

St Dunstans Review



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1992

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BI-MONTHLY

Free to St Dunstaners

DECEMBER 1992

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Cover Picture: Fearless and free-falling, Ray Sheriff leaps out of a plane with Martin Ramsey. Ray's birthday jump was a bonus for a cancer charity. Full details on page eight.



From the Chairman

I send all of you in St Dunstan's family my affection and best wishes for a very happy Christmas and all good things in the coming year.

Henry Leach

MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL

Members of staff at HQ, Ian Fraser House, Pearson House and Visiting Staff would like to wish all St Dunstaners, widows, and other friends, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The next issue of the *Review* will be out towards the end of January for February. In the meantime, letters, suggestions and family news are more than welcome.



NOTICE BOARD



COUNCIL TAX ADVICE

We would draw your attention to the section starting on the bottom of page ten in the government leaflet *Council Tax, a guide to the new tax for local government* which many of you will have had delivered.

It reads as follows: 'If a person with a disability needs additional space for a wheelchair to be used indoors, or an extra room to meet special needs, the council tax bill may be reduced to that of a property in the band immediately below the band shown on the valuation list. If your home is in band A, it will already be in the lowest council tax band — so no reduction will apply.

'If you think a reduction should apply to your home, you should get an application form from your council.'

St Dunstan's have always regarded the availability of a 'quiet room', where a St Dunstaner can pursue activities such as listening to Talking Books, Tapes, Radio, Ham Radio, as essential.

If you have such a room and would like to make an application, please feel free to discuss the matter with your local Estate Surveyor or the Estates Department at HQ.

POOL BREAK

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

It will close early, at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24th, and re-open on December 29th. Normal hours continue until December 31st, when it will close early at 3 p.m., and it will be closed all day on New Year's Day, January 1st.

VISIT RAF LYNEHAM

The Royal Air Force have very kindly invited 25 St Dunstaners to visit RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, the main air base for C130 Hercules aircraft in the UK.

Any St Dunstaner who would like to attend this one-day visit on February 10th, 1993 should contact Clare Woods on 0273 307811 ext. 3221 at IFH before January 11th.



ADJUTANT-GENERAL VISITS IFH

Rifleman Stephen Pendleton recently received his St Dunstan's badge from General Sir David Ramsbotham, KCB, CBE, ADC Gen, MA, who was visiting Ian Fraser House.

The Adjutant-General is Colonel-Commandant of Stephen's regiment, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, and has taken a keen interest in his rehabilitation course at St Dunstan's.

Stephen became a St Dunstaner after he lost a leg and suffered eye injuries in a helicopter crash in Northern Ireland. His father and grandfather also served in the Royal Green Jackets.

While the Adjutant-General was at Ian Fraser House, Stephen demonstrated a computer given to him by the Rifleman's Association.

RADIO MEETINGS

The Amateur Radio Society will be meeting at Ian Fraser House on the following dates next year: March 5th to 12th (which will include their AGM on March 6th), July 16th to 23rd, and October 8th to 15th.

DAEDALUS 1993

Next year's camp at HMS *Daedalus* will take place from August 6th to August 14th.

Any St Dunstaner wishing to take advantage of the Navy's hospitality should contact Elspeth Grant by writing to High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG, or by telephoning 0799 522874.

'Old and new campers are welcome and will enjoy a week of social and sporting activities amongst many old friends in happy surroundings,' said Elspeth.

How this year's happy campers woofed it up with the Dogs of *Daedalus* is revealed on page 14.

WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS IN MIND

Here are some seasonal ideas for those hard pressed friends and relatives of St Dunstaners.

All of them are available from RNIB Customer Services who can be telephoned until 7 pm every Monday and Wednesday up to December 14th. They can be called on 0345 023153 for the price of a local call.

The last date for orders to guarantee delivery before Christmas is December 16th.

● **Talking Video.** The first video of this kind in the UK was launched at the end of September — *Hear my Song*, the story of Irish singer and tax dodger Joseph Locke.

Audio description has been added where dialogue and sound track allow, keeping a blind person fully in touch with what is going on. The distinction between the 'sighted' and 'descriptive' version is quite remarkable. The additional audio track is not obtrusive, and is brief and clearly spoken by Andrew Sachs.

It is hoped more films will be made available in the future, if this one is well supported.

The video should be found in most retailers, though RNIB Customer Services have it at the concession price of £10 (catalogue no. PR 10373) or £26 for three copies (catalogue no. PR 10372).

● **Cluedo.** This famous game is now available in a tactile form. The board is overlaid with a plastic surface with written information in braille.

All the squares on the board have a raised border and the cards and dice are also in braille. Price £14.95.

● A range of diaries and calendars, such as pocket organisers, desk diaries and an assortment of braille and moon calendars.

● Various braille publications including: *Christmas Cracker 1992*, a seasonal selection of short stories; *Conundrum IV*, a collection of brain teasers and puzzles; *Delia Smith's Complete Christmas*, a seasonal recipe book; and a satirical look at *The Night Before Christmas*.

Four Mills and Boon romances have been released in braille and *Jean Greenhow's Christmas Special* takes a yule-tide look at knitting.

Up to 4 pm on Christmas Eve last minute purchases can be made at RNIB's Resource Centre, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

ROYAL RADIO THANK YOU

King Hussein of Jordan has thanked St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society for their good wishes as he recently recovered from an operation.

His thanks were conveyed to St Dunstaner Bill Shea by Prince Raad, President of the Royal Jordanian Radio Amateurs Society and the Royal Jordanian Blind Society. A keen radio enthusiast, King Hussein is better known to our radio society by the callsign JY1.

PEARSON HOUSE LIFE

It is said that Les Copeland, a resident of long standing, loves his home comforts. So much so, that he has started to upholster the furniture in his room.

Although Les is blind, he has made a remarkable job of it. In the past Les has repaired his own shoes, made scarves, waistcoats and bow ties, all very colourful I might add.

Last Christmas for the concert he made his own outfit with a bit of help from Care Assistant Anne Sullivan. It was a very effective Father Christmas suit.

It seems that the only problem Les has is threading the needles and even some sighted mortals have trouble with that. (He gets a member of staff to do that for him).

● This item was by Molly Jones and Derek Frape who plan to reveal more of Pearson House life next issue.

PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Mary Arnold has been named Community Personality of the Year in Keighley, West Yorkshire for her work with blind people.

Mary, widow of St Dunstaner Bill Arnold, has worked with Keighley and District Association for the Blind for around 25 years and runs a local social centre for blind people.

She was presented with a shield by the previous winner.

LOVE IN WAR

Those secret or not-so-secret love letters that warmed the heart during wartime could be historically significant.

The Imperial War Museum, London, is preparing an exhibition called *Forces Sweethearts*. They are seeking love letters, wedding dresses and other mementoes of romance during war from 1914 to the present day.

The Exhibition will also compare the images of women that men took to war with them — from demure ladies of the First World War to the raunchy girls of today.

Anyone who thinks they have a suitable item can contact Exhibition Officer Penny Ritchie Calder on 071 416 5000. *Forces Sweethearts* opens at the IWM on February 14th.

ORGAN OFFER

St Dunstaner Joe Prendergast, of Leyland, Lancashire is offering a Conn organ to anyone who will collect it.

Measuring 44" x 36" x 22", it has a double keyboard, many instruments and foot pedals. The organ makes an attractive piece of furniture in its own right.

Anyone interested can ring Joe on 0772 432144.

BRAILLERS WANTED

Braille writing machines are required by The Guild of Church Braillists for their volunteers to transcribe Christian books into braille for the National Library for the Blind and any individual on request.

If any St Dunstaner would be willing to sell or donate a Stainsby or Perkins machine to this cause, please write to Bob Bridger, 45 Pocklington Court, 74 Alton Road, Roehampton, London SW15 4NN.



RHINE RIDERS RAISE FUNDS

St Dunstan's and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association benefitted to the tune of £1450 when a group of army cyclists went riding the roads along the River Rhine recently.

Cpl. Rob McGlone, WRAF Cpl. Nicky Hodgkin, S/Sgt. Richard King, L/Cpl. Paula Stockton, S/Sgt. Jim Thornhill, David and Roger Mould (pictured above) were sponsored to pedal the 1330 km from Andermatt, Switzerland to Katwijk, Holland. The team from 6 Intelligence Company completed the ride in eight days.

BRAILLE LEGION

The Royal British Legion are trying to establish a demand for braille copies of their new Royal Charter.

St Dunstaners who are Legion members should ask their branch secretaries to contact Legion HQ in Pall Mall, London if they are interested.

STORY REMINDER

The Story Writing Contest 1993 was opened in the October *Review*. Budding D. H. Lawrences or Graham Greenes are invited to send us a short story (1,000 words maximum) on a subject of their choice.

First Prize is £50 and second prize is £25. Full rules appeared last issue, but the closing date is March 31st, 1993.

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

ROADMEN KEEP MICHAEL IN BUSINESS

Road workers who have been tearing up the walkway at North Lynn Industrial Estate have been helping a St Dunstaner get to work safely.

Michael Ryan, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, walked each day to the industrial estate, where he runs his DTP business, but the road works proved to be an awkward obstacle.

Asked to check that Michael got through safely, the highway workers offered him a lift which was gratefully accepted.

PLAY SAFE WITH GUIDE DOGS

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has repeated warnings of the dangers of allowing dogs to play with small toys.

They stressed the need for care when choosing suitable toys after a dog's tongue was drawn through a hole in a hollow rubber ball by the vacuum when the dog compressed the ball in its mouth.

Toys should be too large to swallow, strong and solid, robust enough not to be destroyed by chewing and safe to be left when the dog is unattended; they recommended in their magazine *Forward*.

A SAVING SENTENCE

Some St Dunstaners, having received correspondence on our new letterheadings, think we are being extravagant at a time of economy. This is not so. The reason is in the revised wording that forms part of the heading: 'Working for men and women blinded in the Services'.

Under the rules that govern Value Added Tax, a description of the work of a charity on any of its printed matter qualifies for exemption from VAT. Those words satisfy the authorities and so we are now saving 17.5 per cent on all our printed stationery.

SILENT KEY

We are sorry to report that Alf Lee, G4DQS, collapsed and died on November 8th while preaching at the Remembrance Service at his local church in Saltdean. He was QSL manager of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society and an enthusiastic supporter of all its activities. He will be sadly missed by the members.

JOHN'S SONG

Singing is a way of life in Wales, particularly for one St Dunstaner who belongs to a 120 voice choir.

John Hughes, of Anglesey, Gwynedd, was recently featured on *Dechrau Camu Dechrau Canmol*, (which means Songs of Praise) a programme broadcast on S4C.

SAILS RAISED

Sailing courses for blind people are being organised for July 1993 by the RYA Seamanship Foundation.

There are 12 places on Beginners, Intermediate and Advance courses which cost £95 plus a £15 booking fee. Applicants should be physically fit and agile.

