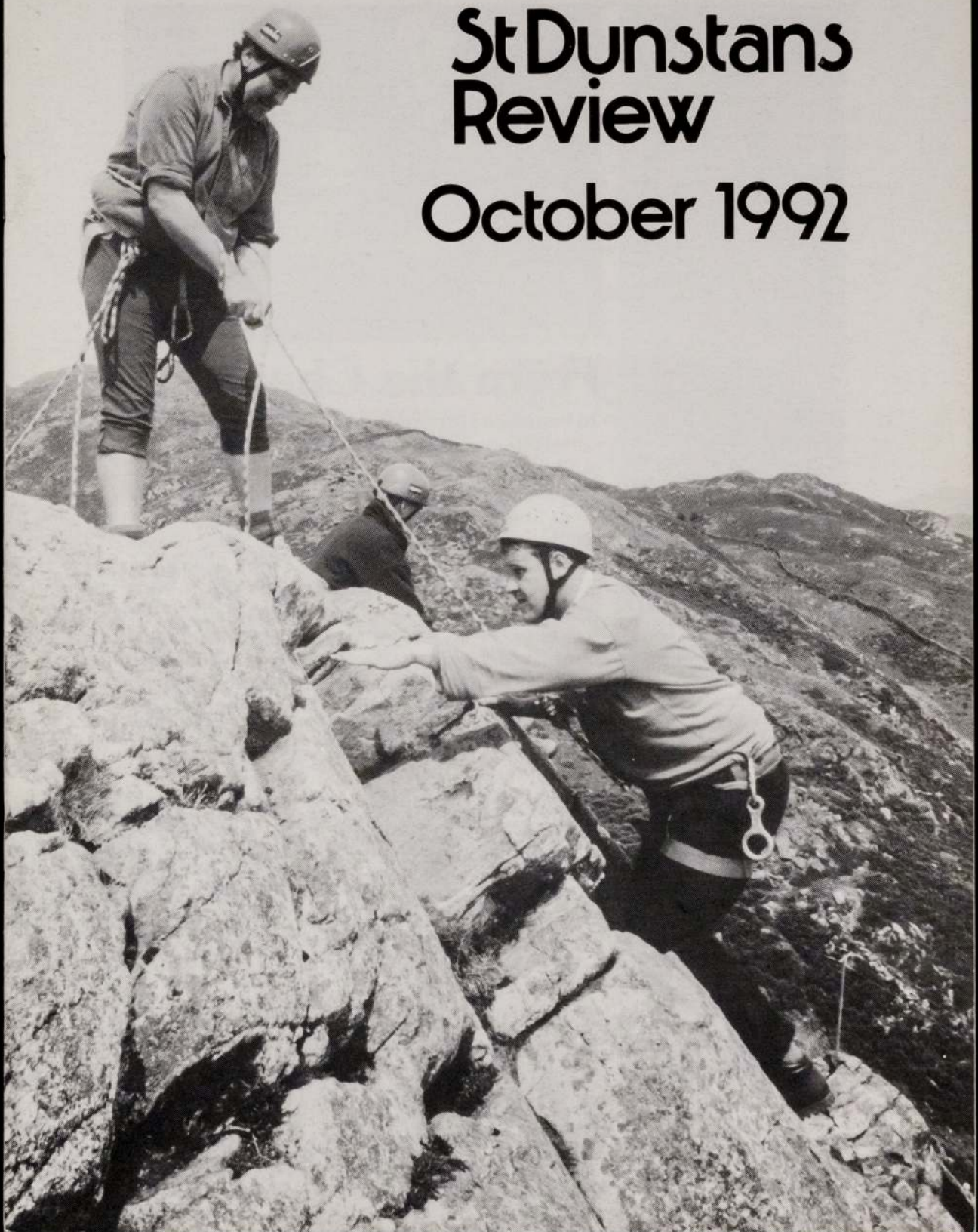


# St Dunstons Review

October 1992



12-14 Harcourt Street,  
London W1A 4XB

**BI-MONTHLY**

*Free to St Dunstaners*

**OCTOBER 1992**

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**Cover Picture:** Look ma! Top o' the world. Andy Bull was in peak performance during the Climbing Weekend. Colin Jones, of Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, lends a hand.



## From the Chairman

'In Fourteen Hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue,' so went the jingle which used to remind us of the date of Columbus' historic voyage with his tiny fleet, *Santa Maria*, *Pinta* and *Nina*. When Christopher Columbus finally sighted land on October 12th, 1492, he was convinced he had reached the Orient. Instead he became credited with the discovery of the New World.

Whenever an anniversary such as this comes round much is written by the experts and not-so-experts. It would seem, for example, that, in fact, the Norsemen got there first according to some authorities. Any voyage across the Atlantic half a century ago or more in those small and primitive vessels must command our admiration as we look down from 30,000 feet in an airliner carrying us to the great nations that have established themselves in the Americas in the last 500 years — Columbus and the Norsemen did not know what they were starting!

Sadly, the same might now be said of the Serbo-Croats in what, until a few months ago, was Yugoslavia.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



### TRANSPORT AND BOOKINGS STAFF

From the end of October, the Reservations & Movements Office (IFH, tel: 0273 307811) will be staffed by:

Mrs. Elizabeth Ford — Reservations & Movements Supervisor; ext. 3251

Mrs. Linda Holder — Movements Co-ordinator; ext 3217

Mrs. Julie Finch — Reservations Co-ordinator; ext 3230 and 3218.

### COMPUTER INTRODUCTIONS

An 'Introduction to the Computer' course is being considered for the new year. 'We only need three people to make the course worthwhile,' said Training Officer Christine Dickens. 'Anyone who has little or no experience of computers, but would like more knowledge, should contact me.'

Christine can be contacted at Ian Fraser House.

### KILN WANTED

Lenie and Mary in the IFH Handicraft rooms are currently looking into pottery to add a new interest to handicrafts. If anyone knows of any kilns for sale (nothing too large), please contact Lenie Hinton on 0273 307811 ext. 3238.

### PROGRAMMING COURSE

A two-day 'Introduction to BASIC Programming' course has been organised for December 10th/11th.

Places can be booked by telephoning Training Officer Christine Dickens on 0273 307811 ext. 3288.

### KEN REVIS HONOURED

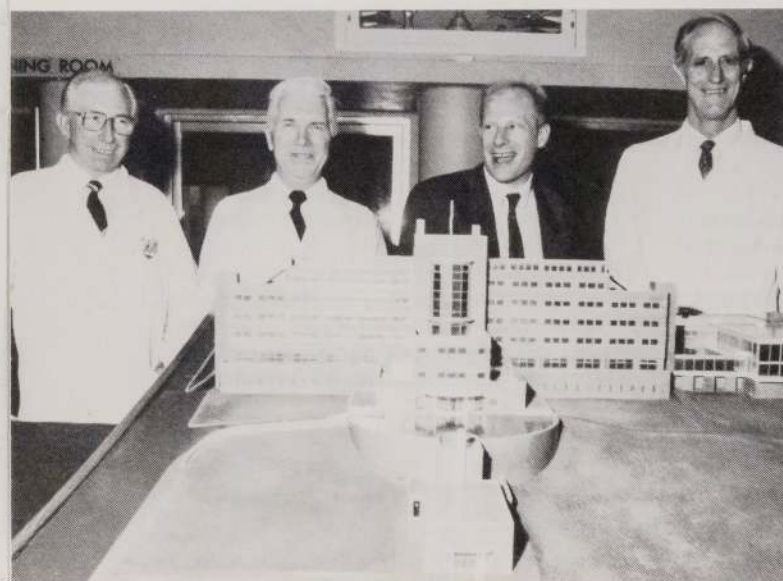
On his retirement from the Chairmanship of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, the Association has honoured Ken Revis by appointing him as President. Ken was Chairman for the full three years allowed by the Association's constitution. In his new role he intends to continue his work for the blind of Oxfordshire which dates from his joining the Committee some 12 years ago.

