



St Dunstons
Review
June 1992

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10p BI-MONTHLY

Free to St Dunstaners

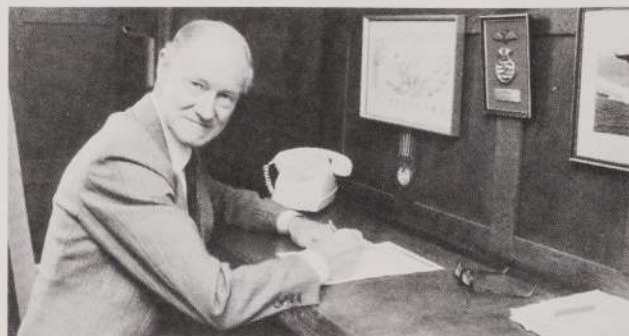
JUNE 1992

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Cover Picture: John Jackson and Dawn Redwood at Stockwell Stud. For full details see page 23.



From the Chairman

In the past four months I have been overwhelmed with letters of support from St Dunstaners and Widows from all over the country, and from abroad, concerning the various measures that have had to be taken to make financial savings. Each has, of course, been answered individually but I should like to take this opportunity to thank you all publicly for your wonderful demonstration of loyalty; it has been greatly appreciated.

** ** **

Since the last issue, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell has joined the Council, so ensuring that all three Services continue to be properly represented. I have known him for more than thirty years and cannot commend him too highly. After a lifetime in the Royal Air Force (including a short spell in the Fleet Air Arm) his final active post was Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe. More recently he has retired from being Black Rod (Serjeant-at-Arms in the House of Lords). He is very much 'a people's man' and I am sure you will like him as much as I do.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



BOOKINGS TRANSFERRED

Accommodation and transport bookings are to be organised from Ian Fraser House in future.

From June 8th, responsibility for administering bookings at IFH and Pearson House will be transferred from Headquarters to Brighton.

All enquiries should now be made to:
Bookings – Barbara Wood – 0273 307811 ext. 3230.
Transport – Linda Holder – 0273 307811 ext. 3217.

NEW MOON DETAILS

Some changes to Moon, which will make it easier to read and transcribe, have come into effect. The changes include three new characters and some new contractions.

Full details are listed in a leaflet available on request from the Public Relations Department at Headquarters.

THEATRICAL DESCRIPTIONS

Stage performances are to be enhanced for blind theatre-goers by a team of 'describers' at Chichester Festival Theatre.

Blind patrons will be provided with special headsets to relay commentary on the set, costumes, exits, entrances, essential moves and gestures.

The service will be offered on selected nights and scheduled matinee performances are:

Venus Observed – July 9th, July 25th
King Lear in New York
– August 8th, August 13th
She Stoops to Conquer
– September 17th, October 3rd

Further details can be obtained by telephoning Chichester Festival Theatre on 0243 781312.

CLIMBING WEEKEND

St Dunstan's mountaineers are returning to Snowdonia for another weekend of walking and climbing, accompanied by Barry Ellis and his team.

The Climbing Weekend is July 3rd to 5th and we will be staying at the Bryn Melyn Hotel, Barmouth as before.

If you would like to join this year's climb, please contact Jonathan Ridge at the IFH Sports Office, telephone 0273 307811 ext. 3219.

NEW DATES FOR PoWs

New dates have been announced for the next PoW Reunion, which will be held at Ian Fraser House.

The new days are April 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1993.

NEW BANKNOTES COLOUR CODED

Coloured symbols have been introduced on the latest range of bank notes as an additional aid to the partially sighted.

Different shaped symbols, in a bold shade of the note's colour, appear on the face. The £5 note has a turquoise circle, the £10 note an orange diamond, and the £20 note has a purple square.

● A new ten pound note has been issued, as predicted in the November *Review*.

The new note is smaller (75 × 142mm compared with 85 × 151mm for the old note) and now has a picture of Charles Dickens on the reverse. A new £50 note is scheduled towards the end of this year.

LINK-LINE MEETING

The St Dunstan's Link-Line Committee will hold an open meeting on Friday, June 26th in the Brighton Club Room at Ian Fraser House at 2.00 p.m.

LAST CALL FOR HMS DAEDALUS

Anyone who has forgotten to book their place for camp at HMS *Daedalus* should do so without any delay. All applications must be received by June 12th.

Please ring Elspeth Grant on 0799 522874 as soon as possible if you want to come this year. The dates are August 17th to 22nd.

AEROTAPE MAKES LIFE PLANE EASY

The sky's the limit with a new cassette tape designed to take the worry out of air travel.

Produced by British Airways, *Plane Easy* addresses a variety of subjects that concern blind travellers, including concessionary fares and emergency procedures.

Plane Easy is available free of charge from RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS, or telephone 0345 023153.

TOUCH AND HEAR A CATHEDRAL

Ten cathedrals around Britain have now been installed with 'Touch and Hearing Centres' for blind visitors.

Facilities vary from area to area, but generally include: models, recorded commentary, and braille guide books. Coventry and Lichfield, have 'acoustic fingerprint guides' — personal stereo systems — for use while touring the cathedral.

Other cathedrals involved are Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Birmingham, Norwich, Peterborough, Salisbury and Exeter.

ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Due to a printer's error, an incorrect date was given for The Royal Tournament in the April *Review*. The correct date is Wednesday, July 8th.

There are still some tickets available and any St Dunstaner wishing to apply for them should contact Frances Casey at Headquarters as soon as possible.

PAMELA COUNTESS OF ONSLOW

Pamela Countess of Onslow, who died on April 14th, will be remembered by Second World War St Dunstaners as a frequent visitor to Stoke Mandeville and for her generosity towards St Dunstaners training in London in arranging visits to concerts and theatres.

Lady Onslow's home for many years was Clandon Park, near Guildford, and she acted as President of a fund-raising committee in that area. As well as her interest in St Dunstan's, she also gave voluntary service to the Red Cross and the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

CAROL LOCKE

We are very sorry to report the death of Carol Locke on April 24th. St Dunstaners will remember her as Typing Instructor at Ian Fraser House over a period of 20 years. Carol joined the staff in 1968 and retired on March 20th, 1988. She kept in touch and was often seen at Ian Fraser House in the years that followed. She returned to teach typing for a few weeks in 1991.

VOLVO OFFER TO ST DUNSTANERS

Hapstead-Volvo, of Ardingly, Sussex, the company that supplies St Dunstan's fleet, is ready to extend the discounts it allows our organisation to individual St Dunstaners. This 'corporate rate' of discount varies with the prevailing market conditions but would, nevertheless, be an advantage to any St Dunstaner considering purchasing a new Volvo.

Information on various Volvo models and the purchase terms can be obtained by writing to: St Dunstan's/Volvo Offer, Hapstead — Volvo, 84 High Street, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6TD.

LADIES BROOCH

The St Dunstan's marcasite and silver ladies brooch is in stock again, at the slightly higher price of £23, including postage and packing. Apply to the Supplies Department at HQ.

St Dunstan's new centenarian

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach made a special journey to Southbourne, near Portsmouth to formally present a St Dunstan's badge to Lieutenant Commander Douglas Williams, who was admitted to membership recently.

Douglas Williams, pictured right with Sir Henry, celebrated his 103rd birthday on 28th February this year at the Crofton Nursing Home, where he lives.

He served 43 years in the Royal Navy beginning as a boy seaman in 1905, one of the last to be trained in sail, 'In the Brigantine, *Boscawen* — did we have to climb out on the yards? — of course we did!'

Douglas came through two World Wars only to lose the sight of one eye in an acci-



dent during gunnery trials. Now that the sight has failed in the other eye he has become a St Dunstaner. He was a gunner like Sir Henry so there was a great deal of naval shop talk and Sir Henry accepted Douglas's gift of a book on the Grand Fleet and the Battle of Jutland in which he fought in HMS *Royal Sovereign*.

Long and Happy Service

by David Castleton



In the April edition of the *Review*, we reported the retirement of eight long-serving members of the staff at Ian Fraser House. On April 8th, seven of them attended a farewell lunch party in the Winter Garden. The absentee — due to a previous appointment — was Ernest Hockley.

The rest were all there to reminisce with friends and colleagues and to receive inscribed plaques thanking them for their many years, devoted service. There were old friends from retired staff as well as present colleagues gathered to wish them well.