Further details can be obtained from Guide Dogs Adventure Group, Hillfields, Burghfield, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3YG. Tel: (0734) 835555.

FISHING DATES

Three fishing dates have been planned for Newhaven next year, May 10th to 14th, June 28th to July 2nd, September 6th to 10th. All St Dunstaners are welcome.

I am also proposing trout fishing dates. We shall have one on April 28th, then June 15th to 17th, August 11th and September 15th. If response to the June event is sufficient, I will extend the others.

If you wish to partake, please contact Jonathan Ridge at IFH.

Fred Bentley

JUST A SLIP OF THE FINGER

Typewriter keyboards can be treacherous as we all know. Audrey Page's played quite a trick on her in a letter to Bill Weisblatt recently. Writing about her husband, Reg, and his great interest in tape recordings, she meant to type: 'Throughout his life Reg has always been determined not to remain idle and, fortunately, never has been. Therefore the taping is filling a need for him, and at the same time bringing pleasure into so many lives.'

The letter R is next to T on the keyboard and a slip of the finger produced the word 'raping' for 'taping'. Audrey corrected her error but her sense of humour prompted her to confess in a postscript. Reg thought it was amusing enough for the *Review* and so do we — just read those sentences again!



DISPENSARY RETIREMENT

Staff at Ian Fraser House gathered to bid farewell to Mary Hobbs who has worked in the Dispensary these past 14 years. She is pictured here being presented with a bouquet by Frances Harvey.

HALL'S TAPES

Around 1,500 entertainment and information tapes have been compiled by Ron Hall over the past 30 years. These now form a free tape library at the Royal London Society for the Blind.

There is a wide range of subjects and further details can be obtained from Mrs. M. Bennett, Free Tape Recorded Library for the Blind, 105 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RH. Tel: 071-624 8844.

OPERATION CATARACT

- One person in ten has some form of disability.
- Two-thirds of this could have been prevented.
- Millions could be cured now — given access to today's medical skills.

These pungent sentences appear in the Annual Report of Impact UK, Britain's link with a world-wide movement of that name working against causes of disability.

The Chairman of Impact UK is a blind man, Sir John Wilson, CBE, an old friend of St Dunstan's who knows Ian Fraser House well. It was in response to his request that, during the week of October 12th to 16th, St Dunstan's was involved with Impact in Operation Cataract. In that programme 84 elderly people suffering from cataract received sight restoring operations in Brighton.

Unoccupied bedrooms at Ian Fraser House were made available to patients from Brighton and Mid-Sussex needing overnight accommodation. St Dunstan's

ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

The Holiday Care Service has published a guide to over 140 self-catering establishments in England and Scotland.

It lists places accessible for wheelchairs and people with limited walking ability. Accessible Self-Catering Accommodation can be obtained by sending an SAE to Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW.

DURBAN MEMORIES

A double of Durban's 'Lady in White' greeted a group of Second World War veterans who made a return visit to the South African port earlier this year.

Their journey is documented in a book, *Back to Durban — 50 Years On!*, from Aedificamus Press. Further details can be obtained by calling 0707 872720.

CORRECTION

We inadvertently rearranged history for Mr. Anthony Attenborough when we welcomed him to St Dunstan's in the last issue. He didn't prosecute war criminals or gain an Oxford Blue, but his exploits were no less distinguished and distinctive. A full account appears on page 12.

vehicles provided transport for them to and from the Sussex Eye Hospital.

Members of local Lions and Rotary Clubs brought the patients to IFH and took them home and the whole project was co-ordinated by Impact in partnership with Mid Downs and Brighton District Health Authorities.

The success of Operation Cataract in reducing the waiting list for cataract operations was a fine example of co-operation between hospital surgeons, nurses, local authorities and voluntary organisations. The patients left IFH full of praise for the skill with which they were treated, the comfort of their stay and the warmth of welcome they received from St Dunstaners and Staff.



FALLING FOR CHARITY

by Ray Sheriff

WHAT does one do on one's 72nd birthday? Probably a majority reply would be 'not too much'. The date was September 26th. The weather on this day was a very important factor. Proving 'yea or nay' to a free fall tandem parachute jump. The venue for the intended drop was an old wartime RAF Fighter Station at Colerne, near Bath, Avon. I had telephoned the airfield control tower the previous evening for a weather forecast, only to learn that the chances of parachuting would prove very remote due to cloud coverage and no wind.

My partner was to be Corporal Martin Ramsey, who took me on my first tandem jump at Netheravon, Wiltshire. I think the Marine S.M. detailed him to volunteer to transport this totally blind old codger up to twelve thousand feet and then manipulate my thirteen stone safely back to earth.

Martin showed no outward concern with this responsibility. Poor chap had never even experienced helping a blind person across the road. Thanks to him all went well.

The sponsorship for the 1990 effort benefitted Airborne Forces Initiative Fund to the sum of £6,000. So, with charity in mind once more, Martin and I chose CLIC (Cancer Leukaemia In Children). We agreed to meet-up on the airfield around mid-day. Martin, was not too optimistic as there was about nine-tenths cloud cover and no wind. After waiting around for an hour or so, quite suddenly, a breeze sprang up, the clouds dispersed and blue skies appeared.

In a short time the small piston engined plane, a Britain-Norman Islander, the same plane that I had jumped from two years previously, circled the area and landed on the airstrip. Naturally, we were all relieved that the jump was on. Martin soon supervised my kitting-up.

I felt quite honoured to slip into a jump-suit supplied by the Red Devil Free Fall Team. This was arranged by Lt. Col. Tim Burls, M.C., the current C.O., 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, of which I am proud to be a founder member.

There were six other free fallers on our flight, one other tandem, two solo and two cameramen. At 10,000 feet our cameramen left the aircraft to hold on outside.

Martin and I, were by this time strapped securely together, not wishing to part company in mid-air. The commands I received from Martin were simple and precise - 'Legs 30 degrees Port'. Martin then slid me forward, passing my feet through the small exit.

My legs curled backwards towards the belly of the plane. Martin shouted 'head back' which also signalled the cameraman to commence filming. His camera was installed within his helmet, and controlled by his teeth.

Thanks to the expertise of my Tandem Master, Martin Ramsey, we landed spot on target. I found the whole event very enjoyable, exciting and exhilarating.

The flight up took 25 minutes, the coming down, much, much quicker - five minutes. The free fall of 5,000 feet took 30 seconds and

the remaining 5,000, four-and-a-half-minutes.

Quite a few of our friends turned-up to support the effort. There would have been many more had I not warned them off due to adverse weather forecast.

I now look forward to my third tandem next Spring. I have also been invited to jump with other members of Arnhem Veterans on the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944. Fortunately, Martin Ramsey is only too willing to take on the responsibility in both cases.

The obvious pleasure of parachuting are only incidental to the main object - which is charity. Betty and I thought that raising £1,000 was a realistic target.

We are very satisfied that, at the time of writing, £1,500 has been passed. St Dunstan's as a whole has played a major part in reaching this amount.

May I take this opportunity for thanking all St Dunstaners and Staff at IFH, Pearson House and HQ for their generous support. Especially those who gave so willingly their time and energy for gaining and collecting pledges.

CHEERS TO PEARSON HOUSE

Glasses were raised to cheer a very generous gift that has served St Dunstaners for over 70 years. It was on October 16th in 1918 that the Federation of Grocers of the United Kingdom donated the building we now know as Pearson House.

Now, 74 years and two days later, 78 St Dunstaners and guests toasted the gift with a special luncheon and good old fashioned knees-up in the Winter Garden.

Matron Chris King used the occasion to praise her staff.

'I happen to think that, on the whole, we have a collection of staff that come into the "very, very good" category.'

She referred to the compliments that visitors paid to Pearson House. 'Many are made by people that have had occasion to visit other nursing and residential care homes that are not lucky enough to belong to the family of St Dunstan's and therefore, perhaps, it is unfair to make comparisons.'

'But I have to say that very little could be achieved at Pearson House without the commitment of the staff.'

Fortified by acknowledging cries of 'hear, hear' from St Dunstaners present, Matron King concluded by saying 'thank you' to the staff of Pearson House.

Eight St Dunstaners present were attending the Anniversary celebrations for the first time. Dancing hit an energetic and frantic pace as Tony Back played a seemingly endless stream of old favourites on the organ. Margaret Bingham, Alex Scott, and Jack Newton rolled the light fantastic and set new ground in wheel-chair dancing.

There was another anniversary being observed at the same time - Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gaitens, guests of Jim O'Donnell, were celebrating 34 years of marriage.

Jim crooned the Anniversary Waltz as they joined St Dunstaners on the dance floor.

Tommy Raeburn leads his fellow St Dunstaners in cutting the cake.





Cars, Castles and Churches

Ted Miller reports on the Handless Reunion

ANOTHER year and another reunion! How time does fly. On September 17th, our little band of St Dunstaners all arrived to have a discussion in the Blue Room before our pre-supper reception in the Winter Garden.

Gwennie Obern, our chairwoman elect, rose to pay a tribute to our late chairman David Bell who will be sadly missed. We send our love and best wishes to Sibyl, his wife. Also absent were John Proctor, who was not well enough to come, and Dickie Richardson, who is still unable to attend our reunions. We ended the day with a visit to the bar.

On Friday we travelled to Alfriston, for lunch at an old world pub called *Ye Olde Smugglers Inn*. Unfortunately, it started to rain just as we arrived there, but with our

excellent choice from the menu, we soon got over our disappointment at not being able to have a walk round what looked like a delightful little village.

That evening we visited last year's High Sheriff of East Sussex, Mr. Petley and his wife. We were entertained by their family and many friends. It was an enjoyable visit with such excellent company.

After drinks and supper, Mrs. Dacre presented our host with a St Dunstan's plaque and our hostess received four plaited dog leads made by a St Dunstaner, a gift that was very much appreciated.

At about 10 o'clock, we said our good-byes. Thanked our hosts and boarded our coach. A very merry party — singing old songs all the way home.

Saturday was to be a more restful day and at 10 o'clock, we left for coffee in Rottingdean. Our first stop was at Tudor Close where Mrs. Dacre met us and told us the history of her charming cottage before taking us over to St. Margaret's Church nearby.

We entered through the lich-gate to a beautiful little church with lovely stained glass windows, some of the work of Burne Jones (English artist, 1833-1898).

We were told some of the history of the church by the Rev. Jan Appleby. How the smugglers brought their contraband up from the beach to the tunnel underneath the church, from whence they moved their spoils across the Downs to Lewes and London.

The church was once raided by French invaders who burned the tower down. After a short prayer, we left the church and made our way to Laurens Walk for coffee, stopping on the way for a peep into Rudyard Kipling Gardens.

A pleasant surprise awaited us before

Above: *St Dunstan's handless group.*
Left: *Tommy Gaygan and armoured friend.*



we had our coffee break, for outside the café was an immaculate 1928 Chevrolet automobile, in which we were invited to have a trip round the village by its owner, David Smith, a trip that we thoroughly enjoyed.