### CATCH TWENTY TO

The maker of St Dunstan's braille wrist and pocket watches has recommended a method of closing the lid, while preventing wear and tear against the catch.

They say it is helpful to slightly depress the press piece as the lid is closed. Then check again to make certain the lid is home.

Angela Higson, Supplies Officer



### IFH JUNIOR IS SHIPSHAPE AGAIN

A familiar object has been missing from the Ian Fraser House concourse recently — but it's back in full glory.

The scale model of the Ovingdean House, constructed by Longley when they were building the real thing back in the late-Thirties, was showing signs of wear and tear. Now it has been restored by the Workshop team.

John Walker, Maurice Crump, Gary Glowa and Eddie Waller also updated the model, adding the swimming pool which had not been thought of when IFH was completed in 1938.



### LEGION TRIBUTE TO BOB

Over fifteen years of sterling work was recognised by the Allenton Branch of The Royal British Legion recently.

St Dunstaner Bob Thorne, of Derby, served as committee member from 1975 to 1991. He is pictured above being presented with a certificate by Colonel Peter Hilton, the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire.

### BARD NEWS

Audio-description performances have now been scheduled for the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican Theatre, London.

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (October 10th, 29th and November 19th) and *Romeo and Juliet* (October 17th and November 14th) will be described via a special headset.

Full details can be obtained on 071 638 8891.

### GUIDE TO BT

*The BT guide for people who are elderly or disabled - 1992* is a very comprehensive guide listing all the facilities, services and equipment that are available.

For instance, *Talking Yellow Pages* can, for the cost of a local call, tell you whether a business takes credit cards or has disabled facilities. The booklet can be obtained in braille or on cassette from RNIB Customer Services in Peterborough on 0345 023153.

### HONOUR FOR SIR HENRY LEACH

Our Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Hampshire.

### TELL US A STORY

Forget about the Booker Prize! The real literary event of the year has just been declared open. The *Review* is challenging you to enter the Story Writing Competition 1993 and win £50!

You can choose any subject or style — adventure, comedy, romance, realist or surrealist — or anything else that the muse throws into creative inspiration.

As with previous contests, your story can be fact or fiction and will be judged by an independent panel. They will assess the entries and prizes will be awarded to the two best story-tellers. The winning entries will be published in the *Review*.

First Prize is £50 and second prize is £25.

The rules for the competition are as follows:

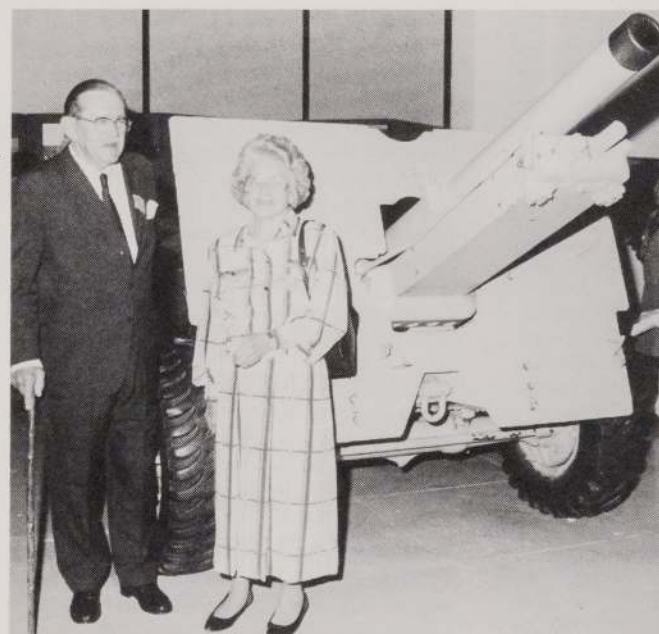
1. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, their wives or husbands, and to widows.
2. Only one entry per person. The story should be between 500-1,000 words, must be original and not previously published. Please type manuscripts with double line spacing. (The average typewriter will produce about 400 words on an A4 sheet of paper.)
3. Entries are to be submitted under an assumed name. Write your nom de plume, the title of your story, your real identity and full address on a sheet of paper. Seal this sheet in an envelope and write your nom de plume on the front.

Attach the sealed envelope to your entry and send them together to the *Review*. (These envelopes will not be opened until the judges have chosen the winners.)

4. Entries should reach the Editor by the closing date March 31st, 1993.

**Send your tale to Story Writing Competition 1993, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.**

Picture: Imperial War Museum



### DESERT WAR RECALLED

In North Africa in July 1942 a decisive battle which contributed to the halting of the Afrika Corps in its advance on Cairo was fought at Ruweisat Ridge. A St Dunstaner, the late Lieutenant Colonel A. O. McCarthy, was seriously wounded while in command of the 11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery which played a leading part in the action.

His widow, Mary, was an honoured guest at a reunion on the 50th anniversary of the battle held at the Imperial War Museum. She is pictured here with Major F. R. 'Jeph' Jephson, beside one of the guns used in the battle.

Using these 25-pounder field guns, the Royal Artillery beat off repeated attacks by Rommel's armour.

### NEW TAPES

Copies of these new tapes may be obtained by sending the appropriate number of cassettes to the PR department, stating the reference number required.

SD 56. 5 x C90s *The Will to Live* Biography of St Dunstaner Dame Margot Turner.

G 55. C90. Track 1: Bugle calls and various poems.

R 93. C90. *Ragchew* No. 36 for July '92.

CT 4. C90. Ripe 2400 modem and EAZI-LINK Comms program.

CT 5. C90. File Express 5 by Mike Gammon.

### BOWLING FOR BRONZE

Jackie Pryor, of Peacehaven, Sussex, has taken the Bronze Medal in the Totally Blind section of the UK Singles Bowling Championship.

'It was an excellent sort of Tournament and I got more shots in than any other player,' he said. 'I was a bit disappointed because I didn't take my own advice — I tell people don't be short and I was short on the last three ends.'

### IN TUNE FOR 76 YEARS

Ernie Hannant is a man of notes — musical notes — and that's official. He has been presented with a special certificate of merit from the Royal School of Church Music.

Ernie recently retired from the choir of St. John's Church, Boxmoor, where he has been singing since 1915. The certificate pays tribute to 76 years of service in their choir.

The presentation was made by Martin How, Royal School of Church Music Commissioner for the South.

Ernie was eight years old when he joined the choir and had to duck for cover on the way to his first practice when a Zeppelin was shot down.

