



**St Dunstans
Review**

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Free to St Dunstaners

DECEMBER 1991

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Cover Picture: Barbara Bell wasn't the only cool swinger at Ironbridge. Full details start on page 14.



From the Chairman

This is the last edition of the *Review* before Christmas and the last in 1991. My message is short and simple: I wish you all, St Dunstaners, Widows and your families, and the Staff who serve you, a very Happy Christmas and a good year in 1992.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



NEW CLUB FOR CRAFTY HANDS

Handicraft enthusiasts will have their own club from April 2nd next year. It is being formed by popular demand and with the approval of the Brighton Homes Management Board.

Squadron Leader George King and Terry Walker have kindly volunteered to co-ordinate applications for membership to 'get the show on the road!' Early next year a formal membership meeting will be held to elect a committee and decide upon a constitution. It will also plan the Handicraft Club Week programme of events and approve the level of membership.

The provisional Handicraft Club Week will be June 28th to July 3rd. During that time guest speakers will be invited to IFH to demonstrate their crafts. The Club will also make a number of visits to local craft centres.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Terry Walker at IFH on 0273 307811 ext. 3240.

RNIB SURVEY

By Ray Hazan

At a press conference on October 15th, the RNIB launched the results of a survey of visually handicapped people. It was a most comprehensive report covering employment, mobility, registration, Social Services, organisations, holidays, leisure activities, etc. It is the first such survey in the United Kingdom. Over 600 visually impaired people were interviewed and there was close liaison with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The report is a mass of statistical information and only a few of the more outstanding are quoted here.

Four-out-of-five blind people of working age are unemployed. There are one million blind and partially sighted people, four times more than was previ-

ously estimated, but 77 per cent of these are unregistered. Less than one-in-five people received a visit from their local Social Services at the time of their sight loss. Only five per cent of registered blind people receive mobility training.

Possession of these facts and figures will enable organisations to pressure for statutory rights, but if the State is failing now, how could it cope with four times more if all were registered?

The report costs £19.95 and is available from RNIB Customer Services at Peterborough in print, braille and on tape.

CRISPER WALKS

The Walking Holiday for 1992 starts on Easter Monday, April 20th, and finishes on April 24th.

The shorter walks will take place in the South Downs area and will consist of about ten miles a day. Picnic lunches will be provided. Walkers should try to get their own guides. There are generally sufficient helpers and transport to ferry people home at lunch-time if they feel unable to complete a whole day's walk. The week finishes with a dinner in the Winter Garden.

If there are sufficient numbers, then an attempt will be made to complete the whole of the South Downs Way walk. This would involve about 20 miles a day and the first three nights will be spent in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Anyone interested in either walk should contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters as soon as possible.

NEXT REVIEW

St Dunstaners are reminded that the next issue of the *Review* will be a combined issue for January and February.

It will be out towards the end of January, but letters, suggestions and family news are still welcome in the meantime.



NOTICEBOARD



GREETING FROM KATHARINE GARNETT-ORME

My warmest greetings and love to the St Dunstan's family for Christmas and 1992 – also throughout the coming years. You will always be in my thoughts.

Katharine Garnett-Orme

NEW LOOK ORANGE BADGE

Following consultation with organisations of and for the disabled, legislation to amend some aspects of the Orange Badge Scheme is being introduced.

The principal revisions are as follows:

1. Automatic entitlement for those in receipt of mobility allowance and war pensioner's mobility supplement.
2. Eligibility for people with very severe upper limb disability, who regularly drive a vehicle.
3. Introduction of a passport style badge with photograph.
4. Provision in the Road Traffic Bill to tackle abuse.
5. Increase from two to three hours limit on yellow line waiting.

SERVICE MOVE

RNIB Talking Book Service Volunteer, V.B. Stean, has recently moved to London.

Any Talking Book users who require his services can contact him at 181 Pleona Crescent, South Tottenham, London N15 6D2.

TELL US A STORY

St Dunstaners are reminded that the Story Writing Competition 1992 was opened in last month's *Review*.

Entrants have a free hand and can choose any subject they please – adventure, comedy, romance, or anything else that comes to mind.

First prize is £50 and second prize is

£25. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, wives, husbands, and widows. The story should be between 500-1,000 words, and must be original. Please type manuscripts with double line spacing. Entries are to be submitted under an assumed name with your real identity attached in a sealed envelope. The closing date is March 31st, 1992. Full rules appeared in the November *Review*.

Send your tale to Story Writing Competition 1992, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

POOL BREAK

The swimming pool at Ian Fraser House will be open as usual over the Festive Season – but with the following exceptions.

- Christmas Eve** – December 24th – Early closing at 1800 hrs.
- Christmas Day** – December 25th – Closed all day.
- Boxing Day** – December 26th – Closed all day.
- New Year's Eve** – December 31st – Early closing at 1800 hrs.
- New Year's Day** – January 1st – Closed all day.

On all other days normal opening hours will apply.

MARATHON MEN

Ray Sheriff, with his escort, Jim Wild, completed two more marathon walks this season. On July 7th, in the Windmill Marathon, they returned a time of 9 hours and on October 20th they finished the Seven Sisters Marathon in 7 hours 59 minutes. This represented a 15 minute improvement on Ray's previous best time.

Three Welsh St Dunstaners meet their Princess

Norman Follis, Chairman of the South Wales Talking Magazine, Trevor Tatchell, who is Vice-Chairman of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, and Norman Hopkins, who is a committee member of both organisations, had the honour of meeting Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales on October 3rd.

The Princess was visiting the headquarters of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, Shand House, which is just outside the city centre. During the year, the ground floor of the building has been completely redeveloped to include a new resource and information centre, administration and welfare offices and a new recording studio and technical area for the South Wales Talking Magazine Association.

After unveiling a plaque to mark the opening of the Centre, Princess Diana chatted informally with a number of people including our three St Dunstaners. 'I was demonstrating computers,' Norman Hopkins told the *Review*. 'The Princess was very interested, and she seemed even more interested when she learned I was a physiotherapist.'