We were happy to welcome Mrs. Anne Colahan in the club room on Saturday evening where we had a few drinks and a sing-song to end the day.

Sunday found us at Amberley Castle (now a Country Castle Hotel and Restaurant). A castle, I confess I never knew existed.

The castle was built in the 12th Century. Many famous names were tenants. Queen Elizabeth I held the lease between 1588 and 1603 and during the Civil War it was attacked by Cromwell's army. Evidence of the destruction they wrought exists to this day. Charles II visited the castle in 1651 and 1683.

The present owners, Joy and Martin Cummings acquired the castle in 1988 and they aim to continue the restoration work begun at the turn of the century by the 15th Duke of Norfolk.

We dined in the oldest part of the castle and Martin Cummings sat down to dinner with us. He was a most genial host and told us more of the castle's history.

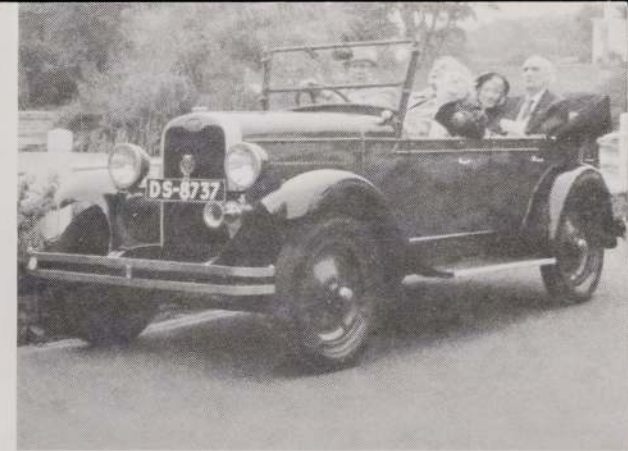
The staff were very friendly and the meal beautifully prepared and served. In all, it was a most pleasant evening.

On Monday — the last day of our reunion — we met in the club room where Gwennie was officially elected 'Madam Chairwoman' before discussing several ideas among ourselves for our meeting in the afternoon with headquarters staff.

We moved up to the Winter Garden for our final dinner. Among the guests were the High Sheriff of East Sussex and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, the Chairman of St Dunstan's, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, the President of St Dunstan's, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, our group vice-president, Colonel and Mrs. Hislop, Mrs. Dacre, Dr. Fletcher, The Mayoress of Brighton, Dr. and Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Anne Colahan, Miss Mary Stenning, Mrs. Joan Higgs and Mrs. Ivy Southall whose company we were so pleased to have.

We also had Zofia Bregula from Poland, who is a St Dunstaner, with her escort, Kate, as special guests.

After another splendid meal, Sir Henry



Travelling in style. Winnie Edwards and company drive past the duck pond.

Leach proposed the Loyal Toast, before Mrs. Dacre rose to welcome all our guests. Gwennie made one of her usual witty speeches, and a presentation from the Handless Group was made to David Castleton, who, we understand, plans to retire early next year. We shall miss you David.

Tommy's wife Audrey then presented a bouquet of flowers to Anne Colahan, and Gwennie gave a bouquet to Mrs. Dacre (Elizabeth to us).

Music as usual was played throughout the evening by The John Nichols Trio, which I'm sure everyone enjoyed.

We thank the catering staff for the excellent meals they prepared and the staff at IFH and HQ.

After our guests had left, we made our way to the annexe for a final get-together with our friends.

P.S. On Tuesday morning, my wife and I called at the nursing home to see Peggie Brett. She talked about old times and past reunions and sends her love to all her friends.

Gwen Obern makes a special presentation to PRO David Castleton.





Swearing in the new German judiciary was essential after the war.

The Last of Horse

Anthony Attenborough talks to Ray Hazan

MOST St Dunstaners had their lives radically altered, to put it mildly, by the onset of their visual handicap. Even the loss of one eye can have a similar effect. There follows a tale, which leads from the bench of a Merryweather fire engine to a bench of law via the saddle and a tank!

Before the war, Mr. Anthony Attenborough had qualified as a solicitor. Quite separately, in 1938 he had volunteered for the Auxiliary Fire Service, where he drove a 1922 Merryweather fire engine. He did not recount any stories of rescuing damsels in distress or plunging through smoke filled houses! His real desire in 1939, however, was to join the Navy. The fact that he was too old at 26 was compounded by his response to the question of previous experience by saying that he was 'used to stoking the family boiler on a Saturday night when his father came home late!' The recruiting officer, unlike his father, lacked a sense of humour and so he was thrown out of the office.

He then volunteered for the Horse Cavalry and training followed in Folkestone and Colchester. The Regiment's departure to join as reinforcements to the last Horse Cavalry Brigade in the British Army in Palestine was meant to be top secret. Thus, having been issued with swords, spurs, toupees, bandoleers and khaki drill, the Regimental Band led them down to the railway station at 5.30 in the morning! Destination unknown, except in Liverpool, where they ran special buses to Aintree to welcome the gallant horsemen.

With the North Somerset Yeomanry, Mr. Attenborough saw service in Syria.

The French surrendered in time to prevent any actual fighting by his squadron. A photograph *bottom right* shows Corporal Attenborough riding up from the Sea of Galilee. The Regiment was later de horsed, and trained as signals. But by then Mr. Attenborough was passing through OCTU in Cairo and, as cavalry, was commissioned into Tanks and posted to the 3rd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment just before Alamein, commanding a troop of Grants. He had one narrow escape when a 210 mm shell dropped on his tank killing the driver. However, the cordite fumes ruined his trousers, which fell off as he was running back with some precious guarded bottles of beer and rum rations which his troops had hidden under the tank's floor boards! The second time, at the battle of El Agheila, Mr. Attenborough was not so lucky, being hit just above the eye by a piece of shrapnel from a shell, which glanced off his own main armament. He completely lost the sight in his left eye, was medically degraded and unable to rejoin his Battalion.

The Claims Commission in Cairo benefited by his addition. This had been set up to compensate the locals for valid claims against the Forces whom they could not sue. One case which remains vivid in his mind was that of an Arab employee of the RAF using what he thought was a stone, and turned out to be a Mills bomb, or the equivalent. The Arab blew his marriage prospects to ruins. 'I worked the claim out under Egyptian Law to be worth £342. It seemed poor enough compensation, but I recommended it be paid in full!

The work was not fulfilling, and in 1943

Mr. Attenborough obtained the post as a Military Government Officer (Legal) in Asmara, the war having been won in Eritrea and Abyssinia. He followed this with an administrative post in Ghinda. Finding that General Administrative Officers were in short supply, he volunteered to augment their number, and was posted to Ghinda, where he found himself, like a District Commissioner, responsible for the town of Ghinda, plus its Italian Colony, and some ten nomad tribes in the surrounding districts.

Here, apart from routine matters, he attended the wedding of the Sheik's eldest son (7th day only); as principal guest he witnessed the 'ceremonial sacking' of the Sheik's cook (in the middle of dinner) — he was reinstated next day; cured his mare from the effects of a bite pronounced to be fatal by the Italian Vet; lunched alfresco with an Abyssinian Chief claiming hereditary grazing rights for his tribe; and claimed damages from the American Army who had run down and killed a villager. Compensation was payable to the Sheik, as guardian of widows and orphans, and assessed, as between two tribes, by the cost of a feast plus a number of traditional gifts, culminating with a woman of marriageable age, whom the Sheik valued at £5, observing that 'they never give a good one'. He told me later that the widow had acquired a much better husband, the damages coming in very handy as a dowry.

The good times were short-lived and Christmas 1944 was spent in Bari, Southern Italy, prior to reporting to Albania as Senior Legal Officer, Military Government. This never came about, but Mr. Attenborough did meet his wife-to-be in Italy, a QA theatre sister. Having served for five years in the Middle East, he was obligatorily repatriated. Life in England held no attraction, and he managed to persuade the War Office to find him a job abroad.

After a few adventures such as the Americans trying to persuade him that Hamm was code for Hamlyn, he arrived in Hamm where his task was to revive the civil legal system, which had been suspended, as well as to enforce the Proclamations superimposed by the Army on their penal code. This he combined with the general administration of the nearby mining town of Unna. He considered it

vital to get the civil side of the law back into German hands to deal with such cases as probate contracts, etc. It was his responsibility to sort out who was allowed to practice and who should be a judge. This was not straightforward as all had had to pay at least lip service to the Nazis. The German lawyers had felt it better to stay on as good practitioners, than to allow in bad ones appointed by the Nazis. He was responsible for appointing the first High Court judges in post-war Germany.

Mr. Attenborough obtained his discharge fairly early after the end of the war and rejoined his father in the family law firm in Lincoln's Inn to pick up the pieces in post-war London. He subsequently ran the firm on his own. He was married in December 1945 and has two sons and a daughter.

Last year, during a trip to Australia, he noticed the sight fading in his one good eye. The social services suggested he contact St Dunstan's and he joined earlier this year. Mr. Attenborough, a widower, has the support of his daughter, who lives nearby, but copes remarkably well on his own at 79 years of age.

When we first met, Mr. Attenborough claimed his recollection 'was not what it was.' He spoke for 90 minutes with clarity, full of detail and amusing anecdotes of war-time experiences. He has a sparkle in his voice and a remarkable brain that is still active and a determination to go on enjoying life.





LET SLIP THE DOGS OF DAEDALUS

Valerie Webster barks out the sports camp triumph

VOCIFEROUS barking could be heard as we approached the gates of HMS *Daedalus*. The kennel doors had been opened and the dogs came rushing out with excited yelps as they searched for their masters.

Following a briefing from P.O. Steve Adam, the First Trainer, about the week's activities, Elspeth Grant welcomed everyone — especially new campers Norman Killick, Gary Lomas, Julian Stevens and Paul Walker. We prepared for an evening in the Warrant Officers' Mess where Presi-

dent W.O. Bob Birnie was waiting to greet us.

Those wanting a less physically energetic programme could exercise their brains with a series of quizzes. This proved very popular with around 40 taking part. Someone had to come bottom, but ten groups tied for second place! The outright winners received a bottle of wine, presented by P.O. Mess President Vic Tunstall.

Another group spent an exceedingly enjoyable afternoon as guests of the Gosport Bowmen. Jim O'Donnell excelled, scoring a gold with his first attempt. He proved this was not a fluke by repeating his performance three times and winning the Novices' gold medal.

Sunday afternoon saw Julian Stevens changing his wheelchair for a seat in a glider, joining several others flying over the Hampshire countryside.

In the P.O.'s Mess that evening, Vic Tunstall presented Elspeth — to her great embarrassment — with a beautiful goblet, engraved with the *Daedalus* crest, as a memento of the twenty years she has been organising the camp.