### CHARTERS ON TAPE

*The Citizen's Charter* — introduced by Prime Minister John Major — is now available, free of charge, on tape. *The Patient's Charter*, *Council Tenant's Charter* and *Green Rights and Responsibilities* are also available.

Copies can be obtained by telephoning Master Transcriptions on 0892 516157.

## BEN NEVIS BY HOOPLE

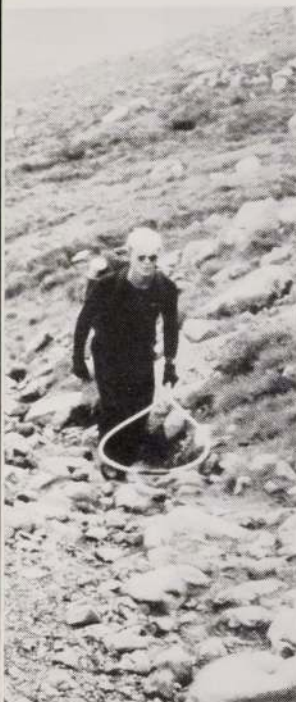
Members of the Lomas family had a high priority telephone call in July — from the peak of Britain's highest mountain.

St Dunstaner Gary Lomas, of Blackburn, Lancashire, was calling them by mobile phone from the top of Ben Nevis. He had reached those heights using a hoople.

Derived from a hula-hoop, but bent to provide a handle, the hoople is being developed as a mobility aid for rough country.

'It certainly proved useful,' said Gary, pictured here on the lower slopes. 'It prevented me grazing my shins which I almost certainly would have done otherwise.'

'Perhaps next year I can try it on a stiffer climb somewhere abroad. The Hoople is intended for Third World countries where there aren't tarmac-adamed roads.'



## MUSIC TAPES

Music programmes, presented in radio show style, are now being issued on tape by National Music for the Blind.

Five tapes are sent each month — two music only tapes with light classical and nostalgic music, *Guiding Star* (a musical programme with news items, requests and the occasional short story) and *Soundtrax* (a magazine show with serial play, short story and comedy programme). There is also a pop tape available for younger listeners.

A single payment covers life membership and is set according to age, starting at £30 if you are 18-30, falling to £15 if you are 66-79. People over 79 will receive the tapes free and charges are also waived for those in receipt of weekly Social Security benefit.

Further information can be obtained from Derek Mills, The National Music for the Blind, Radio Churchtown Studios, 2 High Park Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7QL. Telephone 0704 28010.

## ENGINEERING HISTORY

The history of military engineering can be traced from 1066 to 1945 at the Royal Engineers Museum.

Based at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, it shows the vital contribution made by Royal Engineers to British life.

Opening hours are, Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 11.30 am to 5 pm. Admission is £1 for adults or 50p for senior citizens and children.

Further information can be obtained on 0634 406397.

## LEGGO WANTED!

If anyone has children or grandchildren who no longer require or use their *Leggo*, would they please send it to Ray Hazan at HQ. Postage will be refunded.

## BARBARA RETIRES

Mrs. Barbara Wood retires from Ian Fraser House on October 30th after over 13 years service.

She started work in 1979 as Dr. Stilwell's Secretary. When he left, in 1983, Barbara became the Training Co-ordinator and it is this role that most will best remember her.

She spent many hours slaving over a hot telephone arranging timetables and visits to IFH. Each year she masterminded St Dunstan's contribution to Rottingdean Fair making sure we had enough cakes and handicrafts to sell.

Many staff will also remember the Christmas punch served up by Valerie in the Pensions Office, of which Barbara's home-made wine was the greatly appreciated base.

Barbara also deputised for the Transport Co-ordinator eventually taking on this role full time.

She has passed on her knowledge to the new staff who joined when the Transport Department combined with Homes Bookings to become the Reservations & Movements Office.

Barbara is moving to Poole and we wish her and her husband, Frank, a long and happy retirement and thank her for her loyal and devoted service to St Dunstan's.

Sue Reynolds

## SOUND AND VISION

Nearly £400,000 has been earmarked by the European Community for a project aimed at making television more accessible to blind people.

The aim is to provide an extra speech channel on television transmission, which would provide commentary on scenery, costumes, facial expressions and action, allowing blind people to follow programmes independently.

Facilities of this nature are already widely available in the USA and Japan.

Research for Europe is being conducted by a pan-European consortium, AUDETEL that includes the RNIB.

They aim to develop low-cost receivers, give special consideration to people with hearing difficulties, and identify which programmes are most suited for audio description.

Demonstrations of the AUDETEL system are expected shortly, say the RNIB.

• A scheme for an audio description service pioneered by TVS has been abandoned. The Sussex based television station gave up the project when it lost the broadcasting franchise for South and South East England recently.

Meridian Broadcasting who will take over the service for that area from January '93 told the *Review* that they are committed to providing an audio description service.

'We will be promoting research in this area,' said Simon Albury, Director of Public Affairs at Meridian. 'We will be actively seeking ways of enhancing television for people with sight difficulties.'

A lot of research needs to be done, both in terms of transmission technology and in form of description.

We haven't done much in this area yet, because there are very few of us, but once we are on air, we will be turning our attention to this field.'

## AIR CARE

A booklet full of information for people with any kind of special need using Heathrow Airport is now available, free of charge. It can be obtained from Heathrow Airport Publications Department by calling 081-745 6156.

## METRO SPORTSMEN WANTED

Calling all athletes! Application forms are available for next July's National Metro Sports at White Hart Lane — giving plenty of time to get in training.

Three of the trophies contested during the field and track events — The Bill Harris Cup, The Charles Stafford Cup and The Bob Young Cup — are in memory of men who encouraged sporting activities among St Dunstaners.

General information is available from St Dunstaner Jimmy Wright on 0932 225950.

Anyone wishing to take part in the 1993 competitions should contact Derek Mileman, 29 Gilda Court, Watford Way, London NW7 2QN. Tel: 081-203 1286.

## BROAD SPECTRUM

Health, fitness and diet are tackled in a new braille monthly called *Spectrum*. An annual subscription costs £5.50 for braille or ink-press versions, but a free sample copy is available by calling 031 662 4445.

*Spectrum* is published by Scottish Braille Press who print the braille *Review*.

## RANDOM ACCESS

### Computer hints with Ray Hazan

The outline programme for the next computer weekend, November 14th/15th, includes a demonstration of a hand held text reading device, the EAZILINK communications programme and using it to access the St Dunstan's bulletin board and the Bank of Scotland. Please book in at IFH without delay.

### The XCOPY command

If you regularly copy contents of a directory to a floppy, save time by typing, for example, 'XCOPY C:\Directory name\ \*.\* A: /m'. The first time, all files will be copied but subsequent copies will only transfer those files that have been 'modified' since last time. XCOPY with '/D:date' (eg 01-10-92) switch will only copy those files written on or after October 1st, 1992.

# ONE LONG HEROIC DAY

Royal Marines gathered on the 50th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid to salute fallen comrades.

Joe Humphrey recalls the tragedy and the bravery.