Her Royal Highness shakes hands with Trevor Tatchell at the new HQ of Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

Picture: Hilary Warner Barry Webb Assoc.

Braille with infinite application

By Terry Bullingham

The long-awaited Mountbatten Braille represents the culmination of 10 years' development financed by the Mountbatten Memorial Trust Fund, and has been the subject of extensive field trials by students at the Royal National College, Hereford. It is manufactured by Quantum Technology Pty Ltd., Sydney, Australia.

Physically the braille is like an electronic typewriter with a modified Perkins-style keyboard. Similarity with the Perkins ends here, however, as this braille, incorporating modern materials and 'state-of-the-art' technology, is supremely versatile. In its basic form the braille will act as an electrically-powered stand-alone unit with the capacity to produce 30 sheets of braille from an internal rechargeable battery. Braille may

be embossed directly at the time of typing (there is a correction facility) or stored in the 25K memory (expandable) and subsequently embossed later.

A weight of under 10 lb. provides portability, adaptability and expansion being key features of the design. The Braille will readily interface with a multiplicity of computers, peripherals, and translation software, providing an infinite range of applications.

An irony is that the braille in its basic form costs 10 times more than the current concession price of a Perkins machine, precluding its use by many brailleists.

For full details, St Dunstaners should contact George Bell, Manager of the UK agents and distributors: Techno Vision Systems Limited, 4 Hazelwood Road, Northampton NN1 1LN. Telephone (0604) 239363.



Electrotherapy continues to develop — Roy David and Des Coupe try the H Wave on themselves.

St Dunstan's Physiotherapists in Conference

*Story and Pictures:
David Castleton*



There has been anxiety among blind members of the physiotherapy profession that the North London School of Physiotherapy, the only school for blind physiotherapists, may have to close. After discussion at their Annual General Meeting, St Dunstan's physiotherapists urged the authorities to ensure that, whatever happened to the school, physiotherapy training would still be available to the totally blind student, backed by full support services of the standard provided by the North London School.

After the AGM, there were lectures by physiotherapists specialising in different aspects of the profession and demonstrations of new equipment and techniques of therapeutic treatment. In his talk on 'Bioelectricity and Electrotherapy', Mr. Robert A. Charman, MCSP, Dip TP, asked his audience to look at the body in a different way. Imagine it, he said, as an electrical system. He went on to describe how human cells are extremely small and use incredibly tiny currents of electricity. The study of this was likely to lead to new methods of healing bones and soft tissue.

The human knee is a very complicated joint and Jim Muirhead, MCSP, a member

Left, John Henty speaking after dinner.

of the Association of Blind Chartered Physiotherapists, spoke on methods of diagnosing the source of pain in the knee and its treatment.

There was great interest in the two demonstrations of equipment that were arranged. The Carry-traC is, as its name implies a portable device. It is small enough and light enough to be carried yet it efficiently enables traction to be applied to a patient. The other equipment shown was a new development in electrotherapy called H Wave. Mike Tetley brought along a device he purchased at the World Congress of Physical Therapy recently, which eases back problems by inverting the patient. This he happily demonstrated personally but failed to persuade anyone else to hang upside down, including this correspondent.

The annual dinner was presided over by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach. The guest speaker, introduced by the Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee, Des Coupe, was John Henty.

They have Eric Foster where they want him! Gordon Smith, Norman Hopkins and Mike Tetley try out a portable machine that applies traction to the lumbar spine.



He spoke amusingly of his pioneer days with Radio Brighton, now Radio Sussex. He broadcast on the first day of the then new BBC local radio station and recalled one outside broadcast made from the top of the highest building in Brighton when all he could describe was the thick mist enshrouding him and Brighton. Now John Henty produces *Soundings*, the monthly sound magazine for blind people and, in his studio in Lewes, he is also responsible for another hour-long tape programme for hospital radio, *Nice 'n Easy*.

Mike Tetley spoke to express the thanks of his fellow St Dunstan's physiotherapists and after this there was dancing in the Annexe to the music of Ernie Took and his band.

Des Coupe and Mike Tetley were both re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee following the AGM at which outgoing committee members, Norman Hopkins and Gordon Smith, were re-elected.



Above, Dame Margot Turner steps out with local bobby, David Arseneault. Below, Care Assistant Sandra Allen leads and Stan Tutton has no choice but to follow. One, two, three... dip?



A tradition has been established at Pearson House. It is the celebration, on the Sunday nearest the actual anniversary of the presentation of the House to St Dunstan's by the Federation of Grocers of the United Kingdom.

Every St Dunstaner staying in the House may invite a guest to a celebratory luncheon and dancing and tea in the afternoon. This year 65 St Dunstaners and guests sat down to lunch in the main dining room and in the quiet lounge converted to a dining room for the day.

Upstairs in the Nursing Wing another group of those St Dunstaners not fit enough to come down, lunched with their guests.

Inspired

The event is the inspiration of Matron Chris King and in a brief speech after luncheon she gave reasons for it: 'Pearson House was presented to St Dunstan's on October 16th, 1918 by the Federation of Grocers of the United Kingdom. The buildings were then restored and redecorated. This venture was paid for out of a sum of £11,000. Seventy-three years ago, £11,000 was a great sum of money. Today, it costs a considerably greater amount than that to keep Pearson House running for a week. As to what the worth and value of this lovely property is in 1991 in financial terms - I hesitate to guess.

'I have used the words cost, value and worth and in relation to these words I have mentioned money, but these three words have many meanings and interpretations. Here, today, it is only the St Dunstaners who really know the cost to them of their loss of vision, what they have paid in the service of their country. It is the relatives and friends, who are here as your guests, who understand the value to them of knowing you. To myself and the staff, the true worth of Pearson House is not the price put on bricks and mortar, but the ideal and purpose for which Pearson House exists.

'Most of all the worth of Pearson House is the total of all the courage, character and quality of the St Dunstaners who live here.'

Matron paid tribute to all those

Tradition established at Pearson House



Edgar and Eileen Hunter, Fred Day, and Will Riley had their own celebrations that day.