On Monday morning, the *Solent Enterprise*, a specially chartered ferry, took us to Cowes, Isle of Wight. Although the day started slightly overcast the sun was shining well by the time we landed. We walked to The Royal British Legion Club where we were given a very warm welcome.

The weather had, sadly, deteriorated by sports day so the venue was a hangar, which strangely appeared much larger than the open space of the airfield.

The discus and javelin were abandoned in the enclosed space, however heavy lorry tyre rolling was introduced by our inventive P.T.I. Martyn Webb. It proved far more difficult than it looked, the girls in

particular finding it hard to keep in lane.

The archers braved the weather, putting their target on the grass outside. Julian Stevens, exploring the hangar, found the gym ropes hanging from the ceiling and was discovered enjoying himself swinging.

A difficult choice had to be made on Wednesday — gliding, clay pigeon shooting or the mystery car drive. A great number opted for the mystery car drive where the clues were in braille — though there were some plain copies available for the non-braille readers.

As usual, this enjoyable event was well organised by Peter and Pat Westbrook. Some of us found one of the clues exceptionally difficult, but the final clue landed us up at Lee-on-the-Solent Conservative Club where we were met and entertained by the members.

In the afternoon Roger Barret brought his wife and daughter with their ponies and others from the pony club to give the St Dunstaners rides round the airfield. They all set off looking like professional jockeys! A new experience for all.

Thursday gave us another early start for a private tour of HMS *Victory*, which the great naval hero Nelson chose as his Flag Ship in 1803. The crew was exceptionally helpful. St Dunstan's party was allowed to feel the original round table — normally roped off — at which Nelson had sat. They all felt a thrill of pride, particularly those who had been in the Royal Navy. Meanwhile a smaller party visited HMS *Warrior* nearby. Those left behind at *Daedalus* enjoyed clay pigeon shooting and swimming.

Thursday was an evening of great anticipation and excitement. C.P.O.P.T.I. Martyn Webb announced the prize winners, while Captain D. Newberry



presented the prizes to tremendous applause. Ted John gave Commander Alan Welton an engraved St Dunstan's plaque, feting him for all he had done to support St Dunstaners and for his many innovations, not least the thrill of riding his powerful motorbike at 100 mph plus round the airfield. As Alan is due to leave the Navy soon, Ted said that our best wishes would go with him and Joanna into civilian life. Elspeth then presented Vic Tunstall, also due to leave the Navy, with a St Dunstan's camp shirt as a memento and thanks for all he had done to make everyone so comfortable in the P.O.'s Mess.

Carl Williams, gave a vote of thanks to the Captain, Commander and Ship's Company, while Norman Walton made a witty vote of thanks to the Mess Presidents, Trainers, Field Gun Crew and Dogs, at the same time congratulating them on their splendid and decisive win at Earls Court.

Captain Newberry finally spoke, saying it was his first contact with St Dunstan's and that he was proud that his ship has been their host. He also assured his audience that although *Daedalus* is due to close in 1996, the camps will continue.

The general consensus was that this had been a particularly happy camp with some really magic moments:

Jim O'Donnell's delighted expression when he received his prizes; the thrilled expression of Paul Walker when he shot all six clay pigeons not having held a gun since 1950; Ted John when he was allowed to raise Colours early one morning; Carl Williams and Gary Lomas' thrill at being allowed to drive Alan's MG at speed (I will not mention what speed!). And so many more incidents to remember and mull over until next year.



Above: Our sportsmen gather.

Left: Paul Walker rolls to victory.

Top right: Jim O'Donnell receives his archery shield.

Middle right: Gary Lomas tries his hand at the bow.

Bottom right: Captain Newberry presents top scoring Tom Whitley with his archery award.



Julian Stevens took up charioteering with the help of Baz and Paws, two real-life dogs of Daedalus.

DAEDALUS RESULTS

Archery

Shields and Medals presented by the Gosport Bowmen.

Totally blind with a score of 144 points and six golds
 Tom Whitley
 Semi-sighted with a score of 177 points and four golds
 Arthur Carter
 Novice with a score of 117 points and four golds
 Jim O'Donnell

Kath Riley Trophy for Mystery Car Drive

Braille Reader Jim O'Donnell
 Driver Mrs. Jean Firth
 Writer/Navigator John Eyeleigh

Bowls

Ben Mills Pairs Cups with four points
 Eric Church and Arthur Carter

The Walk

First Gary Lomas
 Second Arthur Carter
 Denny Deacon Veteran's Cup Stan Tutton
 Charles Stafford Novice Cup Gary Lomas

Sports

Goal Kicking Totally blind Brian Lang
 Semi-sighted Paul Walker
 Sheila McLeod Cup for Best Beginner Gary Lomas
 Victor Ludorum Semi-sighted Gary Lomas
 Victor Ludorum Totally blind Norman Walton

Team winners

Church's Chargers — Eric Church, Brian Lang, Jesse Mills, Gary Lomas, Jim O'Donnell, Dick Hall.

Ladies Team Special prize for effort and Fun — Liz Walker, Yvonne Rixon, Pam Wybrant, Sue Stilton, Pat Westbrook, Valerie Webster — cheer leader.

SOLID GUILD by Simon Rogers

The phrase 'Once every Preston Guild' ranks with blue moons as an expression of rarity, but Allen Vickers has taken part in four of the prestigious Preston Guild Merchant celebrations.

He is a Guild Burgess and recently took part once more in an event of great historic significance for Preston.

Preston Guild Merchant has its origins in Anglo-Saxon times when local traders joined forces to protect their interests. This was ratified in 1179 by a Royal Charter from Henry II.

'There used to be certain privileges attached to being a Guild Burgess,' said Allen. 'You could trade in the town, you could vote, and you could marry your daughter off without recourse to the lord of the manor.'

The Guild Merchant occurs every 20 years — hence the saying — and Allen first attended one in 1922 when he became a Guild Burgess.

'I have vague memories of going with my father,' he said. 'The War broke the rhythm so there wasn't one in 1942, it was

put off until 1952. The next one was in 1972 and this year was the latest.

'There are celebrations all year long, but the Guild Merchant itself only lasts one week. There is a lot of ceremony attached — the Guild Clerk reads the name of each Burgess alphabetically and they have to stand and bow towards him — so you can imagine it goes on for some time.'

Allen added that, with guests, there were about 2,000 in the Guild Hall for the opening of the Guild Court. 'It is still conducted as it was hundreds of years ago.'

'During that week you can be named as a Burgess. Up to now it has been passed from father to son, but this year they have allowed people's daughters to become Burgesses.'

Allen's links with the Guild date back to his great, great grandfather, a Kendal man who worked the Lancaster-Preston canals.

Celebrations will continue until the end of the year, but when the Guild Merchant Court adjourned on September 5th, the Burgesses went their separate ways and will not gather again until 2012.

PHYSIO '92

Over the last year or more, blind chartered physiotherapists have been greatly concerned over the pending closure of the North London School of Physiotherapy and the future of totally blind students in particular. At their Annual Conference, held at Ian Fraser House, October 2nd to 4th, St Dunstaners were able to quiz Mrs. Jane Owen Hutchinson, who is Manager of the RNIB's alternative Physiotherapy Support Service, on how she hopes to tackle the problems of totally blind students at sighted schools.

In a lively talk and hard-hitting question and answer session, she said that her new Service would make every effort to ensure informed teaching and essential equipment for blind students.

Mrs. Owen Hutchinson brings wide experience to a task of great difficulty and complication. She was trained by the RNIB, rose to be Physiotherapy Superintendent for the Newham Health Authority, taught at King's College School of Physiotherapy, London and at the North London School of Physiotherapy where she wrote their BSc Course. She received generous applause at the conclusion of her talk.

Another blind physiotherapist, Peter

St Dunstaners in Conference

Butcher, spoke on aspects of manual therapy, including chiropractic and osteopathy. There was great interest in Mr. Howard Borkett-Jones' talk on emergencies that might occur in private practice. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and Consultant in the Accident and Emergency Department of Watford General Hospital.

At the Annual General Meeting the retiring members of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee, Messrs. Coupe, Foster and Tetley, were re-elected and, at a brief meeting of the Committee afterwards, Des Coupe and Mike Tetley were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO, a member of St Dunstan's Council, was guest-of-honour at the Annual Dinner on Saturday evening. Sir John spoke amusingly of his term of office as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, when he replied for the guests to Des Coupe's speech of welcome. Des made special reference to the presence of widows of St Dunstaners physiotherapists and to Bob and Kathleen Lloyd from Canada and Stuart Craig from New Zealand.

RANDOM ACCESS Computer hints with Ray Hazan

DAILY DIGITAL NEWS

In previous issues of the *Review*, we have described a project which transmitted *The Guardian* newspaper via TV sound waves over night. The transmission was picked up by a home computer and was available for reading in the morning.

The project has now become reality. ETNA Ltd has been set up to market the equipment. They offer many different packages depending on whether you already have your own computer and speech output system.

The heart of the system is a card, which is installed inside your computer and can receive the newspaper, teletext and TV sound. This is controlled by some specially written software.

The newspaper is sent out at midnight and again at 5 a.m., so the paper can be read at the same time as sighted readers. Additional publications are envisaged in the future.

There are financial assistance schemes and details are available from ETNA.

Prices are as follows:

Decoder card and software	£400
Annual subscription to <i>The Guardian</i>	£160
	(plus VAT)
Installation and some basic training (optional)	£90
Maintenance (optional)	£60
Loudspeaker	£30

For further details please contact: ETNA Ltd., Collingwood House, Meadowfield, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9SD. Tel: 0661 860999.



LADIES UNLEASHED

Margaret Bingham reports on this year's Reunion

IT is strange to realise that we lady St Dunstaners have been attending our own weekend reunions for 29 years and this year, 1992, has been the first time it has been held on 'home ground', so to speak, at Ian Fraser House.

We gathered in the Winter Garden where we had a drink before sitting down at beautifully laid tables for a very tasty supper. As always, we were a noisy jolly assembly because, as most of us had not met for a year, there was plenty to talk about. It was good to have Zofia and Kate with us again as well as Mr. Weisblatt, Cynthia Mosley and David Castleton.

We had as our guests David Bray,

Above: Gay Biddlecombe tells our ladies about the trials of owning a vineyard. Left: Margaret Paterson examines public transport as it was in 1740. Right: Barbara Bell and Margaret Bingham make a new friend in *The Royal Pavilion*.



Sue Reynolds and Matron Chris King from Pearson House. There were about 50 of us altogether. Gwen and I presented flowers to Sue and Chris.

Friday morning meant an early start to Royal Tunbridge Wells. The weather was very disappointing – rain and mist – but the weathermen said it would clear later and the afternoon would be sunny. The idea was for us to be divided with Group One visiting *A Day at the Wells* Exhibition and Group Two, which included the wheelchairs, visiting the Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre.

