

# Unstans Review



January/February 1992



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**Cover Picture:** Pearl Smethurst begins the festive season in style in the Christmas Old Tyme Music Hall at Ian Fraser House.

## From the Chairman

During the forenoon of February 6th, 40 years ago, the BBC announced to a stunned nation that His Majesty King George VI had died peacefully in his sleep. So ended the reign of a great and wise monarch, a brave man and a much loved human leader. It had been an era dominated by international turbulence and war; then came peace, the re-kindling of hope and the rebuilding of a markedly different world.

Her Majesty The Queen Mother was granted a longer licence and thank God is still with us, still getting about everywhere and stealing the hearts of all. But it was the young Queen who ascended the throne that was faced with such a daunting task.

Over the years ahead, she was to see her armed forces engaged in Suez, Korea, Kenya, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, and the Gulf; she was to preside over the fading of an Empire, the transition to a meaningful Commonwealth and the evolution of loyal independence; she was to witness the virtual collapse of communism and the insidious spread of Islamic fundamentalism.

Throughout all this, backed by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and all the other members of her super family, she has consistently displayed her understanding, her sincerity, her calm and her statesmanship.

When we reflect on all this (and much else too) what conclusion do we draw? Surely it is obvious: how very fortunate we are amongst so few other countries now, still to be so well ruled by a marvellous Royal Family.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICEBOARD



### BLIND TO MISFORTUNE

An audio edition of *Blind to Misfortune*, the autobiography of St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths, is now available from Headquarters.

Bill's book, written with military historian Hugh Popham, was first published in 1989 and records his ordeal as a PoW in the Second World War as well as his successes during peacetime.

The taped version, read by Ken Short, comes on five C90 cassettes and is available on request from the Public Relations Office, please quote number SD55, sending five C90 cassettes.

### PROGRESSIVE PILGRIMAGES

The Royal British Legion have announced their War Graves Pilgrimages Programme for this year. The Group pilgrimages to Europe, North Africa, and the Far East, are administered by the Legion as part of the Government's Pilgrimage Scheme.

Destinations and dates are as follows:

2 Holland	April 3rd to 6th	£215
3 Israel	April 26th to May 1st	£888
4 Vimy Ridge	April 8th to 10th	£164
5 Italy South	May 10th to 17th	£549
6 Tunisia	May 15th to 22nd	£498
7 Normandy	June 4th to 7th	
	August 25th to 28th	£239
8 Durbach	June 18th to 21st	£449
9 Somme	June 29th to July 1st	£180
10 Brittany	July 6th to 10th	£275
11 Berlin & Colditz	July 17th to 21st	£345
12 Germany North		
	August 7th to 12th	£298
13 Dieppe/Rouen & Le Havre		
	August 18th to 21st	£229
14 Holland & Antwerp		
	September 5th to 9th	£265
15 Italy (SE Coast)		
	September 6th to 13th	£529
16 Italy North	September 20th to 27th	£547

17 India (Delhi only)

Delhi & Madras

Delhi & Calcutta

Delhi & Poona

October 7th to 15th

18 Egypt October 21st to 27th £835

19 Algeria November 3rd to 8th £675

20 Ypres/Vimy/Loos

November 9th to 11th £167

Cost

to be

Announced

The Royal British Legion stress that they reserve the right to pass on any increases if oil prices change, but they hope there will be no surcharges.

War widows may be eligible for substantial discounts under a government scheme.

Full details can be obtained from **The Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NX. Telephone: (0622) 716729/716182/717172.**

### BRAILLER

When we described the Mountbatten Brailier as long-awaited, the *Review* neglected the passage of time last month.

The item was originally written in April, but eight months on, in December, Techno-Vision had moved premises.

Full details of the Mountbatten Brailier can be obtained from Techno-Vision Systems Limited, Unit 12, 76 Bunting Road, Bunting Road Industrial Estate, Northampton, NN2 6EE. Telephone (0604) 792777.

### CUP FINAL TICKETS

It is anticipated, though not definite, that we will be allocated tickets for the F.A. Cup Final this year. At the moment the exact date is not known, though it usually takes place some time during May.

Any St Dunstaner who would like to apply in the event of St Dunstan's receiving complimentary tickets should contact Frances Casey, Homes Booking Clerk, at Headquarters.





## NOTICEBOARD



### FISHING NEWS

In the past, fishing has been divided into three parts:

1. The National Club. This club will remain untouched.
2. The Brighton Fishing Club. This was reserved for club members only.
3. There was the fishing provided by Ian Fraser House.

It is my intention to amalgamate the last two into one. Last year, I tried a new venture by taking the men on a day's trout fishing. It was such a success that this is the way forward to replace what was the old Brighton Fishing Club.

If you have any comments, please write to me, Fred Bentley, Chairman, St Dunstan's Fishing Club, 57 Chichester Drive, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 85F. Telephone: (0273) 302548.

### STICK WITH MAXI MARKS

If Maxi Marks — the dots and dashes for tactile marking — become detached, a good quality adhesive will keep them in place.

The plastic markers come in packets of 12, priced £1.18 and are still available from Angela Higson at Headquarters.

### THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House, Visiting Staff and those who have retired, thank the many St Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1992.

### PoW FABLE LIVES AGAIN



A children's story that provoked the wrath of an officer in a Japanese PoW camp has just been published.

*The Happiness Box*, by Sir David Griffin, a former mayor of Sydney, Australia, was written as a morale booster for children held at Changi Prison, Singapore. It was illustrated by an English artist, the late Leslie Greener, who was incarcerated, with Griffin, in the neighbouring Selarang PoW camp.

The short book is a whimsical fairy tale, but one character, a lizard called Winston, convinced Japanese General Saito that it was actually an ingenious coded message.

Saito ordered the book to be confiscated, but Australian PoWs managed to bury it in an ammo box, where it remained until the liberation of Singapore in 1945.

The original copy of *The Happiness Box* now resides in the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, but a paperback version is available, price £2.50, from all good bookshops or John Wilson Ltd., 1 High Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP17 0AG.

### BRIDGE FIXTURES

Any information on the Bridge arrangements and fixtures for St Dunstan's Bridge Club can be obtained from Bill Phillips, 14 Brambletyne Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton. Telephone (0273) 306581.



## NOTICE BOARD



### RNIB CALLS ALL BUDDING WRITERS

RNIB is looking for contributors to two new braille publications to be launched next summer. The publications will feature writing by blind and partially sighted people which have never been published before.

The first publication, *Living Proof*, is intended to be a collection of personal anecdotes about being blind in a sighted world. It will provide an opportunity for visually impaired people to express their personal experiences of daily, funny or sad events, in either a factual or impressionistic way.

The second publication, *Finding Words*, will be an anthology of purely creative writing by visually impaired people. The RNIB welcomes any contributions of previously unpublished pieces of fiction.

Each contributor can submit up to five manuscripts for each publication, in braille, tape, Moon or print, of up to 3,000 words in length. The closing date for receipt of entries, which are non returnable, is February 14th. Entries should be sent to Sharon O'Keefe, RNIB, PO Box 173, Peterborough, PE2 0WS

### CONTEMPORARY ART

A contemporary art exhibition, *BP re-Vision*, that explores the senses, has just opened at Greenwich Citizens Gallery. 'Visitors will be able to touch, smell and hear the exhibits,' say the organisers.

Various artists, using materials as diverse as caramel and steel, are represented in the show which has a braille catalogue.

Plans call for the exhibition to tour Harlow, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Huddersfield, but it is open at Greenwich Citizens Gallery, 151 Powis Street, Woolwich, SE18 6JL, until February 22nd. It will re-open there on March 6th until April 11th.

### MS DOS 5 COURSE AT IFH

A two-day course on MS DOS 5 will be run at Ian Fraser House on March 5th and 6th. Would anyone interested please contact Christine Dickens on 0273 307811 ext. 3288 without delay. Mike Gammon will instruct and there are four vacancies.

### MONOPOLY FOR BLIND PLAYERS

Waddingtons' *Monopoly* game is now available for blind and partially sighted people through the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Using the standard format, the game makers and the RNIB have adapted it for users of large print and braille.

One of the main ways in which the game has been adapted is by placing a clear plastic surface or 'map' over the standard board. The map has raised markings to show the different properties around the board. Each property is described in braille. Title deeds, chance and community chest cards, as well as the money have been produced in large print and braille too.

The game was adapted in response to many enquiries from blind people, young and old.

The new *Monopoly* game costs £14.95 and is available from RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough, PE2 6WS, or telephone 0345 023153. Please quote reference number GB40.

### GARDEN TIPS IN BRAILLE

A series of fact sheets for green-fingered gardening enthusiasts have been prepared in braille by the BBC.

The fact sheets have been produced for Radio Four's popular *Gardeners' Question Time* and are available on request.

They can be obtained by sending a postcard to *Gardeners' Question Time*, BBC, PO Box 27, Manchester, M60 1SJ.





## NOTICEBOARD



### CAMP AT H.M.S. DAEDALUS, 1992

How about a holiday by the sea with the Navy as your hosts? Will all old campers, as well as new ones, who would like to partake of the Navy's generous hospitality, contact Elspeth Grant on 0799-522874 or by letter to High Acre, Catmere End, Safron Walden, Essex, CB11 4XG, to reserve a place.

The camp takes place from Friday, August 14th until the morning of Saturday, August 22nd. Applications should be made by May 2nd, 1992.

### THIS SPORTING LIFE

An 'alternative' Sporting Week is being planned at IFH for March 8th to 14th. Proposed events are golf, horse riding, windsurfing, ten-pin bowling and swimming. Concert, theatre and pub outings are also planned.

Any St Dunstaner interested in attending should contact Jonathon Ridge on 0273 307811 ext. 3219 for more details.

The normal booking system, through Frances Casey at HQ, will apply to this week.

### FUTURE PILGRIMAGES

The Pilgrimage Department of The Royal British Legion is already planning group visits to commemorate important anniversaries over the next three years.

They are asking interested people to register in advance, **though they add that registration is not a booking.**

The planned Pilgrimages are:

#### First World War

1. 1993 The Armistice: 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice at 11.00 o'clock on November 11th, 1918.
2. 1993 Salonika: 75th Anniversary of the German surrender in September 1918.

#### Second World War

3. 1992 Malta: Special Pilgrimage for 'The Bell' ceremony (details to be advised).
4. 1993 Tunisia: 50th Anniversary of the surrender of the Axis forces to General Alexander in Tunisia on May 13th, 1943.
5. 1993 Dambusters: This 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage will include visits to RAF graves in Holland, Belgium and Germany.
6. 1993 Sicily: 50th Anniversary of 'Operation Husky' the Allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943.
7. 1993 Salerno: 50th Anniversary of the landings in September 1943.
8. 1994 Kohima: 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima in April 1944.
9. 1994 Cassino: 50th Anniversary of the Final Battle of Cassino in May 1944.
10. 1994 Normandy: 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in June 1944.
11. 1994 Arnhem: 50th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden in September 1944.
12. 1995 Burma: 50th Anniversary to commemorate the recapture of Burma in 1945.

Full details can be obtained from **The Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NX. Telephone: (0622) 716729/716182/717172.**

### ART OF THE NORTH

Anyone who thought art finished at the Watford Gap will be proved wrong by a new taped listings magazine.

*Artscene* is a comprehensive guide on tape to arts and entertainments in the Yorkshire and Humberside area.

Details can be obtained from Ian Aspinall, Research and Information Officer, Yorkshire and Humberside Arts, 21 Bond Street, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF13 1AX. Telephone: (0924) 455555.

## Don runs NY

### Manhattan marathon means more money for Royal School

By Jimmy Wright

Tireless Don Planner was hitting the road on behalf of the Royal School once again in November — on the other side of the Atlantic.

Don's latest sponsored run was in a spectacular world event, namely the New York Marathon. He was one of over 25,000 people to tackle the 26 gruelling miles through America's Big Apple.

'The day before the Marathon, we had what is called the International Breakfast Run, which had 12,000 runners representing 86 nations', said Don.

'That started in front of the United Nations Building and we had a three kilometre free fun run through Manhattan, down to Central Park where we had breakfast.

'It was a very close humid day, but we thoroughly enjoyed it.'

#### 'Pasta Party'

That night gave way to pure celebration at a 'Pasta Party' which included a karaoke for runners with musical aspirations. The race started at Staten Island, shortly before 11 a.m., on November 3rd. The run took us through five boroughs of New York, after Staten Island we went through Brooklyn, The Bronx, Queens, Manhattan and Harlem', said Don.

'For the first half of the race, we were well up on time, but then, unfortunately, we started hitting the bridges. There were five main bridges and two of them are very long, especially the one that starts the race off. It is nearly two miles long.

'You start off very low and you actually have to climb because they're so high in order to let the large liners and ships through underneath. So you've got a good mile to run up, before you've got a good mile to run down.'



Don Planner and his escort, Phil Clarke, wear their medals with pride.