St Dunstaners who have lived in Pearson House over the years and greeted ten St Dunstaners who were attending this occasion for the first time. She singled out four of them for special reasons. 'First I will mention Edgar Hunter and his wife, Eileen. Today is their Ruby Wedding - forty years of happy marriage and we wish you many more to come.

'Then there is Fred Day, who is celebrating reaching three-quarters of a century. To you, Fred, many happy returns of your 75th birthday. Finally there is Will Riley, a First World War veteran who is 98 years old today. Many congratulations, Will - we are already beginning to plan for two

years hence when you will receive your telegram from The Queen. Ladies and Gentlemen, please raise your glasses - a toast to Edgar, Eileen, Fred and Will.'

After luncheon, an old favourite, Tony Back, provided music for dancing and singing in the Winter Garden until tea-time when there was a triple cake cutting ceremony by the wedding anniversary and birthday celebrants. In addition there was the anniversary cake, splendidly decorated with St Dunstan's badge. There was praise from the guests for PBK's catering and for the organisation behind the scenes. 'They do things well at Pearson House,' said one guest!



Harrogate Bridge

By Ralph Pacitti

Saturday evening, September 28th, saw our fixtures begin at the Harrogate Bridge Club. Cedric was there to greet us all, and to direct the evening's proceedings.

The Harrogate Cup is always sought after, and the Civil Service Club, having entered a team of four, won at their first attempt, congratulations to Trudy, Don, Stanley and Jim.

Bill Phillips, Captain, Robert Evans, Bill Allan and Reg Goding, Secretary, came a very good second. Well done the lads!

Sunday evening, we were playing at the Spa Hotel, Ripon. We learned of the recent marriage between Maureen and John. We all wish them many years of happiness together. This night, it was a

Somme cheque!



Major Graeme Hannington, representing the Somme Charity Run, organised by the Royal Engineers HQ (British) RCZ, presented a cheque for £1,162.66 to Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Henry Leach, last month.

The money was raised by sponsored runners who followed the front line associated with the battle in 1916.

Major Hannington brought with him a commemorative shield and, in return, was presented with a St Dunstan's shield as a token of our esteem.

match with John directing. At the end it was the home team who won. Many thanks to the management of the Spa for the use of their lovely premises.

On Monday evening, Ernie and friends welcomed us to the Civil Service Club. Again the form would be a match. St Dunstan's were holding their own quite well, but the short break for a quick cuppa changed everything. After a misunderstanding one of our pair ended in Seven Hearts, with the dreaded word, 'Double'. This assured a home win.

We returned to the Harrogate Bridge Club on Tuesday to tackle not one team, but a merging ICI and CEGB. Dr. Alex Flett kept everyone under control. St Dunstan's team drew another blank, although to say the result was close, would be very misleading.

Wednesday afternoon, we played at Bradford. Two changes took place, first Cedric allowed Bradford two of our team. St Dunstan's notched up their first win. And after your warmth and hospitality Bradford, many thanks to you, Eddie and friends.

Thursday was spent at Oakdale Golf Club. With the captain on duty elsewhere Dick was generous in his welcome. Now a rare occurrence took place this evening — Bill Allan spoke on behalf of St Dunstan's. You know Bill does not usually say a lot. The joke he told was perfect!

Yes we scraped home. Next year Bill is banned from telling jokes.

On Friday, St Dunstan's tried to return some of the Yorkshire warmth and hospitality showered on them during the week. We had a very nice lunch at the Drovers. Robert Evans spoke on behalf of his St Dunstan's friends and, I should add, our wives and escorts. Well done Robert. Cedric's response was, as always, witty.

We were very fortunate to have the use of the Civil Service Club for that evening, and we pass on our grateful thanks. The winners of the bridge drive were Maureen — Violet, John — Robert, John H. — Robin, Monica — Wally and Jim — Ralph. Bill Phillips presented the cup to the Civil Ser-

vice team, and closed Harrogate '91.

Someone said during the week: 'It's just not like an ordinary holiday, it's like meeting family!' It warms our hearts to find such a welcome. We all value Cedric's friendship greatly.

This year two new escorts were having their first experience. With Jock Carnochan at the helm, Ernie Elliott and Michael Taylor made sure everything within the hotel and all our travels ran very smoothly. So did Bob our driver, taking us on local outings, and generally enjoying himself.

Harrogate success depends on all these factors working together. Reg Goding, our secretary, was very much involved with the success. From your friends, many thanks and well done.

Before drawing the curtain over this year's report, I would like to remind one and all of our winning of the Sussex team of eight. It was a great PR job for St Dunstan's Bridge Club.

Christmas conundrums

Fed up with turkey and Christmas pud? Worried by all that extra weight you've put on?

Well, the terrible teasers in our Christmas quiz are bound to make you lose the odd pound. You might still have trouble with the extra inch around your waist, but think of all the weight you'll lose pulling out your hair while trying to find the answers.

Bald or not, we hope you will have fun with our general knowledge challenge. The answers will appear in the next *Review*.

1. Which red-headed singer was fond of a Desert Song?
2. Nobody could untie the Gordian Knot! How did Alexander get round the problem?
3. What do the famous movie initials RKO stand for?
4. When you order a taxi, the driver immediately breaks the law. Why?
5. Which Gay Falcon could also be a bit of a saint?
6. Who left the Valley in 1987?

7. Who wrote a scientific paper on how to pump more air into ice cream?
8. Quoth the what? Nevermore!
9. Psychologist Charles Moulton is best known for creating Forties' comic character Wonder Woman, but another invention was more significant! What was it?
10. Which famous novel features a villain called Count Fosco?
11. What does FM stand for?
12. 'Drink to me, drink my health, you know I can't drink anymore.' Who said these famous last words?
13. The popular insult of sticking two fingers in the air originated at the Battle of Agincourt. Why?
14. Who was Prime Minister between 1852 and 1855?
15. By what name was Eric Blair better known?
16. Who invented television?
17. Fatty Arbuckle was found guilty of Virginia Rappe's murder! True or false?
18. Who composed *In the Hall of the Mountain King*?
19. How did George McMahon make the headlines in 1936?
20. By what name is model Christobel Leighton-Porter better known?