To remind readers, they were: Frank Bickerton — 13 years as Night Nursing Orderly; Betty Brown — 12 years as

Housekeeper; Joyce Horrex — 10 years as Transport Co-ordinator; Josef Ryszka — 42 years as General Orderly; Clifford Scott — 10 years as General Orderly; Bernard Woodgate — 20 years as General Night Orderly — and his twin brother, Leonard — 39 years as Night Security Orderly, (all pictured above).

Speaking after the meal, Lieutenant-Colonel David Bray said: 'If I drew a chart of all the employees at Ian Fraser House and looked upon their efficiency, the eight people who are retiring would certainly feature in the best quarter of that chart or even the 'Top Ten'. Their service is impeccable, they have never let us down over those years.'



FRED'S GIFT KEEPS HQ SPOT ON TIME

Is this the first tactile grandfather clock in the world? Staff at St Dunstan's HQ think it is! And they are pleased as punch with the clock that was built for them by Fred Galway.

Fred, of Sandbach, Cheshire, pictured above with Secretary, Bill Weisblatt and Workshop Manager, John Newman, presented the tactile clock to St Dunstan's after spending over seven months on planning and construction. It now takes pride of place in the lobby at Headquarters.

'I have long admired Fred Galway's craftsmanship,' said Bill Weisblatt. 'It was a particular pleasure to accept this beautifully made and handsome clock on behalf of St Dunstan's.'

'I'm glad we were able to place it in reception, where it can be seen by everyone who comes in.'

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR PERELMAN

Bridge players will be sad to learn of the death of Arthur Perelman in April.

Mr. Perelman lent his talents to the Harrogate Bridge Drive on many occasions and will be sorely missed. We send our sympathy to his family.

ELSIE'S BONNY BONNET

Who was the bonny belle in the bonnet bouncing round the ballroom at Ian Fraser House this Easter?

None other than lady St Dunstaner Elsie Aldred, who beat five other entrants in this year's Easter Bonnet Parade. Her 'Easter Bunnies Picnic' proved to be the top hat with the judges.

Birds, flowers and flair abounded as Ernie Took's Band played a very seasonal *Easter Parade*. After awarding Brenda Thomas, in her very own 'Bird Paradise', second prize, the judges surrendered and prizes were awarded to all.

Runners Up prizes were given to Connie Faulkner, in 'Swinging Chicks', Mary Gann, in 'The Rose of St Dunstan's', Margaret Richardson, in 'Cuckoos in the Nest', and Ethel Whiting, in 'Hatching Down Under'.

Thanks were given to the master milliners of Ian Fraser House, Valda Golds and Carol Aggett, without whose efforts there would have been no bonnets.

Sue Reynolds

REFLECTING ALAN

Alan Duffy, of Plymstock, Devon, has been breaking new ground in framing techniques.

Not content with regular rectangular frames, he has doubled the angles with some natty octagonal mirrors.



Richard with Newton Abbot's Mayor, Ted Hawkins, and Teignbridge Council Chairman Dennis Bowles.

Richard's country garden

FOR Richard Bingley everything is coming up roses — and daisies, geraniums, orange blossom and a host of other flowers too.

On May 1st, Richard completed a ten mile sponsored walk as Newton Abbot's Mayor opened the first phase of Courtenay Park's Sensory Garden. It is a sign of success for the 71-year-old St Dunstaner — but listen to his past exploits and you'd be surprised that he's here to enjoy it!

Richard has been campaigning for Teignbridge District Council to provide 'a place of peace and tranquillity' for blind and disabled people for seven years. That dream has been gestated in sponsored walks and coffee mornings and has now bloomed into reality.

But 'peace and tranquillity' were minor concerns during Richard's other campaigns. This is a man who:

- Survived a direct hit by German mortar fire.
- Was wounded while taking a pillbox in Sicily.
- Was dragged from the wreckage of a building after German tanks had destroyed it.

Today, though, Richard's natural enthusiasm has a pastoral direction. 'The garden's a wonderful addition to Courtenay Park,' he said. 'It's a place where the blind and disabled can enjoy the scent and the colours. It's marvellous.'

'I was always conscious that the blind didn't have a garden in Newton Abbot... and we had an air raid shelter where methylated spirit drinkers would assem-

ble — it was a filthy going on. So I persuaded the council to demolish the whole thing, clean up the ground and give us a garden for the visually handicapped.'

Richard explained how the flowers, shrubs, and other plants had been selected for aroma, texture, and the sound they would make in the wind. Flower beds have been raised to make them accessible to people in wheelchairs.

The garden took root as the result of a deal struck between Richard and the local council. 'They didn't have enough money to go ahead with the garden, so I said I'd raise the shortfall — £850 for the first phase and another £850 for the second phase.'

He has been aided by members of St Dunstan's Gardening Club, who have supplied soft toys and other items for bring-and-buy sales.

The campaign isn't over yet however! The garden still needs to be tended and Richard is now aiming for £8,000 to pay for a cascading water fountain.

That's where the latest sponsored walk came in. He was escorted over each mile by a group of fellow Dunkirk veterans. 'They're all recycled teenagers like myself,' said Richard.

It was as a teenager that Richard began his military career. By the age of 19, he was a full sergeant and was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force. A veteran of Arnhem, he also served in Korea.

The *Review* will be looking at Richard's exploits in a future issue...

Pilgrimage to Singapore

In February, Jim Norris, Billy Griffiths, and Ken Walker joined The Royal British Legion on a pilgrimage to war graves in Singapore.

Jim Norris starts his report with a moving visit to the Kranji War Cemetery...

As we walked up the wide central grass avenue, past row after row of headstones, up past the Cross of Sacrifice, I began to feel extremely affected. Doris left me alone as I sat on a stone seat between columns bearing the names of some 24,000 men and women of the Commonwealth who have no known graves.

The cemetery, started originally by PoWs, is situated on a hill overlooking one of the points where the Japs first landed in 1942. Below the main memorial is an inscription in seven languages.

As I sat there I could see many faces but could not put names to them. A woman came and sat beside me, and, in a choked voice, explained that she had placed a posy of poppies against the name of her father.

She had been born after he left for the Far East and this was the first time that she had met her dad. While we were talking another lady came to us and between deep sobs said they had always told her that her husband had gone to Singapore but she could not find him.

I must admit, these two simple expressions were enough to break down my stiff upper lip.

Fortunately, Mr. Gerry Ferrett, of The Royal British Legion, who did a wonderful job for everyone, was at hand with his records to gently lead her away to the correct place. I do hope that widow found some comfort that day.

No time limit had been placed upon this visit, people were allowed to take whatever time they felt necessary. So it was, that eventually, everyone was back on the coach and we were off to Changi Museum and Murals via, Changi Prison.

In the afternoon, we had tea at the British High Commission and were entertained on the lawn by lion dancers. I do not know how they felt with those large head masks and heavy costumes, but we were sweltering just sitting there doing nothing. At dinner, we were joined by a group of FEPOWs on tour from Oldham and heading our guest list was Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop, to whom Billy dedicated a song, and Mr. Harold Payne, OBE, National President of FEPOW clubs and associations.

The next day was February 15th, the 50th Anniversary of the 'Battle for Singapore', and we returned to Kranji Cemetery for a dawn vigil. Members of the Singapore Armed Forces shone torches to guide us up the grass avenue and, at the first kink of daylight, the bugles rang out.

Dawn was just breaking when, accompanied by the band of the Singapore Forces, the Australian Honour Guard slow marched into position and the International Service of Remembrance commenced.

Many overseas representatives were present, along with leaders of seven different religious bodies as was Mr. David Knowles, CBE, National Chairman, The Royal British Legion. After the one minute silence and the reveille, wreaths were laid, including one for the War Graves Commission, as the pipers of the Gurkhas played the Lament.

This International Service took place in a British war cemetery in a former British Colony on a date fixed 50 years ago — but where was the official British Government Representative??? I say no more — but any FEPOW will know what I mean.

Our next stop was the Selar and army barracks. While Alice and Doris looked around the exhibition of pictures and maps, Billy and I got to talking. Although at times we had been in the same PoW camps, we now found out



FAR EAST PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION PRAYER

And we that are left grow old with the years

Remembering the heartache, the pain and the tears:

Hoping and praying that never again Man will sink to such sorrow and shame.

The price that was paid we will always remember

Every day, every month, not just in November.

Written by Corporal Arthur C. Ogden,
1st Battalion

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment
when he was in Queen Mary's Hospital,
Rochampton, December 1974

that we had arrived in Singapore within a week or so of one another in 1941, and had spent some time together in RAF Transit Camp. At the end we had both scrambled aboard the Blue Star Lines ship *Empire Star* to Java.

