

# St Dunstons Review April 1992



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Cover Picture: Lt.-Col. Bray toasts Albert Grimshaw on his 98th birthday. For full details, see page 3.



## From the Chairman

I have always been told that one should not mention a lady's age. But when the lady in question looks half her age and sings quite as well as she did over 50 years ago, I am sure I can break the rule just once.

I expect most of my readers will have guessed by now that I am referring to Dame Vera Lynn who celebrated her 75th birthday on 20th of last month. We at St Dunstan's are fortunate that she has graced both our 50th and our 75th anniversary celebrations. She sang then those songs so well remembered from the days of the Second World War when she was known as 'The Forces' Sweetheart'. What is worth recalling is that her songs were not heard by our Servicemen just over the air. In 1944 she was touring the war zones to sing them in person. I suspect her appointment as a Dame of the Order of the British Empire in 1975 was as much a recognition of this as of her completion of 50 years singing in public in 1974.

Dame Vera has continued her links with the Services and ex-Service organisations and she played an important role in the campaign for the improvement of war widows' pensions. As well as being part of our great occasions, she has been a visitor to Ian Fraser House on less formal ones and it is a pleasure to wish her a very Happy Birthday on behalf of all at St Dunstan's.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



### 161 YEARS WITH ST DUNSTAN'S

Over a century-and-a-half of loyal service has been given by a stalwart group of staff members who will be retiring at Ian Fraser House during the next month.

Their combined length of service is more than double the time that St Dunstan's has been in existence – a total of 161 years, in fact.

Frank Bickerton, (13 years) Night Nursing Orderly, Betty Brown, (12 years) Housekeeper, Ernest Hockley, (15 years) Hall Porter, Joyce Horrex, (10 years) Transport Co-ordinator, Bernard Woodgate, (20 years) General Night Orderly, Leonard Woodgate, (39 years) Night Security Orderly, and Jozef Ryszka, (42 years) and Clifford Scott, (10 years) General Orderlies, will all be stepping down from their duties during April.

'These people have given many years of loyal and exemplary service to St Dunstan's,' said IFH Manager Lt.-Col. Bray. 'I'm sure everyone will join me in voicing their appreciation for their efforts over the decades. We give them every good wish for a long and happy retirement.'

### TROOPING THE COLOUR

It is anticipated that we will be allocated tickets again this year for Trooping the Colour on Saturday, June 13th. You must be in your seats by 10.00 a.m. – any later and you will not be able to enter the ground.

It is also anticipated that we will be allocated tickets for The Royal Tournament on Wednesday, July 18th, beginning at 2.30 p.m.

Any St Dunstaner who would like to apply should contact Frances Casey – Homes Booking Clerk by Monday, May 11th.

Unfortunately, this year, due to the economic measures being taken, St Dun-

stan's will only supply the tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend these events must pay their own travelling and accommodation expenses.

### ALBERT'S BIRTHDAY

Albert Grimshaw celebrated his 98th birthday on February 21st. His daughter and her family joined visiting St Dunstaners and staff members for the occasion.

His continued good health and happiness were toasted in champagne and a delicious birthday cake was provided by Kozy Brawn, catering manager at IFH.

### SHORT COMPUTER COURSES

Here are the dates for the short computer courses that have been organised for the year.

Instruction will take place at Ian Fraser House in the computer room. Mike Gammon will be the tutor and all courses will run from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with one hour for lunch.

The subjects are as follows:  
Spreadsheets – April 23rd, 24th  
MSDos – June 4th, 5th  
File Express – July 16th, 17th  
Hal – September 10th, 11th  
Spreadsheets – November 5th, 6th  
To be organised – December 10th, 11th

The subject for the December course will be decided by demand. Anyone wishing to book for these courses must contact Christine Dickens at Ian Fraser House on extension 3288.

### REVIEW DATES

We remind readers that *St Dunstans Review* is to be published bi-monthly from the current issue. There will be no *Review* for May and subsequent editions this year will appear in June, August, October and December.

## FRED'S 50 YEAR BATTLE WITH DIABETES



A St Dunstaners' 50 year struggle against diabetes has been recognised by the British Diabetic Association.

Fred Mogford, of West Twyford, has been awarded the Alan Nabarro Medal after the BDA magazine *Balance* heard he had been using insulin for 52 years.

Fred developed diabetes as a result of his service in Burma, and this led to the deterioration of his sight and amputation of a leg.

## DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1992

St Dunstaners and widows can now apply for tickets in this year's *Review* Derby Sweepstake.

Tickets are 20p each and will be issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £5). Applications for them should be made as soon as possible. Closing date is Friday, May 15th.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and an SAE, to The Editor, DSS Department, *St Dunstons Review*, P.O. Box 4XB, 12/14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. Every application made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The total money subscribed, less the

cost of printing expenses, will be distributed as follows:

50 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

10 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

20 per cent to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on May 18th. The race is being run on Wednesday, June 3rd.

## METRO SPORTSMEN WANTED

This year's National Metro Sports for the Visually Handicapped will be held on July 4th at the New River Stadium, White Hart Lane, Haringey, London.

Any St Dunstaners interested in taking part, should contact Jimmy Wright at Chelmick, 209 Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 9ER, for an entry form.

## DON'T GIVE THE BURGLAR A BONUS

Sadly, we have heard recently of two substantial losses of cash in burglaries. Our Estate Department urges St Dunstaners and Widows not to keep large sums of money in their homes. If, in some way, its existence becomes known, there is temptation for the criminal and even danger to the householder.

## BRAILLERS WANTED

Terry Walker, at Ian Fraser House, would like to know if any *Review* readers have a Perkins Braille tucked away that they no longer use.

These machines are needed to meet the requirements of the growing number of people using braille.