**A**FTER the Dieppe Raid in August 1942, the owner of Manor House, Lake, Isle of Wight, entertained members of the Royal Marines Commando, presenting each one with a card proclaiming:

*"One day perhaps not so far ahead as we think a monument will be raised in Dieppe and this will be the sense of the inscription it will bear:*

*"Here it was on this ground the Combined Forces of the Free Nations of the World first set foot in Europe after the German enslavement. They stayed just one long heroic day but they brought the first glimpse of the light of liberation. From the hour of their departure we lived for the hour of their return.*

*Dieppe Day will live not only in the history of Britain but in the history of Europe, long after those whose hearts have lifted to the thrill of it have passed on. Measure it not as an achievement but as a portent. It was a shadow of the shape of things to come."*

This card is one of my most treasured mementoes of the Second World War. It is a poignant reminder of the 4,500 men lost on the Normandy beaches when the Royal Marines Commando, 3rd and 4th Army Commandos, and 2nd Canadian Division, failed in their attempt to take the Dieppe seaport by frontal assault.

Conceived by Churchill, the assault was to please Stalin who wanted a second front opened, but strong objections came from Field Marshal Montgomery. 'All the essentials were missing — simplicity — good communications — clear-cut organisation for command and control, and experienced Commanders,' he said.

He did not think using inexperienced Canadians was wise in such a tricky operation. 'Bravery alone is no substitute for battle experience,' Monty said. Even so the idea stood.

I remember the overwhelming aspect of the high white cliffs, lined with pill-boxes either side of the port, and the steep shingle beach. Later, when I was fortunately able to get away, that same beach was strewn with endless bodies, the sea red with blood.

Having left Portsmouth aboard an old gunboat, HMS *Locust*, the Royal Marines' objective was to cripple any dockside installations and German invasion barges.

A hail of enemy fire greeted our arrival causing many casualties.

Forced to abandon the approach the captain slewed the ship round, presenting a broadside target for enemy fire which continued incessantly. But the manoeuvre was successful and we rejoined the Flotilla as reserves, leaving the Canadians to the initial landing. The Marines second attack was to prove costly.

General Roberts, aboard HMS *Calpe*, assumed victory though the radios had been destroyed. It was only after the withdrawal of the Royal Marines Commandos, ordered by Colonel Picton Phillips (who sacrificed his life to do so) that he knew what was really happening.

Whether the lesson of this exercise was worth the terrible loss of life is a dilemma.

Half-a-century on, a civic reception was held at Lewes City Hall for survivors of the raid and I had the great pleasure of meeting many old comrades.

My old C.O., Major General 'Titch' Houghton, MC, was talking to me as The Duke of Edinburgh arrived. The General greeted His Royal Highness, introduced me, and we shared a joke about the Captain of HMS *Ramillies*, the battleship on which we served together. It was a memorable occasion.

Later there was a Memorial Service at Newhaven Fort which the Duke attended before he laid a wreath at the Canadian Memorial in Newhaven.

Two days later, we travelled to Orange Beach, where No. 4 Commando wiped out a gun battery. We moved on to the Canadian Cemetery for a vigil prior to the Raid Anniversary.

We returned next day for the Memorial

Service attended by people from across the globe.

Then it was off to Canada Square to assemble for a Grand Parade, headed by Bands of the Royal Marines, the Royal Regiment of Canada, a troop of 40 Royal Marine Commando and Canadian and French squads. Behind them, veterans marched. There were nearly fifty from R.M. Commando. We were cheered by the crowds lining the route — unbelievable!

Later there was a sea-front Service run by members of the Destroyer Flotilla who carried survivors away from Dieppe.

We continued our tour, viewing points overlooking Red and White Beaches, which proved to us what natural advantage the German troops held. It was here that the only other St Dunstaner who survived Dieppe, Bill Heffernan, was wounded and taken prisoner in the massacre which resulted when the Commando were sent in a second time.

I returned to Newhaven, humble in the knowledge that I had survived such a terrible ordeal.

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## A TAUNTON WEEKEND

About 90 ex-Royal Marines of 40 Commando Royal Marines (1942-46) Association descended on the regimental barracks at Taunton, Somerset on July 19th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the unit. (I had the honour of being one of their first NCOs.)

We had two very good nights recalling old friends and old memories. We were greeted with great enthusiasm and the men fell in for a few instructions from a drill sergeant who made us realise that we still had backbones. We marched on to the parade ground to the sounds of the Royal Marines Band and the creaking of old bones, heavy breathing, and the rattle of pill boxes.

Being a families day, there was a very large crowd and they gave us a very warm welcome.

We formed up on parade with 40 Commando where we had a drumhead service and were inspected by Major General R.J.

**Bill Heffernan adds:**

Our association met with the Canadians at Newhaven on August 16th for a memorial service, which was attended by Prince Philip, General Robert Houghton (our commanding officer) and several other dignitaries. The Prince met two V.C.s. and planted a tree in remembrance of the raid at the memorial.

During August 17/18th we embarked for Dieppe. There were several trips to the graveyards and memorials, and it took hours to form up on parade I think half the population of France was there. The Royal Marines band was there and several Canadian regimental bands, who after the parade entertained the population.

On the evening of August 19th, the French authorities recreated the raid with fireworks and laser lights along the beach and cliff face.

Margaret and I must give our thanks to the French people for their very warm welcome, every one we met was very profuse in their thanks and their ovations and autographs were in demand all day.

Ross, CB, OBE, who spoke to every man personally. Then came the distribution of recent awards, the Last Post, Silence, Reveille, and Prayers.

Retreating to the cricket pavilion and surrounding fields for a barbecue, we mixed with the families and inspected the static displays. Later in the afternoon we attended a lecture on the Commando's history, after which we retired to the parade ground where the Royal Marines Band entertained us.

Everybody then took themselves off to either the senior or junior NCOs' messes where we were greeted well. During the course of the evening we were told that a buffet was laid on in the galley. Some buffet, it was like a Christmas meal so fully blown. We returned to our hotel, fully sated. Both Bill Shea and I said that we had thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

**Bill Heffernan**



*It's an uphill struggle walking along the rocky footpaths of Snowdonia.*

## ON TOP OF SNOWDON

**T**HE body roams the mountains and the spirit is set free'. The late Bob Thomas wrote these words for me on the flyleaf of W. A. Poucher's *The Welsh Peaks*. He was quoting a 17th Century Chinese poet. Bob was a sighted Member of St Dunstan's in recognition of his fund-raising work. It was Bob's suggestion that led to the first St Dunstan's expedition to Snowdonia in 1974. Bad weather cut short an ascent of Cader Idris that year, but in 1975, in brilliant sunshine, they succeeded.

It is a tribute to Bob Thomas's inspiration that every year since then there have been St Dunstaners 'roaming' the mountains of Snowdonia. In all that time we had never climbed Snowdon itself. In 1988 the weather prevented a group attempting the ascent by way of Crib Goch. The following year a lone St Dunstaner, Ray Sheriff, managed Crib Goch but time ran out and the group failed to reach the peak of Snowdon, Yr Wyddfa.

This year, over the weekend of July 4th and 5th, our guides and mentors, Barry and Gwynneth Ellis and their colleagues of the Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team decided we should climb to Yr Wyddfa by the Snowdon Ranger path. This is not so tough as The Crib Goch route — but it is by no means the easiest way up.