On Sunday, we were off on our final engagement, which was tea with the British Association of Singapore at Fort Canning.

Our hostess, Mrs. Shilia Harding, became very interested in St D's as the afternoon wore on, and gave Doris a copy of the book *The Happiness Box*. This is the book written and illustrated by two PoWs for the bewildered children incarcerated in Changi Prison. (See *January Review* for full story.)

We shall give our grand-daughter this book when she starts reading and hope that she enjoys the story and, better still, when she gets older the story behind it.

On our last night, most of us decided to visit the famous Raffles Hotel for the equally famous Gin-sling.

We went into the 'Long Bar' and I did exactly the same as I did in 1941. I sat drinking an orange juice while listening



Bill and Alice Griffiths lay a wreath at Kranji War Cemetery on behalf of all St Dunstaners. The memorial salutes the sacrifice of over 20,000 people.

to the band. Then, it had been 'Palm Court' strings but now it is 'Top of the Pops' stuff being blasted out. Ken and Mary enjoyed a dance and Doris and I sat to one side with our hearing aids turned off.

As we left Singapore, voices became a little hushed. Most of us realised that this was our final goodbye to a loved one or relative, friend or comrade.

Visiting Selarang Barracks, now rebuilt and occupied by the Defence Forces at Singapore, brought back many potent memories for Ken Walker, who writes:

Now the one headquarters block remaining houses a fine selection of photographs and drawings and we also saw a film of the last days of the 'Surrender.'

The 'Infamous Square' is now a beautifully kept parade ground. This is where thousands of us were herded, under protest, to stand or sit for six days and nights under the threat of death from our captors unless we signed the 'No Escape Forms'.

No food or water, no cover from the merciless sun, no toilets, with our guards telling us they would shoot ten men a day until we signed. We had to submit under duress.

0 TO BE IN ENGLAND, NOW THAT APRIL'S THERE

As I write this article a week later, the window panes are lashed by rain and rattled by wind. Had similar conditions prevailed the week before, this would no doubt be a different tale! Despite some of us, who hardly aspire to the title of 'righteous', the sun shone down on the 14 St Dunstan's walkers, their escorts and guide dogs all week.

This is the third year running that we have explored the Downs inland from Brighton. The walks were planned by Jonathan Ridge, who has extensive knowledge of the area. He had forsaken his warm dry office to recce the most beautiful countryside of East Sussex. Lunch time pubs had to be checked out and local history mugged up. Several of the walkers were tempted to relieve him of this onerous burden! Jonathan's careful preparations took us through ancient burial grounds, atop hill forts, past historic houses and through attractive park land. Facts and figures, pictures and people came rolling off his tongue, which occasionally got tied up when he described how Virginia Woolfe, whose

house we passed, had 'filled her stones with pockets' in order to take her own life!

We generally covered five miles before lunch. The pace would quicken as the familiar pub sign hove into view. The dogs would fall upon Michael and his coach load of drink, and only then would he and Catherine Johnston issue the packed lunches. Guide dog owners are thoroughly used to this pecking order! Though a stiff breeze blew all week, so did the sun shine throughout. It was perfect walking weather and everyone ended up with a healthy tan and some with peeling noses!

Each participant will cherish his or her own memory. For me, the many conversations between walkers, the lowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep were more than respite from the noise of London. Some of the farmyard aromas were strong to put it mildly, but infinitely preferable to carbon monoxide!

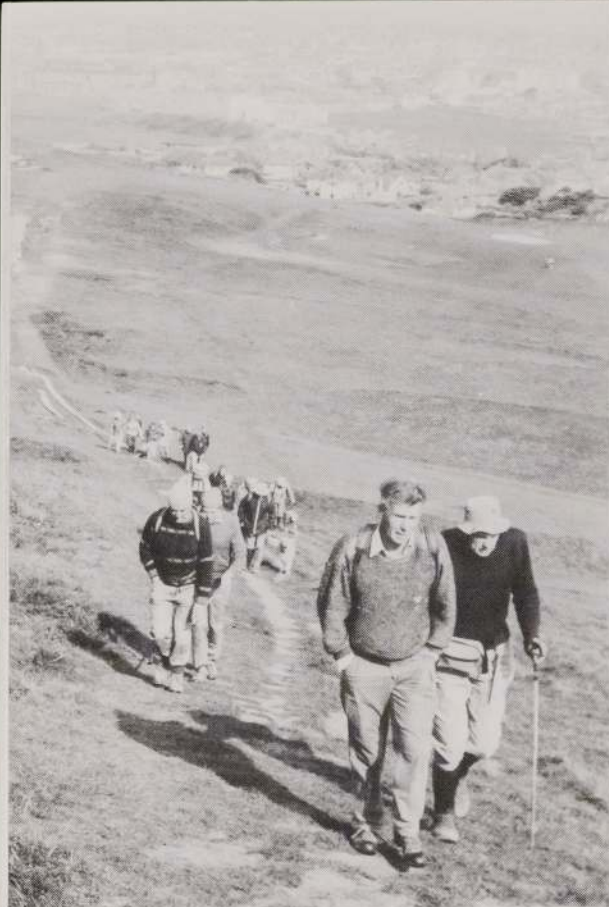
Four centurions set out to complete the whole 100 miles of the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne. Regrettably, Charlie Daly had to drop out having pulled a muscle whilst pushing a bus. No, neither Ray Sheriff and Jim Wilde, nor Charlie and Terry had cheated, but the bus ran out of diesel on its return at the end of the first day! It was a great planning achievement by Jonathan on the final day when the main body of the group

Roving Ray Hazan reports on the South Downs Walk, April 20th-24th



completed a day's walk over the Seven Sisters, including Beachy Head, which is the end of the South Downs Way. Five minutes after they arrived at the final car park, so Ray and Jim completed their century. We all clambered on the bus, and as the doors closed, so the rain started with a vengeance and continued without a pause well into the night!

A dinner dance on the Friday night has become part of the tradition. Fresh air and exercise made short work of PBK's culinary excellence. Ted John thanked all those involved in organising the week — wives, escorts, drivers and staff. Dennis Church spoke on behalf of all the guests. In lauding the beauties of Sussex, he quoted the title of this article from Robert Browning. We are still trying to work out to exactly what he was alluding, as Care Assistant April Haddert had been his escort on a couple of occasions!



Lance Freeborn and Mike Tetley, above, lead the way over the Seven Sisters. Below: Ray Sheriff with escorts Jim Wilde and David Cotton after finishing the Winchester 100 miles. Right: Jonathan Ridge takes Norman Hopkins and Trevor Tatchell paddling.



RANDOM ACCESS SPECIAL REPORT

By Ray Hazan

COMPUTER WEEKEND APRIL 4th-5th

Some 20 people attended this very varied weekend gathering of key prodding enthusiasts. The regular Saturday morning 'Open Forum' enabled participants to air views, ask questions and offer help and advice to one another. Subjects differed from upper memory management, that is to say of the electronic rather than cerebral kind, to the speed of rotation of the hard disk (3500 rpm)!

Dr. Tom Vincent of the Open University gave a talk in the afternoon on developments in the field of compact disk. People may be familiar with these in the field of music, but they are also capable of holding very large amounts of information such as dictionaries, encyclopaedia and a year's back copy of publications such as *The Times*, which could be useful for research purposes. Computers can access this information very speedily giving the visually handicapped a wide field of information retrieval.

The annual dinner was held in the evening. Much of the conversation was inevitably centred around the subject of the weekend, but wine and good food mellowed talk into other areas. Guests and St Dunstan's were thanked for their help and a star turn by one who wishes to remain anonymous brought the dinner to an amusing close with an excellent joke!

Four separate workshops were held on Sunday morning and participants were free to choose the subject of their choice from batch files to MS DOS 5 via HAL.

Our RAM's (random access memory) were improved and our UMB's (upper memory blocks) were 'expanded'!

● **Addition to cassette library:**
CT3 2 x C90's Mike Gammon - hints on MS DOS 5.

Ex-PoWs reunite



Alf Lockhart, who reports on the reunion, received a presentation from Tom Hart.

OVER 40 ex-PoW's, including three new St Dunstaners, gathered with their wives and escorts at Ian Fraser House on April 10th for the start of our annual reunion.