## WIDOWS' HOLIDAY CHANGES

The dates of two of the Widows' Holidays at Ian Fraser House have changed slightly. An extra day has been added to the week in June and the second week in August, which will now start a day later than originally scheduled.

Dates for the Widows' Holidays are now:

1. May 24th to 30th
2. June 22nd to 29th
3. August 9th to 15th
4. August 17th to 24th

## POOL OPENING TIMES

Until further notice, the swimming pool at Ian Fraser House will operate under the following reduced opening times:

Monday-Friday 1000-1530 hours

Remarks: Closed for lunch 1230-1330 hours.

Closed all day Saturday and Sunday.

### Pool Allocations

1000-1200 hours: St Dunstaners only

1330-1530 hours: St Dunstaners and two guests. Off duty staff — no guests.

## BLEEP, SWEEP AND SPINNER FOR SAFER CROSSING

A new audible and tactile signal for crossing the road is being championed by the Department of Transport.

Dubbed Bleep, Sweep and Spinner, the system is hailed as a major advance in making road crossing on dual carriageways — where there are traffic islands — safer for blind people.

The Bleep and Sweep refers to a new five-note tone — four short bleeps followed by a longer, high-pitched one. The new signal is automatically adjusted, so that it is louder than the traffic, but not loud enough to be confused with the crossing on the other side of the road.

The Spinner is the tactile signal. It consists of a small cone placed on the underside of the push-button control box. When the crossing signal starts, this cone begins to spin.

At present, the system is suggested for use with straightforward Pelican cross-

ings, but variations may be applied to more complex crossings if local authorities seek special dispensation from the DoT. Upgrading a crossing costs in the region of £2,300.

## GUIDE DOGS HOTEL

St Dunstaners may be interested to know that guide dog owners are eligible for special rates at the Guide Dogs Association's hotel in Teignmouth, South Devon. Their privilege rate varies, according to season and to standard of room, from £100 to £165 per week. Rates for family or escorts are a little more expensive. Full details can be obtained from: Cliffden, Dawlish Road, Teignmouth, South Devon TQ14 8TE, or telephone 0626 770052.

## ANNIE'S CENTURY-PLUS



It was a champagne celebration for Annie Bannell — friends and relatives were toasting her 110th birthday!

Annie, pictured above with St Dunstan's Sue Sweeting, is sister-in-law to late St Dunstaner John Carl Hibbert, of New Malden, Surrey, and is reckoned to be the oldest woman in the Royal Borough of Kingston.

Born in 1882, she recalls visiting Ian Fraser House with her sister, while John was training.

# ON THE WINGS OF AN OWL

## John Palmer talks to Ray Hazan

Outside, a thin mist rolled off the hills of Dartmoor. The wind brushed through the trees, interrupted occasionally by the distant barking of dogs. Neither an internal combustion nor a jet engine disturbed a scene which could have gone back over

many centuries without change. Inside, a log fire cracked and spat. Timmy, the cockatiel was determined not to be out voiced by anyone else. Thimble, the corgi, was likewise insistent not to let any intruder approach the house unannounced! Amidst this cacophony, John Palmer, of Okehampton, spoke of his life with typical English modesty and understatement. His softly spoken tones camouflage a tough and daring exterior, which, in turn, hide a sensitive and emotional core.

John was born in 1906 in Cheshire. He went to Radley public school, but had to leave together with his brother after only a year, on the death of his father. He had an uncle who was a land agent and owned three hill farms in Cumberland. John was given one of the farms and with the help of a good shepherd learnt to manage 3,000 head of sheep. He managed the farm for 18 years until war broke out.

At 33 years of age, John joined the RAF as a tail gunner. His training lasted two whole weeks and his first leave even less, being recalled after only two days to join 52 Squadron in France. In a short while, the expedition force was withdrawing to the northern French coastline. 'I remember the guns and planes, and the more noise they made, the more the nightingales sang — it was quite extraordinary.' An uneventful crossing on the paddle

*John Palmer  
on the banks of  
Bridge Loch,  
Kinsale, as seen  
here with his  
Labrador, Brent,  
in 1957.*

steamer, the *Isle of Man*, returned John to Dover.

There followed an 'uneventful' tour in Iceland on anti-submarine patrols in Fairey Battle bombers, and finally, a posting to 99 Squadron flying Wellingtons from Newmarket. John would spend nine hours in the rear turret at 25 degrees below freezing. 'We had a good view from the back,' said John. In April 1941, on their 13th mission, whilst returning from one of the first bombing raids on some marshalling yards in Berlin, one of the Wellington's engines was hit, but did not catch fire. When asked for his opinion, John naturally volunteered that they should attempt to return the plane to base. But despite lightening the load, including two of the crew bailing out, the plane crash landed in a field in north Germany. His pilot, David Torrens recounts how he was unable to raise John on the intercom and felt rather anxious. Suddenly, John's head appeared wearing his best RAF hat, and said 'I feel we really ought to wear these.' There followed four years of privation, degradation and starvation behind the wire as a prisoner of war.

After a year in a PoW camp near the Baltic, John was moved to Stalag Luft III, near Lubeck. John made three escape attempts. For three months he and a colleague fashioned some iron bars taken off a stove, into wire cutters. But a guard dog sniffed them out from under a hut. One wonders if John's farming background and knowledge of animals paid off as a smile from him kept the guard dog at bay!

His second attempt was made in the company of Wing Commander Douglas Bader. Both were in hospital, John with an injury to his foot. 'We had one good leg between the two of us! The plan was to join a working party as other ranks and so be taken to a nearby airfield for work.' A conveniently fuelled plane would be 'lifted' and, with Bader on John's lap, flown to Sweden. All went well as they literally swept their way, having borrowed brooms from another group, into the waiting working party, from whose ranks two took over the broom and left the escapees in the party. After a train journey and strenuous walk, they reached the aerodrome.