Four St Dunstaners took part. Three were veterans: Ray Sheriff, Trevor Tatchell and Mike Tetley. The newcomer was Andy Bull from Rassau, Ebbw Vale, who celebrated his 29th birthday on the Sunday. Expecting, as he put it, 'a bit of a walk in the hills', he was shaken to find himself going all the way up Snowdon. 'It was hard but I enjoyed every minute,' he said.

Trevor Tatchell also owned up to feeling rather breathless on the ascent — but we knew that because *Climb Every Mountain*, usually rendered in stentorian tones, was rarely heard that morning!

The hardest part was a steep zigzag up to Clogwyn Du'r Arddu which yields spectacular views to the sighted — better than at the summit which was shrouded in cloud. Nevertheless, it is the summit of the highest peak in England and Wales (Yr Wyddfa is 3,560 feet) and even if it seemed that all the world and his wife were resting at the top so were we at the third attempt!

The last part of the route up and so the first part down is by the famous railway track but we soon turned away to follow the Ranger down to Llyn Cwellyn where our climb began. The Snowdon Ranger is probably the oldest route to the mountain and is named after its first guide.

When the weather is kind there is nothing quite like climbing high in the hills and this year, apart from the cloud shrouding the summit, the Saturday climb was a magnificent success.

On Sunday we made our usual short walk from the Bryn Melyn Hotel up to the Barmouth Slabs for rock climbing and abseiling. We lunched in the sunshine on a picnic brought up to us by hotelier, David Clay, just part of the Bryn Melyn Hotel service!

Gwynneth and Barry Ellis, Colin Jones with Ray Woolacott and his wife, Audrey, were our guests at dinner that evening. A very small thank offering for their friendship, for their hard work and for the sacrifice of their weekend to allow us to roam the mountains and set our spirits free.

by  
**David  
Castleton**



*Our intrepid team rests on the mist enshrouded peak of Snowdon. The Rhinog Mountain Rescue Team, Jonathan Ridge, Lance Freeborn and guide dogs, Zion and Voss, were in attendance.*



*Rhinog rescuers Colin Jones and Gwynneth Ellis aid Trevor Tatchell abseiling on a precarious precipice.*

# Escape from Singapore

John Blanch, President of the Blinded Soldiers of St Dunstan's, Australia, recalls the fall of Singapore

ON Wednesday, February 11th, 1942, I was in a little Yangtse River boat, painted white with red crosses, in Singapore harbour and taken out to where we anchored off the breakwater. It's a scene that I shall never forget and I shall try to describe it...

I'd been in Malaya little more than a year, having gone to Singapore with the advance party of seven officers, of whom I was the youngest, a captain, at the age of 20.

We established an 8th Division headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and proceeded to get to know the local scenery, before getting on with our task — which was to be a mobile defence situated roughly half-way up the Malay Peninsula and to liaise with the other units, English units to the north of us, as far as Alor Star and up to the Thailand border where I was once attached to the East Surrey Battalion.

How to survive in the jungle was quite a problem at first and I clearly recall it being discussed at the senior officers' mess in Singapore.

I was the very junior officer present when General Percival said to our divisional commander, Major-General Gordon Bennett: 'You know Bennett, white man can survive only about three days in the jungle.'

Bennett looked his fiery self, as he was quite able to do, looked down the table, caught my eye and said: 'Blanch! Go out and live for three weeks.'

And that actually was our initiation into the jungle. We learnt very quickly and I carried out my mission with the help of a couple of Malays and a couple of Chinese. We were allowed a bag of rice and we learnt what fruits and berries we could eat, what fish we could catch in the streams. We shot a pig at one stage.

Generally, that was the introduction for Australians moving into tropical

jungle warfare and it was of great benefit to us later on.

My title on the 8th Division headquarters was Deputy Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport — DAD S & T — now that meant being responsible for supplies of ammunition, petrol and food. We even contracted to bring fresh vegetables from Sumatra.

On the ammunition side, we were very short in 1941. When I left Sydney for Singapore on the old Qantas flying boat — a four day trip — I was given a .22 automatic and five rounds of ammunition and I said to my chief, Colonel Kent Hughes, who was a Major then: 'What do you expect me to do?'

## Shoot yourself!

'Oh,' he said. 'Shoot four enemy and then yourself.' So we laughed over that, but the truth was we were very short of ammunition because Britain was in the height of her defence against the expected invasion by Hitler and his mob.

I will not now attempt to describe the action in Malaya, because there are many accounts, what I would like to describe is the scene in Singapore as I left in that little Yangtse River boat named the *Woo Suie*.

The scene from Singapore itself was one of smoke, mainly from the Naval Depot going up from fires there, about 10,000 feet and then the north wind blew the smoke across the island. Reflected on it were the constant flashes of guns and bombs. There were ships in the dark and fairly continual air raids, mainly bombers who seemed to be totally unhindered in their attempts to flatten Singapore.

At the last minute when we went on board we realised we had something like 307 patients on a small river boat with only 10 double cabins.

Our voyage from Singapore was

uneventful compared with the 70 or so ships sunk on their way out. We went round the burning wrecks of three of them, but found no survivors.

On Friday the 13th, which was still two days before the actual surrender in Singapore, I had to conduct a funeral service for one of our men who'd had both legs amputated. With the haemorrhaging he died on our little boat. It's a very sad story.

We were lucky enough to get out and they transferred us to an Indian hospital ship named *The Karapara*, which had an Indian crew and full nursing services.

We went on to Colombo and we were duly admitted to an Australian general hospital that had been established there. I sent a cable home, stating 'alive and kicking, Australian Hospital Colombo,' and the censors cut out the Colombo and the date.

Everyone thought I'd sent the cable from Singapore, so they were pleasantly surprised when they got word that I had arrived in Melbourne on March 28th.

## REFLECTIONS

by the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

Farmers in the family (I remember) bewailed a 'good' harvest because the result was low prices. Those of us who saw convoys of ships bringing food across the Atlantic decimated by submarine attacks in 1942 and 1943 delighted in the bumper harvests in Britain. Our shops, these luxurious days, show a harvest festival every week; we reap the benefit of world-wide abundance.

Our western, civilised, complicated world has great difficulty in spilling its own good harvests over into famine-ridden lands; apart from sheer selfishness we are doubtful that aid will lower prices and ruin local responsibility after limited relief.

But the vision persists. Our prayer — *Thy Kingdom Come* — means both that hope is not defeated by our inept responses and also that our meagre charity is indeed worthwhile; and nothing is lost, no effort or suffering in this world or the next: that harvest song that never has an ending.



## Escape From Ascoli

Author: Ken de Souza

Reader: Jonathan Oliver

Duration: 6.5 hours

Catalogue number: 8695

'Will the next generation understand that this war is a fight against thuggery in all its forms?' asks a British PoW in a 1940s Italian camp.