The latter was an ideal new centre of three floors with spacious and easy access to all parts, a large central floor space with seating for the leg-weary and ample facilities for meals and refreshments on the ground floor. In a grotto surrounded by ferns and other water-loving plants, a graduated waterfall could be heard tinkling as the water splashed onto the next level. An open-view lift gave a splendid view of the surrounding area.

At the Brasserie Lafayette, where we had a substantial ploughman's lunch, and earlier at the nearby Nutmeg Tree Café where we had had coffee, the waitresses were dressed in ankle-length black dresses with white pinafores nearly as long and little white caps on their heads. Very charming!

Hooray! The weatherman was right, the sun was shining, but with quite a bit of cloud about. After lunch our party was conveyed to the Corn Exchange, part of *The Pantiles*.

The Exhibition, *A Day at The Wells*, brilliantly recreates a summer's day in 1740 in

the elegant and scandalous spa resort of Tunbridge Wells.

Ramps were fitted for wheelchairs and our guide handed us headphones with instructions to switch on or off as directed by the narrator. We followed a set route and the story of a typical day at 'The Wells' unfolded. Gentlemen taking a congenial coffee in the coffee house (an aromatic smell of coffee here), ladies strolling along *The Pantiles* 'to see and be seen', or taking a glass of spring water said to cure most ills!

The impressive tableaux were most life-like and all costumes typical of the era. An elderly Beau had varicose veins and another's hose were wrinkled – Norah Batty style! It probably took about an hour to meander through this fascinating place but as we had time to spare we decided to 'take a glass' at the nearby well 'Chalybeate Spring' (which means impregnated with iron salts). No comment on the taste!

When we left IFH on Saturday morning for Waldron Vineyards, we were told the sea – with one or two yachts visible, looked very calm under the cloudless blue sky. On arrival at St. Georges English Winery, Waldron, East Sussex, Gay Biddlecombe who, with her husband, Peter, owns the vineyard, told us how this large venture had grown from five acres planted in 1979. St. George's wine is renowned world-wide and is even supplied to the House of Commons. Appropriate labels are affixed to the bottles, but all bear the cross of St. George. We sampled some of the wines before visiting an 11th century Tithe Barn which, at the time, housed Afghanistan carpets – it was a very smelly place! We spent a really lovely day at Waldron.

Later, after supper, Elizabeth Dacre was holding a musical evening in the Winter Garden. We had no idea of the format, but she did have some surprises up her sleeve! The pianist, Mr. Derek Sutherland, was followed by two special guests, Mr. Frank and Mrs. Marni Wenstrop, who reside in Rudyard Kipling's house, *The Elms*, in Rottingdean.

With a wave of her genie's wand she transported us to the lounge of the house. Mr. Wenstrop gave an interesting talk on the history of *The Elms*. Those present joined in some community singing and after a raffle for prizes, kindly presented

by Mr. and Mrs. Wenstrop, the party then metaphorically returned to IFH where wine and canapes were served. A most enjoyable evening, Elizabeth.

Sunday afternoon was taken up with a visit to the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. We split into two parties and our guide gave an extremely fascinating history of the building. Many of the rooms and corridors were lit by flickering candle and oil lanterns which showed up the fine porcelain and bamboo furnishing.

Although part of the Pavilion is furnished in the Chinese style, only a few of the pieces are of genuine Chinese workmanship, the rest being English, simulating bamboo in beech or satinwood.

In the Banqueting Room the table was beautifully laid for 30 diners. The outstanding item was the glittering chandelier, 30 ft high and a ton in weight, suspended from an enormous winged dragon. Objects were available for us to handle.

Our final meal was held in the Winter Garden. It was a delicious dinner and could not be faulted, PBK at their best. Bill made an interesting speech, Gwen replied with a few appropriate words of thanks, then various ladies made presentations to the staff.

A special pre-retirement one for David was a beautiful statuette from we ladies and then it was all over bar the shouting.

Our thanks to everyone who helped us to make this such a lovely weekend. We appreciate it most sincerely.

This year's Ladies Reunion will be remembered with sadness as Sadie who had had a fall at IFH later died. We send out sincere condolences to Carol and the rest of the family.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

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



Zofia and Katarzyna at the Wells.

From: Zofia Bregula and Kate, Poland

Sometimes it is almost impossible to express properly even a simple human feeling, particularly if it has to be done in another language, not known from early childhood.

Every word we want to use then seems unclear, too weak or too exaggerated. Kate and I are in this difficult situation, but we decided to be brave. We shall try to describe our gratitude to St Dunstan's, hoping you will forgive our poor English.

Let me begin first:

I shall always remember my holiday and the Ladies' Reunion at Ian Fraser House in September 1992 as the unforgettable continuation of the lovely dream, which began in 1990, when I arrived at Ovingdean and afterwards joined the Ladies' Reunion in Cardiff.

Then I began to feel, that life was gradually returning to me after my husband passed away in May 1986. Through all those terrifying years after my worst tragedy and disaster, St Dunstan's were in permanent and very helpful touch with me, so I am sending (forgive me, please, for doing it so late) my sincerest gratitude to Sir Henry Leach and to Miss Cynthia Mosley, who has written to me so often and who suggested just the right time for me to come on holiday to England. Thank you, Miss Mosley, from all my heart for your goodness, sensitivity and patience.

Kate would like to join in the thanks too:

I was quite afraid two years ago, when Zofia asked me to escort her during her holiday in England. I realised that I would

have to be not only her sight, but also her nearest friend, especially in the places where she had spent holidays with her husband.

Additionally, there was a problem with my English, which was rather theoretical, learnt at school and never practised.

After the first few days all my problems disappeared, because everybody at IFH treated us like friends and did their best to make our stay as enjoyable as possible.

So now, after two years, I could come back without any worries, because we arrived not just to strangers, but to friends, who welcomed us with open hearts in the great family which is St Dunstan's. Thanks to all of you I have really had a lovely time in Brighton.

We both, Kate and I, thank you all, who gave us so much joy, pleasure and love, for a really marvellous holiday at IFH.

Once again, we send our gratitude to Sir Henry Leach, Miss Cynthia Mosley, Mr. William Weisblatt, Mr. David Castleton, Miss Susan Reynolds, Lt. Col. David Bray, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. Elizabeth Ford, Miss Frances Casey, Dr. Knott and all of St Dunstan's staff at IFH, who were always friendly, smiling and joking. We can't mention all their names, because the list would be too long and Mr. Castleton wouldn't be able to print it, we are afraid.

God bless you all, dear friends.

From: Sydney Scroggie, Kirkton of Strathmartine, by Dundee, Angus

Numerous St Dunstaners, I dare say, served not with just the one unit during the war, but with two or more, and therefore can wear a variety of tin hats to this day.

Perhaps they retain friendships first made in these different units, I do. I am pally with Edward Scott, a Cameronian, and Jim Baird, a Lovat Scout, both of whom soldiered with me at times when I was first in one regiment then in the other.

These contemporary friendships of ours are not confined to sitting in the pub and talking about the old days over pints of ale, but branch out into activities as

vigorous as are compatible with our present and remorselessly advancing ages.

Edward and his wife, myself and mine, climbed a Perthshire hill called Mt. Blair this summer. Jim and his wife, the Scroggies as well, had a day of it in the Coulin Pass, Wester Ross, and it's in connection with such physical activities as these that the old days, whether Cameronian or Lovat Scout, come up between me and my old army friends.

Old age will defeat us in the end, but so long as there is strength in our legs, breath in our body, we will lift our eyes to the hills, not lower our backsides on to a geriatric pub bench, when it comes to the annual reunion. Mind you, the two things are not entirely incompatible with each other.



Barbara on her retirement with Lt. Col. Bray and Sue Reynolds.

From: Barbara Wood, Ian Fraser House

I would like to say goodbye to all my friends at St Dunstan's. I would also like to thank all the St Dunstaners and their wives for the lovely gifts on my retirement.

From: Carol Jackson, Chorley, Lancashire
To: 'The Girls'

For the last four or five reunions, I have brought my mum (Sadie Stokes) home and thought to myself: 'Well that's probably the last'. Yet each year, we always managed another one, being the strong (minded) little lady she was.

This year, we thankfully managed once more and she had two lovely days enjoying herself with so many dear friends who she thought the world of. It was almost as if she had come to IFH to say a final goodbye.

Sadly, she didn't get the chance to speak to you all before you left, but she did spend her last weekend happy and with you. For that I thank you. God bless you all.

My brother, Thomas, and I would like to thank the nursing staff and care assistants

at IFH for their kindness, compassion and dedication. You were all wonderful.

Thank you all for the many cards and letters, which were so comforting, and for all the beautiful floral tributes from St Dunstan's, 'The Girls', Colin and Angie, the drivers from Carline, Tom and Ann Holland, and Emily and Madge.

Very special thanks to Miss Mosley, Mr. Weisblatt, David Castleton and Carol Henderson for their kindness and support.

You truly are another very large and wonderful family and I'll miss you all.

From: Reg Page, Bournemouth, Dorset

Now come off it — I'm not that old!!! A slight correction is essential to the October *Review*. Our Wedding Anniversary was given as the Golden one for 50 years. Whereas, it was our *Ruby* — 40 years — altho' I may add at times it has seemed like 50 years!?!

We have another 10 years sentence to serve before we reach the Golden Oldie one (God willing) and hopefully beyond that.

From: Mrs. C. Preedy, Saltdean, E. Sussex

May I send my grateful thanks to all the kind friends who sent me good wishes during my recent illness.

I received so many cards and flowers, that it is impossible for me to reply individually.

Both Henry and I appreciate the care and attention we received at Ian Fraser House. My sincere thanks to you all.

From: Kate Stubbs, Norwich

I would like to thank all the wives and men of the Bowling Club for their kind thoughts, get well cards and flowers sent during my recent illness.

I am sure that these helped me during my stay in hospital. I should also like to thank the staff at Ian Fraser House and Headquarters for their thoughts. I am pleased to say I am well on the way to recovery.

THANK YOU

Mrs. Olive Simmon, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, has asked us to relay her thanks to all who sent their condolences when her husband, Tom, died. She is particularly grateful to the Bowls Club and St Dunstan's staff.

SALUTING THE HEROES

BY Colin Beaumont-Edmonds

The El Alamein 50th Anniversary Service was held at Westminster Abbey, on October 14th and Joyce and I had the honour of representing St Dunstan's and St Dunstaners. We found ourselves in the South transept, almost in the same place as when we attended the Memorial Service to Lord Fraser. Time passed quickly listening to the Band of the Life Guards, and watching the TV screen, which showed the arrival of service chiefs, diplomats, politicians, and finally the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Queen and Prince Philip were welcomed with a fanfare of trumpets and

XMAS COOKING

Several St Dunstaners commandeered the Training Kitchen at IFH to whip up some seasonal goodies under the guidance of Pam Durie. Here's one of her traditional recipes that were so in favour.