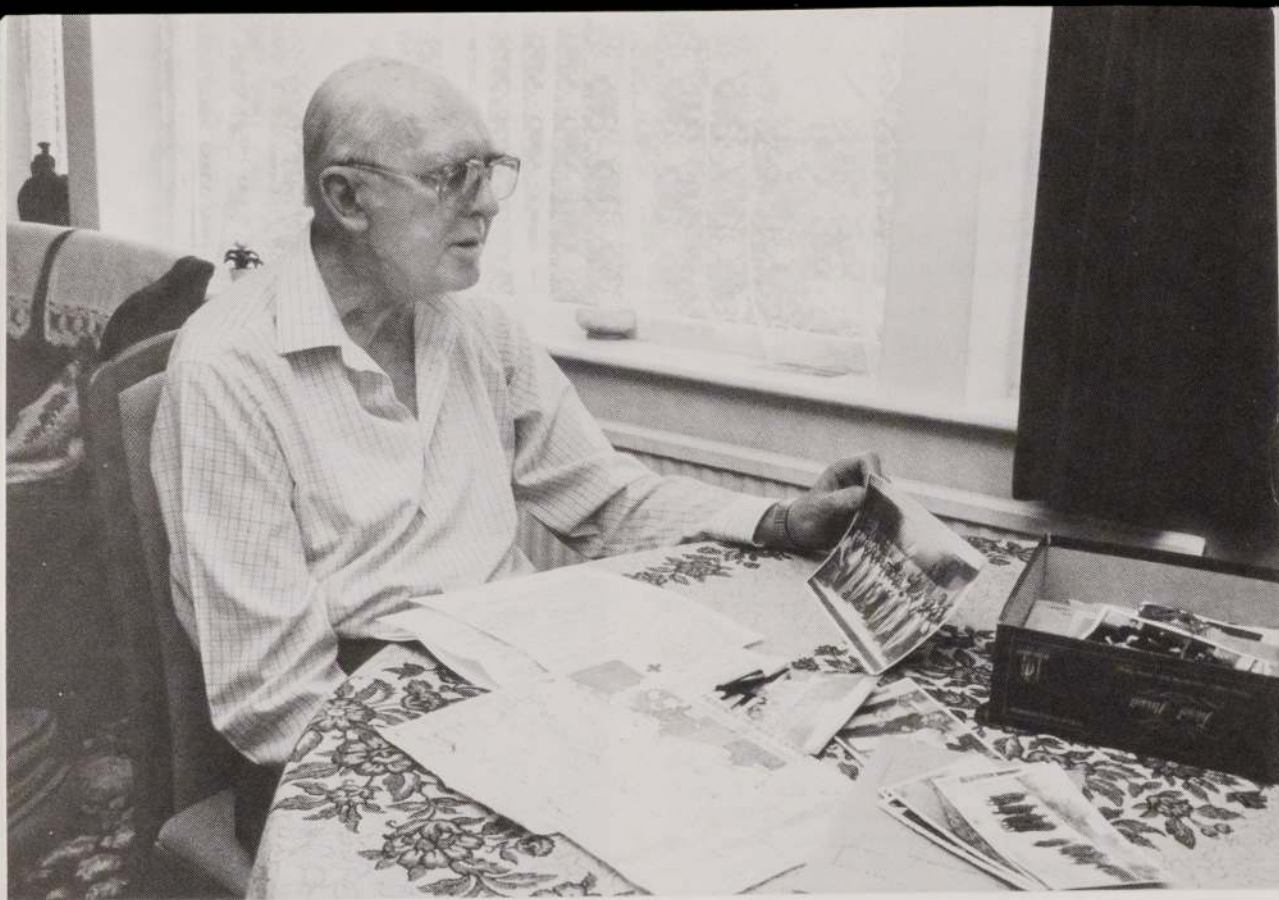
Don added that around the 16 mile mark, hills made the going very arduous and four miles on people started slowing down. 'The trouble is the weather', he said. 'It's very heavy and humid, so you're sweating and losing a lot of energy.'

Don completed the Marathon in four hours 39 minutes.

### CLUB MERGERS

The Bridge and Fishing Sections of the Brighton Social and Sports Club have closed as both activities have now merged into the St Dunstan's National Clubs.





## As I Remember FOR YOU THE WAR IS OVER Ken Mountcastle talking to David Castleton

In 1943, when Church Stretton was *en fete* to welcome the returning St Dunstaner prisoners of war, some of the sighted prisoners who had taught at Lord Normanby's school remained behind because they did not qualify for repatriation. One of these was Ken Mountcastle, who taught braille and typing.

His connection with St Dunstan's began when a request for volunteers was read out at evening parade at Stalag 8B. A corporal in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, Ken had been taken prisoner in Crete. After a short period of captivity in Athens, I was transferred after an eight day railway journey to Stalag 8B, at Lamsdorf in Germany. Whilst there, a volunteer was asked for

who had shorthand and typing ability to help blinded prisoners of war.

No further details were available so Ken volunteered. The result was a journey across Germany. 'I arrived at Kloster Haina, which was a German hospital for prisoners of war near Gemunden. Lord Normanby had established a school for the blind here and it turned out that I was required to teach braille and typing. Consequently I had to learn braille.'

Already on the strength of Lord Normanby's school was Bob Williams, who had been engaged to teach these subjects. 'By virtue of his rank of Sergeant Navigator in the Royal Australian Air Force he was senior to me. We all got on very well

and the school settled down to a regular, planned routine and there would come a time when we had taught all the blind lads both braille and typing.'

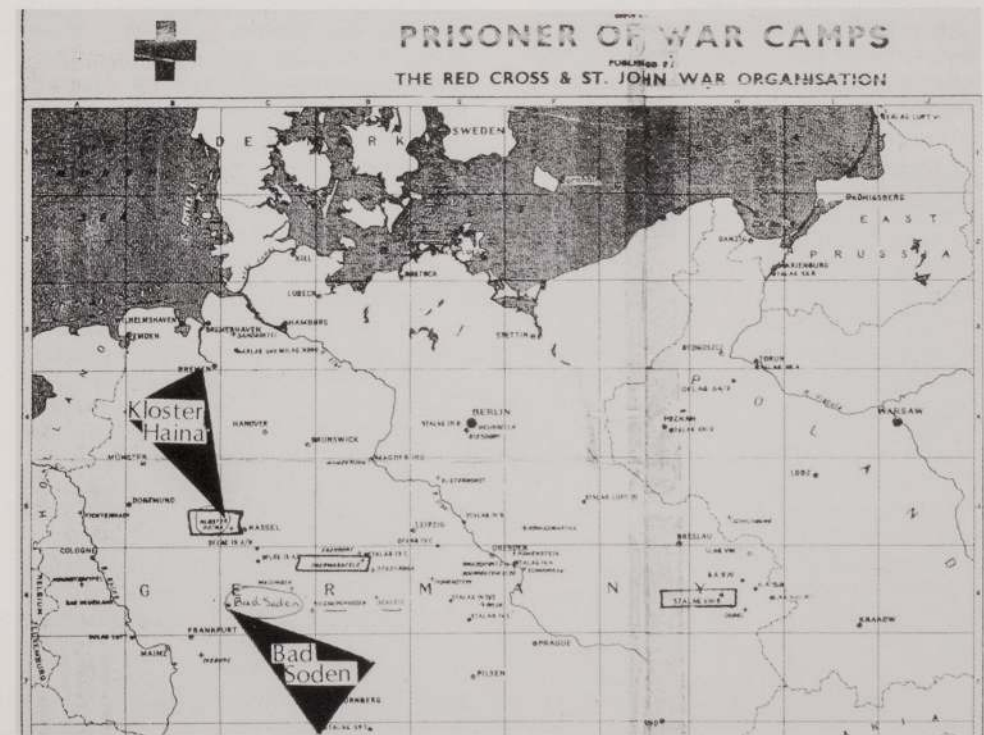
Braille books were already available, sent through the Red Cross from St Dunstan's in England. 'It was just like learning Pitman's shorthand. One had to learn the basics of the new outline to words and then it was just a question of application. I think, from what I remember of it, the straight forward basic alphabet was none too difficult. It's when you come to do the other sort of semi-shorthand notes that you have to work hard. The incentive was the thought that you were doing it for a very good purpose. So it didn't take you all that long to learn and then there came a time when we could benefit from being able to read books because we could read braille ourselves in bed at night when all the lights had gone out! I'm not saying I could do it now.'

'We had various pieces of equipment that to start with were foreign to us. I didn't know what a braille writing machine was — a Stainsby — a marvellous invention. We received it via London — very valuable both physically and mentally these things were.'

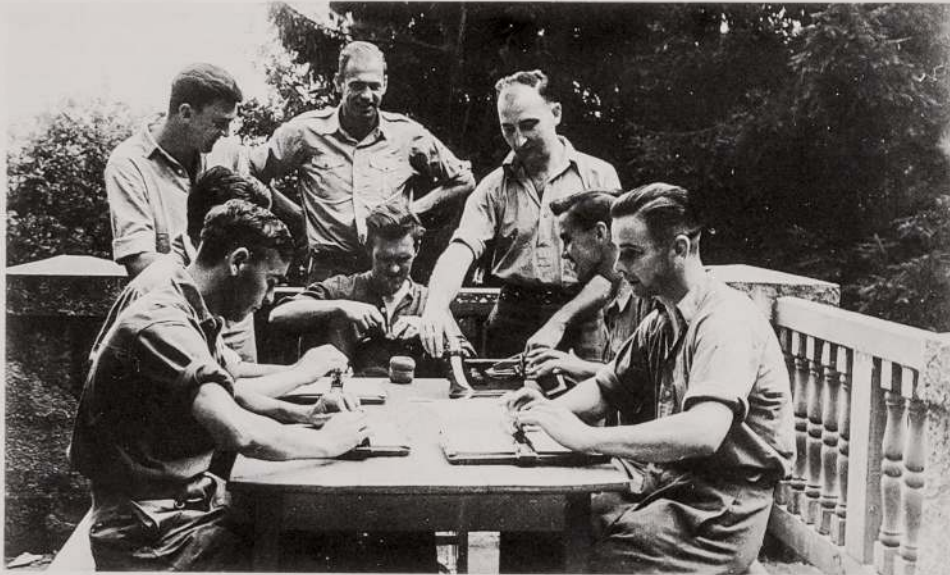
Pre-war, Kloster Haina had been a home for the mentally handicapped. Half the building was given over to the PoW's but the former inmates still occupied the other half as Ken describes: 'The inmates were of various categories. Some, it would appear, dangerously so. Half of their quarters were seconded to us. The cooking and preparation of food was an embarrassment for all. We had to appoint cooks to cook for the whole camp and to take advantage of these facilities we had to physically walk through their quarters to draw our cooked Red Cross meals.'

'It was one pretty big building. You might even call it an infirmary here. It was

A map, produced by The Red Cross and St John, showing the location of PoW camps throughout Germany.







An open air braille class at Bad Soden. Instructors, Ken Mountcastle, Bob Williams, and John Diamond stand behind their pupils: Len Withington, Fred Baugh and the late Terry Horsfield, and an unidentified American prisoner.

like a hospital. There were big, long corridors and long staircases.'

It was a relief to get out of the building and, in the special circumstances surrounding a school for blinded prisoners, the Germans were prepared to allow this so long as they were sure that there would be no attempt at escape.

'It was never constantly rammed down our throats, but it was pointed out that if anybody had any ambitions in that direction they would be misguided because the benefits to the blind prisoners from the fact the blind school existed would all be eradicated. So we were allowed out and the number of guards that it took to control us was not very many. There was no doubt that the Tommies considerably outnumbered the German escort. If it was a fine, sunny day we would be able to encourage them and say "Let's go for a swim," in a nearby lake.'

Other recreational activities out of school included games and a nightly 'book at bedtime' when the sighted instructors took turns in a session reading aloud.

By 1943, when the first repatriation was arranged, Ken estimates there were

around 30 pupils at the school. Most of them he can recall. 'The names that spring to mind that I knew at that time were Doug Parmenter, who came from the South East of London like I did, there was Jimmy Legge, George Allen, Bill Young, Bert Bright, Ron Ellis, Tom Hart, Teddy Larcombe, Billy Burnett, Freddie Wareham, Pat Timiney, Dennis Fleisig, Len Cook, Tom Wood, Sid Doy and Billy Deuchars, who had also lost a hand.'

Unwounded and regarded as potential combatants, Ken and his sighted colleagues did not qualify for repatriation. All the equipment that had been gathered for the school became their responsibility to maintain for possible new blinded prisoners. 'When the boys left to go home, the final concert was almost tearful for me. Everybody was in very high spirits and high jinks and they knew that for them it was the end of their captivity.'

Now that the pupils were gone the Germans decided to move the school. 'I don't remember how we moved ourselves from A to B but we ended up at Bad Soden Salmunster with all our equipment. The unusual feature of Stalag 9B Bad Soden Salmunster was that it was owned and

commercially run by Sisters of Mercy who lived there and practised their religion there.

'They had a convent, they had a chapel, they did everything that you would associate with them separated from the main community. To be in the inner sanctum, as it were, was absolutely exceptional. To see them first-hand living their life like that was almost unbelievable. There were a few children evacuated there, presumably by their parents and, obviously, for a suitable fee. They were that much more safe because we were in a rural, quite beautiful area.'

Bad Soden became the camp for prisoners with eye injuries and Major Charters moved with the school to look after them. So more pupils came in but never as many as in the days of Kloster Haina. 'We never had more than six at the most, totally blind blokes. Repatriation, after Lord Normanby's time, took place officially every six months and therefore it was possible for a prisoner who was being repatriated to have been in captivity for only a relatively short period. Others were going to be up to periods of six months and because six months was the maximum, the opportunity to send them back

home fully equipped and trained became progressively diminished. We had an orchestra made up of about six or eight very ordinary musicians but partially sighted. Nobody was going to qualify for stardom or anything like that, but basically it was an amusing departure. We had our own theatre or, at least, stage and put on musical shows and comedy sketches.'

As at Kloster Haina it was possible to go outside the camp and there were 'Camp Marks' to spend which were paid to the sighted prisoners for their duties in the school: 'We used Camp Marks as currency to pay a German photographer. We had the opportunity to go for hikes when we were able to spend some of this 'currency' at the local 'local' to buy beers and lagers. Also we were allowed under escort to go to the railway station to collect any mail and individual parcels.'