Bader realised that his disappearance would soon be noticed and so time was short. Indeed, the game was up before they were able to escape. By the simple medium of ordering the prisoners to parade and lower their trousers (not many of them had two tin legs!). However, before compelling their companions to suffer the indignity, and to save them from punishment, Bader and John gave themselves up.

Most readers will have heard of 'The Great Escape', in which 93 got out of Stalag Luft III by tunnel, and of whom 50 were shot. As John had made a recent escape attempt, he had to go low down on the list. This meant he was in the tunnel itself at the time of the discovery. John managed to crawl back the way he had come and escaped with his life!

With the war about over, the guards suddenly disappeared. The camp inmates headed west and during this march, there occurred a most amazing coincidence. John's brother Eric commanded 63 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. On crossing the Elbe on May 2nd, Eric was convinced John was in the area. He set out in his jeep, and after a few diversions, part of the family were reunited. In a letter to their mother, Eric wrote: 'You need have no worry about his health. At first sight, he looks the picture of fitness, very tanned, but there is a very distinct tired look, which will take a little time to go.' Two bottles of champagne, which were being saved for the end of the war, only hours away, were opened, with a meal and a tin bath greatly appreciated by John. But John had to rejoin his companions that evening to continue his march westwards and homewards. Colonel Palmer drove him back in his staff car and his letter ably describes the feelings he found amongst the PoWs: 'Without any prejudice, it is abundantly clear that John is held in enormous affection by his fellow PoWs. It's marked, and one cannot fail to notice it. The relationship between PoWs is something quite unique, which one feels rather than sees. But it is difficult to describe. It springs, I think, from a tremendous mutual bond and there is almost an air of saintliness, which gives one the impres-



John Palmer and David Torrens were imprisoned in a PoW camp in the Baltic. They are pictured here, standing on the far left, with other RAF prisoners.

sion that they are all still thinking about their fellow creatures and not themselves. It's quite extraordinary that such a feeling of kindness and almost tenderness should exist after they have lived in such close proximity to one another for so long. I would have expected almost an opposite set of conditions.' John eventually reached Holland, from whence he flew back to the UK by Lancaster.

John was discharged from the RAF immediately as the years of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency had caused the loss of sight in one eye. He returned to an unhappy situation in Cumberland. His uncle died six months after his return aged 88. But the manager had counted on John not returning, and had sold off some of the estate, which was in poor condition. John sold the house and three farms for £38,000. He had had his fill of human company after four years. 'I had always in mind to live in the north-west of Scotland. I saw a rather special croft advertised in *The Field*, went up to see it, and bought it

on the spot.' Kinsaile was situated on a peninsula some 110 miles north of Inverness and near Cape Wrath.

The peninsula was five miles long with 15 miles of coastline and 2,000 acres of land. There was no electricity and no roads. Access for supplies and heating oil was by boat. Although he received visits from family and friends, especially during the summer months, he was alone with nature.

In late summer 1956 a friend of John's brought a visitor, Susan, who wanted to see the golden eagles. Ten days later, John and Susan were engaged! They were married in 1957. John speaks of Kinsaile with great affection. 'What we enjoyed most was the bird migration. In 1947, I created several plantations for migratory birds. Ours was the first land they would encounter on their flight south. We kept a record and counted 149 different species over the years. There were gulls on the cliffs, and, at the last count, 38 nests in the heronry. I had 40 very happy years there.'

Susan described how many interesting items would be washed ashore, including menus from passenger liners and cork floats from fishing boats. As the years went by, so more and more plastic items would fill the shore line. More interesting were the messages in bottles, released by weather ships for the study of tides and currents. These were always posted on as requested.

In 1978, John became a St Dunstaner, brought about by Sir Mike Ansell, who knew his brother Eric and by the fact that his remaining eyesight was fading. John and Susan came to live permanently near Okehampton four years ago. John has still not given up his interest in wild life. He loves nothing more than, in the spring, to sit outside and count the number of different bird songs he can hear. He has reached 78 so far. A while ago, John heard someone who lived nearby intent on breeding barn owls. John and Susan went to see him and returned with two three-month old chicks. These were housed in an attic in the stable yard and, twice a day, Susan would hand feed the young owls on day-old chicks from a nearby hatchery. Very soon, the pair mated and laid two eggs in the nest box. The parents were released in the hope that they would fly out and heed the desperate call of their hungry offspring. But once again, Susan had to play mother for a whole year to four and not just two hungry mouths! The four were eventually released and John hears them nearby.

In a world of ever increasing pressures, the chance of getting away from it all sounds very tempting. How many of us could cope, however, without electricity? Though protected to a degree by the Gulf Stream, the shores in those northern latitudes must be very exposed. Necessity must have been the mother of resourcefulness. One has to be tough to survive and both John and Susan seem that on the outside. John's incarceration and escape attempts are proof of daring and inventiveness. But underneath is a warmth and kindness, an emotional caring for nature and the environment. These few words, like him, are modest. One senses his life would fill a fascinating book.

## Braille film launched



Ginexsa Films, Jimmy Wright's production company, held a launch of its latest film, *Sight by Touch*, in the City of London on February 25th. *Sight by Touch* is about Louis Braille and the written code he invented for his fellow blind people.

Sequences shot in Coupvray, the birthplace of Louis Braille, covered the story of the accident which cost the three year old Louis his sight. Later, the unit filmed in Paris at the school where he became a musician and where he adapted Captain Charles Barbier's code to the alphabet now universally adopted.

The film is not just a history. It shows how braille has opened the way to employment, to literature and to music, for blind people. Two St Dunstaners are among the blind people who tell what braille has meant to them, Terry Bullingham, now a tutor at the National Mobility Centre, Birmingham, and David Clark, who teaches remedial English at a preparatory school and also uses braille in writing lyrics for musical plays for children.