RICH FRUIT CHRISTMAS CAKE

INGREDIENTS: Currants 1 lb; sultanas 1 lb; raisins 8 oz; shelled almonds 4 oz; mixed peel 6 oz; glace cherries 4 oz; butter 10 oz; soft dark brown sugar 10 oz; 6-8 eggs; plain flour 12 oz; pinch salt; $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder; two teaspoons mixed spice; grated rind 1 lemon; little milk, spot gravy browning (opt.); 1-2 tablespoons brandy (opt).

Wash and dry fruit, chop nuts two days before making cake. Line cake tin with greaseproof paper, grease. Cream butter and sugar together until soft, add eggs, mixing thoroughly.

Sieve baking powder, spice and flour together, add lemon rind, salt and mix with fruit. Gradually add to creamed mixture, using milk if necessary to give a soft dropping consistency. Gravy browning may be added with milk to darken the mixture if desired.

Put into prepared tin, smooth surface. Bake in a slow oven, pre-heated to 150°C (300°F), Reg. 1, for 4½-5 hours. Leave in tin until almost cold.

The following day, prick cake with skewer and run in a little brandy. Wrap cake in greaseproof paper and store in an airtight tin until required.

moved to The Unknown Warrior's Grave, while Godfrey Talbot, standing in the pulpit, read the report, which he had filed from El Alamein as the troops moved forward; how vivid were his descriptions for in one's imagination you could see and hear the artillery barrage, the creaking of the tank tracks as they followed the white taped lanes through the mine fields, with all the dust and sand following them in clouds; and then he recalled the sound of a Highland piper amidst the roar of the battle. In the peace of the Abbey his words were followed by a Scottish piper playing a lament: it was all very moving, and as we sang *O God our help in ages past* The Queen moved up to her place in the nave.

The second part of the service began with children bringing posies of flowers up to the altar to represent peace. The first lesson, from *Micah*, was read by Viscount Montgomery and concerned the turning of swords into ploughshares, while Dr. Manfred Rommel read the second from *The Epistle to The Romans*, telling of men and nations living in harmony.

In addition to the prayers read in English, there was one spoken in German, and another in Italian.

Bishop Mann's address was fascinating, for he quoted from a letter written by a sergeant in the Rifle Corps, concerning the best of human qualities, and then a quotation from the memoirs of a German General, who received a radio message from a young Dragoon officer, inquiring whether they had captured a particular group of British soldiers.

After replying 'Yes', the general asked that if he was searching for a similar set of his troops, would he be prepared to do the same? 'Delighted' replied the young officer.

Those quotations, and the words spoken by Godfrey Talbot, captured the atmosphere that pervaded the desert war, and the respect that the 8th Army and The Afrika Corps held for one another, and those of you who heard the programme on Radio 4 on the following Sunday night, put together by Eric De Mornay did the same. So unlike the European campaigns, where civilians were so closely involved.

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. Edward Yeaman, of Alnwick, Northumberland, joined St Dunstan's on September 30th. He served in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and was captured at the fall of Singapore.

He spent the rest of the war working on the Burma Railway and was discharged in 1946, having been awarded the Territorial Medal. Mr. Yeaman is a widower and has one daughter.

Also joining us on September 30th, was **Mr. John Turnbull**, of Coventry. He served in the Royal Navy between 1941 and 1946, mainly on minesweepers in the Mediterranean. He was also involved in the Sicily and Italian landings.

Mr. Turnbull has four sons.

POET'S CORNER

My Friendly Stream (Memories of 1922)
by the late Ron Smith

The Babbling drift from limestone hills
Its alder-lined banks and redundant
mills
Its trickling course and gentle choir
To Derwent cloak and ancient spire.

Two miles back where the brown trout
lie
An inn stands there, and a station
nearby.
Skylarks rise as I walk in the dew
And lapwings dive, their courting anew.

Now memory fades but my dreams still
review
The hours when younger I spent with
you.
So go rippling back with your freedom
so dear,
No holding gate, mill, or sliding weir,
No more cuts for your winding bore
Just freedom now to distant shore.

Ron Smith died on October 22nd. A full obituary appears on page 27.

Another recruit on September 30th was **Mr. Ronald Grimes**, of Letchworth. He joined the Army as a boy soldier in India, where his father was serving. He returned to the UK and was transferred into the Royal Engineers.

Promoted to Corporal, he was posted to Singapore where he was captured in 1942. He then became part of a slave gang in a Korean foundry where he remained until the end of the war.

Mr. Grimes was discharged in 1949 but continued to work with the Army at Tripoli as a civilian electrician until 1953. Returning to the UK, he took up work with ICL until he retired in 1981. He married his wife, Theresa, in 1955.

Whilst serving in the Army, he represented his regiment in many Army regattas.

Miss Cynthia Rouse, of Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, became a St Dunstaner on October 22nd.

Miss Rouse joined the WRNS in 1941, trained as an armourer and served at the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Arbroath naval air stations. She was invalided out of the Navy in 1943.

Another recruit on October 22nd, was **Mr. Edwin Flack**, of Watchet, Somerset.

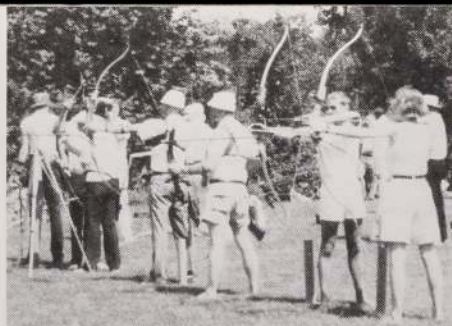
He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 as an apprentice mechanic, but was too young to be posted overseas when war broke out. However, he was eventually sent to Singapore and was captured at the fall.

On his discharge, Mr. Flack rejoined his old employer and resumed his apprenticeship as a mechanic. After moving to Somerset, he became workshop supervisor at the paper mill where he worked.

A keen rugby player, he was a cross-country runner and also trained as a light heavyweight boxer. Mr. Flack and his wife, Frances, now live with one of their three children.

Finally, **Mr. Robert Waller**, of Preston, Lancashire, joined us on November 4th. He was a soldier for 28 years and, as a supply controller, served in Belgium, Germany, Borneo, Cyprus, Singapore, Bahrain and Lebanon until he was invalided from the Army in 1988.

He now works for the Preston and North Lancashire Blind Welfare Society as Resource Centre Manager. Mr. Waller is married with three children.



Our archers faced some formidable opponents when they travelled to Holland.

CLUB NEWS

ARCHERY

THE ROMANS OF ROTTERDAM

Six St Dunstaners took on De Romienen Archery Club of Rotterdam, Holland during the weekend of June 26th to 29th.

The visit followed a private invitation to Archery Club vice-president Lawrie Austin and Ernie Elliot. The party visited the famous pottery town, Delft, and the spectacular exhibition of Floriade.

De Romienen (or Romans in English) proved to be formidable opponents. However, their generosity was equally on target, emphasising that it was the event, not the result, which was of paramount importance.

A unanimous vote of thanks to all De Romienen members for a memorable visit, and to our helpers and driver Mike Williams for smoothing the way.

Jerry Lynch, Captain

Tudor Court Tournament



Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell attended an informal shoot of the Archery Club at Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre's Rottingdean home in June.

Phil Duffee, Tom Hart, Ron Freer, Jerry Lynch and Eric Bradshaw played a friendly round with coaches Laurie Austin and Roger McMullan. Mrs. Sybil Duffee was lady paramount.

CHAMPIONSHIPS '92

The September gathering of archers, to contest the two remaining trophies of the year, had their buoyant mood dampened by the news of the death of fellow archer and friend George Allen.

His tenacious struggle back to fitness after a stroke, enabled George once again to win more archery trophies. However, his illness of the

past year proved too much for him, he quietly left this mortal coil on August 26th.

How strange to see his mate and drinking partner Ted Paris wander up to the bar alone. Or was he? For like the man said, 'He that believeth in me shall have everlasting life'.

But still the show goes on, bows are pulled and arrows will fly, the weather was dry and sunny but the prevailing wind paid special attention to exposed parts, like fingers, noses, ears and such. What else!

The two trophies contested were the Spurway (a St. Nicholas round with four dozen arrows at 40 yards and three dozen at 30 yards) and the Royal Insurance (a round of four dozen arrows at 50 yards and four dozen at 40, this is known as a Short Western round). All scores were handicap adjusted, meaning it can be won by the highest or lowest score depending on the archer's scoring handicap.

The adjusted winner of both trophies proved to be Tom Hart. Well done Tom!

We had to let him win, he's threatening to vacate the chair next year. All the minor places were filled by A.N. Other.

The away match with Cuckfield Bowmen proved most pleasurable, it was a warm windless day, just 'perfick' for archery. The lunch break found us sitting in the village hall tucking into a very tasteful meal prepared by Mrs. Grouit, wife of the Cuckfield captain, John, and Mrs. Varden, mother of Phil. The wine flowed and Mrs. Varden's apple pie and cream are something not to be missed. Thank you ladies!

We lost the match by just five points, must have been the wine! A great day though.

Our yearly visit to the Isle of Wight was not so great. It rained all the way there and all the time we spent there. The outdoor venue was cancelled, but we were offered a shoot indoors at a nearby drill hall. This we accepted gratefully and were glad to have done so, the company was pleasant, sandwiches, homemade cake and drinks were plentiful. We also picked up several prizes in their club raffle.

We lost the no handicap straight shoot as expected. We shall take our revenge when they come to us next year and shoot to our rules.

To all my fans, have a great Christmas, good health, and good shooting in the New Year.

Your roving reporter,
Bert Wood

BOWLS

St Dunstan's National Bowls Tournament 1992.

The Bowling Green at Ian Fraser House was witness to a contest of wills during October/early November. And what wills they were.

Twenty-seven St Dunstaners rolled wood in a frantic round-robin tournament.

Ron Freer, of Saltdean, won the Partially Sighted Singles in a very tightly matched con-

test with Ted Brown. 'I've rarely seen a game like it,' commented Joan Osborne. 'Professional players would be pleased with a game like that. It's a shame that one of them had to lose.'

Ron was also part of the winning duo in the PS Pairs, but gallantly credited his team's lead to partner Ernie Hannant, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Tom Renshaw, of Gotham, Nottingham improved on last year's game to take the Totally Blind Singles.

Last year's T.B. Pairs winners found themselves on opposing teams this year. Jackie Pryor, of Peacchaven, teamed with John Perfect, of Yealmpton, Devon, held on to the top spot, while Tony Parkinson, of Blackpool, now with Arthur Whittington, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, came second.

The tournament also inspired the following verse.

THE EXPERTS

by Mary Whitley

We've all been watching the bowlers this week
Giving them all a few tips.

Telling them how they should play their bowls
'Go on Tom, you'll get a wick.'

It's a strange language attached to bowling you
know

Just when you think it's just right

You can hear Reg's stentorian voice

'You've cut your green, but it could come in
alright.'