There were times when the prisoners marched out of the camp on melancholy missions. 'A small number of prisoners reached Bad Soden in a collapsed state. Not all of them recovered and some of them had to be buried. Their deaths had to be recorded for official bulletins to go back home. I organised this with the concurrence of the German authorities and it

Mutiny in the Braille School — Ken Mountcastle, Fred Baugh, Len Withington and Bob Williams perform in a sketch at Bad Soden.







*Curtain-call for the full concert party at Bad Soden.*

was a sad situation to see prisoners who had been, perhaps, captured at Calais and Dunkirk literally killed by virtue of the insistence by the Germans that they march away from our incoming armies.

'It is a long way from East to West in Germany and as the Russians were pushing

their front towards the West so the men in the East were made to march out of their way and vice versa. At burials the Germans laid on military honours and a squad to fire a salute. There is a photo showing our trumpeter sounding the Last Post.'

*This rare photograph shows prisoners marching through the snow behind the flag-draped coffin of an American fellow prisoner.*



*A British trumpeter sounds the Last Post and a German firing party fires a salute for an American prisoner who died in captivity.*

'The Germans were aware that we were going to be over-run and recaptured by the allied armies, mostly American at the time. They wanted — and achieved this elsewhere in the country — to force-march allied prisoners out of the path of the advancing armies. We would have none of this, stood our ground, and flatly refused to abandon those who were too ill to move in the circumstances. When they put the allied prisoners who had been prisoners for some years on to the road and told them to march many fell by the wayside from exhaustion and exposure and died as a consequence.'

Fortunately events overtook the Germans and Ken was an eye-witness. 'I got into the attic where there was a window and with very little risk was able to watch the blazing fight that was going on down below. The Americans were taking the surrender of as many Germans as they could in the locality. They came up to the front door of the hospital and exchanged greetings. They said what the Germans had said to me when they captured me, "For you the war is over".'

For Ken Mountcastle a unique experience was also over. He still has a letter

Lord Fraser sent him in 1943. 'Roughly, it said, "Lord Normanby has mentioned to me the good work that you and your colleagues have done for the war-blinded in Kloster Haina and I would like to regard you as an honorary member of St Dunstan's Staff."

'Looking back on it now and because of the passage of time — and time is regarded as a healer — I never think that the four years of captivity took up four years. It went by much more quickly than that. Those years made me think that the war was not all a complete waste and sinful. Personally I think they made me achieve in life a level of performance which would never have been attained had it not been for the war.

'I would never in civvy street have aspired to anything like trying to help a school of captured and blinded soldiers. None of that would have come my way. Obviously it would have been a bigger strain and a bore had I not got such a job as this. If I had been an ordinary run-of-the-mill prisoner of war it would never have been as eventful. I have so many pleasant memories and I met a lot of very brave blokes.'





*St Dunstaners and instructors in session during the Computer Weekend.*

## On a keyboard made for two

By Ray Hazan

**B**ACK in 1979 the Kurzweil Reading Machine was displayed at St Dunstan's Headquarters amongst trumpet fanfares and much radio, newspaper and television coverage. It was the first commercially available machine, which made Lord Fraser's dream, 'to make the printed word talk', come true.

Twelve years later, the TR 320, at one third of both cost and size of the Kurzweil, has almost crept in unannounced. Those attending the Computer Weekend in November took it quite in their stride!

The aim of these get-togethers is to exchange knowledge and experience. This was achieved by a three hour brain storming session in the Winter Garden. Several decisions were arrived at, while hints were dispensed above continual cries of 'Good Lord, I never knew that!'

The first decision was that plenty of time should be allowed for these open forums. Secondly, that it was not possible to standardise hardware, but it would be of benefit if people used the same software such as MS DOS 5 or HAL version 4. Thus help would be much easier than having to ask 'which version are you using?' David Laycock kindly agreed to ask MicroSoft if they would sell the MS DOS 5 upgrade to

us in bulk. We shall be in touch with interested parties in the near future, hopefully.

The upgrade to HAL version 4 is obtainable free of charge by sending your original disks to Dolphin. This will not need any interruption to your work as you will have spare copies of your originals! This course of action is recommended. The upgrade to HAL version 5 necessitates returning your Apollo if you have version 2 or earlier.

It became obvious that a lot of information and help is needed. To this end, the following has been organised:

The help-line currently being operated by Mike Gammon will, as of this month, be extended to all day Thursday, but the Tuesday evening session will be cancelled. In addition, Mike is happy to respond to queries on cassette.

Enquiries to Mike by telephone on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. should be made to him at IFH on 0273 307811 ext. 3297. Cassettes, with a return address label, should similarly be addressed to him c/o IFH.

In addition, audio cassettes are going to be produced with step by step lessons in a variety of subjects, such as writing batch files, organising your hard disk, etc. Please send any suggestions to either Janis, Mike or myself. Mike will also be writing environment files for HAL. When and where

this material is available will be announced at a future date.

Several people attended a very successful course run by Mike on a database last year. More of these courses are being planned and will be run at IFH on a two day (Thursday/Friday) basis. Again, your suggestions are invited; spread sheets, MS DOS and utilities are in mind. It is hoped that a full year's programme will be published in good time.

Reeling from the morning's session and an excellent lunch, we were pleased to receive Jeremy Miller of Techno-Vision. He had three items to show us. The Text Reader 320 is a scanner into which character recognition and speech has been incorporated. Your reading material is placed face down on the glass top. As long as it is parallel with one side, it does not matter which way round your book or sheet of paper is orientated. In my case, 20 seconds later, two pages of a paperback had been scanned and it was starting to read it out aloud. The Eureka voice is not the best, but is amply intelligible. Pitch, speed, spelling and punctuation can all be altered. There are limitations, such as newsprint and hand writing, but much depends on the quality of the paper and print. The unit can be plugged into a computer if desired and the scanned material transferred to disk for editing, copying or reading by a voice of your preference. The unit currently costs £2,930. You will need a Christmas stocking some 21 by 13 by 5 inches, capable of holding 17 pounds!

He also demonstrated the Mountbatten Braille which was described in the December *Review*.

Jeremy concluded with the NOMAD, a device which makes a relief map 'talk'. A map or plan is laid onto a concept keyboard, which is linked to a computer. When the map or plan is touched, the computer reads out a message relating to that point on the drawing. Thus touch England on a world map, and it will tell you 'England', enabling the user to relate places, distances, etc. This obviously has its use in the field of education.

The remainder of the weekend continued with demonstrations, and an excellent tuition period by David Calder-



*Jo Revis looks on as Mike Cassidy tries the Text Reader under the supervision of Jeremy Miller.*

wood on the use of the HAL speech system. Everyone, however experienced, learnt something. The only reason why people were so keen to get home was to try out their newly gained knowledge! Please note the dates for 1992 - April 4/5th and November 15/16th. Meanwhile, please send in your suggestions and hints.

I end on a salutary tale of a lady St Dunstaner who wanted to learn about word processing in order to attempt the Booker Prize next year! The unit had to be small in order to fit into a drawer and out of sight. Her husband being very supportive, sitting in on training sessions caught the bug. He now has a system which has taken over the whole of the dressing table whilst hers still occupies only the drawer! Alice and Walter look forward to celebrating their golden anniversary next year - on a keyboard made for two?

## OLD JOKES

They say old jokes never die, but perhaps some should fade away. This little chestnut first appeared in St Dunstan's Review way back in October 1921. And there are plenty more where it came from . . .

Burton: 'That young actress has a very difficult part in the new play.'

Wilks: 'Difficult! Why, she doesn't say a word.'

Burton: 'Well, that is difficult for a woman.'



# ST DUNSTANERS REMEMBER

THE St Dunstan's contingent that marched past the Cenotaph on Sunday, November 10th, included 79 St Dunstaners. Two of them served in the First World War and two were blinded in the Gulf. In between, were veterans of the Second World War and of campaigns during the so-called years of peace since then.

No fewer than 18 St Dunstaners paraded in wheelchairs and they prompted the quote of the day for Matron Chris King, who overheard a child's voice in the crowd: 'Mummy why are they pushing those men in trolleys?'

As always there was a heart-warming response from the people lining the route as the St Dunstaners marched along Whitehall, past the Cenotaph, into Parliament Street before turning into Parliament Square. From there the long



**'We remember not only those who bravely gave their eyes for our sakes, but those who paid the ultimate price'**

column of ex-servicemen and women from all branches of the Services passed along Great George Street and finally turned into Horse Guards Road where the final salute was taken by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

This year the security precautions were more thorough than ever and perhaps this was the reason that the St Dunstan's coaches had to take a circuitous route back to the Russell Hotel. There lunch was thoughtfully delayed, so that St Dunstaners and escorts had time for some restoratives at the bar after some hours in the fresh, very fresh, but mercifully dry air.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach spoke after lunch: 'As ever I felt very proud to have the honour of leading the St Dunstan's contingent down Whitehall and past the Cenotaph this morning. Your reception by the large crowd of spectators — although not quite so large as in recent years, I think — but it was still a very moving tribute and a very well-deserved one.'

'We mustered 132 on parade — 79 St Dunstaners including two, Harry Wheeler and Frank Griffiee, from World War One and Paul Jefferson and Gary Lomas from this year's Gulf War. Another 50 or so have joined us here for lunch.'

*First World War St Dunstaners laid the foundation on which his generation rebuilt their lives, said Bill Shea in his Remembrance Day speech.*

The Chairman said that an eventful 12 months which had brought the collapse of a World Power and the rise and partial fall of a despot in the Middle East also brought its tragedies. Two young men at this lunch had lost their sight, and one a leg, in the Gulf War. 'Others have lost other precious things. When the few among so many are hurt like this it inevitably prompts the question: "Why me?" I have no answer to that, you will have to seek it from much Higher Authority.'

'But today we remember not only those who bravely and selflessly gave their eyes and their limbs in war for our sakes, but those many others who paid the ultimate price and gave their *lives* in two World Wars and many lesser conflicts since. It is to *them* and their bereaved that we principally direct our thoughts and prayers and tribute and we do so in admiration and very deep gratitude. *We will* remember them.'

'For the rest, for those of you who survived — often only just — with whatever dreadful handicaps and who have courageously and cheerfully led useful lives ever since, I can do no better than quote these few lines from W.E. Henley:

"Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

"In the fell chance of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

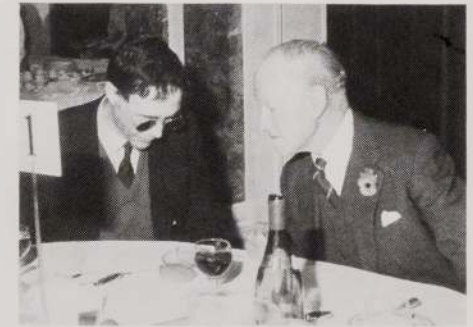
"Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

"It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the  
scroll,

*I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul."*

'Soon it will be Christmas — I hope you all have a very happy one.'

Bill Shea responded on behalf of St Dunstaners. He said that this occasion must be unique. 'Here today we span from



*Paul Jefferson, who joined St Dunstan's after being injured in Kuwait by an anti-personnel mine, talks with Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach.*

the First World War through to the Gulf. I would like to pass a very warm welcome to our two additions from the Gulf from their fellow St Dunstaners.'

Speaking of the St Dunstaners of the First World War, Bill said: 'Those of us who were at Church Stretton in the days when, for so many of us, our lives had changed dramatically, we had those First World War St Dunstaners on the staff who were a tremendous help to us. They laid down the foundation on which we were able to rebuild our lives.'

'Many of you who were at Church Stretton will remember Freddie King, braille teacher. I remember many times, when the going got tough, I'd pick up the book, throw it across the room saying, "That's it, no more." Freddie would say, "Well, we did it, why can't you?" Of course, there's no answer to that. So the book was picked up, it was re-opened and eventually we made it. I hope those of us who are now getting a bit long in the tooth and have been around a long time, can pass on some help to those who have come after us. I hope that they will not be shy or bashful in asking for that help. I am sure they will get it from every St Dunstaner.'

Bill said that St Dunstaners reaching his time of life might well ask themselves, 'What has St Dunstan's done for me?' He gave this answer: 'Well, in the first place St Dunstan's gave us the opportunity to train and it gave us confidence to go out into

*continued overleaf*





Sappers supreme! Among St Dunstan's strong contingent on Remembrance Day were a band of Royal Engineers. Left to right, they are: John Gilbert, Leslie Tanner, Paul Jefferson, Gary Lomas, Jesse Mills and Joseph Huk. William Miller and Ken Revis stand at the back.

## ST DUNSTANERS REMEMBER *continued*

the sighted world to work and compete with sighted colleagues.

'Over the years, St Dunstan's has changed quite dramatically. Those of us who remember Ovingdean just after the Second World War — those vast, great barrack-room dormitories with two rows of iron beds either side. The chap who had had a little too much stout in the village down at Rottingdean was always in the bed at the far end and he managed to hit each one on the way down and then several times in the night on the way back again!

'In those days our wives had to go and find lodgings somewhere and my wife always says that she could write a book on the lodgings she had in and around the Brighton area. Today we do have these comfortable rooms, single, double with all mod. cons.

'Ian Fraser House is a training venue

but also it is the venue for many clubs and activities and we are grateful to St Dunstan's for the support they give us in these activities.' Bill asked the Chairman to pass on the thanks of St Dunstaners to the Council, members of the staff at Headquarters, Ian Fraser House, Pearson House and to Welfare Visitors and the many voluntary helpers. 'Today it is probably the right time to thank our "dogs" from *Daedalus*, who come and support us every year. I must add that some of them have been around so long that they are rather shaggy old dogs!