A goodly crowd and a very cheerful atmosphere prevailed and the night was spent in socialising and dancing to the music of the ever-dependable Ernie Took and his Band. There were several local celebrities present, including Major and Mrs. Petley. Major Petley is the Deputy High Sheriff of Sussex and also a keen member of The Royal British Legion.

During a lull in the dancing, Tom Hart gave one of our plaques to Nick Watkins and asked him to display it in his bar. This, Nick promised to do and the plaque has now joined the scores of other plaques that adorn the walls of the bar at Ian Fraser House.

On Saturday morning we held our AGM. The business was quickly dealt with, the only unusual item being the election of a new Treasurer. Mr. A. W. Lockhart stood down as Treasurer and Mr. R. G. Sheriff was duly elected to the office as the new Treasurer. The date of the next Reunion was given as April 2nd-4th, 1993. In his Chairman's report, Bill Griffiths told us of his recent trip to Singapore, where a Service of Remembrance was held to mark the fall of Singapore 50 years ago. (See page 8). During general discussion

after the official business of the day, Mrs. Dacre showed to us a framed Text that had been made by her husband George Dacre. (Air Commodore Dacre was a prisoner of the Turks during the First World War).

This is an excellent piece of craftsmanship and Mrs. Dacre was persuaded to offer it to Lt. Col. Bray, in order that it could be put on display at Ian Fraser House, where the Air Commodore was once Commandant.

The chief guest at the reunion dinner was General Sir Edward Burgess, KCB, OBE, the National President of The Royal British Legion, who gave an amusing and interesting talk.

Full praise must go to Kozy Brawn for a most excellent dinner. The roast venison was both very tender and also very tasty as indeed were all the other dishes. Thank you caterers for a lovely meal and a first class service.

On Sunday, our Memorial Service was very well attended. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Darby gave the Sermon and Sue Reynolds read the Lesson, which was taken from Isaiah. The Epistle appointed to be read that day was St. Paul to the 1st Corinthians, Chapter 13, verse 1-13, and delivered by Richard Bingley who did it extremely well.

Bill Griffiths sang a well-known song entitled, *If I can help somebody as I pass along*.

REFLECTIONS

At the ex-Prisoners of War Reunion, our own Bishop Darby reminded us, humorously and forcefully, of the sheer goodness of the comradeship we share.

But how does this friendship arise? Especially, of course, among people thrown together. So often it seems to be rooted in adversity and suffering. I find this an affront to my humanity.

Although final, extreme pain results in nothing good, ease, comfort, riches and success (which we all strive for) have a hollow outcome. This is what the moralists of all generations have averred.

One objects to such bland assessments. Is it that we remember things in a different

that truly expounds the Christian sentiments. During the afternoon, Alice Griffiths held a video showing of the Service of Remembrance held in Singapore to a group of interested people in the Stables at Ian Fraser House.

In the evening, we were entertained by the Band of the Royal Artillery, whom we were fortunate enough to acquire through the good offices of Lt. Col. Bray, who is himself a Gunner, and was no doubt, able to exert a bit of pressure in the right places.

The Band gave a truly magnificent performance to a very large audience (the Lounge and the Dining Room areas were completely filled by extremely appreciative spectators).

They played tunes that we all knew and loved and were given a standing ovation when they played *Land of Hope and Glory*... Just like the *Last Night of the Proms*... A very spectacular ending to our annual reunion.

In conclusion, I must give sincere thanks to our staunch aides. I refer to, of course, Beryl Gardiner and Mary Stenning, two ladies who do an enormous amount of work for us and help in the smooth running of things. Our thanks must also go to the entire staff of Ian Fraser House who are always so co-operative and helpful in arranging these functions for us.

By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

light than we experience them? One's judgement may be betrayed by sentimental longings for times of near-disaster. When we were young, when dangers were very present, it was a different matter.

But reflecting (as many do) on things past, and things to come, there seems a human need to find a pattern to it all.

I write as Good Friday approaches. In that ultimate disaster with destruction of (as one might say) the one true Human Being and in the declaration of His triumph we hold the faith that original creation equals ultimate love by God to man. An almost incredible, inevitable final outcome. One worth trusting.



Up, up, but not quite away! Not a bird, not a plane, it's Des Chandler lifting off, even though bad weather limited his altitude to six feet at most. **Below:** David Morris demonstrates that he's top gun at golf, even when he's confined to the Winter Garden.



JOLLY GOOD SPORTS!

AN icy gale lashed into 'Breezy Brighton'. On the Ian Fraser House lawn the air was black with flying divots and blue with expletives!

This was the opening of the IFH 'Have-a-go' Sports Week, that ran an eclectic March 8th to 14th, and the fledgling St Dunstan's Golfing Society were doing their impression of a mine-clearing flail. Day-glo golf balls spat out from amidst the whirling chromium, scattering the sea-gulls.

The lawn proved to be an ideal practice ground and with local professional Gerry Williams present to coach on grip, stance, and swing, there was help for golfers of all abilities. Putting practice had to be moved to the Winter Garden carpet however, as the IFH 'Indoor Putting Green' was being used for bowls.

A variety of 'sports' supported golf as the main event. There was some fine Ice Skating, with nice 'bum-drops' from Liz Chandler and Don Planner; and a memorable single point landing by David Morris — right on his elbow!

The Hang-Gliding was an uplifting, if brief, experience. In atrocious weather, heavy rain and wind, we struggled into the complex body harness. Then waddled one by one across the hilltop to instructor Tim Cox, who with three others was fighting to hold the hang-glider down. Once clipped into the frame we flew into the teeth of the gale, held safely by Tim and his crew on tethers.

Jamie Cuthbertson and Des Chandler did especially well. Maybe not high, maybe not long but in those appalling conditions we did exactly the same as (and probably got more 'air time' than) sighted pupils on the first day of a course.

Rottingdean Riding School took us pony trekking up onto the downs, led by Lisa Schofield and Pat Doolin. Forced to do the splits astride a very wide horse, Alan Mitchell got a painful pummeling in the private particulars.

The pick of the week was Brighton Sub-Aqua Club's diving session in the

IFH pool. Chris Cox and his fellow members brought air tanks, masks, and flippers. Each diving St Dunstaner was kitted out and shown how to use the demand valve. After a trial in the shallow end they were escorted by an underwater 'buddy' to the deep end of the pool. To move freely in that depth, with neutral buoyancy, yet still breathing normally felt very strange. Most people couldn't get enough of it and kept going back for more. Some enjoyed it so much they wouldn't get out! 'Best experience since sex,' claimed Alan, proving his memory at least had survived the horse riding.

The bravest of all was Daphne Gilbert. Having never been able to put her face in the water she overcame her fear to try a mask and snorkel. Whilst Johnnie got a 'blow-by-blow' commentary on his wife's progress, she was encouraged by the divers and managed to go completely under with the aqualung! She couldn't believe she had done it.

As for evening entertainments: We cribbed, darted, dominoed and drank at the Swan Inn. Then all lost money at the Dog Track, though Jamie's brother, Kenny, reckoned to have covered his beer money on the night. At the Ten-Pin bowling Wyn Smith put up a dramatic finish to win with a last frame strike.

To end the week the last of the golfers played a match on the Windmill Pitch-and-Putt. After blazing away under cover at the golf-range, to be out on the cliff-top in a sub-zero windchill was unbearable. There were good scores and great hitting from Jack Ryder and Frank Smith. But David's arcane handicapping system awarded the trophy to Don Planner for his nine hole 62. Can you beat that?

A big thank you to those who provided our sports, especially to Gary at the ice rink, and all the sub-aqua members who gave of their time for free. Thanks to David Morris for organising the week, and to Lance Freeborne for helping. Most of all, thanks to the fun group that took part for making the week such a pleasure.

Jonathan Ridge reports on 'alternative' games for gentlemen



Alan Mitchell is in deep water — and he's going deeper. The heavy scuba gear gains buoyancy when submerged in the IFH pool. **Below:** Time for tee! John Gilbert improves his swing with a few hints from our man Jonathan. Frank Smith stands by.



● If you play golf, or want to learn, contact David Morris on 0637 872099 or write to the IFH Sports Office. There will be further golf events following the success of this one, and other 'have-a-go' Sports Weeks. Windsurfing, canoeing, car driving, sub-aqua again — tell us what **YOU** would like to do!



Ways of Life **CHILDREN'S MUSIC MAN**

David Clark talking to David Castleton

Left: David sounds out an idea with his partner-in-tune, Peter Young.

DAVID Clark's career as a blind person began with a gamble. He decided to take a course as a teacher of blind children in spite of the fact that appointments in that field were few and far between.