'Oh yes, that one has come in for shot

It wasn't as wide as I thought

Oh, you've got a very good green there Bob,

Yes that one's a measure for fourth.'

'Whose holding Reg', you hear someone call

'Is it mine there at a quarter to four?

I'll just put a blocker in to protect the head,

Oh bother, I've just caught the floor.'

We sit on the sidelines like birds on a fence

All experts on the art of the game.

But it isn't so easy when you stand on the green,

But for all that we are glad we came.

BOWLS RESULTS

P.S. Singles

Winner: R. Freer; 2nd: E. Brown

T.B. Singles

Winner: T. Renshaw; 2nd: J. Pryor

P.S. Pairs

Winners: E. Hannant & R. Freer

2nd: E. Church & J. Robertson

T.B. Pairs

Winners: J. Pryor & J. Perfect

2nd: T. Parkinson & A. Whittington

Triples

Winners: J. Robertson, J. Pryor & H. Davies

2nd: T. Renshaw, L. Walker & J. Prendergast

Kathleen Smith Trophy

Winner: J. Mills

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

Pairs competition played at IFH on September 13th.

1st	Bill Phillips and Dr. Goodlad	67.0
2nd	Wally Lethbridge and Mr. Goodlad	59.5

Individual competition played at IFH on September 18th.

1st	Bill Phillips	73.8
Equal	Alf Dodgson	
2nd	George Hudson	59.5

Pairs competition played at IFH October 11th

1st	Reg Goding and Mrs. V. McPherson	75.69
2nd	Bill Phillips and Mrs. J. Goodlad	56.94

Individuals match played at IFH October 17th

1st	Wally Lethbridge	61.9
Equal	Jo Huk Bill Phillips	52.4
2nd	Alf Dodgson	

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations on the birth of: Daniel St. George, on July 10th, and James Jeffs, on August 9th. Both are great grandsons of Mrs. Esther Knape, of Horsham, Sussex, widow of *Herbert Knape*.

Rhian Cookson on August 23rd. She is granddaughter to Mrs. Violet Cookson, widow of *Ernest Cookson*, of Selsey, Sussex.

Jonathan Goulding on June 23rd. He is the grandson of Mrs. Joan Hill-Brown, of Langton Matravers, Dorset, widow of *Arthur Hill-Brown*.

Sarah Wearn, on July 13th, and Rebecca Blackmore, on August 30th. Both are granddaughters of *Shirley and Dorothy Blackmore*, of Stubbington, Hampshire.

Jamie Booth, on September 17th. He is the grandson of Mrs. Peggy Booth, widow of *Peter Booth*, of Wimborne, Dorset.

Ben Tickner on October 3rd. He is the grandson of Mrs. Beatrice Tickner, widow of *Dennis Tickner*, of Worthing, West Sussex.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Joanne Newman on her marriage to Peter Sharp on August 15th. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Agnes Savory, of Dorking, Surrey, widow of *Sidney Savory*.

Sarah Ward-Best on her marriage to Andrew Blackwell on October 17th. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Doris Ward-Best, of Totnes, Devon, widow of *John Ward-Best*.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Albert and Doris Statham, of Barking, Essex, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 20th.

Walter and Sylvia Bick, of Southam, Warwickshire, on their tenth wedding anniversary on September 20th.

Len and Joyce Hassam, of Warminster, Wiltshire, on their golden day on September 26th.

Paul and Susan Gibbins, of Christchurch, Dorset, on their Silver Anniversary on October 7th.

Leslie and Rose Tanner, of Morden, Surrey, on their Diamond Anniversary on October 15th.

Alan and Peggy Bold of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, on their Ruby celebration on October 16th.

George and Elsie Cole, of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, on their golden day on October 24th.

Bert and Hilda Greasley, of Coventry, on their Golden Anniversary on October 29th.

Alys and Walter Briggs, of Netherton, Huddersfield, on their golden day on November 7th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Guy Hart, grandson of *Tom Hart*, of Rottingdean, on earning his private flying licence. Aged 17, he was sponsored by the RAF to take a four week course at Manston Airport, Kent.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mary Jayes on July 4th and her husband four weeks later. Mary was the sister of *Bill Stude*, of Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Elsie, sister of St Dunstaner *Anne Hodges*, of Pencombe, Bromyard, at the end of August.

Mrs. Mary Petherick on September 8th. She was the widow of *Daniel Petherick*, of Steeton, nr. Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Miss Lily Rentowl on September 23rd. She was the sister of *Charles Rentowl*, of Southampton.

Mrs. Edith Pugh, of Forest Row, East Sussex, on October 2nd. She was the widow of *Harry Pugh*.

Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Oriel, of Richmond, Surrey, on October 10th. She was the widow of *John Oriel*, CBE, MC.

Mrs. Ella Price, of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, on October 13th. She was the widow of *Lewis Price*.

Mrs. Edith Brown on October 24th. She was the wife of *Ernest Brown*, of Rushden, Northants.

Mr. Christopher Ward on October 24th. He was the son of *Bert and Mavis Ward*, of Leeds.

Mrs. Jessie Hawkins, of Margate, Kent on October 27th. She was the widow of *John Hawkins*.

Mrs. Eileen Leete, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, on October 29th. She was the widow of *Bernard Leete*, OBE, AFC.

Mrs. Beryl Meadows, of Birmingham, on November 2nd. She was the widow of *Leonard Meadows*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

WELCOME CORRECTION

In the last issue we unwittingly cast Mrs. Eileen Gomez in the role of church organist. We apologise for any confusion arising.

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.

Leonard Sanders, Royal Artillery

Leonard Sanders, of Louth, Lincolnshire, died on August 21st, aged 74. Known as Peter, he served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery with Coastal Defences and then in Europe.

In 1944, he received shrapnel injuries that resulted in the loss of both legs and ultimately his sight.

Prior to becoming a St Dunstaner, Mr. San-

ders was a chiropodist. He was also a keen pianist and organist.

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

Robert Morgan, Parachute Regiment

Robert Clifford Morgan, of Porth, Mid Glamorgan, died on September 19th, aged 70. He joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner in 1937, but was serving with the Parachute Regiment in Italy when he lost the sight of his right eye in 1944.

Mr. Morgan was a miner for many years until his sight deteriorated, but he continued to work until he was 60.

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

Sarah Stokes, Royal Ordnance

Sarah Stokes, of Chorley, Lancashire, died on September 29th, aged 71. Known as Sadie, she was an overseer in an ordnance factory when she was injured by an explosion. It not only blinded her, but also damaged her left hand and knee.

After training at Church Stretton, she worked as a machinist in Manchester. She married in 1946 and she and her husband, Tommy, moved to Salford. They had a daughter, Carol, and a son, Thomas.

Mrs. Stokes loved music and her electric organ had pride of place in her home.

Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Daniel Gallagher, Royal Navy

Daniel Gallagher, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, died on September 29th aged 73.

Aged 17, he joined the Norwegian Merchant Service, sailing mainly between South America and the West Indies. On returning to the UK in 1938, he became skipper of a river transport on the Tyne. At the onset of war, he joined the Royal Navy and served on a trawler, destroyer and a minesweeper off coasts as diverse as Canada, North Africa and Sicily.

In 1944, he was wounded on an American minesweeper near Messina, suffering severe wounds to his chest, both eyes and the loss of his left hand.

After a period of recovery, he traded as a tobacconist until retiring in 1956. A keen woodworker, he was happiest in his garden and listening to music.

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

Eric Ashby, 8th Parachute Regiment

Eric Ashby, of Coventry, died on October 15th, aged 73. Serving as a Corporal with the 8th Parachute Regiment, he was shot in the head by a sniper.

Discharged in 1945, Mr. Ashby came to St Dunstan's for industrial training. He worked as

an electrical fitter until retiring in 1979.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Doris, their daughter, Jane, and all other members of the family.

Tom Simmon, Royal Engineers

Tom Hunter Simmon, of Harrogate, died on October 18th, aged 78. Enlisting in 1940, he served as a driver in the Royal Engineers and was injured by an explosion during a bomb disposal in Liverpool.

Discharged in 1941, he worked as a grocer and then a forensic laboratory attendant until retiring in 1967. His hobbies included bowling, woodwork, framing and wrought iron.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Olive, daughter, Patricia, son, William, and all members of the family.

Alec Carter,

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Alec Cyril Carter, of Newton Poppleford, near Sidmouth, Devon, died on October 20th, aged 60.

Mr. Carter enlisted in 1950 and served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a Lance Corporal before joining the Territorial Army. In 1953, he was unable to continue training due to failing eyesight. He subsequently worked as a piano tuner.

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

Ronald Smith, Royal Artillery

Ronald Smith, of Seaford, East Sussex, died on October 22nd, aged 80. Enlisting with the Royal Artillery in 1940, he served as sergeant until his discharge in 1945. He lost his sight in a mine explosion in Italy.

Prior to the war, he worked as a hospital steward, but on his return to civilian life became a machine operator for Parker Pens. After retiring in 1969, he lectured part-time and broadcast on Radio Sussex.

His talents as an entertainer found an outlet when he teamed with Win Holmes and Bob Osborne under the name *Three Blind Mice*. Mr. Smith was also an outstanding naturalist and sound recordist.

We send our sympathy to all members of the family.

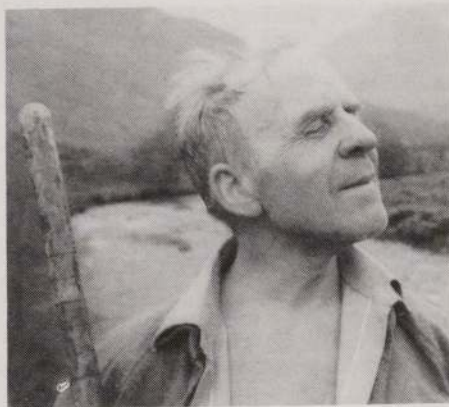
Robert Lucas, Loyal Regiment

Robert William Charles Lucas, of Ash, nr Aldershot, Hampshire, died on October 25th, aged 81.

Serving in the Loyal Regiment from 1942, he was wounded whilst on a training exercise in Northern Ireland when a damaged grenade exploded. Discharged in 1945, he resumed work as a joiner. He retired in 1975.

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

A moment to spare . . . with Scroggie the Schlagenluster



MY wife Margaret came back from the shops one day to find a trail of blood leading up to the back door.

Her worst fears were realised, there was a murderer at large — he'd forced his way into Roseangle in her absence, and there was no doubt about it but that she was now a widow.

Such fancies entertain wives as they go round the shops, while as for husbands it's in the nature of man to forget wives as soon as the door shuts behind them, being taken up with their own affairs. I wasn't dead after all on this occasion but, in the course of my favourite occupation, wood-chopping, had taken off the tip of a finger with the axe.