'I think I speak for all St Dunstaners, not just those here today, when I say that we are very grateful, that St Dunstan's is looking after the widows', he continued. 'It is a great comfort to us to know that, if our wives survive us, they will be looked after.

'I said that St Dunstan's had given us the confidence in training — it now gives St Dunstaners' wives, and widows, security. Thank you very much Sir Henry and everybody responsible for the organisation.'

'Music', said a friend of our family, the most learned and civilised man we are ever likely to know, 'died with Bach.'

If this assertion is true, what have we been left with now — in what sense are we to interpret the remark of our friend?

Readers of Sherlock Holmes will remember how the great detective, grappling with his arch-enemy Professor Moriarty, fell to his death in the roaring cataract of an Austrian mountain stream. Conan Doyle had grown tired of writing Sherlock Holmes stories and this was as good a way as any to free the author from the tyranny of his character for ever.

There was such an outcry from the reading public, however, that Conan Doyle had no alternative but to bring Holmes back to life and feature his exploits in further stories. It's noticeable that these are not as good as the original ones, they betray an off-handedness and boredom on the part of the author.

This was expressed by a literary critic as follows: 'Certainly Holmes survived his terrible experience at the Reisenbach Falls, but he was never the same man again.'

Bach didn't rise from his grave, once he was dead, he was dead, and if music has been an inferior art since then, as our friend maintained, in what sense does it fall short of the standard set by John Sebastian?

In Hitchcock's film *Psycho*, a dead mother is preserved in mummified form. She has all the appearance of her maniac son's mother, but the spirit which once animated her is gone forever, leaving only its scaffolding as a reminder of what once had been. Similarly, it can be argued, the techniques of music survived Bach, while what really counted, the aesthetic they conveyed, seems no longer to be accessible to a vitiated epigony of successors in the field of his art.

But in what respect do these fail to measure up to Bach, and can we really say that the likes of Chopin, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms, the Schoenbergs and Stravinskys of today, aren't perfect in their own way as Bach was in his?

Art, I would say, involves the whole man. Music if it is to reflect him must be balanced in all its parts and it's in his per-

## A Moment to Spare with Syd Scroggie

fect relationship of tune, harmony and counterpoint that Bach produced an aesthetic reflecting not only the nature of man at its best, but also the harmonious relationship of things which both men of religion and scientists observe in the universe around us.

Subsequent composers have hinted at parts of man's nature, parts of this universal unity, but only Bach succeeded in getting it all together.

It's not surprising that Pablo Casals simply described Bach as God. Personally, I started off with things such as the Tannhäuser overture and the New World symphony, because we had them on records when I was a boy.

From these I proceeded, not without excursions into things like Turner and Layton, Maurice Chevalier and the Hot Club de Paris, to Grieg and Rachmaninoff, Franck and Max Bruch.

When I came at length to the sonatas of Beethoven and Schubert, I was beginning to suspect that there was more in this music than I had been led to believe. The world seemed a bigger place than before when it came to be reflected in these — man deeper altogether than I'd ever imagined.

Eventually encountering the preludes and fugues of Bach, me in middle age by this time, his St. Matthew Passion, his B Minor Mass, I realised what music was in the complete form of the art and to what extent I had hitherto asked for bread and received a stone.

'Such harmony is in immortal souls,' says Lorenzo to Jessica, lecturing her on the music of the spheres. 'But while this muddy vesture of decay does grossly clothe us in we cannot hear it.' Shakespeare's world had some two centuries to wait for Bach.



# ONE HELL OF A DRIVER

## How Bob Bickley risked all to save a life

According to one former Far East Prisoner of War, the late Bob Bickley deserved a medal — not merely for saving his life, but for the circumstances under which he did it.

While serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, the St Dunstaner from Peacehaven was blinded by a hand grenade as Hong Kong fell to Japan in 1941 but still managed to take part in the action.

Fellow FEPOW Elwyn Rees from Treforest, Pontypridd, revealed how Bob saved his life during that fateful week.

I enlisted in the Royal Engineers before the war and was eventually posted to the 22nd Fortress Company stationed at Wellington Barracks, Hong Kong', says Elwyn.

'When the first planes attacked Hong Kong, I, like many others, was in Bowen Road Military Hospital recovering from a bout of malaria. We asked permission

to sign ourselves out to rejoin our units.

'This permission was granted, so I proceeded to the Peak District where our HQ was stationed. From there we patrolled the outlying districts.

'I was later detailed to join some other REs at Wanchai. Our task was to demolish some houses that had become unstable. When that was finished, I was sent to join a detachment on Mount Cameron.

'However, not having slept for a couple of days we sat down and dozed off. Our kip was rudely shattered by the noise of Japanese planes overhead.

'Some bombs dropped near us and I was told later that two men had died, while one man had lost a leg.

'The next thing I knew after the bombs dropped was waking up back in Bowen Road Hospital and being told that I had suffered shrapnel wounds to my left side and also that I had lost my left eye. I was lucky to be alive — and not only because of the bombs.

'I found out that I had been picked up by an RAMC driver and taken to the hospital.

'You may think that this was commonplace — it was anything but! The driver's name was Bob Bickley — and he was blind! The man sitting beside him in the vehicle could not drive, so Bob drove with this other man giving him instructions, "Left a bit here, straight for a bit, turn to the right", that sort of thing. I believe the distance was about four miles.

'I later met up with Bob in the prison camp and spent many evenings playing cribbage with him. Sadly, when I met his wife at St Dunstan's, she told me he had died a few years ago.

'Those who know Hong Kong will realise what a wonderful feat it was for a blind man to have driven the tortuous mountain roads from Mount Cameron, to the Bowen Road Hospital.

'He was a great chap.'

Bob Bickley passed away in 1977.

### POET'S CORNER

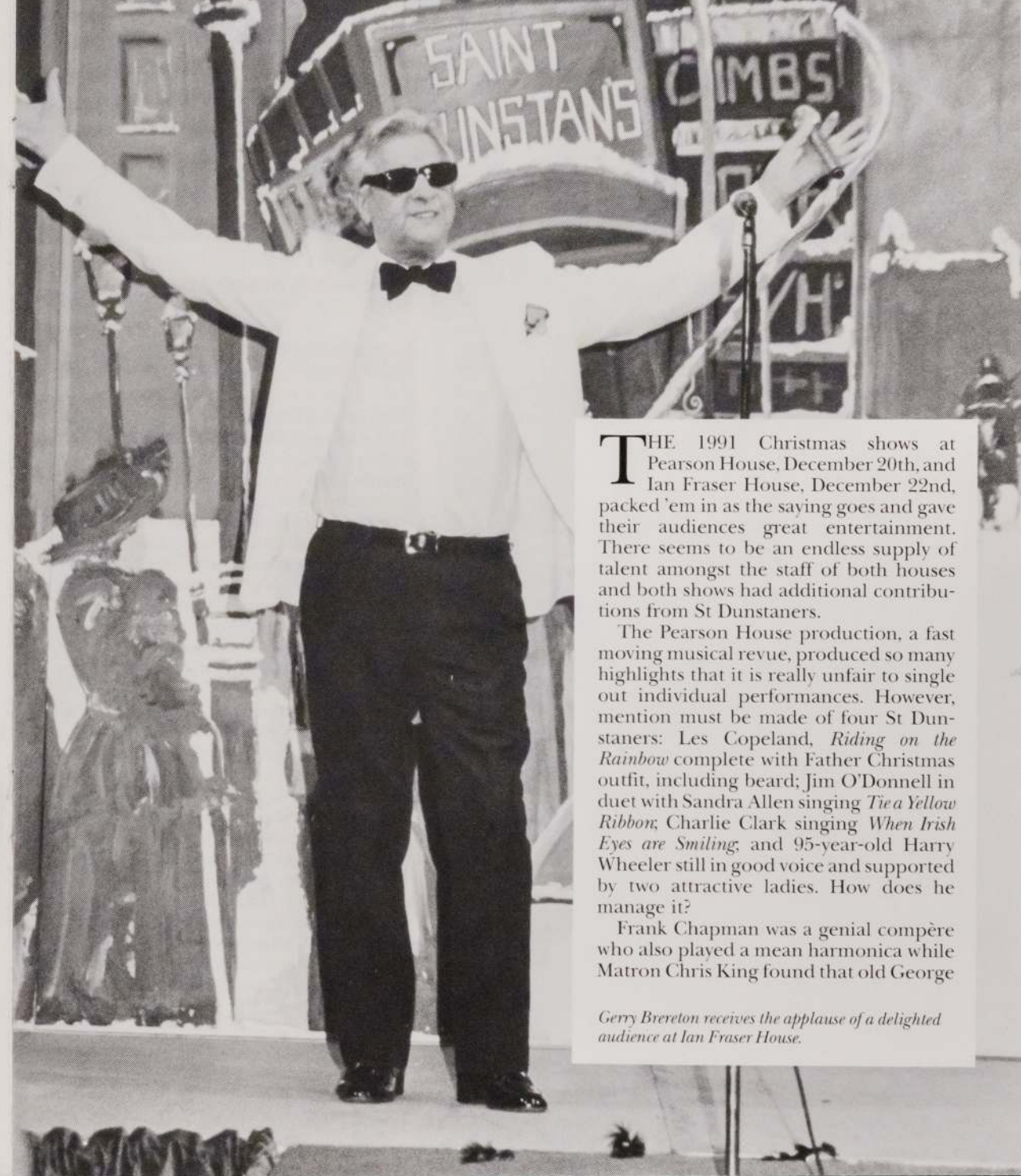
#### THE REUNION By T. Walker

*We tread the paths of days gone by,  
The times we had and things we said  
Of candles burnt and late to bed.  
Foregathered then the boys of yore;  
To count the heads and seek for those  
Whose absence in this time so short  
Show empty chairs laid lead to nought.*

*Will they before the next time round  
elusive now, yet closely bound.  
Are you the one who missed this time?  
The gentle walks and easy climb.  
Each of us is older now  
With greying hair and thoughtful brow  
Betraying deeds of yesterday;  
Of hikes and camps and climbing trees  
Of pain, and bloody knees.*

*The sound of chopping wood still turns my ears  
Closing gaps across the years;  
Now, in my darkness I rejoice  
To hear again their unchanged voice.*

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT



THE 1991 Christmas shows at Pearson House, December 20th, and Ian Fraser House, December 22nd, packed 'em in as the saying goes and gave their audiences great entertainment. There seems to be an endless supply of talent amongst the staff of both houses and both shows had additional contributions from St Dunstaners.

The Pearson House production, a fast moving musical revue, produced so many highlights that it is really unfair to single out individual performances. However, mention must be made of four St Dunstaners: Les Copeland, *Riding on the Rainbow* complete with Father Christmas outfit, including beard; Jim O'Donnell in duet with Sandra Allen singing *Tie a Yellow Ribbon*; Charlie Clark singing *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*; and 95-year-old Harry Wheeler still in good voice and supported by two attractive ladies. How does he manage it?

Frank Chapman was a genial compère who also played a mean harmonica while Matron Chris King found that old George

*Gerry Brereton receives the applause of a delighted audience at Ian Fraser House.*





**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT** *continued*

*Pictures by David Castleton and Roy Scott*

Formby number — *When I'm Cleaning Windows*. George's old jokes came out as well as they ever did — although Chris omitted the ukulele.

Among the guest stars were David Arsenault and Isabel Addison. David is the local beat policeman and hails from the West Country. His dialect version of *A Donkey's Tale*, complete with painted donkey brought the house down. There were rousing choral numbers from the whole cast and the show was a credit to Producer, Frank Starling and Musical Director, Tony Ross.

It was Old Tyme Musical Hall at Ian Fraser House under the genial and verbose chairmanship of David Bray, clad in evening dress and white gloves and wielding a formidable gavel. He also appeared later in school cap and blazer to deliver an IFH version of Tom Lehrer's *Hello Mama, Hello Papa* translated to Mater and Pater.

This was a very professional show, obviously well rehearsed. There were two immaculate singing spots from St Dunstaner Gerry Brereton, who said how honoured he was to be invited to perform at Ian Fraser House. This was quite something from someone who has sung in a

Royal Command Performance! And Terry Walker is credited with writing a highly original and amusing script!

There was glamour from the Golden Girls, led by Pearl Smethurst who also successfully sang and danced solo two numbers she should have shared with another favourite, Ted Harris, who had succumbed to 'flu that day. There had been a surprise item in the Pearson House show entitled — 'The Gerremoffs' and here they were again, five ladies immaculately dressed in crinolines and bewigged — ladies? The programme revealed two drag artists among them: Mike Hordell and Alan Andrews. The real ladies were Margaret Hawkins, Ronnie Hordell and Clare Woods and they all had style!

In a show of 18 acts, not one of which was weak, it is not possible to mention all: Sue Reynolds, with John Julius Norwich's hilarious version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, *The Oliver Twisters* and the *Oily Cartes* were show stoppers in a show that never stopped being first class entertainment. Credits go to Director, Ernie Elliott, Musical Director, Tony Ross (again!) and choreographer, David Cambridge.

The Staff of both houses put in an immense amount of work on stage and back stage and the results were two first-class shows that swung along and took their audiences with them — that's entertainment!

*(Top left) Duettists, Sandra Allen and Jim O'Donnell.*

*(Bottom left) Matron Chris King 'Cleaning Windows'.*

*(Centre) The Finale of Ian Fraser House's Old Tyme Music Hall.*

*(Top right) Clare Woods is the model of a modern Lieutenant-Colonel.*

*(Bottom right) Master of Ceremonies, David Bray in full verbal flight.*







*Christmas angels from Southover School sing carols at Pearson House.*

**Christmas wasn't bad at Pearson House . . .  
 . . . but thanks to Matron King, it got verse!**

**December 14**

Christmas Time at Pearson House  
 It started with a noise  
 The Children's Party, loads of fun  
 With many girls and boys.