Jimmy Wright introduced the film, explaining that its purpose was to communicate the importance of braille to blind people. He hoped it might be shown on one of the national television programmes. Terry Bullingham, pictured above, spoke after the showing to thank the sponsors and producers and to emphasise once more how his training in braille at St Dunstan's had helped his career since he was blinded in action during the Falklands War.

# St Dunstaners on the slopes

*It's never too late*

**S**T Dunstaners have been 'gracing' the ski slopes for nearly 20 years now. Scotland, Austria, Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland have left their mark in passports. A repeat visit to Sorenberg saw three new faces this year – Bill Griffiths, Martin McCrorie and Gary Lomas. The following letters show not just the fun, but the benefits gleaned from these trips. The future of these trips may be uncertain for the while, but all will agree 'it has been a darn good run!'

**Bill (It's never too late) Griffiths writes:**

When I told skiing sighted friends that I was to try to ski for the first time, they were very surprised and, I sensed, rather doubtful whether I would be able to do so.

On arrival in Sorenberg, Switzerland,

and being fitted on with ski boots in which I could hardly walk, and then attached to skis, I was scared stiff of even moving on the snow. I began to have my doubts.

My expert ski instructor and guide, a young British ex-service man Peter Zamudio and his charming wife, Maya, had other ideas. He soon taught me the technique and gave me the confidence to stand secure and relaxed on the snow, and then to move slowly forward and stop, then forward a little faster, slow down and stop, all the time remembering to keep my heels apart and the tips of the skis close together, knees pushed inward and body forward, generally building control and confidence.

Yes, it was all a revelation and an enormously enjoyable experience which I wish had come my way long ago, but as the saying goes, it's never too late to learn, and I shall ski again, in spite of the occasional tumble and fair amount of teeth gritting.

Our small group of St Dunstaners, their families and friends, ski instructor guides were all delightful and helpful companions with whom Alice and I spent many happy hours both on and off the snow. Thanks very much indeed, with special thanks to Peter and Maya Zamudio.

**Peter Zamudio, a friend and guide for over ten years**

It was with my now accustomed feeling of excitement and pleasure that I waited in Zurich airport for the St Dunstan's party to arrive.

I had travelled up from Sorenberg with a coach to collect the group and things were running through my mind, like: 'I hope they didn't miss the plane' or 'could there be a mix up about the date'. So it was a relief when Charlie Daly, accompanied by Mick Thorpe, stepped into view.

It is an indescribable feeling when old friends meet. Over the years with St Dunstan's, we have built up a skiing family that meets once a year for a week. This year, the family was to grow. Beside the old faces were new ones and the two-hour bus journey to Sorenberg gave us a chance to



**Above:** Our super skiers gather with friends and family. Amongst them are Charlie Daly, with twin daughters, Jessie and Kelly, Gerry Jones, Don Planner, Ray Sheriff, and Alan and Joan Wortley. Accompanying them, are Cherrie and Stuart Duncan, Gary Glowa, Martin Blank, Mick Thorpe, and Phil Beaton. **Far left:** Martin McCrorie skis beside the snow capped evergreens. **Below right:** Peter Zamudio and Bill Griffiths on their way to the slopes.

meet and catch up on the happenings of the last year.

This year, I had the honour of skiing with Bill Griffiths. I must honestly say, at the beginning, I was a bit apprehensive having heard that Bill had lost both his hands and his eyesight in the Second World War.

On the first day of skiing though, I realised that my fears were unfounded and that Bill has a great sense of balance. As the week progressed and I learned more and more about Bill, I was no longer surprised that he was learning to ski at over 70 years of age. I found that it fitted right in with all his other truly amazing achievements.

We had a great time and I am looking forward to carrying on next year where we left off.

When I think back over the years with St Dunstan's, it is a time of fond memories. We have skied together all over the Alps and for the last two years in my home town – Sorenberg. I am really pleased that it is so well liked. In Sorenberg, I am constantly asked about St Dunstan's. The locals are very impressed with the standard of skiing and always want to know



more about the group.

The week, as always, goes by much too quickly for everyone. The skiing improves tremendously, but I always find the ones that learn the most from the week are the Guides — and I am not talking about skiing in this case. Long may the St Dunstan's skiing continue, as it is always the highlight of the year.

#### Ian Heyworth, Gerry Jones' escort

First and foremost, I would like to thank all those people whose hard work provided us with such a super holiday in Sorenberg this year. There are many happy memories to save till we all meet again.

Looking back, three words come to mind: courage, determination, and dedication. The first two are used so openly in the English language, but I have never seen them displayed as I did on the slopes in Sorenberg by the St Dunstaners. As for the third — the Guides! What a smashing bunch! As an outsider and newcomer, I was moved to watch them work on the slopes. A credit to all of them.

Life is never easy and for the unsighted St Dunstaners, it must be very frustrating at times, not to be able to achieve what to us are simple things we take for granted. Gentlemen, I take my hat off to each and every one of you.

I think you have certainly changed my outlook on life and I know I left Sorenberg a more complete person with my eyes open to the realities of life. For this, I send my heartfelt thanks to you all.

**Lance Corporal George Mackie, Royal Artillery, who guided for the first time.** During our time at Sorenberg, I have become a more proficient skier and, more importantly, a much wiser person.

First impressions: Anybody who can travel from the UK to a hotel in Switzerland and find the bar within five minutes, has got to be slightly impressive, but to get up the next morning and go skiing has got to be slightly crazy.

The week progressed and every day people became more and more confident on the snow and the job of the guides

became a little more easier, but none the less, still demanding.

Eight skiers of mixed ability, but equal courage and determination, overcame the challenge of the ski-slopes and will remain forever in my memories as an example of courage to be followed.

My performance in the bar equalled my performance on the last day, as I was guided down the slope blindfolded, except I fell down on the slope more than I did in the bar.

I don't think I will ever recover from that particular experience, but everyone should have a go.