Saw Point



Hobby kit production should be speeded up after the introduction of a new high-powered rotary saw in the Woodworking Department at Headquarters.

The new tool allows greater versatility in cutting wood, as demonstrated by Ian McKellar.

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Martin Chuzzlewit
 Author: Charles Dickens
 Reader: George Hagan
 Duration: 39.5 hours
 Catalogue number: 1470

One of the greatest merits of all the truly great writers, is that their books can be read again and again and yet still give considerable pleasure.

Lovers of the works of Charles Dickens, will undoubtedly vouch for this without hesitation. If I'm not much mistaken, they will also be happy to agree that *Martin Chuzzlewit* is a novel which actually seems to improve with each reading.

Personally, I think this is because of the humour it contains... Dickens was always able to use his genius for comedy as a weapon against public indifference and social injustice, but nowhere is the cutting edge of this weapon so keen as here.

The slovenly and drunken Sarah Gamp, for instance, is a comic character who hardly ever fails to make one chuckle, but she was also the personification of a social disgrace — the nation's shameful lack of a reputable nursing profession.

In a recording of almost forty hours' duration, there is obviously ample time for many topics to be included and, not surprisingly, Dickens has turned his attention in many directions. One of these results from his travels in North America, which was a comparatively young country then, but already old enough, as he observes through the eyes of a couple of his more gullible characters, for fraudulent land sales and the pursuit of the easy dollar to be very well established indeed.

There are so many more admirable aspects of this classic amongst classics that

to list just half would take at least another page, but I can tell you it is a firm favourite of *mine*, and I would recommend it without hesitation. If you like literature at its best you can't fail to like *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

Watson's Apology
 Author: Beryl Bainbridge
 Reader: Richard Earthy
 Duration: 20 hours
 Catalogue number: 5508

There's no denying that the majority of us like to hear a bit of scandal. It has been selling Sunday newspapers certainly for as long as I've been alive, and, seeing that 'The Stockwell Tragedy' clearly attracted much national attention in 1871, it may safely be assumed that the public's fascination with events which occur behind someone else's drawn blinds, stretches back at least into Victorian times.

However, morbid curiosity alone, cannot fully account for the success of this compelling, but strangely disturbing book. And nor can I. For the life of me, I cannot explain why I found Beryl Bainbridge's speculative character study of Mr. Watson so very absorbing.

Watson was quite a learned man, fastidious in his habits, remarkably tolerant for a schoolmaster of his day, but nevertheless he was a somewhat nondescript kind of person. So why I, or anyone, should become so interested in such a man as he, is as mysterious in a way, as the forces which led Watson to commit act as he did.

But perhaps that's it! Perhaps it is precisely those 'but he doesn't seem the type' cases, which automatically possess the greatest appeal. When a dog bites a man

from the river mud and was in the process of being made 'ship-shape'.

These barges were used to carry all the equipment necessary for the furtherance of the Iron Industry and it is interesting to note that, during World War Two, parts of the barges used in the Normandy landings were being delivered to welders here on a horse-drawn plateway. Coracles have been used on the Severn for many centuries and are still made in the Gorge.

Some of us, who had been at Church Stretton, were interviewed by Mary, a reporter from Radio Shropshire and the recording would go 'on air' the day of our departure.

In the candle-making factory, we were given a demonstration of how these useful articles were made both for use by miners and in the home. About 24 wicks, about a foot long, on a rotating frame, were dipped into hot tallow until the required length and thickness were reached. Verdigris was added to some tallow to make the candles green, but these were for the use of miners only. If any other person was found to have a green candle he fell foul of the law and no doubt was punished. Hence the saying 'not worth the candle'. We thanked the two candle-makers (both dressed in the 1900 style) and left to see what other surprise there was. It turned out to be a very friendly horse named



Brenda Rea and Marjorie Ball meet a not-so-ordinary copper patrolling his beat...

'Prince' with a white blaze down its nose. After patting his nose we moved to a sty where there were some brown pigs — Tamworth breed — and it seems they were fed on the residue of the candle-making mixture.

Albert Tinkler entertains.





Above, Elsie Aldred and Zia Houlton potting in the Coalport Museum. Below left, Cynthia Mosley and Barbara Bell explore the Squatter's Cottage at Blists Hill. Below right, Mabel Simpson and Nim Dale buy some newly made candles.

ST DUNSTAN'S LADIES' REUNION continued



OUR next trip was a visit to the Coalport Pottery near Ironbridge. The area at Coalport where the Pottery premises stood could have been a large industrial site at some time as there were a number of derelict buildings about three storeys high. Most of the windows were smashed, so maybe they had been gutted by fire. The showrooms were on an upper floor so anyone in a wheelchair was unable to go there and had to be content with 'messaging about with clay.' We were instructed how to fashion the wet clay into mugs and roll a thick piece into a long narrow strip to make a handle. If there had been more time the mugs would have been 'baked' and we could have kept the finished product as a souvenir. I understand the Coalport ware is very beautiful but rather expensive and all said they had enjoyed seeing it. A film show was laid on, demonstrating the making of the product. A very interesting and educational afternoon!

On Saturday morning, Anne Hodges joined us and we were very pleased to see her again. Shrewsbury was our destination for sight-seeing and shopping. It was a pleasant morning to walk around and see the old buildings like the Guildhall (c.1470) which is still in use as a Magistrates Court. A military band playing in the vicinity could be heard above the noise and bustle of shoppers as we strolled around the pedestrianised shopping area.

From Shrewsbury we travelled to Church Stretton where we were to have lunch at the Longmynd Hotel. Later, some visited the village, reviving old memories, while others stayed in the bar lounge chatting. Some of us, who had trained at Church Stretton, were interviewed for the county newspaper.

Pauline Haycock, whose parents kept The Plough (one of our favourite haunts) joined us with her husband, Chris, and stayed for a while chatting to old friends. It was so pleasant at the Longmynd that we were sorry to leave, but we shall return sometime! We passed a four-wheeled bike on the road into Stretton. Dad, Mum and offspring all pedalling slowly along the highway!