The Sports and Social Club worked hard  
 To organise the day  
 The children of the staff were there  
 And Santa, minus sleigh.

**December 17th**

Southover School from Lewes has a choir of great renown  
 One lovely day in coach they climbed, to visit Brighton Town.

To sing for our St Dunstaners was what the kids intended  
 The coach broke down along the way but luckily soon was mended.

In crowded lounge the children sang, angelic voices raised  
 Delighting all who listened as the Son of God was praised.

Songs old and new and carols too, all added to the fun  
 And afterwards each sweet mouth filled with lovely sticky bun.

When Santa Claus had seen the kids, in scarlet coat and hat  
 St Dunstaners were entertained with lots of lovely chat.



*Diana Lawrence, billed as 'Our delicious diva' in the Pearson House Christmas Follies.*

**December 18th**

Thursday was the day the staff  
 All had their Christmas Dinner  
 With turkey roast and Christmas pud  
 They weren't meant to get any thinner!

With wine and food and wine again  
 The 'Bosses' on them waited  
 And no one left the tables till  
 They were completely sated.

**December 19th**

The 'Christmas Follies' we were called,  
 All those who were partaking  
 In the annual Christmas show  
 Inhibitions all forsaking.

Ready to play was our musical boss  
 Who was it? None other than our Tony Ross.  
 The back cloth showed artistic flair  
 Clive Manning was our artist there.

Behind the scenes on light and sound  
 Jim Faithfull and his boys were found.

To get us all on stage on cue,  
 Was Brian and his clipboard too.

With Arthur Chapman as Compère  
 Producer Frank was also there  
 The curtains rose, the staff bowed low  
 'Another Opening, Another Show'.

The staff performed to their full measure  
 To thank them all is my great pleasure  
 St Dunstaners they joined in too  
 Accept my thanks to all of you.

**Christmas Eve**

All together voices raised  
 On Christmas Eve the babe we praised  
 With carols 'twas our joy to sing  
 All glory to the new born King.

The Carol Service filled the room  
 There was no thought of dismal gloom  
 St Dunstaners, guests and staff were there  
 And IFH came down to share  
 The Service led by Cuthbert Scott  
 A joyful time not soon forgot.

We followed this with hot spiced wine  
 The mince pies tasted quite divine  
 I think we all were sad to leave  
 The Carol Service, Christmas Eve.

*Producer, Frank Starling is a crooner in the great tradition.*







The Pearson House Follies Company.

### Christmas Day

Christmas Day dawned bright and clear  
A hint of frost was in the air  
The sky pale blue, the sun quite bright  
To fill our hearts with glad delight.

To church we went, more carols fine  
And Cuthbert passed communion wine  
And then we all with one accord  
Sang praises to our heavenly Lord.



Rustic humour from David Arsenault and Isabel Addison — their donkey dropped in as well!

Then Father Christmas and his band  
Took presents round and shook the hands  
Of gentlemen and kissed the lassies  
While we filled our sherry glasses.

### Boxing Day

Time to recover some do say  
Is the whole point of Boxing Day  
To give relief to aching head  
We sleep in late and stay in bed.

Then lunch-time's called — it's steak garni  
More food and wine for you and me  
And in the afternoon we take  
Some champagne with our Christmas Cake.

Those with some energy then go  
To see the Christmas 'Panto' show  
And then to bed, the day is done  
A great Christmas for everyone.

### New Year

With bingo here and quizzes there  
The time flew by to the New Year  
A celebration seemed the thing  
To help to see the New Year in.

From Pearson House we wish to say  
A Happy New Year and hope it may  
Bring happiness and peace of mind  
To you and to all of mankind.



The Oliver Twisters: Edwina Peacock, Olive Taylor, Christine Dickens, Chris Weaver, David Bamber and Isaac Mateer.

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

### A final review

by Sue Reynolds

The Christmas and New Year festivities at Ian Fraser House got off to a rousing start with the staff concert, as reported on page 21. For the remainder of the holiday, a cheerful crowd enjoyed a round of parties, quizzes and other entertainments.

P.B.K. pulled out all the stops to maintain the excellent standard they have set for Christmas lunch. The highlight of Boxing Day was a visit to *Mother Goose*, the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, in which we saw John Inman playing an excellent Dame with many fantastic costumes. We all returned to a second childhood joining in the banter.

Ernie Took and his band helped us see in the New Year with a swing. The entrants for the fancy dress were few in number, but delighted us all. The excellence and ingenuity of their costumes gave the judges a real headache.

Elizabeth Dacre and Mary Stenning were preparing early for summer, as fair

maidens of Rottingdean; Doris Statham was also in summer mood as a fetching flower girl; Marie Blacker took us back to the Twenties as a sparkling flapper and despite the school holidays, the Terrors of St. Trinians brandished hockey sticks. Beneath their disreputable uniforms we recognised Ernie and Gwen Hannant who never fail to come up with a splendid costume.

After much cogitation, three prizes were awarded. The Belle of the Ball was our 'royal' visitor, Lilian Mogford, looking regal as The Queen Mother; the best man was the devilish blackmailer with the lovely legs, Walter Briggs, showing that a black bin liner and a few Christmas cards are all that are needed for a winning costume.

The final prize was awarded to a couple who clearly knew they were part of the furniture. Albert Hobson and Gaynor Mankin were the big and little chest of drawers, with more drawers than the counter at Marks and Sparks.

As no-one from the constabulary appeared to arrest them, it seems that Albert's offer to the ladies to claim their smalls must have been taken up.

Those of you who think you can do better in 1992 had better start thinking now!



## 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: Leslie O. Shvemar, Downsview, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Sir,

Some months ago I 'read' in the *Review* of the possibility of British veterans being supplied with computers/word-processors and now the same topic is being discussed in Australia.

Well, I must say that Canada's government has been very supportive of our disabled veterans, particularly those of us who have lost our eyesight as a result of our service.

Two years ago, I asked for, and received, an IBM-compatible computer with a word-processing system on board and a voice, while not particularly sexy, is quite satisfactory for a robot. I was given about 40 hours of instruction at home and have become quite adept at doing my own correspondence, error-free, too.

Furthermore, it might interest you to learn that the Feds have also supplied me with a XEROX-Kurzweil 'Reader' which reads a sheet of printed matter and annunciates the message through the voice of my computer.

This equipment is installed in a corner of our bungalow and I can communicate and correspond with people in many distant parts of the globe without having to depend upon my wife of 45 years to read incoming mail addressed to me.

**From: Verna (Johnny) Johnson Ritchie, Islington, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Sir,

I'm an old Canadian Red Cross V.A.D. who served in Church Stretton at Longmynd and in the handicraft shop at the Centre.

I really enjoy getting the *Review* each month and especially enjoy getting bits of news of people I knew in Church Stretton.

We see Eleanor Shaw Johnson, and

her husband, Joe, quite often and Virginia Pearson Pincombe and Margaret Blackmore McClure. They are all fine and I'm sure would like to join me in sending all the best in '92.

Margaret, by the way, has become a grandmother this year and has a dear little grand-daughter, Chloe Margaret (the 4th generation of Margarets). In June '90, we were all together in Ottawa in Margaret's garden. Our Annual Red Cross Reunion was in Ottawa that year and we had a great time. I also hear from Dinah Pease Stratford (she taught braille at Basingstoke). So you see the Canadian gals are still going strong.



*Bill Griffiths on a dream voyage, takes the wheel on the bridge of the QE2.*

## REFLECTIONS

**By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott**

Who wants improvements? So often they are clumsy efforts brought in a spirit of condescension.

Here is one I have introduced, with some trepidation. Up until a year ago the Prayer for St Dunstan's used in the Chapel services went like this:

Oh loving father we pray for all those who have been blinded in the service of their country. May they all learn the mystery of the road of suffering which Christ has trodden and saints have followed, and bring you this gift which angels cannot bring — a heart that trusts you even in the dark: and this we ask in the name of Him who took our infirmities upon Him, even the same Jesus Christ our Saviour.

And now it goes like this:

Oh loving father, we pray with those who have been blinded in the service of their country. May we all learn from the way of suffering which Christ has trodden and saints have followed, to trust you even in the dark; through Him who offered Himself as the light of the world — our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As the minister whose duties include the reading of this prayer, I found for myself, and on behalf of those of others who heard it, an unease in the former set of words. They appeared to be telling St Dunstaners what they should do. 'May they all learn'.

My experience has been to the contrary, that I am in the presence of men and women whose dignity, value and enduring courage I could only hope to follow. That I should suggest what they should learn would be intolerable.

So I have consulted some of them; and presumed to try out my amendment. If someone with greater skill with words

were to offer a better version I would be delighted to receive it.

\* \* \*

Did you ever go to a children's play — or to a concert of an infant school class? I recall a couple of rows of eight-year-olds with their curious gangliness — their faces not yet come to themselves — and, at the back of the class, the little crowd of parents and grandparents, for whom just one of these boys, these girls is worth so much, each one more important than a world war.

For a long time one holds such memories and thinks back also to when one saw a very small baby. Such perfection, even to be almost fearful.

And you and I, probably, have been such units of concern. We, also, have been of profound and overwhelming importance in our birth and early childhood to parents and grandparents. Someone wrote of children (children such as ourselves) trailing clouds of glory. This is the eternal view.

Then, by the style of the created world, for good and for ill, we are changed. We confront and eventually fling off our parents: there are tears all around. It seems that innocence cannot prevail, or perhaps a new wonder — more mixed, more doubtful, arises. One comes to know sorrow.

Yet, eternity is for ever: the child's importance survives.

Christ was born, he grew and entered into adulthood, was loved, hated, crucified. How does one see the whole story? We cannot avoid the awkwardness, nor pretend that we can live untouched by trouble. But thanks is due to those who held us in their love — whose behaviour has moulded us towards good and away from evil.

Thanks be to God.



# Those Radio Times

**ST. DUNSTAN'S AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY —  
OCTOBER 1991**  
By Trevor Phillips,  
GØINH/JY81B

The week started well on Friday evening when a group of members gathered in the Winter Garden for informal discussion and to learn of stations 'worked' and how the bands were for propagation. Changes in the ionosphere — meteor showers, sunspots, etc. — influence communication between countries — sometimes good, sometimes bad! On certain bands there were distinct improvements, and this boded well for forthcoming operations, during the ensuing week.

During the morning of Saturday, October 12th, 1991, some 24 members gathered in the Annexe for the General Meeting, at the start of which members stood in tribute to the memory of Paul Francia, G7ECT, and Tom Richards who had gone 'silent key'.

A warm welcome was extended to Sir Henry Leach, our President, and Ray Hazan was congratulated on obtaining his licence, his call-sign being GØPQQ, and we all looked forward to our first contact with him on the air. A warm welcome was also extended to Tony Cook, GØLGM, who joined the Society as its first Affiliated Member. Tony acts as Ray Peart's escort, and his ardent support for the Society and its endeavours is well recognised.

The time has come around again — all too quickly — for nominations to be received for the award of the G3MOW Memorial Trophy for the current year. Nomination slips will be sent out, in due course, with details of the Annual General Meeting in March next. The Secretary was looking forward to receiving a 100 per cent response!

During the course of discussion on how best to mark the incoming aerials

from the beam and vertical, one member created a great deal of amusement when he suggested they be coloured! Eventually, it was decided that a brass letter 'B' and 'V' be attached, respectively.

As announced in the October *Review*, The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded will be holding its 1992 Reunion in Ottawa from May 7th to 11th, and it has been suggested that members of the Society might be able to arrange a visit to that country to coincide with the Reunion. Enquiries are being made of organisations in Canada to ascertain if this is a viable proposition from an amateur radio aspect, and members who have shown an interest in this venture will be sent details when they are available. Any member who has not yet given his name to the Secretary, and is interested, should do so as soon as possible.

## Validation

Attention was again drawn to the necessity for licensed members to have their Validation Documents with them when operating the Station.

Following the meeting, members and their wives/escorts took lunch in the Winter Garden. This was an informal gathering and gave ample opportunity to socialise in a most happy atmosphere. The meal was excellent, and the Catering Staff were congratulated both for the food and the tasteful manner in which the tables had been set. The service, too, was beyond reproach.

The Secretary gave a very illuminating account of life in the Deep South amidst great laughter (you sure can't fool them flies, Ted!) — a very suitable end to a most pleasant meal.

During the course of the afternoon's operating, Ray Hazan had his first contacts on the air with his new call-sign, working the Americas and Canada. Well done, Ray! Later in the week, when operating from his home QTH, he

worked the Base Station, G3STD, and it was a pleasure to enter his call in the log.

Many stations, including those within the Arctic Circle, Alaska, Iceland, etc., Taiwan and Zimbabwe were contacted in the days following, and it was sad when we had to pull the big plug and go QRT (quiet!).

Our gratitude to all at Ian Fraser House for their many kindnesses and assistance which all helped to make our stay so enjoyable and well worth while.

The next meeting of the Society is from March 6th to 14th, (Annual General Meeting on Saturday 7th) and our members are advised to book as early as possible.

## RANDOM ACCESS

### Computer hints with Ray Hazan

We intend to run this feature every month. If you have any hints, which you think may be of help to others, then please send them to the Editor. Here are a couple to start the ball rolling:

#### Telephonic

Telephone operators may find the following two programmes of use: CODE.COM and its associated UPCODES.DBF. Type in a town and get the phone and postal code out, or type the code and get the town. I also have an ASCII file called TELCODE which contains the London three figure prefixes and whether it is 071 or 081. Please send a blank disk, either size, to Ray Hazan at HQ.

