March 1942, Mr. Williams received gunshot wounds to his face, forehead and left eye in an action against the Japanese in Burma. His wounds left him unfit for regular service and he was discharged in December, 1944.

Mr. Williams is married and has a grown-up family.

TV SOUTH INITIATIVE

TVS Television have undertaken a research project in a bid to make television more enjoyable for people with sight difficulties.

The project, developed by TVS Director of Engineering, John Buckley, and Senior Dubbing Mixer, Danny Curtis, is planned to give people access to a specially-designed commentary that runs simultaneously during television programmes, making them easier to understand. Users can tune in, using

earphones, by plugging into a commentary box on top of their televisions.

Representatives of local blind organisations were asked for their comments after seeing a prototype made for one of TVS's most popular regional programmes, *Country Ways*.

Now TVS plans to develop the scheme further after gaining valuable advice from those who attended the trials. Mr. Buckley said:

'We believe that, when providing a service to minority groups, it is essential to take their views into account. When we were developing the sub-titling service on our news output, for the deaf, we did a lot of work with deaf organisations and their input was invaluable. Similarly, the comments provided by group representatives for this project will be essential to us in further developing the service.'

A TVS spokeswoman told the *Review* that they are going ahead with the improvements in their spoken commentary techniques and the development of the commentary box is aiming to reduce its cost. 'We would expect to introduce the service in the foreseeable future', she said.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

June Pairs played at Ian Fraser House on June 9th, 1991

Results

1st	Bob Evans & Mrs. Barker	76.5
2nd	Bill Phillips & Dr. J. Goodlad	56.5
3rd	Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Holborough	55.5
4th	Mr. White & Mrs. White	52.5
5th	Jerry Lynch & Mrs. Clements	52.0
6th	Reg Goding & Mrs. Abbott	50.0
7th	Wally Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	49.0
8th	George Hudson & Miss Steyning	40.0
9th	Jo Huk & Mrs. Combridge	34.5
10th	Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Douse	33.5

CLUB NEWS *continued*

Individuals Played on Saturday, June 22nd

Results

1st	Reg Goding	63.9
2nd	Mrs. Barnes	59.0
3rd	Mrs. McPherson	58.3
4th	Alf Dodgson	57.6
5th	Gerry Lynch	57.0
6th	Bob Evans	56.2
7th	Miss Steyning	54.9
8th	Mrs. Lynch	53.5
9th	Ron Freer	50.7
10th	Mrs. Clements	47.2
11th	Jo Huk	46.5
12th	Mrs. McCauley	44.4
13th	Mrs. Evans	41.0
14th	Mrs. Padley	40.3
15th	Bob Fullard	37.5
16th	Mrs. Combridge	32.0

FAMILY NEWS

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Coupland, of Hesse, are delighted to announce the arrival of a grand-daughter, Anna Marie, born to their daughter, Jeannie, on May 19th. We send our warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Coupland and to the proud parents, Jeannie and Peter.

Eric and Peggy Foster, of Barnsley, on the birth of their eighth grandchild, Hugh Andrew, born on May 17th, to their son, Andrew and his wife, Sheila.

Alan and Susan Milne, of Durham, who became grand-parents twice over within the space of two months. On January 2nd, Isabella Katherine was born to their daughter, Marion, and on February 22nd, Alan's step-daughter, gave birth to Caroline Susan Tereasa. Professor Milne and his wife are very proud of them both.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Norman Follis, MBE, of Cardiff, on being awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Cardiff Institute of Higher Education.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansel Lewis, of Carmarthen, Dyfed, are delighted to announce that their foster daughter, Salinee Chin Mekhood, has passed the National Diploma of Design at Carmarthen Art College, has been named 'Student of the Year' and has been accepted at the Welsh College of Music, Drama and Set Design, in Cardiff, in September.

To *James Norris*, of Northwood, on being awarded first and second prize in the woodwork section of the Middlesex Association for the Blind's exhibition of handicrafts held recently.

Jonathan Morris, son of *David Morris*, of Newquay, on obtaining a BSc in combined sciences at the Polytechnic of Wales, Pontypridd, this year.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Alf and Ruth Bradley, of Northwood, on the marriage of their eldest grand-daughter, Rachel, to Richard Limer, at St. Peter's Church, Stapen Hill, Staffordshire, on June 8th.

Mrs. Ada Cook, of Swindon, widow of the late *Len Cook*, on the marriage of her grandson, Mark Wheeler to Julie Jackman, at Toothill Church, Swindon, on June 22nd.

George and Ethel Fone, of Enfield, on the marriage of their grand-daughter, Debbie Rutland, to Stewart Disney, on June 30th.

Mrs. Janie Kempe, of Camborne, widow of the late *Samuel Kempe*, on the marriage of her daughter, Linda, to Brian Head, at Camborne, on June 15th.

FAMILY NEWS *continued*

Mrs. D. L. Pearce, of Hendon, widow of the late *Mr. W. J. S. Pearce* on the marriage of her grand-daughter, Elisabeth Pearce, to Michael Binnington, at St. Mary's Church, Hendon, on July 6th.

Mrs. Mary Warren, of Porthcawl, widow of our late St Dunstaner *E. G. (Ted) Warren*, who is pleased to announce the wedding of her grand-daughter, Judith, to Gareth Shepherd on July 6th.

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Ralph and Kay Pacitti, of Weymouth, Dorset, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on July 16th.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Josh and Gladys Callum, of Peterborough, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 9th, 1991.

DEATHS

We offer our condolences to:

The family and friends of Mrs. Annie Birkby, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, widow of the late *William Birkby*, who died on June 19th.

The family and friends of Mrs. G. E. Bond, widow of the late *Mr. F. V. Bond*, of Larkhall, Bath, who died in hospital on June 10th shortly after her 92nd birthday.

Mrs. E. Caton, of Harlow, widow of the late *A. H. Caton*, on the death of her daughter, Barbara, who died in New Zealand on April 25th, soon after her return from a visit to this country.

The family and friends of Mrs. Edna Davies, of Church Stretton, who died on June 11th, 1991. She was the widow of *Clement Davies* who died in 1987. Our sympathy goes to their two sons, five daughters and all other members of the family.

The family and friends of Mrs. Elsie Colclough, of Stoke-on-Trent, who died on June 9th, 1991. She was the widow of *Alfred James Colclough* who died in 1960 and our sympathy goes to their daughter, Mrs. Lilian Hall.

The family and friends of Mrs. Florence Harding, of Finchley, widow of the late *Henry Harding*, who passed away on June 30th, aged 94.

Kenneth Hedges, of Bexley, Kent, on the death of his mother who passed away in March, aged 97.

The family and friends of Mrs. Maud Heren, of Stepney, London, widow of the late *Louis Heren*, who died on June 12th, aged 90.

Mrs. Marjorie Hordyniec, of Winchester, Hampshire, on the death of her sister, Eva, who passed away on July 2nd.

The family and friends of Mrs. Catherine Howarth, of Liphook, widow of the late *William Howarth*, who passed away on June 13th, aged 82.

The family and friends of Mrs. Frances Hutchinson, of Wakefield, widow of the late *Herbert Hutchinson*, who passed away on June 26th.

The family and friends of Mrs. W. L. Murray, of Worthing, widow of the late *Walter Murray*, who died on June 3rd.

The family and friends of Florence Mabel Pike, of Coldean, Brighton, widow of the late *Stanley Charles Pike*, who passed away on June 27th, aged 91.

In Memory

It is with pleasure that we report that there are no deaths of St Dunstaners to record this month.