Our special guests at dinner that even-



Sadie Stokes and her daughter, Carol, arrive at Bridgnorth Station.

ing were Mr. Ken Wills, M.A., Member of the Council, and his wife, Nan, and after drinks at the bar we made our way to the tables. Dinner was most enjoyable and the whole atmosphere was happy and jolly.

After coffee, Bill welcomed Ken and Nan, and Ken said how they were both enjoying their first Ladies' Reunion. Gwen was called upon to say a few words, which she did in her usual manner, finishing with an amusing tale which had us howling with laughter! Elsie made a presentation to Nan of a beautiful basket of flowers before we adjourned to the bar.

So far we had been fortunate with the weather, quite a lot of sunshine but no rain. On Sunday though, when we went to take a ride on the Severn Valley Railway it was very misty and the low cloud persisted for some time, so the train was some 20 minutes late arriving at Kidderminster, where we were awaiting it, but it only went as far as Bridgnorth which took 65 minutes and on its own special line. All seats had to be booked in advance and our seats in the dining car, where we would be

Continued overleaf

LADIES' REUNION *continued*

taking lunch, had been reserved 11 months ago! It was a very plentiful meal and I think most of us enjoyed it. A birthday party was taking place in the adjoining compartment and when someone began singing 'Happy Birthday' we joined in. The Severn Valley Railway which runs weekends from March to October is extremely popular and is always booked to capacity. It caters for special occasions and includes a Santa Special, when Santa himself gives each child a toy and adults a glass of hot punch. The disabled are catered for with wide access doors, ramps and fittings. There is no need to get out of wheelchairs. Gwladys and myself were lifted up the steps on an armless chair by the two Colins.

The mist had gone by the time we reached Bridgnorth and it was quite hot. Colin was awaiting us with his coach and

he took us a round-about way through the countryside to Ironbridge where we disembarked to have group photographs taken and pay another visit to the shops. Back to the hotel next to start the packing and wondering where on earth we were going to find room for the things we bought in Ironbridge, Shrewsbury and Church Stretton.

Dinner that evening was a very jolly affair, but tinged with sadness at knowing it would be another year before we would meet some of our friends again — but it had been a most enjoyable get-together. Under the supervision of Eileen, gift-envelopes were handed to members of staff by a variety of Lady St Dunstaners. Penny Lord was not forgotten either and she received a basket of flowers and a gift-envelope.

It had been a smashing weekend in every way and our grateful thanks go to Irene and Viv for the arrangements and organisation — everything went without a hitch! Our thanks also to Bill, Cynthia and David for the help they gave us and our guides, Fred and Len, on our visit to Ironbridge Gorge and Blists Hill and last, but not least, a big thank-you to Colin and his enthusiastic team of drivers.

*Emily McClarnan and Gwen Obern with escorts
Madge Pratt and Pat Scaife at Kidderminster.*



Ironbridge is a deliberate attempt to recreate the past, it was preserved in a showgirl's legacy to St Dunstan's which proved to be as mysterious as its antique contents were captivating . . .

Dancing in a time-bubble

By Simon Rogers

A bizarre taste of a bygone era came to light when a dancer's belongings were left to St Dunstan's.

The home of show dancer Ninna Hudson — a spacious flat in Turnham Green, London — echoed living conditions of the 1930s.

Then, it would have been quite luxurious, but today a home without a refrigerator, washing machine, or television, seems downright strange.

The flat wasn't entirely devoid of electrical appliances — an early Hoover lay against one wall — but all power was drawn from antique two-pin sockets.

Food was kept in a Victorian-style cold larder and cooked in iron utensils on a New World gas cooker that betrayed its age with sturdy craftsmanship and solid construction.

To the left, a small coal stove was on hand to provide heat and, on the right, a deep enamel sink provided washing facilities.

A boxroom bathroom, more awkward than small, sported a raised cistern lavatory with fixed wooden seat.

An ornate, yet somehow austere, living room contained a wind-up gramophone, with 78 rpm records, and upright piano. Books, in a closed bookcase, revealed numerous dictionaries, dancing, physiological, and standard reference works. There was a set of children's books dating from the early 1900s.

The flat also contained numerous costumes, apparently hand made by Ninna's mother, and strange nicknacks, such as a tin of ornately wrapped amyl-nitrate capsules.

Most of her possessions are being auctioned, but the costumes and theatrical memorabilia have been passed on to Theatre Museum, Covent Garden, while



Why was time suspended in the lonely world of Ninna Hudson? No one seems to know for sure, but her home defied the passing decades.

other items, such as an old laundry book, will be used by the Museum of London to flesh out existing period collections.

Both museums were impressed by the condition of the items left.

Little is known of Ninna Hudson herself, or why she should leave her belongings to St Dunstan's. She never married, never had any children, and evidently withdrew from public life after the death of her mother.

In 1928, she supported singer Paul Robeson in *Showboat* at Drury Lane Theatre, and a signed picture adorned the wall of her home. She carved a small niche in music hall as 'La Petite Creole', but faded into solitary obscurity as age crept on.

Miss Hudson was 91 years old when she passed away.

Tribute to Bob Sadler

Robert Sadler, who had been St Dunstan's Honorary Representative in New Zealand since 1980, died on September 21st, he was 71 years old.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds pays tribute to him as he recalls the very happy visit which he and his wife, Joyce, made to New Zealand in 1987, when they met Bob Sadler and his wife, Thelma.

Our flight had left Fiji at five o'clock in the morning, and although it was only three hours later when we arrived in Auckland, there were Bob and Thelma at the airport to welcome us.

We shall always remember that morning; within a few moments of reaching their home, we were served with coffee and sandwiches, and then allowed a quiet hour to recover from our early rising. This immediate friendship and understanding blessed the whole of our visit to that St Dunstan's reunion, which took place a week later in Christchurch, in the South Island.

Later that morning, Bob showed us around the garden, which was quite

extensive, and which he kept so well. It was there that he introduced us to our first Gala apple, off his own tree, and which was being exported to the UK for the first time that year.