Becoming involved with St Dunstan's has already changed my outlook. I am looking forward to meeting everybody again.

## RANDOM ACCESS

### Computer hints with Ray Hazan

Available from the library on C90 is reference CT 1. On this tape, four users describe how they organise their systems to run programs with the least amount of key strokes, access telephone numbers, make back ups, etc. On track one are Mike Cassidy, David Calderwood and Mike Gammon, and Ray Hazan on track two.

Also available, on two C90s, is CT2 — Word Processing with WordStar.

Just send the relevant number of blank cassettes to the PR Dept. at H.Q.

#### Where did I put that file?

That's a common question as hard disks get larger and larger. Here are two solutions:

1. In DOS 5, log on to the drive you wish to search and type 'ATTRIB FILENAME /S' and it will tell you in which sub directory your file is located.

2. I have a program called 'WHEREIS.COM', which does exactly the same. Please send me a disk for a copy.

#### Tips Wanted

If you have any tips for fellow computer users send them to Ray c/o *The Review*.

# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**Back in April 1937, lady St Dunstaner Dorothy Martin made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, exploring the area where the events remembered in the modern Easter took place. In these extracts from her diary of the day, we join Dorothy after a two-day trek across the desert as she reaches the outskirts of Jerusalem . . .**

Our first view of Jerusalem came when we turned a sharp bend. It is a city set upon a hill — wonderful! Then the view of the Mount of Olives. Joy indescribable that our pilgrimage is accomplished.

Arrived at Jaffa Gate, all staying at the Hotel Citadel, just inside the gate, opposite the Citadel and David's Town. The Holy City is indescribable, no book, nor even photos can describe and give any idea of what it is like. Everything is so unexpected — everyone accepts everyone else. Donkeys, horses, fowls all wend their way amidst Arabs, Jews, Copts, Assyrians, Greeks, Armenians, Bedouins, English, French, Americans etc.

The bazaars are full of interest, every conceivable thing is sold. Arab women gracefully carrying fowls (alive) in baskets on their heads. Children wearing big cone shaped baskets, holding freshly killed animals. To be able to picture Our Lord amid such a crowd!

#### Friday, April 16th

Only in passing can I give you details where I have been. (Via Dolorosa on Friday made the Station of the Cross with the Franciscans).

This evening, when all was dark, we silently walked to the Garden of Gethsemane, across the brook of Kidron, (our guide carrying a lantern) along and outside the Walls of Jerusalem along a rough and stony path.

A light only here and there to be seen on the hills, a dog and a donkey braying heard occasionally. At different spots we stopped and sang hymns and said prayers, finally reaching the garden and separating amidst the shrubs, bushes and olive trees, meditating for 20 minutes, after which we all joined together again and sang Praises to God in the Russian Church. (A night I shall never forget.)

We have visited the Holy Sepulchre and

seen some of the numerous shrines and altars, (The Chapel of Calvary) where both the Greek Bishop and our Bishop said Prayers, and where we knelt silently.

Bethlehem. Visited the Church of the Nativity and reputed site of the birth of Our Lord. Climbed on to the roof overlooking the field where the Shepherds were and sang *While Shepherds watched their flocks by night* and *O come all ye faithful*.

#### Saturday, April 17th

Visited top of Mount of Olives and stayed a short while to Russian Vespers. This site gives a splendid view of the Dead Sea about 17 miles away.

We saw Bethany only five miles away (a little tiny Arabs' village on a small hill).

#### Monday, April 19th

Miss S and I revisited the Shrine and Grotto in the Church of the Nativity and walked around Bethlehem.

The village is mostly Christian, very few Moslems, but the Arabs still wear their picturesque costumes such as you see depicted in books and periodicals and the women wear the tall white head-dresses as shown by H. V. Morton.

In the afternoon, we visited what is reputed to be the most beautiful church in Jerusalem (The Armenians) and the Tomb of St James, most lovely in tortoise-shell and mother-of-pearl (must be priceless).

Solid gold altar piece, magnificent solid silver lamps hanging before the Altar and all around the Church — marvellous carpets, all too wonderful to fully describe. The Armenian (Archimandrite) (speaks English) escorted us round and showed us the marvellous library and up-to-date schools. Everyone said what a revelation, as everything was so clean.

The wee children dressed in red sang delightfully and posed for the snapshots taken by the pilgrims.

## Tribute to David Bell, M.B.E., M.A., B.Comm



David, with Sibyl, outside Buckingham Palace after he received the MBE.

North African campaign with the 7th Armoured Division, the Desert Rats. He was wounded during the Battle of Knightsbridge outside Tobruk.

He joined St Dunstan's in Tembani and eventually reached Church Stretton where, in the Orange Tree Café, he met Sibyl who became his wife and supporter in all he achieved. They were married in 1945. After training, David became St Dunstan's first handless shopkeeper using equipment devised by our Research Department to handle change and dispense cigarettes.

The shop thrived and expanded. With staff to serve and handle stock, David supervised and managed the business. He sought new challenges and became another first — the first blind and handless student at Edinburgh University. With the help of his fellow students, who let him use their notes, and Sibyl, who read for him, he studied English, economics, moral philosophy, psychology and social anthropology and was made Master of Arts in July 1952. He immediately embarked on a course for the degree of Bachelor of Commerce, studying accountancy, business methods, French, German and law. He received this degree in 1955.

David served the community in many ways. He was a Member of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh, a member of the Scottish Board of the BBC; the disabled representative on the Local and Regional Hospital Board; he served BLESMA as their representative on the Scottish Council of Social Service and was a member of the Ministry of Labour Disablement Advisory Committee. He also served as Vice-President of the National Federation of the Blind.