#### The 'Find' command

If you want quick access to a line of information, such as a telephone number, there is no need to load your word processor and search, do it from the DOS prompt. The format is:

```
Find /i 'string' /path/filename
```

/i means you can type the word you are looking for in either upper or lower case, string is the word, or part word, you are searching for, and path and filename where that information is located. Those with DOS versions earlier than 5 may not be able to use the '/i' and must, therefore, type exactly what you wish to find with upper and lower cases.

#### Regular access

If you regularly access the same file, write a batch file called 'F.BAT' with the line:

```
Find /i '%1' /path/filename
```

All you then type is 'f string', press 'return' and read the screen.

#### Writing batch files

There are two ways to write a batch file. Please remember the file name must end with '.bat'.

1. Use your word processor, but save it as an ASCII file, or it will not run.

2. At the DOS prompt use the 'copy con' command, which reads as follows:

a. Type 'copy con:filename.bat' then press 'enter'

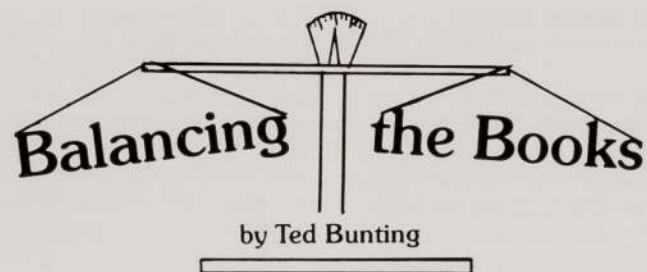
b. Type each line of your file followed by 'enter'

c. When finished, press 'alt z' and 'enter'. The screen will say 'One file copied'.

#### ANOTHER NORMANDY CONTACT

In addition to the information in our Notice Board feature on a visit to the Normandy battlefields, Reg Page has been in touch with the Airborne Forces Security Fund. The dates, June 4th to 7th, coincide with The Royal British Legion dates and the contact is Major C. M. Steggle, Controller, Airborne Forces Security Fund, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU. Reg has been assured that the visit is open to those who did not serve with the Airborne Forces.





Balancing the Books  
by Ted Bunting

### The Romany Rye

Author: George Borrow  
Reader: Gabriel Woolf  
Duration: 16.75 hours  
Catalogue number: 1259

What you and I might call 'lasses and lads', and the horsey set refer to as, 'fillies and colts', so 'rawnies and ryes' are the words used in the language of the Romanies. A 'Romany Rye', in short, means a bachelor; and that, added to the information that the book is set in Victorian England, is all you need to know in order to guess that it tells of the 19th century adventures of a young fellow with gypsy connections.

**'I've had more excitement listening to last week's football results'**

But 'adventures', I regret to say, is a rather inappropriate term to apply. You might as well call a 'Reliant Robin' a 'Rolls-Royce' as use the word 'adventure' for the boring occurrences which this young wanderer so fully describes.

For example: he finds a man asleep in a field, meets another who collects Chinese teapots, and he falls from the horse he is taking to sell at a fair. Hardly what you'd call 'riveting stuff', what? For my own part, I've had more excitement listening to last week's football results, and talk about being long-winded and not getting to the

point, well, I can only say the author never uses a single word where six will do instead. George Borrow, in point of fact, was very, very fond of words . . . Romany words, foreign ones, the more obscure the better he liked it; or so it seems to me.

But if he thought ALL his readers were as happy with all his words as he was, then he was sadly mistaken I must say, because by the time THIS reader had ploughed through them all, I'd had it up to the back teeth.

**'The aimless ramblings of this most mediocre book'**

Woven into the aimless ramblings of this most mediocre book, is just one thread of thought which Mr. Borrow returns to with constancy. It is his obvious hatred of the Roman Catholic church, and, as his story unfolds, he attacks it with great regularity and ever increasing venom. Now this is the aspect of *The Romany Rye* which I dislike most of all. Not because I would deny anyone a right to hold an opinion you understand, nor yet because I'm a very pious person myself. No, but I have little room for religious intolerance at any time, and certainly not in a work which is supposed to be entertaining. The fact is that personally, as well you know, I hate to criticise anything at all.

### Eminent Elizabethans

Author: A.L. Rowse  
Reader: John Westbrook  
Duration: 8.75 hours  
Catalogue number: 5078

Having a strong interest in history in general, and in Tudor England in particular, a book entitled *Eminent Elizabethans* held an obvious appeal for someone like me. And, by and large, I enjoyed it. It is always good to approach a favourite topic from different angles, and A.L. Rowse certainly showed me aspects of 16th century life which I had not appreciated before, but he does go on a bit!

He outlines a potted history of Bess of Hardwick for example, and initially it is very interesting too! I found her building schemes and some of her personal relationships particularly fascinating, but then he spoils it all with insignificant details from the household accounts . . . how much a yard she gave for cloth . . . what the price of beer was . . . who got sixpence for being a good boy . . . all that sort of thing . . . really boring!

**'Wouldn't it be nice if the truth was always what we wanted it to be?'**

He rather disappointed me over the Earl of Oxford too, though to be honest that's not really his fault. I'd always fancied that Oxford was the chap who wrote all the 'Shakespeare' stuff you see, but now, I am told he was nothing more than a fool, a coxcomb, a cad, and a homosexual to boot, and frankly I'm a little upset. Wouldn't it be nice if the truth was always what we wanted it to be?

The author also tells of other men; a Jesuit called Parsons, a minor scribbler named Harrington, and he finishes with a one-time Lord Chamberlain. This latter's inclusion in the book is fair enough, for he was the very Lord Chamberlain who advanced the career of the Bard of Avon, but as to the others being 'eminent', well I ask you, how could they be if I'd never heard of 'em?

### The Guest House

Author: Peter De Polnay  
Reader: Andrew Timothy  
Duration: 8.25 hours  
Catalogue number: 5691

Only a sense of duty forced me to listen to all this stuff! But for my obligation to BOTH my readers, the cassette would have gone back into the postbox faster than my pal Paddy can say: 'I don't mind if I do.'

Oh, it begins reasonably enough . . . On the advice of her husband, Clarissa, a frigid middle-aged woman, has converted her grandmother's large villa in the South of France into a discreet, but thriving, guest house. Well there's nothing untoward there, you would think; or in the fact that the establishment is patronised almost exclusively by English men and women.

But what a sample they are: introverts, extroverts and perverts . . . There is a young fellow obsessed by the dread of people knowing his father was hanged for murder; there are a pair of lesbians apparently obsessed with each other; and a former doctor, who has dedicated his retirement to excess drinking and bringing prostitutes to his bed.

**'What a comfort . . . to know such things don't happen in Brighton'**

And then Clarissa begins a pathetic passion for a young bartender, and HER bedroom is added to the many others which feature so needlessly as the scenes of action throughout the plot. I say 'so needlessly' by the way, because I am convinced that all this preoccupation with sexual acts adds nothing substantial to what is, oddly enough, quite an interesting story. Still, one shouldn't be too critical of things foreign I suppose, perhaps all this jumping in and out of bed is the way things really are in France. But what a comfort it is to know such things don't happen in Brighton.



# Hooking a conger

A.C. 'Tiny' Pointon tells how he landed a 61-pound conger eel

In the late Sixties, one could take a beach boat off for a few hours angling and return with a considerable bag of fish taken on rod and line. But the introduction of trammel nets and changes in the fishing industry from the Continent mean that today one would not be so lucky as many areas where fish were plentiful have been fished out by commercial fishing so finding sport is more difficult.

Likewise, where the angling skippers used to try to put one on a mark, such as a wreck, by taking sightings — cross bearings of shore sites — for years now all have had reasonably priced and very sophisticated echo sounders which have enabled them to place anglers accurately over wrecks. The result is that having taken thousands of pounds of fish from each wreck in turn, today there is not a wreck within about 25 miles of Newhaven with any fish left on it. So to get sport one has to go much further afield or rather to wrecks further away.

Early in August 1991, I managed to arrange a trip with Chris Martin, skipper of the 33 ft *Nikaria*, leaving Newhaven at six in the morning. We were heading for a wreck, about 45 miles off Newhaven, but as the weather was rather iffy we did not go straight out to it, but tried a nearer wreck with very little luck.

However, the weather flattened out later in the day and we got out to the original destination. But the tide had changed, we were angling more or less on the keel side of the wreck which was lying on its side.

When the tide changed once more, and Chris could put the *Nikaria* into position to fish into the deck side of the wreck it all happened — 13 congers in an hour-and-a-half. I only got one but it was a 54-pounder, which took about five minutes to get off the sea-bed and another quarter-of-an-hour before it was gaffed and boated.

During the day, Chris had told me about

the British Conger Club. To become a full member, one must have caught a conger weighing 40-pounds from a wreck, or 35-pounds from a reef, or 25-pounds from the beach. So as my conger qualified me, I became a member of the British Conger Club — the first blind one I am told by its secretary.

From here on, one can qualify for medals as follows, over 55-pounds for bronze, 65 for silver and 75 for gold. The record conger for this country is 105-pounds.

## Overheated

Motoring back to Newhaven, we picked up some plastic rubbish floating just under the surface of the sea into the water intake, so that the engine overheated. We had to heave-to, while the obstruction was cleared and the engine cooled down. This resulted in my getting home at one in the morning — nineteen hours from the time we left Newhaven on the outward trip. One later trip was not productive. Three more dates the weather blew out — but on the penultimate day of last year, the Monday, we made it again, on one of the calmest days I remember in the Channel. Of course the weather being colder, I had bought a Mainstream flotation suit (like a boiler suit with a hood and completely waterproof and thermally insulated, most necessary if one is to fish through the winter) and moon boots to go with it. Although one's hands, nose and ears get chilly, the rest stays snug.

We left Newhaven at 9.30 a.m. after taking diesel on board and motored until 1.30 p.m. to another wreck about four miles off the coast of France. After the wreck had been marked with dhan anchors, Chris located the *Nikaria* in just the right place for us to fish the wreck.

There were seven of us angling and although I only caught one conger, it weighed sixty-one-and-a-half-pounds and my arms are still stiff from the experi-

ence of bringing it to the surface where Chris and his crew boated it.

Others caught as many as four each and although I had several more bites I didn't get my hook into anything else. Still, I am very happy to have qualified for a bronze as well as membership in the one year. It would have had to be three-and-a-half years older to have given me the silver.

The boat took a thousand pounds of conger that day and weighed anchor at about 7.30 p.m., getting home at midnight after weighing in all the catch etc. on our return to Newhaven.

Perhaps I should add that my tackle came from Dennis O'Kennedy and as we fish with a line with a breaking strain of 40 pounds, everything must have been just right to have withstood the tussle which went on for about half-an-hour until the conger could be landed.

I do not know when we can get out again, but I am hoping it will be soon.

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

How did you fare with our Christmas Conundrums? Check your answers here to see if you're ready for *Mastermind*...

(1) Doriol Paget. (2) Alexander cut the Gordian Knot in half with a sword. (3) Radio Keith Orpheum. (4) The taxi isn't carrying a bale of hay on the roof, which the law of the land still requires. (5) George Sanders. (6) Charlton FC. (7) Margaret Thatcher. (8) The Raven. (9) The lie-detector. (10) *The Woman in White*. (11) Frequency Modulation. (12) Picasso. (13) Anticipating victory at Agincourt, the French said they would cut off the bow fingers of the English Archers. They lost — and the Archers didn't let them forget it! The abusive nature of that two-fingered reminder has been with us ever since. (14) George Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen. (15) George Orwell. (16) John Logie Baird. (17) False! Fatty Arbuckle was acquitted, but was forever disgraced in the public eye. (18) Edvard Grieg. (19) He tried to shoot King George VI. (20) Jane, *The Daily Mirror's* strip queen.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's

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

**Mr. William Perry**, of Corsham, Wilts, joined St Dunstan's on October 28th, last year.

Mr. Perry, who is 72 years old, was called up in April 1940 with his twin brother and a year later they were posted overseas and were sent to the Far East. They arrived in Singapore some four weeks before the fall.

After becoming a PoW, Mr. Perry was put to work on the Burma Railway before he was separated from his brother and sent to Japan, there he worked in the harsh conditions of an iron foundry in Osaka until the end of the war, when he was brought out through Hiroshima — 19 days after the atomic bomb had been dropped.

Mr. Perry was finally discharged from the Army in July 1946 and returned to his civilian job as a stone cutter. Sadly, his brother died in 1950.

As Mr. Perry's sight deteriorated, he became an industrial civil servant with the Admiralty until his retirement 10 years ago. In his spare time, he used to enjoy gardening and was very keen on sport, particularly boxing.

He married his wife, Margaret, in 1947 and they have one daughter who lives nearby.

**Mr. Bernard Mason**, of Romsey, Hants, joined St Dunstan's on November 21st, last year, having been a Gubbay man since 1972.

Mr. Mason joined the Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1953, aged 18 years old, and was posted first to Germany and then to Malaya during the Communist insurgency.

He was badly wounded in the legs when his Section was ambushed in the jungle and he was left in a swamp. In 1956 he was invalided out of the Army and joined



the Royal Ordnance Factory where he became a foreman electrician and worked until 1970 when the onset of blindness forced his retirement. He suffers from Multiple Sclerosis.

His interests include gardening and fishing, but his main hobby is cutting and polishing stones. He is married and has three adult children by his first wife.