That afternoon, he was playing in a bowls competition, a sport which he thoroughly enjoyed and to which he gave much time.

Bob, with Thelma's support, was a most conscientious President of St Dunstan's, New Zealand, knew all his members, and organised the excellent reunion.

We thought, it might be the last one, and last year Sir Henry and Lady Leach went out to Auckland, on the assumption that they might really be attending the last New Zealand reunion, but Bob's enthusiasm convinced them that St Dunstan's, NZ, would still continue, despite the distances separating members. Bob Sadler was a marvellous example of the spirit of St Dunstan's, and we shall all miss him very much.

Now Thelma is intending to continue his work. We wish her the best and send our sympathy to her.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Drop us a line or tape at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB

From: Mrs. Dorothy Docton, Staines, Middlesex

Dear Sir,

I recently went on a walking holiday in the Lake District with six others from my walking club. Being the Ancient Briton amongst us, I felt quite proud of myself for having climbed Blencathra (or Saddleback as it is also known), albeit taking the 'tourist' route and not by Sharp Edge (which had a fatality just a few days before).

However, my pride was short-lived on

opening the St Dunstan's *Review*, to be reminded yet again of our stalwart St Dunstaners who have just climbed Cader Idris.

From: Mrs. Hilda Sutton, Eastbourne, E. Sussex

Dear Sir,

Thank you, Matron and Staff at Pearson House, for all the care and comfort you gave to 'The Guvnor' during the last weeks of his life. He needed you and you were there.

Lady in White was Durban's delight

By David Castleton

During the Second World War convoys bound for the Mediterranean and the Far East stopped at Durban in South Africa. Somewhere in the region of three million service personnel were aboard the ships that entered Durban Harbour. Many of them will remember a lady who became a legend, Durban's Lady in White.

This is the title of the autobiography of Perla Siedle Gibson, an international concert star, who earned her title by singing through a megaphone while standing on the North Quay as the ships passed out of harbour on their way to the war zones.

Perla Gibson tells how this came about in her own words, edited for the first international edition by publisher, Sam Morley, who was himself one of the sailors encouraged and comforted by her beautiful soprano voice singing familiar favourite songs to shouted requests from the servicemen crowding the decks.

She tells more than this. She tells of her musical training as a pianist in Berlin before the First World War. It was during that war that she began to sing and, just as it happened a generation later, it was to the troops that she sang. Between the wars she became a renowned concert singer.

In 1940 a canteen was established in the docks at Durban and Perla Gibson became a voluntary helper there. She was wearing her regulation white dress and apron when, from the decks of a troopship, came shouts of 'Ma, sing us a song' and she sang *Land of Hope and Glory*. From 1940 to 1945 she never missed a convoy. In

SPY SNAPS

Ever wondered where James Bond gets his top secret pictures processed after sneaking into the mad scientist's lab?

Evidently, it's the same place that the *Review* sends pictures for printing. London photographers Leith Air are the only people to develop Minnox film these days.

The only other people to process the microscopic film favoured by spies and detectives are in Germany.

the memories of many who heard her, she wore a white gown. In fact she was always simply clad in her white dress and her canteen apron.

Durban's Lady in White was a character larger than life. She died in 1971. This autobiography will bring back memories for many ex-servicemen and women who passed through Durban. Compiled and edited by Sam Morley, with a Foreword by Perla Gibson's daughter, Joy Liddiard, it is copiously illustrated. It is published by Aedificamus Press, 113 The Ridgeway, Northaw, Herts, EN6 4BG. Telephone: 0707 872720. The published price is £14.95, post free, with a special rate for Second World War veterans and their dependants of £12.50 post free.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

On behalf of St Dunstan's we welcome a St Dunstaner recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Mr. Francis Eager, of Plymouth, Devon, joined St Dunstan's on October 23rd.

Mr. Eager joined the Territorial Army in April 1939 and served in the Royal Artillery battery known as the Devon Gunners. Based on Drake's Island, the South Coast, and later, the Orkney Islands, he attained the rank of Bombardier, before being discharged in February 1944 as medically unfit.

He then returned to his work as a plasterer until ill health forced him to take early retirement.

Mr. Eager and his wife, Marjorie, have one married daughter who lives near them in Plymouth.

CLUB NEWS

CHRISTMAS DANCE

The Brighton Social and Sports Club Entertainments Section will hold its Christmas Dance at Ian Fraser House on December 14th.

COMPETITIONS

BRIGHTON CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Compiled by Phyllis O'Kelly

Whist Aggregate

Men		Ladies	
T. Giles	687	E. Simpson	680
J. Huk	638	J. Walters	666
J. Pryor	631	N. Bickley	658
F. Bentley	613	J. Osborne	654

Domino Aggregate

J. Pryor	43	J. Osborne	32
J. Huk	34	J. Miller	30
T. Giles	33	J. Waters	29
T. Mугan	25	Joint fourth:	
		E. Simpson	27
		N. Bickley	26

Fives & Threes

1st B. Blacker	1st T. Mугan
2nd T. Giles	2nd E. Simpson
BSF F. Bentley	BSF P. O'Kelly
BSF J. Huk	BSF N. Bickley

Crib

1st T. Giles	1st E. Simpson
2nd F. Bentley	2nd T. Mугan
BSF J. Pryor	BSF J. Osborne
BSF J. Hopkins	

Darts

1st J. Pryor	1st E. Simpson
2nd T. Giles	2nd T. Mугan
BSF J. Hopkins	BSF M. Blacker
BSF B. Osborne	BSF M. Wilkins

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

Pairs match played at Ian Fraser House on October 13th

Results	Name	Score
1st	W. Lethbridge & Mrs. Tebbitt	64.5

2nd	B. Allen & Mrs. Clements	63.5
3rd	J. Huk & Mrs. Combridge	57.0
4th	R. Goding & Mrs. McPherson	53.0