'I was in the Royal Artillery from 1959-61 and my eye problem started during that time but the sight wasn't actually affected until about 1964. At that time I had gone back to working as an accountant. I came to St Dunstan's in 1966, when my sight totally went. I went to Ovingdean and did all my basic training in typing, braille — actually I was the first person to be trained on the long cane at St Dunstan's. That was with Jock Carnochan.

'The accountancy was impossible to go on with because of being unable to really flick your eyes over columns of figures. I had to do something entirely different. So while I was about it I thought well, I will do something that I think I would really enjoy.

'In '67, I went to Birmingham University to do a year's course on teaching blind children, partly because there was a school for blind children in Sevenoaks, where I live. That was purely on spec and, in fact, it was a very risky thing to do. It could be difficult to get a post in a school for blind children because a blind teacher is not able to carry out supervision duties. Anyway, I thought it worth taking the risk as the school was in the same town. Plus the fact that I discovered by then, having had my own children, that I was very fond of children and enjoyed working with

them. From '67-68 I did the course and then, in 1968, I was lucky enough to get a job at Dorton House School for blind children, run by the Royal London Society for the Blind.'

At Dorton House, David covered a wide range of subjects. 'I had two-thirds of the timetable with my own class of 11-13 year-olds, teaching maths and English, history, geography, scripture; everything except things like mobility, swimming, domestic science, the practical subjects. For that part of the timetable, about a third, I took English with the rest of the school and at that time we did O levels and CSE English.'

Now David is a member of the Education Committee of Dorton House School. He is also a member of the Education and Leisure Committee of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and a Governor of the R.N.I.B. Sunshine Home for Blind Children at East Grinstead.

He is still teaching, but nowadays in a sighted school. 'I teach remedial reading and spelling and I just have the children one at a time. I've been involved in this for quite a time now and I've built up a method, using braille quite a lot and also using the children! For instance, if the child is reading a book that I don't have in braille and he can't read a particular word, I will usually know what that word is from the context. If I don't then they just spell it to me. It is not just listening to children reading books, it is teaching phonetics.

'They co-operate and they all realise that they have a problem and they want to overcome that problem. They just want to

do it, they are helpful. It is OK one at a time, I wouldn't want to take a whole class of children nowadays.'

In his own schooldays David was a member of the school choral society and played the clarinet in the orchestra. This inspired a life-long love of classical music and, ultimately, an interesting project for music in schools.

'It occurred to me, as time went by, that it was a pity that a lot of people grow up not enjoying classical music. I thought of using some of the lovely tunes that there are in classical music and setting words to them. Making songs of them for children to sing based on the principle that once you know a tune, when you hear it in its original form, played by an orchestra, you really enjoy that orchestral work.

'Originally I wasn't sure whether to just use Mozart or different tunes from different composers. Eventually I settled on Mozart, he has so many wonderful tunes, and I decided to make a children's musical. Deciding to use Mozart was the first thing, the next was choosing a story. I looked around and came up with this idea of Aesop's fable, *The Lion and the Mouse*.'

David does not have the technical ability to make musical arrangements so

he called on the help of a friend who is a music teacher, Peter Young. They began a fruitful partnership: Peter arranging the music and David writing the words.

David wrote the lyrics to fit the tunes. 'It had to be done that way. Peter would play the tune that we'd decided on with one finger on a piano and record it so that I could play and replay this to myself. He gave me the tune and the rhythm. I'd have to count either the beats or, in word terms, the syllables that would be in each line and then I would have to work out the words to fit those numbers of syllables. It is much harder than writing poetry, of course, where you are not restricted by the music. That's how we went about it.'

Writing the lyrics involves David in hours of work, 'I do them all in braille to begin with because you've got to keep on making alterations and then, having worked it out, I type it from the braille and give it to Peter and then he writes out the music and sets the words into the music score.'

They began work on *The Lion and the Mouse* in January 1985 and it received its first performance in July, 1987. 'It was very moving to see it performed at last after working for two and a half years on it and

Personal tuition is a hallmark of David's method of teaching reading.





it was an idea that I'd had for many years before that. I'd had it sitting at the back of my mind just waiting for the day when I had the time and also when I could find the musician who had the time and interest to work with me on the music, Peter Young. I have known him for many years. He is a teacher at Sevenoaks School, a local school, and he is also the organist at the local church that we go to, St Nicholas Church in Sevenoaks.'

The Lion and the Mouse has now been published by Studio Music, of London, and has been performed a number of times. In the meantime David has completed another work also to be published by Studio Music. 'It is entirely different in that the music for what we call *The Louis Braille Story* is composed by the music teacher at Dorton House School, Christopher Lockyer, and we haven't used a famous composer. Also *The Louis Braille Story* is a proper two-act play. The Mozart is just a half an hour cantata that can be dramatised or can just be a concert performance. The first act of *The Louis Braille Story* runs for about 40 minutes and the second act for about 30 minutes.

'There is quite a lot of acting and dialogue and it just simply tells the story of

It's showtime! The pupils of Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynsford, Kent, take a bow after their production of The Lion and The Mouse.

Louis Braille going blind as a three year old and going to a school for blind children when he was ten. He basically discovered the braille system by the time he was 14 or 15, so it really covers the period when he was ten to fifteen and it is all set in the school for blind children in Paris round about 1820.

The Louis Braille Story, as well as the music side, is a very good way of introducing the subject of blindness into schools and we hope that it will lead to children thinking about what it is like to be blind.'

David enjoys the work he puts into these musical shows: 'It's all great fun, it's done purely as a hobby. I like to feel that Mozart would love to see his music being enjoyed by so many children. They do enjoy it. In all the schools that have done it so far — every teacher and parent — they have all said how the children just love singing these songs. It does work, they do love hearing the original version afterwards and I like to think that Mozart would approve of what we've done.'



Bowled over! Tony Parkinson fought against severe back pain to reach a conclusive victory against Jackie Pryor in the Totally Blind Finals during the Bowls Week at Ian Fraser House. Full results for the week will appear in the next issue.

ARTISTIC FRAMING

Normally, in an art gallery, one's eyes are on the pictures rather than the frames but at The Stable Gallery, Wandsworth, on March 12th, the frames had an importance of their own. The occasion was a shared exhibition by artist, Duncan Harris and sculptor, Marilyn Panto. The pictures, splendid oils of landscapes in Britain and France, were all by Duncan and most of his pictures were framed by his father, St Dunstan John Harris. John and his wife, Pat, were at the exhibition on the opening day, having motored up from Reading to support Duncan.

This father and son team is probably unique in the art world and John explained how it works: 'Duncan tries to spend two months a year painting in the south of France and he telephones me with the dimensions of the frames he requires. I made 28 for this exhibition.'

The few frames not made by John were those for large canvases which require frames of wider material than John's equipment can manage. However, John said this handicap has been



It's a frame! John with Duncan at the opening of the exhibition.

removed for future projects: 'Gary Glowa, at Ian Fraser House has adapted a saw to cope with the wider wood. I can't thank him enough for all his patience and help in teaching me picture framing.'

Amateur Radio Society

Annual General Meeting

March 7th

by Trevor Phillips, G0IBH/JY81B

PRIOR to the start of the AGM, the members stood in tribute to the memory of George Torrie and David Bell, who had gone 'silent key'.

Some twenty-two members gathered in the Winter Garden for the meeting.

Once again, the aerials had suffered but, thanks to the maintenance work carried out last December by John Houlihan, Dave Mitchell and Ted John, the mountings and clips had survived the winter. A vote of thanks was passed.

The digital/talking clock, presented to the Society by the families and friends of Vic Reeves and John Cowan, was *in situ*, and receiving signals from the atomic clock at Rugby to give the correct time on any occasion.

It was hoped that the Morse Tuition Console would be available for use at our July meeting. Gratitude was again expressed to Ron Ray, G3NCL, and other members of the RAIBC for the provision of this equipment, not forgetting Mick Puttick for his contribution to this tutor. I am sure that George Cole, our CW (Morse) expert, can't wait to get his hands on this unit.

The Chairman, Bill Shea, in presenting his report said that the Society had a very much quieter year in 1991 following the 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 1990. The meetings in 1991 had been well attended, but he would like to see more members using the equipment. He paid tribute to John Houlihan and Dave Mitchell, particularly, for their work in keeping the station on the air, and to all the in-house staff for their assistance. Bill thanked Ted John, and Beryl for supporting him, for all the work he had done during the past year.