Well, they might, if they read this moving account of Ken de Souza's experiences after he baled out of a Wellington bomber over North Africa. Personally, however, I found it much more enjoyable as a study of human nature than merely a war story, for as those who have lived through it will know, war not only brings out the worst in the human animal, but it produces the very best in him too. In war's barren desert of hatred, greed and spite, green shoots of generosity and love will nevertheless find their way to the light. *Escape From Ascoli* gives many examples of this phenomenon; individual acts of kindness may only have been a drink of water, the gift of a cigarette, or just an encouraging smile, but *they* have been clearly recalled in the text, whilst long hours of starvation, and the brutal indifference which caused it, are generally indistinct in the author's memory.

With its no-nonsense style, and without the contrived rationing of information which characterises the usual, run of the mill, escape story, *Escape From Ascoli* is, perhaps, rather short on suspense and mystery, but it does show how a man's faith in his creator can help him to endure, and somehow this is ample compensation.

You'll see exactly what I mean if you ask for a recording of this splendid book yourself, but you'll have missed a good 'n if you don't.

## Jaws 2, St Dunstan's 3

Jaws lives! Or rather his baby brother does! The finest catch during St Dunstan's Fishing Week at the end of July had to be a 2 ft 6 in tope — a relative of the fearsome shark.

'It was a beautiful creature,' IFH Sports Officer, Jonathan Ridge said of the tope. 'Lots of teeth arranged in a big grin.'

The tope was hooked with customary modesty by St Dunstaner, Alan Mitchell, of Congleton, Cheshire. 'It was only a baby. No big deal,' he said. The tope was returned to the sea.

Fish were generally on the spartan side as trawlers had all but cleared the Brighton coast in the week before. However, mackerel and dabs regularly punctuated the frivolous banter on board the *Hauzee*.

The week ended with the Fishing Club's annual dinner and the presentation of the Keith Middlemast Trophy for the largest catch by any member this year. The winner was Harrogate physiotherapist Jack Fulling (*above*) for a nine-and-a-quarter pound bull huss he caught while fishing



with the RAF at Chivenor, Devon.

An August trip to Arbroath, Tayside, provided rich pickings for the Fishing Club. 'It was a very good week,' said Bob Forshaw, of Bognor Regis. 'It was reasonably good for codling, and pollock. There was loads of coley which we put back.'

Led by Jock Carnochan, the fishermen stayed at the Royal Marines' Condor Camp. 'We were treated very well indeed, we owe them a great deal of thanks,' Bob Forshaw concluded.

## Fraser's flyfishing finesse

Colin Willock recalls Lord Fraser's tenacity in this item from his *Town Gun* column in *Shooting Times*.

I have known some extraordinarily determined fishermen. Perhaps the most memorable of them all was Lord Fraser, one-time Chairman of St Dunstan's. Fraser was blinded by a German sniper's bullet during the Somme in the First World War.

His passion was flyfishing. The mere fact that he couldn't see the trout rise wasn't going to deny him his favourite sport. Like many blind people, he had developed a sixth sense, compounded partly of finely honed hearing and partly of a gift of echo-location which a bat might have envied.

You had only to point him in the general direction of a feeding fish and he

would estimate the range, shoot the correct amount of line and put the fly down incredibly close to the spreading rings of the last rise.

The rest he did by intuition, sensing through the line the moment of 'take' and striking with a fine, practised reaction. Of course, he did not hook them all, but then, who does? He caught enough fish to satisfy most fully sighted men.

It was determination not to be denied his much-loved sport that made Fraser so successful. The sense of triumph over adversity, no doubt, doubled for him, the weight of every fish he put in the net.

I guess when all is said and done, all that matters is that, if you love your chosen sport passionately enough, you must never give up. Give up the thing you love and you might as well be dead.

## MY DAY AT THE RACES

by Sue Reynolds

Way back in January, Bob Fullard asked me if I would like to escort him on a day at the races during Sussex Fortnight. I accepted and suggested the Friday as it would be my day off. I must have had second sight too as it turned out the boss was on leave during Sussex Fortnight and I couldn't have gone on a working day.

I was left with one major problem. The St Dunstan's bush telegraph had told me that Bob was very particular about his betting.

Now, my previous experience had got me no further than an each way bet on The Tote and a scandalous sortie to the bookies in Market Drayton on Grand National day circa 1976. I felt this might not be good enough for our Bob.

I got scant sympathy from the CA's who frequent the Stables at IFH and even less from our resident racing expert Bob Spencer, so I called Bob Fullard to my office. Once the door was closed I revealed my awful secret to him: 'Bob, I know nothing about betting!'

Well, I should have known that flak from St Dunstaners comes when you don't expect it and when you do, someone says something frightfully nice. On this occasion ogre Bob told me not to worry, all I needed to do was bring a pen!

So, my fears allayed, the great day dawned. The bus got as far as Falmer Road, Rottingdean, when two of our number, I'd better not name them, realised they'd left without their tickets.

So it was about turn to IFH. The re-start was perfect and we got to Goodwood without further incident.

The real business of the day was about to begin, but there was one other item on the agenda. The racegoers were having a dinner at IFH and had invited commentator Peter Bromley to be guest speaker. Sadly he couldn't make it, but nominated Ian Robertson as his substitute. We had been told to say hello at Goodwood.



Sue presents our shield to BBC commentator and rugby great Ian Robertson.

Bob and I were shown the way to the BBC Radio base. Ian Robertson was out at lunch, but we met Peter Bromley and spent a very pleasant 20 minutes chatting. By then the first race was imminent and we were back to my betting bugbear.

At The Tote, Bob put one of his fancy bets on and we put some more on at the cash window, which left time for us to get a spot by the winning post for the first race. That set the pattern for the afternoon. Tote, rails, tote and return with the odd break for sandwiches.

Somebody passed us a sound system which gave Bob a running commentary and we struck up a conversation with two elderly dames in fantastic hats. We didn't make our fortunes — but we got back to the coach with our shirts intact.

We discussed our luck with the others and then got down to the serious business of the in-coach entertainment, the singing. Mark, our driver, requested something that was popular in his lifetime. Ferdie Bennett and Joe Kibbler thought hard and came up with a few bars of a Beatles number before reverting to the old favourites.

My singing is dreadful but I managed to teach Ferdie and Joe some new words to the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, in which John Brown exchanged 'mouldering in his grave' for 'jumping without a parachute for 40,000 feet'. They picked it up very well and those of you who would like to know the rest of the words had better book up for the next Sussex Fortnight.

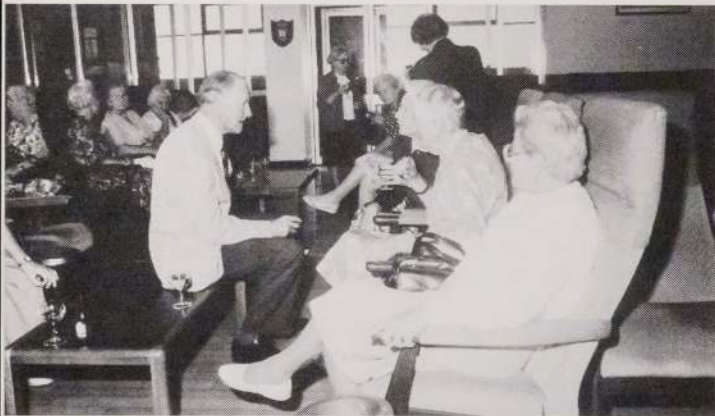
I certainly enjoyed my day this year and the inaugural dinner was one of the best I've attended.