Results	Name	Score
Equal 5th	B. Phillips & Miss Stenning	47.0
	G. Hudson & Mrs. McMillan	47.0
7th	B. Evans & Mrs. Andrews	46.5
8th	R. Freer & Mrs. Berry	41.5
9th	Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Padley	40.5
10th	A. Dodgson & Mrs. Abbott	39.5

Individuals match played at Ian Fraser House on October 20th

Results	Name	Score
1st	R. Palmer	60.4
2nd	R. Goding	58.3
3rd	W. Lethbridge	56.9
4th	Mrs. Douse	56.2
Equal 5th	J. Huk	54.2
	V. Delaney	
Equal 7th	W. Phillips	53.5
	J. Lynch	
Equal 9th	Mrs. P. Lynch	50.0
	Miss Stenning	
Equal 11th	R. Fullard	47.2
	R. Evans	
13th	Mrs. Padley	44.4
14th	Mrs. McPherson	42.4
15th	G. Hudson	38.2
16th	W. Allen	34.1

Individual Competition 1991 Overall Results

Results	Name	Score
1st	R. Goding	296.0
2nd	J. Huk	287.2
3rd	W. Phillips	276.3
4th	R. Evans	273.8
5th	R. Freer	273.5
6th	J. Lynch	272.1
7th	Mrs. P. Lynch	268.2
8th	A. Dodgson	267.6
9th	W. Allen	263.6
10th	W. Lethbridge	262.9
11th	G. Hudson	239.3

Three other players completed four rounds only:

V. Delaney	215.7
R. Palmer	205.7
R. Fullard	177.7

Pairs Competition 1991 — Overall Results

Results	Name	Score
1st	W. Lethbridge	304.9
2nd	R. Evans	285.3
3rd	W. Phillips	282.5
4th	A. Dodgson	274.2
5th	R. Goding	262.5
6th	G. Hudson	261.8
7th	J. Huk	225.3
8th	Mrs. Evans	202.1

Ten other players completed four rounds only, including:

Bill Allen	217.9
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Three rounds only:

V. Delaney	151.0
R. Freer	140.5

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations to:

Thomas and Olive Simmon, of Harrogate, Yorkshire, on the birth of their great-grand-daughter, Hannah Rose Jepson, on July 3rd, to Dene and Samantha Jepson.

Congratulations to Willie and Irene Barker, of Scarborough, who have a new great-grandson, Stuart James, born on September 20th.

Patricia Lovejoy, of Soberton, Hants., widow of Ernest Lovejoy is pleased to announce the birth of her grandson. Her daughter Julia, married to Russell Brinkman, gave birth to Arthur Richard Edward on July 19th.

Congratulations to Joyce Groves, of Thorpe Bay, Essex, widow of Donald Groves. Her daughter Wendy Swarbrick gave birth to a girl, Rebecca Carley, on October 2nd.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Mary Arnold, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, widow of William Arnold, is happy to announce the wedding of her grand-

daughter, Angela, to Richard Dearnley, at Keighley New Church on August 16th.

Ian Andrew, grandson of Mrs. Ruby Andrew, of Corringham, near Gainsborough, widow of Geoffrey Andrew. He married Caroline, during July in Huntingdon.

Richard Lovejoy, son of Patricia Lovejoy of Soberton, Hants., widow of St Dunstaner Ernest Lovejoy. He married Sarah Taylor at St Peter's Church, Soberton, on August 3rd.



Belated congratulations to Angela Hazel Osborne and Colin Bentley on their wedding on June 8th, at St Cyprian's Church.

St Dunstaners will know Colin well. He is the son of our St Dunstaner, Fred Bentley and his wife, Elizabeth. Among the guests were St Dunstaners Gwen Obern, Tom Hart, Marion and Bernard Blacker, Eileen and Walter Bramley and staff members Cynthia Mosley, Irene Newbold and Mary Frith.

Colin's Care Line transport firm is responsible for easing the problems of travel to our Brighton Homes, to reunions and other special events. In fact his wedding was postponed twice for St Dunstan's! The first postponement was for the Anniversary Garden Party and the second was for the Ladies' Reunion in Cardiff last year. We can only thank Angie for her forbearance — especially as we have also contrived to postpone this report — and hope that she will forgive us!

Frederick Field, of Chapel St Leonards, Lincolnshire, takes pleasure in announcing the marriage of his daughter, Beverley, to John Andriunas, on June 22nd — the same day as his own wedding 36 years previously.

John and Olive Kershaw, of Brighouse, Yorkshire, are pleased to announce that their grandson, Glyn Owen, married Georgina Docherty, at St Matthews Church, Lightcliffe, on July 27th.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Reg and Marjorie Theobald, of Ipswich, Suffolk, who celebrated their Golden day on October 25th.

RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Edgar and Eileen Hunter, of Ovingdean, Brighton, who celebrated their Ruby Anniversary on October 20th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Tina Williams, grand-daughter of late St Dunstaner *Henry Williams*, of Sutton, Cambs. She has just become the first woman in the British Army to be trained in a battlefield computer system.

Tina, aged 18, is currently serving with the Royal Signals in Germany.

St Dunstaner *Dr. Stan Sosabowski*, of Wimborne, Dorset, is pleased to announce that his grandson, Michael, has joined the Metropolitan Police force after passing a Chemistry Ph.D. at London University. He is currently training at Hendon with good prospects in the Scientific Branch.

Mrs. Winifred Thompson, of Bradford, widow of St Dunstaner *Oswald Thompson*, is pleased to announce that her grandson, Patrick, obtained eight 'O' level passes.

Also, congratulations to *Douglas and Irene Norman*, of Bradford, whose grand-daughter, Katherine, passed 9 GCSEs, which included three 'A' grades.

Mrs. Ruby Andrew, of Corringham, near Gainsborough, widow of *Geoffrey Andrew*, is delighted to announce the success of her grandson, Peter Thurlow. He obtained his M.R.C.V.S. and B.Sc. in July at Edinburgh University and is now in practice as a vet in Truro, Cornwall.

There are multiple congratulations for *Leonard and Joyce Hassam*, of Warminster, Wilts. Their son Andrew, who has a Research Fellowship at Trinity College, Carmarthen, will be travelling to Australia to work at the University of Canberra for six months next year.