The Treasurer, Ted John, was pleased to report that the Society was in a very sound position financially and hoped that this would continue.

As Secretary, he was very sorry that

the trip to Canada had to be cancelled due to lack of support, but perhaps a visit elsewhere might be envisaged.

Discussion took place regarding the St Dunstan's net, and it was finally decided to revert to the upper part, of 40m, say 7.090 MHz, commencing at 1030 hours. If you have the opportunity of joining the net you will be made very welcome.

Details of officers elected at the AGM appear in Club News on page 26.

Other items of interest included the erection of gates and guide rails at the top of the staircase leading to the Shack, the possibility of a temporary alternative Shack, and the necessity of having Validation Documents available for production, if required. A copy of *RadCom*, the magazine of the Radio Society of Great Britain, is now being kept in the Shack.

During the winter months, Ray Castle and his colleagues have built two cupboards in the main room of the Radio Shack and these will house the ICOM 751A, and ICOM 781 and Trio 130S, respectively.

The cassette tape on the ICOM 751A which also deals with the layout will be amended in due course.

That evening, during the course of a superb meal, the Chairman announced that Alf Lee, G4DQS, the Society's QSL Manager (the person who sent out cards confirming contacts), had been awarded the G3MOW Memorial Trophy for 1991. This news was greeted with loud applause. Unfortunately, neither Alf nor his wife (XYL), Betty, were able to attend, but arrangements were made for a presentation at Alf's home.

Finally, the evening included, as all such occasions should, the well-loved rendition by Ted about life in the Deep South. I venture to suggest that this will become something of a tradition, and, if a suitable recording can be made, I am sure it will be a worthy addition to the Tape Library.

● **The next meetings of the Society are from July 17th to 25th, and October 9th to 17th.**

The Queen's Regimental Lunch

On Thursday, March 5th, at Ian Fraser House, ten St Dunstaners, with their wives and friends entertained representatives of the six Regimental Associations, which now make up The Queen's Regiment.

After lunch our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, who had served in both The Royal Sussex Regiment, and The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), welcomed the visitors, and after commenting on the way in which each of the six founding regiments had had some part of their badge incorporated in the new Queen's Regiment head-dress or collar badge or on the buttons, he explained the origin of St Dunstan's; he then presented a St Dunstan's plaque with the inscription on a brass plate, which had been engraved by one of our own men, to Col. John Francis, Secretary to The Queen's Regimental Association.

Col. Francis replied by explaining the further changes that would affect the Regiment as a result of the reduction in

the size of the army, and then, much to the surprise of the St Dunstaners, who remembered the picture which had been presented to them last year at The Duke of York's Barracks, he said that it had occurred to them that as we could not see the picture, The Queen's now wished to present three cassettes, and four long-playing records of regimental and military music, so that we could enjoy listening to them.

Our President thanked the Association for this further gift, and said that he was so sorry that Maj. Gen. Mike Reynolds, the Colonel of the Regiment, had once again been unable to join them. He concluded by saying that the cassettes and records would be held at our Headquarters, so that they would be available to all St Dunstaners on request.

● As we went to press, we learnt that the Regiment has been re-named The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire).

Ken's nostalgic weekend

Since 1975, Ken Revis has taken an active interest in the restoration of West Pier, Brighton, for a very good reason. It was on West Pier in September 1943 that Ken was blinded and seriously injured while clearing mines.

In 1975, he joined a committee formed to campaign for the restoration of the pier and more recently he has served as a Director of Brighton West Pier Trust Ltd, which has a similar aim.

On March 27th, Ken and his wife, Jo, were among a distinguished group on the top floor of the Metropole Hotel, overlooking West Pier. The occasion was the ceremonial switching on of the original electric sign on the pier. Spike Milligan pressed the button and the words 'West Pier' glowed once again.

'The lights mean that somebody is taking an interest,' said Ken. 'The shore end of the pier is cleared and 1,000

square metres of hardwood decking replaced. Already we have some traders putting up stalls and rides which will help raise funds for the complete restoration. We aim to open in 1999. The little ceremony was great fun — the button was duly pressed and the lights of West Pier shone out again.'

The following day Ken returned to Preston Barracks, where he had been based that day in 1943. He was attending a farewell dinner for 583 Squadron EOD, Royal Engineers. Ken had become a friend of this unit, where the recreation room has been named after him. He was presented with an inscribed pewter tankard, 'As a friend, I suppose. The Squadron is being amalgamated with another to form 222 Squadron EOD but they are leaving behind a Troop at Preston Barracks, so I will still have friends there.'

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Caught Short Of The Boundary

Author: Henry Blofeld
Reader: Denys Hawthorne
Duration: 3.25 hours
Catalogue number: 5617

This recording, which is mercifully short, has several brief chapters in which a member of the BBC 'Test Match Special' team, tells a bit about about *himself*, a bit more about the places he has visited, and several smutty stories which are neither funny nor clever.

Sadly, it sounds like Henry Blofeld is as obnoxious as the 'blow-fly' he proudly answers to when he travels to Australia. He doesn't actually say, 'My people are well-off you know' (like Burlington Bertie did in the song), but they sent him off to Eton and to Oxford just the same; though he came away from both with precious little to show for his daddy's brass. Except for arrogance that is, he has plenty of that; and also that puffed-up snobbery which belongs exclusively to those who achieve little through their own merit. As, for instance, he tells of a flight to somewhere or other via Singapore, in which he was informed he could no longer sit in the first-class section (which he had not paid for), one can almost *feel* the petulance dripping from his pen.

His lame excuse for throwing a tantrum was: 'It had been a long flight.' But, had it not been equally long for the other passengers? And then he whined: '90 minutes is a long time to go without an alcoholic drink.'

Well, I'm, sorry Mr. Blowfly, but you can't get away with boorish conduct or a pretty poor book, just because you are some sort of artist!

Saturday Night And Sunday Morning

Author: Alan Sillitoe
Reader: John Dunn
Duration: 8.25 hours
Catalogue number: 1304

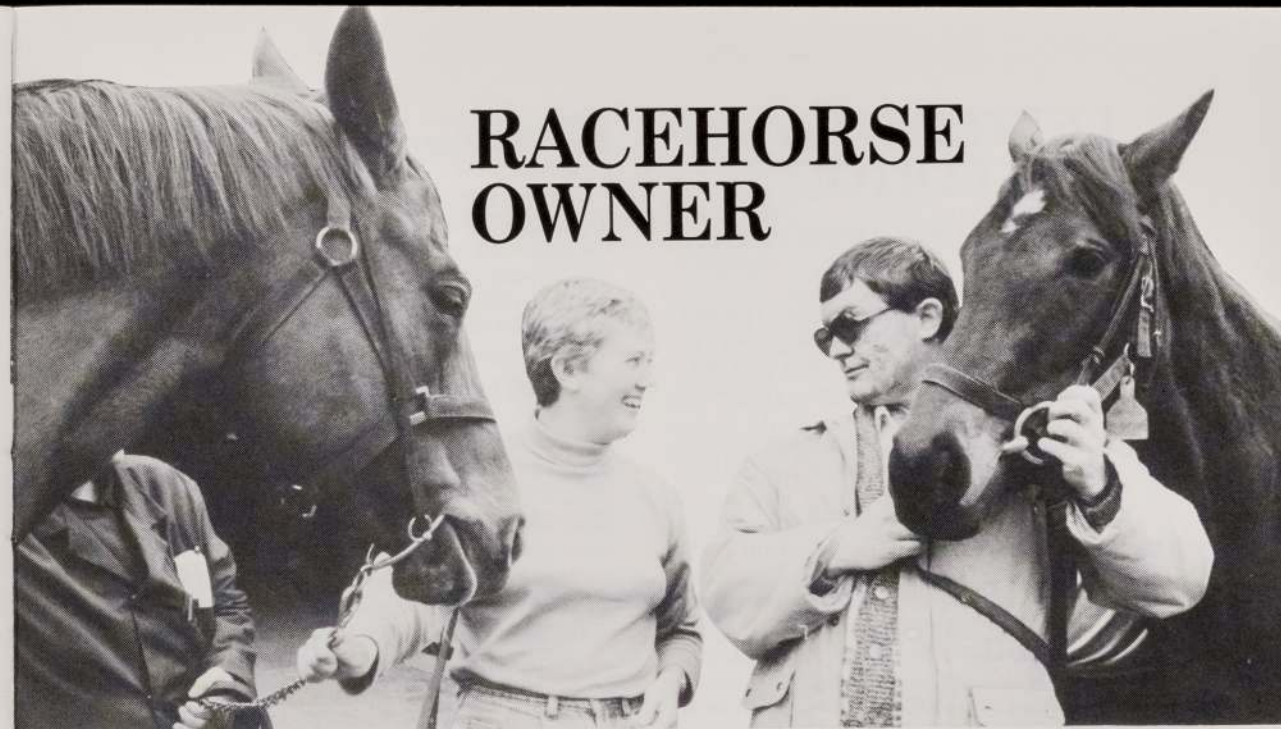
Back in 1960, *Saturday Night And Sunday Morning* was released as a film . . . One of the 'kitchen sink' kind, complete with spotty unwashed bodies in bed, and working folk saying 'bloody' and similar naughty things.