**John Brett**, of Dartford, Kent, joined St Dunstan's on November 27th.

Mr. Brett joined the RAF in 1938 and, after a period in the UK, was posted to Singapore and was captured by the Japanese on his way to Java. During three-and-a-half years of captivity, he got to know Bill Griffiths and Dame Margot Turner, who were with him part of that time. Due to ill health, he was invalided out of the Air Force on his return to the UK in 1946.

He then took employment with the National Health Service and was responsible for store management until he retired in 1984.

He and his wife, Edna, have one son and twin daughters, who live nearby.

**Ernest Johnson**, of Cambridge, also joined St Dunstan's in November. He served as a Private in the Cambridge-shire Regiment from 1939 until 1946.

Mr. Johnson was involved in the battle for Malaya and was captured at the fall of Singapore. He was imprisoned in Changi Gaol before being set to work on the Burma Railway.

Mr. Johnson and his wife, Eunice, have three adult children.

**Mr. Jacob Morgan**, of Swansea, joined St Dunstan's on December 17th. Serving in the Welsh Regiment from 1944 to 1946, he was wounded at Geldern in 1945.

Mr. Morgan is married and has three adult children — two sons and a daughter.

Also joining on December 17th, was **Mr. Cyril Vickers**, of Beaminster, Dorset.

Mr. Vickers was 14 years old when he joined the Royal Marines as a boy musician in 1939. After completing training at the Royal Marines School of Music, he was

posted to HMS *Sussex*, serving with her around the coasts of Africa, India, Sumatra, and Australia.

While serving, he had a nose operation which led to eventual blindness in one eye. After being posted to HMS *Vanguard*, his remaining eye was destroyed in a shot-gun accident.

In 1982, Mr. Vickers was accepted by St Dunstan's for Gubbay training and started a business making ornamental concrete garden objects.

Mr. Vickers and his wife, Margaret, have been married for over 36 years and have three adult children.

Finally, **Mr. Alfred Davies**, of Balham, London, joined St Dunstan's on December 17th.

Mr. Davies joined the RAF in 1961 and was trained for general clerical duties. He served in Bahrain, Singapore, Germany and Sarawak and left the RAF in 1972.

Shortly afterwards, his health deteriorated and his vision was so impaired that he received training from the RNIB, followed by instruction as a telephonist under the Gubbay Trust. He now works for Barclays Bank in Peckham, London.

## CLUB NEWS

### DINNER REPORT

Each section of the Brighton Club was well represented at the dinner and dance on November 1st, last year. After friends met over drinks, all made their way to the Winter Garden for a very appetising dinner.

Mrs. Dacre, Ken and Mrs. Dew, and Bob and Joan Osborne, joined Jack and Rita Pryor at the top table. Dr. John O'Hara was very much missed and we wish him well soon.

Each lady received a pleasant gift, and as there were no speeches, all adjourned to the ballroom for a very happy evening dancing to Ernie Took and his band. The raffle, as usual, had some very fine gifts for the lucky winners.

We offer our thanks to Lt. Col. Bray and

the drivers for the transport arrangements, to PBK for a lovely meal, and to Joan and Bob for all the hard work they had done.

Phyllis O'Kelly

### DOMINO NEWS

Brighton Social Club ruled supreme when it met Hastings Social Club for the Blind at Ian Fraser House for a return tournament of Fives and Threes.

Hastings lost the tournament by one table, but at the bingo and raffle that followed, the prize money was evenly shared.

Albert Hobson presented the trophy to Theo Giles and expressed his thanks to Lt. Col. Bray and staff for the kindness shown to them.

There will be a visit to Hastings in 1992, when they will be able to try to regain the Albert Hobson trophy.

Phyllis O'Kelly

### BRIDGE NEWS

**Horsham return match — Sunday, November 3rd, 1991**

We received a visit from our old friends, Horsham, on Sunday November 3rd, for a return match of their annual fixture with us during Eastertime. A very close match ensued, which we eventually won by 39 match points to 27.

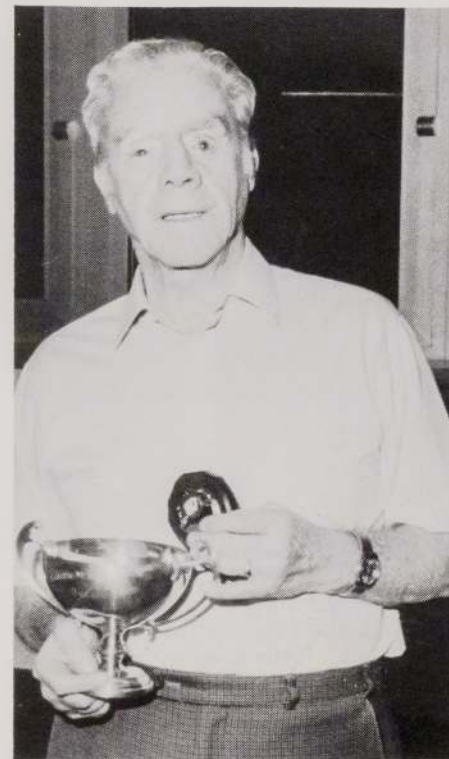
Our team was: W. Lethbridge & V. Delaney, B. Phillips & B. Evans, G. Hudson & R. Palmer, J. Huk & Mrs. Holborough, R. Freer & B. Allen, A. Dodgson & R. Goding.

We lent Horsham the services of Mrs. A. Clements, who had come to mark, also Miss Stenning, Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Douse.

### WEST SUSSEX LEAGUE

On Sunday, December 1st, we played our first match in the West Sussex League at Ian Fraser House. Our opponents were West Worthing 'A' and a very closely contested match resulted in a win for St Dunstan's by nine victory points to seven.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT — December 1991



Bridge Secretary, Reg Goding lifted the Brighton Gover Cup.

We ended last year's National Bridge Congress on a high note, under the directorship of Jeff Connell. A pleasant time was had by all and no doubt the winners of the various competitions were pleased with their own personal results.

We had the usual festive board on Saturday evening followed by Ernie Took's dance in the Annexe, both of which were very enjoyable.

Jeff agreed that next year he will run a small quiz in the morning and afternoon to test our ability and intelligence (ha ha!) on how to run and play certain hands. This is to take place the day before our official start.

Meanwhile, Ennis Connell will again be taking the beginners, Rowland Bolton and Maurice Douse will be assisting Jeff, not





*Kathleen and Ralph Pacitti.*



*Pat Padley, Bill Phillips, Bill Miller and John Whitcombe at the table.*

forgetting all the markers who participate and helpers. To all of these, on your behalf, we express our thanks and appreciation.

It was last December that we started our very successful run in the West Sussex Interleague Competition. This culminated in our winning the cup which now stands proudly displayed at Ian Fraser House.

Throughout the year most of us took part in both the Gover and Dacre Cup, the London and Brighton Bridge Drives,

including the Masters and Business League in London during June.

Our next competition, being the Three Ways Competition held at Ian Fraser House in May, finished with a win for Brighton, London second and third place to Provincial. Well done Brighton!

Now on to the big one of the year or should I say one of the highlights – the Harrogate Week. For the first time we travelled both ways by coach, leaving some of the participants to travel direct from their homes to Harrogate.

*Sir Arthur Pearson Cup winners: Sylvia Meleson, Ralph Pacitti, Bertha King and Alf Dodgson.*



*Winners of the Paul Nuyens Memorial Trophy were: Bob Evans, Reg Goding, Bill Phillips and Bert Ward.*

We played our usual matches at various venues during the week which all proved very pleasant and satisfactory on both sides. The results were two to them, two to us and a very close miss by us for the Harrogate Cup. Plaques were presented to each of the Clubs.

There will be a change of hotel accommodation next year. Although the hotel this year was satisfactory with home cooking, pleasant staff and proprietor, the hotel has no lift and certain people found it difficult to cope with the stairs. We have decided it is time for a change and have booked accommodation at the Grant Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate, which has all the required amenities.

We now start this year's Congress and, before or during, you will be given a programme for the Congress and a fixture list for the year.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank St Dunstan's, particularly Mr. Weisblatt, for the financial and advisory help, Col. Bray and his merry band of helpers for their support, my personal thanks to Brenda Cartwright who has given me a great deal of help throughout the year in many ways (the rough with the smooth),

and not forgetting all who help on the catering side.

As a Club, we shall go forward with the hope of attaining and maybe exceeding this year's accomplishments and also to try and increase our membership.

Happy New Year!

### **1991 Bridge Congress Results Ian Fraser House December 5th-9th**

**Sir Arthur Pearson Championship**  
1st Sylvia Meleson – Bertha King  
2nd Bill Miller – Johnny Whitcombe

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

1st Bill Phillips – Bob Evans  
Reg Goding – Bert Ward  
2nd Vi Delaney – Wally Lethbridge  
Bill Miller – Johnny Whitcombe

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

1st Sylvia Meleson – Bertha King  
Alf Dodgson – Ralph Pacitti  
2nd Bill Phillips – Bob Evans  
Peter Surridge – Mrs. P. Padley



#### Alf Field Memorial Trophy Datum Pairs

1st Mrs. K. Pacitti — Ralph Pacitti  
2nd Mike Tybinski — Bob Fullard

#### Lord Fraser Cup for Individual Championship

1st Ralph Pacitti  
2nd George Hudson  
3rd Bill Allen



Sylvia Meleson and Vi Delaney won the Drummer Downs Trophy.

#### Drummer Downs Trophy

1st Vi Delaney — Sylvia Meleson  
2nd Bob Fullard — Joe Huk  
3rd Bill Allen — Alf Dodgson

#### Gover Cups

Brighton — Reg Goding  
Victor Ludorum — Bill Allen

Dacre Trophy — Wally Lethbridge

#### Post congress

The drive following the end of the congress was held on Monday, December 9th when 36 players including three St Dunstaners from the Beginners Class and 14 markers had a very enjoyable and successful day.

#### Results

1st W. Allen & Mrs. K. Pacitti 3140  
They also won the prize for 1st Slam

2nd V. Delaney & Mr. White 2740  
3rd P. Surrudge & Miss M. Stenning 1660  
4th J. Whitcombe & Mrs. P. Padley 1640

Prize for the score nearest to minus 1000  
Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Bushell

#### Closing drive

The Club Season was brought to a close on December 15th with a bridge drive attended by 24 St Dunstaners and markers. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Dacre to the following:

#### Results

Name	Score
1st A. Dodgson & Mrs. McPherson	3020
2nd W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	1670
3rd W. Allen & Mrs. A. Clements	860
4th G. Hudson & Mrs. C. Berry	340

#### Minimum Score Prize:

M. Tybinski & Miss Stenning

#### Slam Prize:

Mrs. Padley & Mrs. White

#### BOWLING NEWS

#### St Dunstan's National Bowls Tournament 1991

The St Dunstan's Indoor Bowls Championship took place at Ian Fraser House from October 19th until November 8th. There were over 30 players who entered the tournament and we welcomed several new competitors. This meant a very busy three weeks bowling and Joan Osborne, with the help of Rita Pryor, had some of the competitors playing matches before they had hardly unpacked and settled in.

During the first week, we played the triples and pairs competitions, and there were many close games along with a few surprising results.

The second and third weeks were mainly singles matches. The partially sighted were divided into three groups and the totally blind into two groups. This meant that approximately 90 games had to be played before we found the 1991 champions.

The bowling seems to improve each

year and although the games were keenly contested the sportsmanship and friendliness throughout the games were outstanding.

The whole tournament ran smoothly and we finished with the Fun Fours final which included wives, helpers and St Dunstaners to the accompaniment of barracking and cheers from the onlookers.

Ron Freer winner of the partially sighted seemed to find his old form and many years of bowling took him through to win the partially sighted.

The totally blind winner, Bob Osborne, although further handicapped completed the double this year by also winning the March handicap, congratulations to them both.

May we also express our thanks to Joan Osborne and Rita Pryor for all the hard work they do, to Vi and Reg Bradford for the many hours of their time in umpiring games and the staff at Ian Fraser House for all their help and assistance during our stay.

P. Stubbs

#### Consolation Triples:

Winners: J. Prendergast  
A. Mitchell  
A. Whittington  
Runners-up: M. Lewis  
W. Collier  
J. Perfect

#### Fun Fours

Winners: R. Pryor  
J. Pryor  
A. Mitchell  
J. Mills  
Runners-up: R. Bushell  
R. Osborne  
W. Vickery  
P. Surrudge

#### Kathleen Smith Trophy

Winner: M. Lewis

## FAMILY NEWS

#### BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations to:

Mrs. Rose Hedger, of Herne Bay, widow of *Alfred Hedger*, on the birth of two great-grandsons last year: Glen Weaver on February 3rd, in New Mexico, and Craig Hedger on October 16th, in Aberdeen.

Mrs. Maureen White, of Swadlincote, Derbyshire, widow of *John White*, is pleased to announce the birth of grandson Joshua on June 18th last. He was born in Germany, where Mrs. White's son Robert had an Army posting. Robert is now serving at Wellington Barracks and he and his wife, Karen, have married quarters in Finchley, London.

Mrs. Louise Hale, of Southmead, Bristol, widow of *Charles Hale*, has announced the birth of her first great-granddaughter on November 7th. The parents are Mrs. Hale's grand-daughter, Deborah, and her husband, Simon Piper.

*Alan and Susan Milne*, of Durham City, have announced the birth of a grand-daughter, Lonnie Alexandra, on October 22nd.



Congratulations to *Clifford and Phyllis Fisher*, of Ower, Hants, on the birth of their sixth grandchild. Stacey Joanne was born on October 22nd to their daughter, Gillian, and her husband, Kevin Bushell.

*Thomas Gann*, of Barkingside, Essex, is pleased to announce the birth of his first great-grandchild, Eleanor, on November 5th.