Also, grandson Simon O'Flaherty has joined the Army and is on trial with the Arnhem Platoon of the Parachute Regiment, while grand-daughter Kate O'Flaherty, is reading Environmental Studies at Bristol Polytechnic.

John Lasowski, a Polish war-blinded ex-serviceman of Crepy-en-Valois, France, has been made an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur.

Mr. Lasowski, who trained at Church Stretton, was made a Chevallier of the Legion d'Honneur in 1952, but the Officer is a higher award.

The award was presented to him in Paris on November 11th as part of the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

DEATHS

We offer our condolences to:

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Justine Dilks, of Gotham, Nottingham, who died on October 2nd. She was the widow of *Arthur Dilks*. Our sympathy goes to her son, sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

St Dunstaner *John H. Marshall*, of Hartlepool, mourns the death of his wife, Nancy, who passed away on October 29th.

Our sympathy goes to Edna Mead, wife of St Dunstaner *Wilfred Mead*, of East Ham, London. Her sister died on September 27th following a stroke.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Gwen Styles, of Galmington, Somerset, on

October 15th. She was 80 years old. For many years, Mrs. Styles cared for the late *Eric Jenkins*, of Ferring, West Sussex, as his housekeeper.

CORRECTIONS

We offer our apologies to *Mr. Donald Spooner*, of Sheffield. In the Family News section in October's *Review*, we invented for him a wife he does not have.

Our apologies also go to Mrs. Ivy Kelk, of Rottingdean, Brighton, widow of *Charles Kelk*. In the October *Review*, we inadvertently renamed her Joy and confused son-in-law Tim, with newly-born grandson James Peter.

In Memory

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

Robert William John Sadler, 20th Battalion, NZA

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Robert Sadler, of Auckland, New Zealand, on September 21st. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Sadler served in the 20th Battalion of the New Zealand Army from 1939 and was blinded in Egypt in 1942. He became Honorary Representative of St Dunstan's in New Zealand in 1980.

A full tribute appears on page 22.

Alexander McBain Morton, RAF

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alex Morton, of Southwark, London, at Pearson House on October 15th. He was 83 years old and had been a St Dunstaner for eight years.

Mr. Morton played right-half for East Fife Football Club before joining the 1st Battalion Black Watch in 1926. While serving with the Watch, he travelled to Chikratta and Dera Dun, India and gained a first class certificate of Education in Urdu.

Enlisting with the RAF in 1939, he became Station Armourer. He lost his left eye and suffered severe head injuries while demonstrating to a class in 1944. After an intricate operation, he suffered narcolepsy.

By 1959, he recovered sufficient sight to take

control of heating and general maintenance at a medical centre.

Mr. Morton married in 1935, but his wife, Nan, died of a brain tumour in 1958. They had two daughters.

He remarried in 1965 and started work as a home tutor for the ILEA and as a character actor for T.V. productions.

Mr. Morton suffered a heart attack in 1977, but continued to act until June 1988, when he became a resident at Pearson House.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Jean.

Joshua Williams, South Wales Borderers

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joshua Williams, of Swansea, in hospital on October 4th. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Williams served in the South Wales Borderers from August 1941. He was blinded by a sniper in Holland in January 1945 and discharged from the Army in June, becoming a St Dunstaner in November 1945.

Returning to his family, Mr. Williams started employment in manufacturing industries. He retired in 1969, having made his home with his sister Betty and her husband.

Our sympathy goes to Betty Williams and her husband, their daughter, Rosemary, and all the family.

Richard Edward Sutton, Royal Artillery

We regret to announce the death of Richard Sutton, of Willingdon, East Sussex, who passed away at Pearson House on October 6th. Aged 88, he had been a St Dunstaner for almost two years.

Mr. Sutton enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1921 and served in India and Ceylon. He lost his left eye during an uprising in India and was discharged from the Army in 1927.

During the Second World War, he worked on a fire float. He subsequently worked as a caretaker in Coventry for 26 years until he took retirement.

We extend our condolences to his widow, Hilda.

Clarence Thomas Rogers, RAF

We regret to announce the death of Clarence Rogers of Mullion, Cornwall, on October 29th. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Rogers served in the RAF throughout World War Two and attained the rank of sergeant. He was injured whilst working at a radar unit and lost the sight of his right eye. His post-war career was with British Rail and on his retirement, he was Chief Public Relations Officer for British Rail Western Region.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, May, and their two daughters.



Author John Booth and Westbury St Dunstan's Appeal Treasurer, Glen Rainer, display *The Day War Broke Out* as Sir Maurice accepts the cheque on our behalf.

John books in with cash for St D's

The day war broke out might have been bad news for the world, but a book with that title has proved to be good news for St Dunstan's.

Author John Booth presented a cheque for £1,000 to St Dunstan's Council Member Sir Maurice Johnston at the Cedar Hotel, Westbury, Wilts. The money was raised through sales of the book.

The Day War Broke Out is a series of short stories set in wartime Yorkshire. It is dedicated to the memory of late St Dunstaner, Roy Haslam and has a foreword by Stan Richards and an introduction by Jimmy Wright, OBE.

It costs £2.95, plus 60p, post and packing, and is available from Headquarters.

SORRY MICHAEL!

In the October *Review*, we wrongly described Peter Richards as the eldest son of the late Tom Richards and offer our apologies to Michael Richards.

POETS' CORNER

MY GRAMPS

by Hanna Peers

I love my Gramps, he is so nice
He's made up of lots of sugar and
spice.

Gramps spoils me rotten all the time
Gramps buys me lots of sweets
And when I go over there,

Gramps gives me lots of treats.
My Gramps is the best cook,
I really love his food

When I ask him to play with me,
he's always in the mood.

Sometimes Gramps plays jokes on me
My Gramps is really fun

If Gramps was in a gramps
competition

Gramps definitely would have won.
My Gramps will be the best forever,

Me and my Gramps are happy
together.

Eight-year-old Hanna is the grand-daughter of St Dunstaner John Lilley, of Stockport, Cheshire.