Needless to say, the book is vastly superior to the film; and that's despite its blatant Marxist propaganda. That's Karl, by the way, not Groucho, though a grim humour is certainly one of the work's most appealing features.

Mouthpiece

The drama is played out around the city of Nottingham, and Arthur Seaton, the central character and mouthpiece for most of the communist stuff, is employed in the big bicycle factory there. Now Arthur, though a pleasant lad, is a socialiser as well as a socialist, and as a 'practising communist' he is ready to share a barrel of ale with any of his neighbours, and more than willing to share their women too . . . a practice which causes him the odd little difficulty.

But for all his many and varied faults, I found it impossible not to be 'on Arthur's side', as the story unfolded, and even to hope he might reach *his* version of success before 'they' had the chance to 'grind him down'. Whether he succeeds or not, you'll have to find out for yourself, but the broad-minded will enjoy the experience I'm sure.



RACEHORSE OWNER

In 1983, John Jackson was working at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Euxton Lane, Chorley when something went wrong. In the resulting explosion John was totally blinded and made deaf in one ear. He was 34 at the time and to him then it seemed like total disaster. In fact that disaster has proved to be the opportunity for him to work towards fulfilling a dream.

'I would like to breed a horse that would go on to win a race,' John confided as he stroked Dawn Redwood, one of the mares he owns. He explained that his father was keenly interested in racing and had passed his enthusiasm to John. As a consequence of his serious injuries John received compensation and he has used some of this money to buy a small string of racehorses.

'My father chose our racing colours, the blue and white of Blackburn Rovers — blue body and white sleeves and an emerald green cap,' John now owns four horses: Flashvale and Judy's Girl, in training at Tommy Fairhurst's stables at Middleham in Yorkshire, and Dawn Redwood and Patent Pending at present at the Stockwell Stud, Henry Easterby's farm at Kirkby Wharf, near Tadcaster, Yorkshire.

Sadly John's father did not live to see his

Welfare Visitor, Mrs. Carol Henderson, meets John at the stables with Patent Pending and Dawn Redwood.

David Castleton talks to John Jackson

first winner, Flashvale, in a novice qualifying hurdle at Sedgfield.

'I am learning by experience,' said John. Some of that experience can be very hard. Before the joy of his first winner John suffered the loss of Rockling Grey, a mare who died of a tumour of the brain and a gamble that did not come off was a horse named for John — John's Gamble. He, sadly, broke a leg in a rabbit hole during a training gallop.

John is not discouraged. His hope is to find a property with a few acres grazing and stables and yard: 'If I could get my own place, I could get a move on and have it as a going concern. I would concentrate on breeding and ask Tommy Fairhurst to do my training.' The many St Dunstaners who share John's interest in the turf will wish him luck and hope that one day those blue and white colours will be first past the post on a horse he has bred himself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Mrs. Gwen Obern, Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan

Dear Sir,

On Sunday morning, April 5th, I turned on my radio and heard the last part of a programme about people who had been visiting their loved ones' graves in Singapore.

I was immediately taken back in time some 50 years or so, when I suffered my horrific war accident which left me, as you all know, both blind and handless. At that time, I wondered what on earth was going to become of me.

Soon afterwards, I received many encouraging letters from St Dunstan's, yet for almost three years I remained at home, fearful of going out and becoming more introverted with every passing day.

Eventually I entered St Dunstan's at Church Stretton and from that moment onwards I became a new person, revitalised by the warm, happy, friendly family of St Dunstaners.

The training and rehabilitation we received was second to none and in the context of this, the recent letter from our Chairman Sir Henry Leach came as a terrific blow.

I feel that the contents of Sir Henry's letter should be the private possession of only St Dunstaners and we should all be grateful to our Chairman for his caring leadership, to Mr. Weisblatt for his secretarial efficiency, to Mr. Gerard Frost for his meticulous accountancy, and to Miss Mosley and Miss Lord and their staff for the hard work they put in throughout the years.

I should also like to acknowledge all other departments at Headquarters.

In view of the obvious enjoyment and great benefit we have experienced over the years, it is the least we can do to support fully the Chairman's decisions.

Like you all, I too am continually honoured to belong to such an organisation as St Dunstan's and always proud to wear its badge.

From: Annette Armstrong, Southern Area Welfare, HQ,

Dear Sir,

I shall be retiring in June and I should like to say goodbye to all I have worked for and with at St Dunstan's. I shall miss you greatly and wish you all the best possible health and happiness in the future.

From: Alf Lockhart, Dagenham, Essex

Dear Sir,

During my time as Treasurer of St Dunstan's ex-PoWs, several ex-PoW's sent donations or subscriptions with their good wishes. I would like to thank all of these people and ask them to continue the good work with the new Treasurer who is:

Mr. R. G. Sheriff, 73 Elvin Crescent, Rottingdean, East Sussex BN2 7FF.

From: Mrs. L. Stent, Sompting, Lancing

Dear Sir,

I was most interested by the letter from Sydney Scroggie about the author George Borrow. The mention of the book *Lavengro* brought back lovely long ago memories of when I was at school.

I was awarded the Kitty Wilkinson Prize, which was a book called *Lavengro*. I can never remember what happened to it, but I'd love to be able to get hold of a copy again and read it.

If any St Dunstaner knows where I could purchase this book, I would be ever so grateful.

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. Joseph Veale, of Newquay, Cornwall, joined St Dunstan's on March 16th. He served in the RAF for 20 years, reaching the rank of flight sergeant, before being discharged in 1966.

Mr. Veale served in India, Africa,

America and Germany. Following his discharge, he became a civilian clerical assistant at RAF St Mawgan.

He is married and has a son and daughter.

Mr. Robert Reid, of Bournemouth, joined St Dunstan's on March 18th.

He served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore. As a FEPOW, Mr. Reid worked on the Burma Railway.

Mr. Reid and his wife, Jean, have been married for over 40 years and they have a daughter.

Mr. Henry Sawbridge, of Onchan, Isle of Man, joined on April 1st. Mr. Sawbridge joined the Royal Corps of Signals where he trained as an Intercept Operator and was posted to No. 8 Wireless Group in Malta. He later served in North Africa and Italy.

Mr. Sawbridge is married and has five sons and one daughter.

Mr. Jack Mason, of Bodmin, Cornwall, joined St Dunstan's on April 15th.

Now aged 71, Mr. Mason joined the Royal Marines in 1939, signing on for 12 years with the Colours. After basic and Commando training, he was posted to 41 Commando, reaching the rank of Corporal.

He was wounded shortly after D-Day whilst engaged in an attack on an enemy radar station, losing his lower right leg and one eye. He was discharged in 1946.

Mr. Mason trained as a telephonist and was employed by the GPO for 34 years until retirement. In earlier years, he was a keen footballer and boxer and has a cultivated interest in golf and singing. He is a leading member of the Bodmin Male Voice Choir.

A long standing member of the Royal Marines Association, Mr. Mason takes an active part in the local Royal Naval Association.

Mr. Mason and his wife, Monica, have been married for 46 years and they have three daughters and a son.

Mr. Jack Dunn, of Plymouth, was also welcomed to St Dunstan's on the same day.

Having joined the RAF in 1940, Mr. Dunn was posted to a Barrage Balloon Squadron which guarded the approaches to Plymouth during the Blitz. The year after, he was sent to Singapore and escaped to Java, before being captured by the Japanese.

He was taken to the island of Ambon and used as forced labour building an airfield. Mr. Dunn was one of only 300 men to survive captivity there.

In civilian life, Mr. Dunn worked for British Gas and has been married for over 30 years.

CLUB NEWS

NATIONAL BRIDGE



Joyce Dodgson, far right, presents the Ike Pellington Memorial Cup to Patricia Lynch and Lynn Evans.