# Wells, wine and the secrets of shiatsu

A splendid time was guaranteed when St Dunstan's widows gathered at Ian Fraser House for fun filled frolics and a week by the sea. An adventurous agenda took them to Arundel Castle and saw one group challenged to a game of croquet by the Rev. C. le M. Scott.



Another expedition took the ladies to The Pantiles at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, where an exhibition charted the history of the famous spa (top). It looked like something unpleasant was waiting for Cath Harding and lady St Dunstaner Winnie Edwards, but was that the foot-pad figurine or our photographer?

Mid-morning drinks (middle) advanced the amicable atmosphere and allowed our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, to chat with the ladies in the lounge.



One undoubted highlight was when St Dunstaner Martin McCrorie talked of his work as a remedial therapist. Almost 30 ladies came to the Winter Garden to hear him speak on shiatsu — a Japanese form of massage derived from acupuncture — and reflexology amongst other alternative treatments.

Gladys Carpenter, Marjorie Hordyniec and May Morrish (left) eagerly questioned him afterwards.

## 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.*

**Mrs. Eileen Gomez**, of Plymouth, joined St Dunstan's on July 16th.

Mrs. Gomez served as an Administrative Assistant in the ATS where she was also a Physical Training Instructor. She was discharged in 1944 after contracting diabetes.

She worked as a book-keeper and typist until 1980. A keen dressmaker, Mrs. Gomez is also an accomplished organist and plays regularly for a local church.

Mrs. Gomez has been married to her husband, John, for almost 50 years and they have one son.

**Mr. Alan Bold**, of St. Albans, joined on July 28th. In 1938, he was a sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was involved in an aeroplane crash.

Mr. Bold was discharged in 1939 and returned to civilian life in the engineering distribution trade until his retirement. He and his wife, Peggy, have been married for almost 40 years and have one daughter.

**Mr. Anthony Attenborough**, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, joined St Dunstan's on August 15th.

An Oxford Blue (Hockey), he joined the North Somerset Yeomanry in 1939. After basic training, he was commissioned into the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. He lost an eye when his tank was struck by a shell during the Battle of El Agheila.

After his recovery he was seconded to Civil Affairs as a Military Liaison Officer. Promoted to Major, Mr. Attenborough remained in Germany investigating war crimes. He resumed his career as a solicitor with the family law firm on his return to England in 1946.

He is a widower with three children.

**James Sowden**, of Wakefield, W. Yorks, joined us on August 26th. While serving in the RAF he was injured in an explosion while stripping a machine gun in an aircraft. He is married and has three sons.

**Victor Foster**, of Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancs, joined St Dunstan's on the same day. A captain in 142 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, Mr. Foster served in Italy and received severe head wounds after the landings in Salerno. He is married and has a son and daughter.

## LETTERS

**From: Helen Stewart, Southern Area Welfare Visitor**

I wish to thank everyone — St Dunstaners, Wives, Widows and colleagues for all their good wishes and prayers when I was in hospital. It was wonderful to know I had so much support.

**From: Dorothy Martin, Emsworth, Hants.**

Dorothy and Martin wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Welfare Department and other friends for their love and kind wishes on the occasion of her 90th Birthday on June 24th.

It was a lovely sunny day and a few friends celebrated with her. It was a very happy day.

## CLUB NEWS

**NATIONAL BRIDGE**

I would like to thank St Dunstaners and their wives on behalf of the Bridge Club for the marvellous response given to our appeal for donations with regards to the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Connell, who have been our tournament directors over the past 25 years. The presentation will be made at this year's Congress.

The Congress will be taking place early in December and I hope for your participation. Would you please book in with the Reservations Co-ordinator at IFH. This will give me an idea of the numbers who will be taking part. I would appreciate it if this could be done as soon as possible.

**Reg Goding, Secretary**

## BRIGHTON BRIDGE CLUB

Bridge pairs competition played at Ian Fraser House on July 5th.

Results:

1st	Bill Phillips and Wally Lethbridge	59.5
2nd	Reg Goding and Don White	55.5

Bridge individual competition played at Ian Fraser House on July 18th.

Results:

1st	Wally Lethbridge	65.9
Equal	Bill Phillips	56.8
2nd	Ron Freer	

## CORRECTION

We mixed up some counties when we welcomed Mr. George Powell to St Dunstan's in the last *Review*. The Mutton Lancers, in which he served after volunteering in 1941, were, of course, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), not West Kent.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations to:

Alan and Yvonne Harrison on the birth of their son, Andrew, on March 15th. Alan is the son of Mrs. Irene Harrison and the late *Thomas Harrison*, of Sheffield.

Ian and Christine Williamson on the birth of a son, Ben, on April 21st. Ian is the son of *Charles and Jean Williamson*, of Darlington, Co. Durham.

Debbie and Peter Sykes, on the birth of a son, Joseph, on May 5th. *Walter and Alys Briggs*, of Netherton, Huddersfield, are the proud great grandparents.

*James and Joan Williams*, of Barnsley, Yorkshire. In February, a great grand-daughter, Alex, was born to grandson Andrew England and Lisa. A grandson, Paul, was born to their son, Stephen, and his wife, Beatrice, on May 29th.

James and Julia Young on the birth of a daughter, Jade, on July 27th. She is the great grand-daughter of *Joseph and Irene Edwards*, of Coventry.

Alan and Lisa Tyska on the birth of Natasha in July. She is the great grand-daughter of Mrs. Rosa Glover, of Kidderminster, widow of *William Glover*.

*Michael and Maria Tybinski*, of Ipswich, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Helene Ripley, on June 12th.

*Gordon Holland*, of Kingsteignton, Devon, who is a great grandfather twice over. Victoria was born to Joanne and Andrew on June 23rd, while Laurie was born to Darren and Stella on July 1st.

## WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Ann Franklin, who married Michael Phillips on May 23rd. She is the daughter of Mrs. Ruby Franklin, widow of *Alfred Franklin*, of Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

Luigi Grasso on his marriage to Caroline Baker on June 13th. He is the grandson of Mrs. Joan Spring, of Chessington, Surrey, widow of *Patrick Spring*.

Richard and Esther Turner on their marriage on July 4th. Esther is the daughter of *David and Brenda Thomas*, of Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Michelle Lloyd, who married Steven Phillips on September 7th. She is the daughter of *Cobwyn and Mary Lloyd*, of Felinfoel, Llanelli.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Percy and Myra Icton*, of Ryton, Tyne & Wear, on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 16th.

*Stewart and Mary Harris*, of Andover Down, Hampshire, on their golden day on July 26th.

*Reg and Audrey Page*, of Bournemouth, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 28th.

*Leonard and Joan Walker*, of Melksham, Wiltshire, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 12th.

*Ted and Dorothy Cooper*, of Rhuddlan, Clwyd, on their golden day on August 29th.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

*Ray Sheriff*, of Rottingdean, on swimming 1,500 miles. The Amateur Swimming Association have presented him with a paperweight medal and badge commemorating the distance he has swum in eight years.

Mrs. Susan Nicholls, daughter of Mrs. Eleanor Jennings, of Petworth, Sussex, on receiving a

degree in science and becoming a qualified physiotherapist. Mrs. Jennings is the widow of *David Jennings*.