Attracted by the charitable schemes it operates, David joined Edinburgh Round Table in 1957 and worked hard as a rank and file member as well as becoming Area Councillor and Edinburgh's delegate to Conferences of the Round Table of Great Britain and Ireland. Tablers retire at 40

and when that time came David became Founder Chairman of Edinburgh Forty-One Club for ex-Tablers.

Once again he rose to high office. A natural linguist who spoke French, German and Russian, David attended international conferences in Europe, United States and Canada. In 1969 he became President of the Association of Ex-Tablers Clubs.

It was for his work for the community in so many fields that he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Birthday Honours in 1972. He had already received an accolade of another sort when, in 1957, he appeared on television's *This Is Your Life*.

Within St Dunstan's David was a leading light in the group of blind and handless St Dunstaners who will miss him sadly. His energy and initiative led to the exchange of visits with the blind and handless members of the German war-blinded organisation, Bund der Kriegsblinden Deutschland.

In association with Mrs Mary Marsden, David was instrumental in the ceremonial return of St Dunstaners to Church Stretton in 1987. He and Harry Preedy unveiled a plaque in the Parish Church which commemorated the kindness and friendship extended to St Dunstaners by the people of the town during the Second World War.

David won Sibyl's love in the face of much competition in Church Stretton and he deeply appreciated all she did for him. Although he had never seen her, he told how people had described her to him as being a little like Judy Garland. He had an original wit and spoke eloquently on special occasions. His humour could be self deprecating as when he described arriving at Church Stretton, facing a new course and saying to himself: 'Because of my disability what can I do? Talk is the best thing — my tongue isn't disabled!'

Those who knew him will know that St Dunstan's has lost one of its outstanding characters but the loss for Sibyl and her son and daughter, David and Diana, is immeasurably greater. We offer our sympathy to them and to their families.

## Goodbye David A personal tribute by Bill Griffiths

On my release from a Japanese PoW camp in Java, Indonesia, August 1945, I received a telegram from a Mr David Bell saying that although he was totally blind and handless he was enjoying a full and happy life and described his various activities.

That message gave me a very special kind of encouragement and hope which I have always appreciated.

I have come to know and understand David over the past 46 years. He had a quick and lively mind, was forthright and frank, always eager to help and was compassionate towards colleagues with difficulties, and possessed a warm sense of humour with a sharp wit that brought lots of laughter.

I shall be eternally grateful to David for his friendship. All the handless, and many other St Dunstaners, of course, will sorely miss David, and in saying goodbye to him, my heart and gratitude goes out to his loving and charming wife, Sibyl.

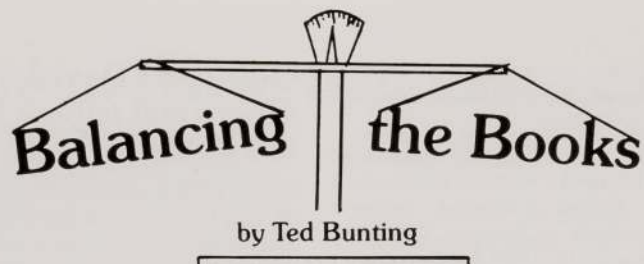
## A FURTHER TRIBUTE FROM MAJOR C. F. COOPER, MBE, CONTROLLER, ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Mr David Bell. He was a man of enormous character and determination who overcame the most appalling physical handicaps to follow a career which must certainly have been the envy of most of those who knew him.

Not only does he deserve our heartfelt admiration, but the success which he achieved must also be a tribute to the work of St Dunstan's where he received the first vital treatment and training which built up, both physically and psychologically, a maimed and blinded soldier to take his place in the community and in which he became one of its leading and most respected members.

It is a life story which is an inspiration to us all.





Balancing the Books  
by Ted Bunting

### The Quiet Stranger

Author: John Buxton Hilton  
Reader: Simon Coady  
Duration: 4.5 hours  
Catalogue number: 5612

Now here's a rattling good yarn for you! It has often been said that the scenery of rural Derbyshire has a tranquillity unrivalled this side of Eden. Which makes it an unexpected setting indeed, for the systematic abuse of children over many years.

Unlikely or not, this is the true background to this absorbing story. The children were forced into slave labour in the district's many water-powered mills.

Imagine the consternation of those responsible, when one of their former victims reappears. He is a man of some substance now, which makes him all the more to be feared. What are his intentions? Is he bent on vengeance, as most of them think, and who will protect them if he is?

The police offer nothing; they are few and they have enough troubles of their own.

Not only are they led by a bombastic inspector, who commands neither confidence nor respect, but they are also engaged with the actions of a daring young woman who is strongly suspected of cheating wealthy old gentlemen of their valuables.

Then a savage murder is committed — somebody has slit the throat of one of the old locals from ear-to-ear . . . The police are obliged to do something now. Why not ask for a copy and find out what they do do? . . .

They may not have been your smart city types, these law-enforcers of Victorian England, but they were not so green as they were cabbage-looking either.

### A Study in Scarlet

Author: Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle  
Reader: Nigel Lambert  
Duration: 1.5 hours  
Catalogue number: 5930

When I was just an ignorant young lad, I used to search the school's library shelves for the works of Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle, because I erroneously imagined that he must be the finest writer of any sort who ever drew breath. My opinion has altered more than somewhat since then, but I still believe Sir Arthur deserves an honoured seat amongst the literary 'giants', for the creation of his great master detective, if for nothing else.

Sherlock Holmes, I am wholly convinced, is the most original, most talented, and easily the most famous of all the fictitious sleuths that ever were. His powers of observation and deduction were, phenomenal — uncanny even, and his room-mate, Dr Watson, who narrated all the great man's exploits, never ceased to be surprised by the remarkable knowledge and inventiveness of his amazing friend.

*A Study in Scarlet* describes their initial meeting. It is also the perfect book, I would say, for any reader either meeting Holmes and Watson for the very first time, or renewing their acquaintance after a period of years.