*Alys and Walter Briggs*, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, are delighted to announce the birth of their first great-grandchild, Jordan, on November 8th. He is the son of their grand-daughter, Julie, and her husband, Roger Davies.

*Peter and Erika Peile*, Caringbah, New South Wales, Australia, are pleased to announce the birth of a grandson on August 30th.

*Les Copeland*, of Pearson House, is proud to announce the birth of his great-granddaughter, Jennifer, on December 17th — just one day before the birthday of Les's daughter.

*Trevor and Beryl Tatchell*, of Cardiff, are pleased to announce the birth of a grandson, Stephen. He was born to their daughter, Helen, and her husband, David Drewett, on December 22nd.

## WEDDINGS

### Congratulations to:

Mrs. Marie Vickery, of Barry, South Glamorgan, widow of *Arthur Vickery*, is delighted to announce the marriage of her grand-daughter, Julia, to Gareth Mortimore, at St John the Baptist Church, Newton, Porthcawl, on August 30th.

Mrs. Lilly Acton, of Halifax, widow of *Percy Acton*, is delighted to announce the marriage of her grand-daughter, Lisa Gaukroger, to Steven Machin, at St Matthews Church, Rastrick, on September 14th.

Jacqueline Collins, grand-daughter of Doreen Collins, of Herne Bay, widow of *John Collins*. She married Daniel Everett on September 14th, in California, USA.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

*Harry and Joyce Foster*, of Farnham, Surrey, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 8th.

*Joe and Sarah Nicol*, of Cottingham, Humberside, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 15th.

Also, best wishes to *Billy and Ellen Orr*, of Lisburn, Co. Antrim, who celebrated their Golden Day on November 19th.

*Fred and Violet Boughton*, of Old Duston, Northampton, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 13th.

*Norman and Elsie Dugdale*, of Moston, Manchester, who celebrated their Golden Day on December 20th.

Congratulations to *Francis and Marjorie Eager*, of Plymouth, Devon, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 1st.

*Bill and Joan Hodder*, of Hull, Humberside, who celebrated their Ruby Day on November 10th.

*Walter and Peggy Durrant*, of Norwich, Norfolk, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on November 3rd.

Congratulations to *Donald and Sharon Planner*, of Poole, Dorset, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on December 17th.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Our congratulations go to:

Police Sergeant Mike Ellis, of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, on earning a BA with honours in Sociology at Plymouth Polytechnic. Sgt. Ellis, stationed at Torquay, is the son-in-law of *Trevor and Joan Phillips*, of Paignton, Devon.

Mrs. Joy Forster, of Leeds, widow of *Robert Forster*, is delighted that her grandson, Paul, passed all his GCSE exams, while grand-daughter Kate has passed her Grade Four Ballet examination.

Jonathon Morris, son of St Dunstaner *David Morris*, of Newquay, Cornwall, has graduated from University with a BSc (Hons) in Combined Sciences. He is currently working his way around the world, having travelled through Singapore and Bali to Australia.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to *Jamie Cuthbertson*, of Glasgow, who was presented with an MSc in Information Technology on December 7th.

Jamie studied for the qualification at the University of Glasgow and is pictured above with Principal Sir William Kerr Fraser.

Congratulations to Kevin Anthony, grandson of *Freddie Mills*, of Tavistock, Devon, on passing his Ordinary National Certificate and B.Tec. examinations.

## DEATHS

### We offer our condolences to:

St Dunstaner *Josh Callum*, of Peterborough, whose wife died suddenly on November 9th

Our sympathy also goes to *Albert Henderson*, of St Dennis, near St Austell, Cornwall. His wife, Emily, died on November 9th,

shortly before their 52nd wedding anniversary. Our condolences also go to their six sons and six daughters.

*Joe Ormond*, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, is mourning the death of his sister, Emma. Aged 90 years, she died on November 16th. We send our sympathy.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Alice Smith, of Mytchett, Surrey, widow of *John Smith*, on November 24th. She was 91 years old. We send our sympathy to all members of the family.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Florence Cantello, widow of *Archibald Cantello*, of Kenton, Middlesex, on November 22nd. We send our sympathy to all members of the family.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Ellen Crane, of East Grinstead, widow of *Cecil Crane*, on November 24th. She was 90 years old. We send our sympathy to her son, John, and all members of the family.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Elsie Edmonds, of Old Dalby, Leicestershire, on December 1st. Aged 79, she was the widow of St Dunstaner *William Edmonds*. Our sympathy goes to their son, Barry and his family.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Annetta Woodhead, of Blackpool, widow of *John Woodhead*, on December 1st. She was 83 years old. Our sympathy goes to their children, John, Jean and Marjorie, and their families.

Our sincere sympathy goes to *Peter McCormack*, of Sidmouth, Devon, whose wife, Shan Ramona, died on November 21st. They had been married for 10 years.

We regret to announce the death of Winifred Ettridge, of Addiscombe, Surrey, widow of *Edgar Ettridge*, on December 19th. She was 76 years old. Our sympathy goes to all the family.



We regret to announce that Phyllis Stanley, wife of *Gilbert Stanley*, of Hucclecote, Gloucester, died on December 14th. Our sympathy goes to Gilbert and all the family.

We regret to announce that Mrs. Ida Sutton, of Audlem, near Crewe, Cheshire, widow of *Albert Sutton*, died on December 17th. She was 84 years old. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

We regret to announce that *Jamie Cuthbertson's* father-in-law, Fintan Cusack, died, in Dublin, on November 5th. Our sympathy goes to Jamie's wife, Shauna, and all members of the family.

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## 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.

### **Ronald Towner, RASC**

We regret to announce the death of Ronald Towner, of Maidstone, Kent, in hospital on November 5th following a severe stroke. He was 72 years old.

Mr. Towner enlisted in the Army in January, 1940 and served as a driver in the RASC until the end of the war. On becoming a St Dunstaner, he trained for industry as a capstan operator and started working in 1952. He remained with the same Maidstone firm for 21 years, but was forced to take early retirement in 1973.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Elsie, and all members of the family.

### **Gwladys Kendle, Royal Ordnance**

We regret to announce the death of Gwladys Kendle, of Islington, London, on December 10th. She was 69 years old.

During the Second World War, Mrs. Kendle worked in the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridge End, Clywd. In August 1941, she was injured in a detonator explosion and lost her left eye and several fingers.

She married in 1942 and was cared for by her husband until his death in 1989.

We send our sympathy to her children, Patricia, Valerie and Terence, and all other members of the family.

### **Eric George Humphreys, Royal Navy**

We regret to announce the death of Eric Humphreys, of Pelsall, Walsall, on November 19th after a short illness. He was 54 years old.

Mr. Humphreys joined the Royal Navy when he was 17, but contracted an illness that destroyed his sight. He became a St Dunstaner in 1956. He trained for industry, but poor health forced him to give up work towards the end of 1962.

Our sympathy goes to all the family.

### **Kenneth Ernest Henry Cranch, Royal Army Service Corps**

We regret to announce the death of Kenneth Cranch, of Kingsbridge, Devon, on December 21st. He was 75 years old.

Mr. Cranch joined the Territorial Army in May 1934, and was mobilised in September 1939. During the war, he served in the Royal Army Service Corps, in Africa, Greece, and Italy, reaching the rank of WO1. He was discharged in 1945 as a result of diabetes, which later caused his loss of sight.

He worked as a parts manager, until his retirement in August 1977.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Eva, and their family.

### **Patrick Lowry, RAF Volunteer Reserve**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Patrick Lowry, of Saltdean, Sussex, on December 28th. He was 72 years old.

He enlisted with the RAF Volunteer Reserve in March 1940 and suffered eye injuries in a flying accident the following year. While target towing, he hurried to pull in the target before a forced landing. His sight then steadily deteriorated and he was discharged in March 1946.

After joining St Dunstan's, Mr. Lowry became the first blinded telephonist to be employed by the National Provincial Bank — now known as the National Westminster Bank. These days, the bank employs 152 blind and partially-sighted people.

Mr. Lowry retired in 1979, but his time at the bank was not without incident.

On October 2nd, 1968, armed raiders held up the bank where he was working. Mr. Lowry cleared the lines and dialled for the police even though he was visible from the counter area. As the call was connected, shots were fired at other staff members.

The robbers escaped, despite the prompt arrival of the police. After all the commotion, Mr. Lowry was back on the phone — apologising to the people he had cut off earlier.

We send our sympathy to his widow, Vera, his son, Steven, daughters, Ruth and Fiona, and all other members of the family.



# St Dunstons Review

## PENSIONS SUPPLEMENT

JANUARY, 1992



## REVIEW OF WAR DISABLEMENT PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

The next uprating of pensions and allowances will come into effect in the week beginning April 6th, 1992. The new rates are in line with the 4.1% increase in the Retail Price Index over the twelve months to September, 1991. The 60p Dependency Allowance has been discontinued, but the Basic War Pension has been increased by 4.8 per cent to compensate.

### DETAILS OF INCREASED WAR PENSION RATES

DISABLEMENT BENEFITS		
	Existing weekly rate £	New weekly rate £
Disablement pension for Private at 100 per cent	84.90	89.00
<b>Over 65 Age Allowance with assessments of:</b>		
40 to 50 per cent	6.00	6.25
Over 50 and not exceeding 70 per cent	9.25	9.65
Over 70 and not exceeding 90 per cent	13.25	13.80
Over 90 per cent	18.50	19.30
<b>Unemployability allowance</b>		
Personal allowance	55.25	57.50
Increase for wife or other adult dependant	31.25	32.55
Increase for child	9.70	9.75
Second and subsequent child	10.70	10.85
<b>Invalidity allowance</b>		
Age on qualifying date:—		
Under 40	11.10	11.55
Under 50 but not under 40	6.90	7.20
Under 60 (55 for women) but not under 50	3.45	3.60
<b>Constant attendance allowance</b>		
Special maximum	68.00	70.80
Special intermediate	51.00	53.10
Normal maximum	34.00	35.40
Half and quarter day	17.00	17.70
<b>Comforts allowance</b>		
Higher rate	14.60	15.20
Lower rate	7.30	7.60
<b>Mobility supplement</b>	32.35	33.70
<b>Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (Maximum)</b>	33.96	35.36
<b>Exceptionally severe disablement allowance</b>	34.00	35.40
<b>Severe disablement allowance</b>	17.00	17.70

### DISABLEMENT BENEFITS (continued)

	Existing Annual Rate £	New Annual Rate £
<b>Clothing allowance</b>		
Higher rate	115.00	120.00
Lower rate	73.00	76.00
<b>Unemployability Supplement permitted</b>		
<b>Therapeutic earnings limit (annual)</b>	2028.00	2106.00

### DEATH BENEFITS

	Existing weekly rate £	New weekly rate £
<b>Widow's pension — Private's widow</b>		
Standard rate	67.60	70.35
Childless widow under 40	15.60	16.25
Rent allowance (maximum) for war widow with children	25.75	26.80
<b>Age allowance for elderly widows</b>		
Age 65—69	7.75	8.05
Age 70—79	14.95	15.55
Age 80 and over	22.20	23.10
<b>Ex-Gratia payment to widows</b>		
Whose husbands were discharged before April 1973	44.36	46.18

### INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

#### RETIREMENT PENSIONS

	Existing Annual Rate £	New Annual Rate £
Basic rate	52.00	54.15
Married couple	83.25	86.70
All pensioners receive an extra 25p per week from their eightieth birthday.		

#### ALLOWANCES

	Existing Annual Rate £	New Annual Rate £
<b>Mobility allowance</b>	29.10	30.30
<b>Adult attendance allowance</b>		
Higher rate	41.65	43.35
Lower rate	27.80	28.95



## EXAMPLES OF INCREASES IN PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

It is emphasised that the following are examples only and do not cover every St Dunstaner.

<b>Totally Blind</b>	<i>Employable</i>		<i>Unemployable</i>	
	Present	New	Present	New
	£		£	
Basic Pension	84.90	89.00	84.90	89.00
Dependency Allowance	.60	—	.60	—
Constant Attendance Allowance	34.00	35.40	34.00	35.40
Comforts Allowance	14.60	15.20	14.60	15.20
Unemployability Supplement	—	—	55.25	57.50
Invalidity Allowance (over 50 but under 60 on qualifying)	—	—	3.45	3.60
Additional Allowance for Wife	—	—	31.25	32.55
<b>Total per week</b>	<b>134.10</b>	<b>139.60</b>	<b>224.05</b>	<b>233.25</b>

<b>Guiding Vision</b>	<i>Employable</i>		<i>Unemployable</i>	
	Present	New	Present	New
	£		£	
Basic Pension	84.90	89.00	84.90	89.00
Dependency Allowance	.60	—	.60	—
Constant Attendance Allowance	17.00	17.70	17.00	17.70
Comforts Allowance	7.30	7.60	14.60	15.20
Unemployability Supplement	—	—	55.25	57.50
Invalidity Allowance (over 50 but under 60 on qualifying)	—	—	3.45	3.60
Additional Allowance for Wife	—	—	31.25	32.55
<b>Total per week</b>	<b>109.80</b>	<b>114.30</b>	<b>207.05</b>	<b>215.55</b>

### **A War Widow (Private's Wife)**

		April 1992
Aged 65-70	Basic Pension	70.35
	Age Allowance	8.05
	Ex-Gratia	46.18
		<b>£124.58</b>
Aged 70-80	Basic Pension	70.35
	Age Allowance	15.55
	Ex-Gratia	46.18
		<b>£132.08</b>
Aged 80 and over	Basic Pension	70.35
	Age Allowance	23.10
	Ex-Gratia	46.18
		<b>£139.63</b>