Owing to the shortage of members, the usual Three Way Competition was reduced to a straight match between Brighton and Provinces held over three sessions on April 25th and 26th.

We all had a very enjoyable weekend and many interesting hands were played, but in the end it resulted in a win for Brighton with a score which sounded very much like Wimbledon. Six-four, six-four, six-four — all in Brighton's favour!

Prize money was given and presented by Joyce Dodgson, who also donated a cup for the winners, the 'Ike' Pellington

Memorial Cup, which she donated in memory of her late husband. It was gratefully accepted by Mrs. P. Lynch and Mrs. L. Evans from the winning team.

Many, many thanks Joyce, on behalf of all members of the National Bridge Club, for your generous donation.

A bridge drive was held on April 26th for both St Dunstaners and Markers. Alf Dodgson and Mrs. S. Holborrow were the winners.

**Reg Goding,
Secretary**

BRIGHTON BRIDGE CLUB

Pairs match played at Ian Fraser House, on March 8th.

Results	Name	Score
1st	Mrs. A. Clements & Mrs. G. Hannant	55.5
Equal	A. Dodgson & Mrs. S. Holborrow; R. Freer & Mrs. P. Lynch	55.0
4th	W. Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	52.5

We played our last league match on March 13th against Sphere Drake and won by 38 match points, which translates into 13 victory points to 3.

There are now three teams who have won two matches and lost one each, so we are waiting to learn whether we have qualified for the Semi-Final or not.

Individual match played at Ian Fraser House on March 14th.

Results	Name	Score
1st	Mrs. P. Lynch	59.1
Equal	Jo Huk	
2nd	Bill Phillips Reg Goding	55.7

Easter Drive

The Easter Drive was held at Ian Fraser House on March 22nd. Thirteen St Dunstaners and 13 markers took part.

Prizes were presented by Mrs. Dacre to the winners.

1st	Mr. and Mrs. M. Douse	1450
2nd	J. Lynch and Mrs. C. Berry	1390
3rd	G. Hudson and Mrs. White	1070

Slam Prize:

Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Tebbitt.

Mini Scores:

Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Bushell.

Individual match played at Ian Fraser House on April 4th.

Equal	George Hudson	69.0
1st	Mrs. Clements	
3rd	A. Dodgson	59.5

Pairs match played at Ian Fraser House April 5th.

1st	Wally Lethbridge & Mrs. A. Clements	58.4
2nd	Bob Evans & Mr. White	55.6
3rd	Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Douse	55.2

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society elected the following officers at its Annual General Meeting.

Chairman:

— Bill Shea, G4AUJ

Secretary/Treasurer:

— Ted John, G3SEJ

Committee:

— Trevor Phillips, G0IBH

— Arthur Taylor, Short Wave Listener

— Ray Peart, G0FHK

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Philip and Edith Day, of Walsall, on the birth of a great grand-daughter, Jemma, on February 14th. Their grandson, Philip, and his wife, Michelle, are the parents.

Peter and Betty Surridge, of Reedham, Norwich, on the birth of a grandson, Mitchell, on November 21st 1991. He is the son of their daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Colin Mullen.

Dennis and Patricia Downes, of Bristol, on the birth of their grandson, Oliver Sheppard, on February 27th. Susan and Jonathon Sheppard are the parents.

Philip and Marjorie Bagwell, of Salisbury, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Joanne Marie, on February 29th to their son, David, and his wife, Jayne.

Mrs. Mary Petherick, of Steeton, Near Keighley, widow of *Daniel Petherick*, is a great grandmother for the seventh time. Charlotte Victoria was born on March 8th to grand-daughter June and her husband, Mark. Mrs. Petherick now has six great-grand-daughters and one great-grandson.

Emily Moore on her first birthday on May 26th. She is the 11th great grand-child of Mrs. Irene Cox, of Egham, Surrey, widow of *Thomas Cox*, but the first child of their grand-daughter, Alison, and her husband, Robert.

Finally, belated congratulations to Mrs. Elizabeth Ward, of Chandlers Ford, Hants., widow of *Kenneth Ward*, on two births in her family. A great grand-daughter, Jade, was born to Mrs. Ward's grand-daughter, Lorraine, and husband, Jon, and a great grandson, Craig, born to her grandson, David, and his wife, Debbie.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings, of Verwood, Dorset, on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on March 26th.

David and Alma Young, of Acocks Green, Birmingham, on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on March 29th.

Edmund and Jane Constantine, of Catford, London, on their Ruby day on March 28th.

Arnold and Sheila Rimmer, of East Grinstead, on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, on April 12th.



Alan and Joan Wortley, (above), of Lincoln, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on March 28th.

Walter and Betty Rundle, of Paignton, Devon, on their Golden day on April 14th.

Len and Hilda Hollamby, of Oldham, Lancs., on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 18th.

John and Barbara Blanch, of Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 25th. John is President of the Blinded Soldiers of St Dunstan's, Australia.

Fred and Olga Sedgwick, of Littleborough, Lancs., on their Golden day on April 29th.

Jack and Betty Boote, of Alexandra, Australia, who will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on June 28th. Jack is Vice-President of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Association, Melbourne.

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to:

Shaun Griffiths, BSc, grandson of *Bill and Alice Griffiths*, of Blackpool, on qualifying as a pilot with British Airways and obtaining a commercial licence to fly.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs. Edith Walker, daughter of late St Dunstaner *Arthur Morris*, of Pontypridd, on Christmas Eve 1991.

Mrs. Mary McLoughlin, widow of *Daniel McLoughlin*, of Dublin, on March 18th. She was 99 years old.

Mrs. Elsie Horseman, of Fulford, Yorks., widow of *Arthur Horseman*, on March 29th. She was 90 years old.

Mrs. Alice Thornycroft, mother of Irene Edwards, wife of *Joseph Edwards*, of Coventry.

Mrs. Annie Singleton, of Kirkham, Lancs., on April 12th, aged 86. She was the widow of *Clarence Singleton*, of Worthing, Sussex.

Edwin Farrant, of Torquay, Devon, on April 16th. He was the husband of lady St Dunstaner *Mrs. Jane Farrant*.

Mrs. Phyllis Roughton, of Castle Cary, on April 16th, aged 99. She was the widow of *Claude Roughton*.

Stephen Hollamby on April 17th, aged 41. He was the son of *Len and Hilda Hollamby*, of Oldham.

Mrs. Lilian Williams, on April 21st, aged 96. She was the mother of *Arthur Lowe*, of Hayling Island.

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.

Reginald Mason, Royal Artillery

Reginald Mason, of Clapton, London, died on March 10th, aged 74. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War.

Mr. Mason was discharged from the Army on health grounds in 1948 and worked as a clerk until his retirement in 1956.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jean.

Raymond Major, Royal Navy

Raymond Major, of Saltdean, died on March 21st, aged 67. Mr. Major joined the Royal Navy in February 1940 and served as Chief Petty Officer until his discharge, on health grounds, in June 1946.

After the Second World War, he worked as a telephonist for Barclays Bank.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jeanne, their daughters, and all other members of the family.

Eric Warnes, Royal Air Force

Eric Warnes, of Plumstead, London, died on March 31st, aged 78. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and, two years later, was injured in his right eye whilst servicing an aircraft.

Mr. Warnes returned to the building trade until he retired 20 years ago.

Our sympathy goes to his sisters, Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Steven, and all members of the family.

Philip Dyke, Royal Artillery

Mr. Philip Dyke, of Woodford Green, Essex, died on April 21st, aged 97.

Enlisting in the Army in 1915, he served with the Royal Artillery on the Western Front throughout the First World War. He suffered a mustard gas attack at Cambrai in March 1918, but it was not until very late in life that he became registered blind as a result.

Following the War, he joined the family advertising business, which he eventually ran until his retirement in 1960.

Our sympathy goes to his two daughters.

Mr. Eric Ward Rowe, Royal Air Force

Mr. Eric Ward Rowe, of Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancs., died on April 18th, aged 77. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1943, when he was wounded in an explosion.

In spite of this, he called on years of experience as a journalist to launch his own advertising agency. In 1971, while living on the Isle of Wight, he founded a magazine, *The Wightman*.

Mr. Ward Rowe founded the Disabled '86 organisation to foster the interests of Poulton-Le-Fylde's 30,000 disabled people and launched an access group, a young disabled club, and the Lancashire European Society for the Disabled.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Edna, and all members of the family.