If *A Study in Scarlet* brings you to Baker Street as a stranger, you cannot fail to enjoy the visit. I feel sure, or fail to be impressed and fascinated by Holmes's remarkable skills. But supposing I am wrong and you dislike both the ingenious story and the manner of its telling? Well even in that unlikely circumstance, you still can't possibly lose much; for the whole recording lasts only an hour-and-a-half, and surely we can all afford that.

## REFLECTIONS

By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called the sons of God. We are invited to pray for peace, but in practice the violence goes on. Peace between adversaries should, surely, be achieved if each is ready to compromise. Many of us will suggest compromises suitable in the Middle East, in Africa, in Yugoslavia; but closer to home, one sees the difficulties.

If my own cause is known to be true, how can I compromise to any degree? Had we failed to venture all our strength, all our faith, in opposition to Hitler's might we would have been surrendering to the power of evil. The same was well said about Korea, Suez, the Falklands, the Gulf (sometimes with minor, not substantial, reservations). For an Englishman to tell where the I.R.A. or the U.D.A. should compromise is clearly unrewarding.

Historians write: If such and such a policy had prevailed, things would have been better. That is their function — some will have been right, some wrong; and I have to acknowledge that My Country must, sometimes, have been wrong.

Winston Churchill wrote a great book about Marlborough. Marlborough's policies were overturned at the Treaty of Utrecht; and Churchill wondered whether a century of wars in Europe would have been avoided if the great Duke's struggles against the power of France, up to 1715, had been pursued to a victorious conclusion.

He then raised the question whether, in such case, the rise of German militarism might have come to trouble the world in the nineteenth century with even more terrible results.

'Even the most penetrating gaze reaches only conclusions which, seemingly vindicated at a given moment, are inexorably effaced by time. One rule of conduct alone survives as a guide to men in their wanderings: fidelity to covenants, the honour of soldiers, and the hatred of causing human woe.'

It is not insincere to thank God that we can pray.

## A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO DR JOHN

by Bob Osborne

Dr John O'Hara moved to Rottingdean in 1948, the year Joan and I were married. Of course we had to find a doctor, and I think the best day's work I ever did was to become a patient of his and to be the first St Dunstaner he met.

Later, Joan's parents, the late Mr and Mrs Joe Walch, joined the practice and I can say he was truly a family doctor. He always remembered things that had happened over the years and it was only last year he asked Joan if she remembered the night a gale wind blew in the lounge window at Joe's and Dr John arranged for the police to put tarpaulin over the gap. Joan, of course, didn't as that was over 30 years ago.

The day Dr John joined St Dunstan's, he came over to the kiosk I was running and said to me: 'Thank goodness there's a face here I know.'

Joan always says that St Dunstaners — men and women alike would go to the surgery looking ill and miserable but always came out smiling. Dr John had probably been telling them about his football escapades.

As for me, she says I would have walked off the end of the pier if Dr John had told me to do so. All I know is that I have lost a good friend.

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## 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: Francis Riley, Ripon, North Yorkshire

Dear Sir,

I have recently returned home from a prolonged stay at Pearson House and during that time I was taken ill and had to go into hospital for an operation.

May I take this opportunity to express

through the *Review* my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Sisters and Charge Nurses for all their care and attention. I could not have received better treatment anywhere and for that I cannot thank them enough.

My best wishes and kind regards to them and to Matron and all her Staff at Pearson House.

**From: Sydney Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine, Angus**

Dear Sir,  
When Ted Bunting wrote the scathing piece he did on George Borrow's *Romany Rye* he was echoing the opinion of many people who frankly find this author unreadable. But if Borrow has his detractors he also has his admirers, and in fact he's the kind of writer you either like enormously or just cannot abide.

Whether it's his *Bible in Spain*, *Wild Wales*, *Lavengro*, or *Romany Rye*, I'm one of Borrow's admirers, and I wouldn't like to see people who might also have it in them to like Borrow put off giving him a try by Ted's dismissive review.

I not only like Borrow; he is my favourite English author: and if ever they maroon me on Roy Plomley's island it would be hard for me, when it came to my book, to choose between *Romany Rye* and *Lavengro*.

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## 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 Kirsop** of Bideford, Devon, joined St Dunstan's on February 18th. Aged 75, he enlisted in March 1940 with the Cambridgeshire Regiment (2nd Battalion), and found himself in Malaya at the time of the Japanese invasion and was captured, together with our St Dunstaner, Mr Ernest Johnson.

Mr Kirsop married Rose Ethel in December 1940, and they have a son and daughter and grandchildren.

**Mr James Wheeler**, of Steyning, West Sussex, joined St Dunstan's on February 18th.

He enlisted in the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force (Colonial Territorial Army) in May 1935 and was commissioned in 1939, seeing active service in Malaya. On the fall of Singapore he was imprisoned in Changi gaol and sent to work on the construction of the Burma Railway. He resigned his commission in 1948, having reached the rank of Captain, and returned to his pre-war work with the Agents of the Austin Motor Company in Singapore. A keen sportsman, he represented Singapore in both cricket and rugby.

Sadly, his wife died a few years ago and he now lives with one of their three daughters and her family.

**Mr James Power**, of Willenhall, West Midlands, joined St Dunstan's on February 26th.

Mr Power joined The York and Lancaster Regiment in 1943, and was involved in the invasion of Sicily and the Italian Campaign. He was then sent to Palestine where he received head and eye wounds during the Jewish insurgency in 1946. He is a widower.

**Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Williams**, of Southbourne, Hants., joined St Dunstan's on March 3rd, a week after celebrating his 102nd birthday.

He was under-age when he joined the Royal Navy in 1905 and was one of the last boy seamen to be trained on a brigantine-rigged training ship in Portland. At the outbreak of World War One, he was a Chief Petty Officer on HMS *Hyacinth*.