Daniel Planner, son of *Don and Sharon Planner*, of Poole, Dorset, on gaining an honours degree in geography at Plymouth Polytechnic.

Anne Hamilton, daughter of Mrs. Jo Hamilton, widow of *Frank Hamilton*, of Menai Bridge, Gwynedd, on gaining a B.Eng. degree with first class honours. She also won the Institute of Materials Prize and is starting a management training post with British Steel.

Mrs. Caryn Watson, daughter of *David and Alma Young*, of Birmingham, on becoming a Bachelor of Law with Honours.

Sarah King, grand-daughter of Mrs. Bertha King, widow of *Harold King*, of Crowborough, Sussex, on receiving The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Steven Mitchell, son of *Alan and Patricia Mitchell*, of Congleton, Cheshire, on passing the Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music's Theory of Music examination.

Kathryn, grand-daughter of Mrs. Lucy Wood, widow of *Gerald Wood*, of Kettering, Hampshire, on obtaining a B.Ed. Honours degree and on her new teaching post — next door to IFH at Roedean School.

## DEATHS

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

Alfred B. Caton on April 11th. Aged 65. He was the son of Mrs. Ena Caton, of Harlow, Essex, widow of *Alfred H. Caton*.

Mrs. Dorothy Danby, of Torquay, on May 25th. She was the widow of *Harry Danby*.

Mrs. Elsie Ward on July 8th, aged 83. She was the widow of *William Ward*, of Battle, Sussex.

Mrs. Margaret Burnham, of Oxford, on July 11th, aged 67. She was the widow of *Alfred Burnham*.

Mrs. Louisa King, of Peacehaven, Sussex, on July 22nd, aged 68. She was the widow of *Frederick King*.

Robert Sanderson on August 9th. He was the brother of Mrs. Hilda Wilkinson, of Hull, widow of *Chris Wilkinson*.

Mrs. Evelyn Cattell, of Woodside Park, London, on August 18th. She was the widow of *Ronald Cattell*.

Mrs. Angela Boardman, of Wimbledon, London, on August 26th. She was the widow of *Anthony Boardman*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

## 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.

#### Edward Tate, Royal Air Force

Edward Tate, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, died on July 2nd, aged 83.

Joining the RAF in 1935, he trained as an engine fitter, rising to the rank of sergeant. In 1942, he was captured by the Japanese at Java and remained in captivity until the end of the war. The privations he suffered damaged his eyesight.

After leaving the RAF in 1946, he married and worked as a lathe turner for a Barnsley engineering firm. His wife, Jane, died in 1990.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Margaret, his son, Alex, and all members of the family.

#### Alfred Hurley, Royal Army Service Corps

Alfred Samuel Hurley, of Norwich, died on July 10th, aged 75.

He enlisted as a driver mechanic in 244 GT Coy, RASC and was wounded at El Alamein two years later. Discharged in 1943, he was at Tembani and then Church Stretton.

For many years Mr. Hurley had a small poultry farm and was a keen pigeon fancier and gardener. His wife died in 1969.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Rosina, and all members of his family.

#### Arthur Heritage, Royal Armoured Corps

Arthur William Heritage, of Worthing, Sussex, died on July 19th, aged 80.

A canteen supervisor, he enlisted with the Royal Armoured Corps in 1940, serving as a sergeant until he was injured in action in Belgium. After training with St Dunstan's, he became a storeman for Farnborough Engineering Company until retiring in 1976.

Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

**Dennis Giffard, Pioneer Corps**

Dennis Frederick Giffard, of East Preston, Sussex, known as Bob, died on July 23rd, aged 83. A former cabinet maker, he enlisted in September 1941 and served as a private with the Pioneer Corps until his discharge in 1942.

He returned to a pre-war occupation, managing a tobacconists, but had to close the shop in 1949. Mr. Giffard used to make rugs and other items for St Dunstan's Stores.

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

**Henry Robinson, DCM, Green Howards**

Henry Robinson, of Darlington, Co. Durham, died on July 24th, aged 82. He joined the Army in 1930 and served in the Green Howards attaining the rank of Lance-Sergeant. The Second World War took him to Europe and North Africa.

In February, 1943, he was wounded on a patrol action in Italy, losing an eye and suffering shoulder and leg wounds. Despite this, Mr. Robinson remained at his post enabling his company to carry out a successful attack next day. It was for his courage and tenacity during this action that he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

He was discharged in 1944 and joined British Rail, working as a machinist in their famous Darlington workshops.

Mr. Robinson maintained contact with his old regiment and BLESMA.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Norah, their two daughters and all the family.

**William Anderson, Royal Navy**

William Henry Anderson, of Chalsey, Eastbourne, died on August 5th, aged 85. Enlisting in 1940, he served as an able seaman until September 1946. During his service, he was taken Prisoner of War in the Far East in 1942 and the deprivation he suffered induced optic atrophy.

On his return to civilian life, Mr. Anderson worked as an attendant at a sewage works.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Margaret, and all other members of the family.

**Enie Stent, 2/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment**

Enie Leslie Stent, of Lancing, Sussex, died on August 14th, aged 81. He enlisted in 1942 and served with the Hampshire Regiment as a private until his discharge in 1944 after being wounded in action in North Africa. Mr. Stent lost his sight and his left forearm had to be amputated.

Before the war, he had been a house-painter

and after training at St Dunstan's became a skilled basket and tray maker.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Dorothy 'Elsie', twin daughters, Rhona and Lesley, and all other members of the family.

**William Riley,**

*King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

William Edgar Riley, of Hassocks, Sussex, died on August 21st, aged 98.

A former rent collector, Mr. Riley joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1915. He served on the Western Front, for about two years, until he received gunshot wounds to his eyes, wrist and foot.

He transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps where he attained the rank of corporal and was finally discharged in 1919. He joined the Civil Service, remaining there until his retirement.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter and all other members of the family.

**George Allen, 4th East Yorkshire Regiment**

George Matthew Allen, of Saltdean, died on August 26th, aged 74. He enlisted in April 1939 and served with the 4th East Yorkshire Regiment as a private. He was wounded at Dunkirk and taken prisoner by the Germans.

Discharged in 1944, he ran his own wholesale fish business until 1975 when he retired early. Gardening was his favourite leisure activity.

Our sympathy goes to his sons, John and Brian, and all members of the family.

**William Cowing, Home Guard 8th Battalion.**

William Henry Cowing, of Basingstoke, died on August 27th, aged 68. He joined the Home Guard 8th Battalion, Woolwich Division in 1940 and was blinded by a parachute mine.

He had been a grocer's assistant before the war and after training worked in industry until his retirement in 1979.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Dorothy, sons, Paul and David, and all members of the family.

**William Higgs, Royal Artillery**

William John Higgs, of Christchurch, Dorset, died on August 30th, aged 75. Joining the Territorial Army in 1938, he served as a lance-bombardier in the Royal Artillery from 1939 until his discharge in 1946. Responsible for the examination of crashed enemy aircraft, he was injured when an aircraft exploded.

Mr. Higgs ran his own DIY business until 1969 when he retired.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Hope, daughter Linda, and all members of the family.