On his return to the UK, he joined the Grand Fleet and took part in the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. After the war, he had a number of interesting appointments, including a two year stint as Commander of HMS *Victory*.

Lt. Cmdr. Williams continued serving in the Royal Navy, despite injuries to his

left eye, until 1948 when he went, with his wife, to live on the Isle of Man where they opened a grocer's shop. Sadly, Mrs Williams died in 1979.

Also joining St Dunstan's on March 3rd was **Anthony Drury**, of Yeovil, Somerset. He is aged 33.

Mr Drury joined the Royal Navy when he was 17 and served on HMS *Hermes* until he was invalided out in 1985. He is currently trying to build up a publishing business, but maintains an active interest in naval affairs.

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## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

**League Match played on Sunday February 2nd, 1992**

In the second round of the West Sussex League, we played West Worthing 'B'. After another very close match we won by 91 points to 80, giving us a score of ten victory points to six.

**League Match played on February 16th at Ian Fraser House**

After a keen struggle Pulborough won by 14 match points, giving a final result of 11 Victory Points to five.

Our team for both matches was: Bill Phillips, Bob Evans, Vi Delaney, Wally Lethbridge, Reg Goding, Alf Dodgson, Jo Huk and Ron Freer.

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## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations to:**

*Fred and Violet Boughton*, of Northampton, on the arrival of a grandson, Alexander, born on September 18th, to their daughter, Sally, and her husband, Ken.

*Tom and Olive Simmon*, of Harrogate, on the birth of their great-grandson, Thomas Dungey, on January 27th.

Mrs Mary Wheeler, of Wembley, widow of *Mr John Wheeler*, on the birth of her great grand-daughter, Holly Nevill, on February 17th.

*Jamie and Shauna Cuthbertson*, of Glasgow, on the birth of a daughter, Rebecca Ann, on January 27th.

### WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to:**

Amanda Jane, who married Norman Cook on December 14th at Blandford Register Office, Dorset. She is the oldest grand-daughter of Mrs Winifred Earwaker, of Bishops Waltham, Hants., widow of *Alfred Earwaker*.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*Paul and Phyllis Walker*, of Lewes, East Sussex, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on February 24th.

*Norman and Molly Hewitson*, of Darlington, Co. Durham on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 16th.

*Frederick and Jessie Dixon*, of Marske, Cleveland on their Golden day on February 28th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations to:**

*Jimmy Wright, OBE*, of Shepperton, has been named a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for outstanding services to his community, in particular, his work on the *Spelthorne Talking News*.

The award was made by the combined Sunbury, Shepperton, Staines and Ashford Rotary Clubs who say it is unique for them to bestow it on a non-member.

The *Spelthorne Talking News* was also in mind, when Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind awarded Jimmy their Bronze

Medal Certificate for outstanding achievement for the visually impaired. Jimmy is the first blind person to receive this trophy.

*Wilfred Saxby*, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, who celebrated 25 years as a lay reader in November last year. To mark the occasion, he returned to St Peter's, Sible Hedingham, where he first preached.

Cheryl, daughter of *Ted and Edna Brown*, of Huntingdon, Cambs., who has earned a Master's Degree in Education from The Open University.

## DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:**

Joseph Howe, brother of *Frank Howe*, of Newcastle upon Tyne, on January 19th.

Mrs Winifred Wesley, of Capel le Ferne, Kent, widow of *Macdonald Wesley*, on February 6th. She was 73 years old.

Mrs Mabel Collins, wife of *Joseph Collins*, of Welling, Kent, on February 6th.

Mary Guyler, wife of *Alec Guyler*, of Hayes, Middlesex, on February 6th.

Mrs Elizabeth Hornsby, of Sheffield, widow of *Alfred Hornsby*, on February 18th. She was 97 years old.

**Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.**

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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.**

**David Lewis, OBE, TD, DL, MA, Royal Artillery**  
David Lewis, of Corfton, Shropshire, died on January 24th, aged 77. After graduating from Cambridge with a degree in Engineering and becoming a Fellow of the Institute of

Mechanical Engineers, he joined John Harper & Co, of Willenhall, West Midlands.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1935 and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery when war broke out and was adjutant of 73 HAA Regiment. He served in France, North Africa and North West Europe.

At the end of hostilities, he left the Army as Lieutenant-Colonel. He was awarded the MBE and Mentioned in Despatches.

Returning to his former employers, Mr Lewis became a director. He rejoined the TA when it re-formed and commanded the HAA Regiment in the Birmingham area. He was promoted to full Colonel and ended a long and distinguished service with an OBE and Territorial Decoration with Bars. He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire in 1958.

He joined St Dunstan's in 1976. Mr Lewis was active in the Wolverhampton community, including serving as Vice-President of the Shropshire Association for the Blind.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, Denise, his two daughters, Patricia and Elaine, and all members of the family.

**Stanley Pearce, Royal Artillery**

Stanley Pearce, of Exeter, died on February 4th, aged 78. Serving in India and Ceylon during the Second World War, he was among the last Gunners to use the mule borne pack howitzer.

Our sympathy goes to Nora Clarke, his dear friend for many years, and members of his family.

**Claude Powter-Robinson, Royal Navy**

Claude Powter-Robinson, of Norwich, Norfolk, died on February 10th, aged 66. Mr Powter-Robinson served in the Royal Navy from April 1944 until January 1947 when he was invalided out. He had a very successful career as a National Health Service Administrator dealing with Community Health in Norwich. He retired in 1986.

His main hobbies were oil painting and gardening, and he was also proud of his collection of heraldic shields.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, May, his sons, and all members of his family.

**David Bell, MBE, Royal Engineers**

David Bell, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, died on March 2nd, aged 71. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1942, when his Army career ended on a minefield in North Africa.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sibyl, their son and daughter and all members of the family.

A full tribute appears on page 14.