It was my own fault. Laxity is a corollary of what is habitual, and the surprising thing is that I haven't damaged myself before. I approach wood-chopping not tentatively, balancing the probability of accuracy against the possibility of error, but with a blythe disregard of everything except hitting some knotty log as hard as I can, to experience the delight of hearing it tumble to the ground cleft in two.

The Germans have a word for it, 'schlagenlust', which is to say a desire for destruction. And useful it is when this dangerous propensity in Man can be canalised into a harmless occupation like

providing fuel for the stove. Poplar is the devil to chop up, twisted and knotty; beech, elm and ash come away nicely; oak releases a pleasant fragrance when split: but it doesn't matter what kind of wood you're dealing with, bought, given or purloined, the act of hacking it up is what matters.

It gets you out in the fresh air, uses your muscles, and does more good to your soul, I'm perfectly sure, than any amount of Yoga or transcendental meditation. There's a form of insanity where all the things that bother you get concentrated in your little finger. Cut this off, so it seems to the deranged mind, and all will be well.

To cut off your little finger is easy enough, so I reserve my admiration for the madman, reported in the papers, who cut off a leg on these grounds, another who cut off both his feet. This is fine, for people have some kind of right to cut off bits of themselves, but when another kind of madman embodies his problems in a fellow human being, his wife or his father, the result can be murder, and this goes at least part of the way to explaining why most murders are committed by the insane.

I don't know that I've got any problems, not that I'm aware of anyway, but it's possible that deep down in my psyche there are malignant forces I'm at war with and I would fain be rid of in the interests of inner tranquillity. These forces, it may be, I objectivise in a chunk of sycamore, place this on the hack-log, and smashing it in pieces with the axe provide, at one and the same time, fuel for the stove and peace for my soul. I hit it, as my mother used to say, with all the strength God gave me; and the expression may be peculiarly significant in this context.

Thor had his hammer, Arthur the sword Excalibur, and there may be more in this schlagenlust thing than Margaret thinks. She is still taken up with that trail of red blood on the concrete.

Sydney Scroggie

WHAT'S ON IN 1993

A Calendar of St Dunstan's Events

Do not miss any event that interests you. Keep this handy supplement as a reminder through the year.

Most events are based at Ian Fraser House, but may involve excursions elsewhere. Events marked (p) are provisional and dates will be finalised as soon as possible. Check the *Review* for updates.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>		<i>September</i>
February			<i>No firm date</i>
3rd-5th	Bowling Tournament		1st-8th
15th-20th	Archery Club		4th-6th
20th-21st	Masonic Weekend		6th-10th
			6th-12th
			15th
			16th-21st
			18th-25th
			23rd-27th
March			
5th-12th	Amateur Radio Society		(p) Fishing Club, Republic of Ireland
13th-28th	Bowling Club		Gardening Club, Derbyshire
			(p) Chatham Camp
			Fishing Week
			Archery Club
			(p) Fishing Club, Trout
			Handless Reunion
			(p) Bridge Club, Harrogate
			Ladies Reunion
April			
2nd-4th	Ex-PoW Reunion		October
12th-16th	Walking Holiday		1st-3rd
17th-18th	Computer Weekend		8th-15th
24th-25th	Bridge Club Weekend		16th-17th
28th	(p) Fishing Club, Trout		23rd-Nov 13th
			Physiotherapy Conference
			Amateur Radio Society
			Pearson House 75th Anniversary
			Bowling Club
May			
6th-12th	Music Club		November
8th-15th	(p) Bowling Club, Weston-super-Mare		14th
			20th-21st
			Remembrance Sunday
			Computer Weekend
			December
			2nd-6th
			Bridge Club
			21st-Jan 4th 1994
			Christmas Festive Period
June			
1st-8th	Tape Recording Club, Birmingham		
			TRAINING TERMS
			General/Hobbies/Cookery/Braille
			<i>Spring</i>
			January 4th-April 2nd
			<i>Summer</i>
			April 13th-August 6th
			<i>Autumn</i>
			August 31st-December 23rd
			Computer
			<i>Spring</i>
			January 4th-April 2nd
			<i>Summer</i>
			April 19th-July 23rd
			<i>Autumn</i>
			August 31st-December 17th
July			
3rd-17th	Bowling Club		
8th-12th	(p) Warminster Camp		
16th-23rd	Amateur Radio Society		
24th-31st	(p) Bowling Club, Hastings (2)		
26th-August 6th	Sussex Fortnight		
31st-August 7th	(p) Fishing Club, RM Arbroath		
August			
6th-14th	HMS Daedalus Camp		
10th-16th	Widows Holiday Group A		
11th	(p) Fishing Club, Trout		
18th-24th	Widows Holiday Group B		
25th-31st	Music Club		
			NOTE
			A group visit of 50 Canadians from The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded is planned during the period July-September 1993. Dates to be confirmed.
			<i>Arrival dates will usually be one day previous and departures one day afterwards. Any St Dunstanian wishing to take part in any of the above activities, please contact the relevant secretary. Accommodation bookings should be made directly to Reservations, IFH.</i>

WHO'S WHO AT ST DUNSTAN'S

HEADQUARTERS

PO Box 4XB, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB
Telephone: 071 723 5021

Carlton, Mrs. Pat — Medical Appointments and Ansell House Bookings
Castleton, Mr. David — Public Relations Officer; Editor, *St Dunstan's Review*
Cheong, Mr. Louis — Estates Department — insurance
Clark, Mr. Terry — Senior Driver
Dickson, Mr. Ian — Manager, Ansell House, Harcourt Street
Frost, Mr. Gerard — Chief Accountant
Hazan, Captain Ray — Assistant Public Relations Officer
Higson, Miss Angela — Supplies Officer
Hobbs, Mrs. Helen — Hobbies
Kent, Miss Georgea — Secretary to Mr. Weisblatt
Lloyd, Mr. Trevor — Estates Manager
Lord, Miss Penny — Southern Area Welfare Superintendent

Marshall, Mr. Peter — Pensions and Admissions Officer
Martin, Group Captain Keith — Physiotherapy
Money-Kyrle, Mrs. Elizabeth — Secretary to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach
Mosley, Miss Cynthia — Northern Area Welfare Superintendent
Newman, Mr. John — Supervisor, Woodwork Courses
Stanley, Mrs. Barbara — Head of Reception
Sweeting, Miss Susan — Legacy & Trust Officer
Weisblatt, Mr. William — Secretary to the Council of St Dunstan's
Wiggins, Mr. Len — (Friday morning) Technical Adviser

IAN FRASER HOUSE

Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS
Telephone: 0273 307811

Aggett, Mrs. Carol — Entertainments Officer
Bamber, Mr. David — House Steward
Bray, Lt. Col. David — Manager
Cartwright, Mrs. Brenda — Entertainments Officer
Dickens, Mrs. Christine — Training Officer
Duncan, Mrs. Cherrie — Rehabilitation and Sports Officer

Ford, Mrs. Elizabeth — Reservations & Movements Supervisor
Glowa, Mr. Gary — R & D Officer/Workshop Supervisor
Knott, Dr. Martin — Medical Officer
Peacock, Mrs. Edwina — Head of Care Staff
Reynolds, Miss Sue — Assistant Manager
Williams, Dr. Patricia — Medical Officer
Woods, Mrs. Clare — Secretary to Lt. Col. Bray

PEARSON HOUSE

Abbey Road, Kemp Town, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 1ES
Telephone: 0273 307811

Bartlett, Miss Shirley — Senior Care Assistant
Frape, Mr. Derek — House Steward
Hampson, Mrs. Anne — Secretary to Matron

Kent, Mrs. Brenda — Deputy Matron/Deputy Manager
King, Miss Chris — Matron/Manager
Talbot, Mr. Alan — Senior Steward

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM IAN FRASER HOUSE

There have been some changes to the operating guidelines at IFH and I thought it would be helpful to explain these to you all.

All St Dunstaners, wives, widows and escorts are permitted to stay at IFH for a 14 day period free of charge. The calculation commences each year with effect from April 1st. Once the 14 day period has expired, a charge of £12 per person, per day is levied. Occasionally, there are modifications to this general rule due to medical or other welfare related circumstances.

Transport

Transport from home to IFH (return) and all outside activities/events remains free of charge. Currently, we are making every effort to reduce overall transport costs by group and weekday travel.

Many of you are already co-operating with us in this exercise and I publicly thank you for your assistance. Considerable savings can, and must, be made in this area of substantial expenditure.

Payments/Contributions for Special Functions and Outside Activities/Visits

The following charges are levied at IFH:

Event/Function	Contribution/Payment
Special Dinners in the Winter Garden	£5.00 per person
Special Luncheons in the Winter Garden	£5.00 per person
<i>Note: The above includes pre-drinks (wine, sherry and Fruit juices only) and wine during Dinner/Luncheon.</i>	
Buffet (no drinks provided within the contribution).	£3.00 per person
Outside Activities/Visits Places of Interest/Theatre etc.	Full entrance charge/tickets

Christmas Holiday Period

Bookings for the Christmas fortnight festivities at IFH can be made at any time during the year, the deadline is July 31st, 1993 for both married quarters and single bookings.

Unless there are overriding welfare reasons, those booking later will only be considered if there is space available. At the end of September the provisional attendance list is sent to Welfare at HQ for agreement. Again, if the event is over-subscribed, and it invariably is, then allocations are made on a priority-of-need basis.

Confirmation slips are despatched in the middle of October. A very small percentage of accommodation is held in reserve for any emergency situations.

Widows Group Activity Holidays 1993

There are two holiday periods planned for 1993 for those widows who wish to participate in our organised and active group holidays. The dates are as follows:

Widows Holiday Group A —

August, Tuesday 10th-Monday 16th, 1993

Widows Holiday Group B —

August, Wednesday 18th-Tuesday 24th, 1993

Bookings can be provisionally made from now until May 1st, 1993 by contacting Julie Finch (ext. 3230 or 3218) at IFH. The provisional attendance list will be forwarded to Welfare at HQ for agreement before confirmation slips are despatched in the first week of June 1993.

If demand exceeds accommodation, then the final selection will be carried out by Welfare on a priority-of-need basis. Please note these group holidays are not suitable for the less mobile or those wishing to rest and 'do their own thing.'

Any ideas or suggestions which you may have concerning the holiday programme of events are most welcome and should be passed to Sue Reynolds (ext. 3215) for consideration.

The general format of the programme will be much the same as for the past two years; trips out to local places of interest and some in-house talks/activities. This year we intend to hold a get-together on the first evening so that you can get to know one another.

Widows Holidays Throughout the Year

For those wishing to take a quiet and less formalised holiday/break, we recommend that you book, at your convenience, direct with Julie Finch. In normal circumstances there are a number of rooms available at IFH for most of the year. There are exceptions to this general rule, which will be explained at the time of your telephone call, and you will be advised accordingly.

Questions/Problems

If you ever have any queries/questions concerning your plans to visit IFH please do not hesitate to either telephone on 0273 307811 or drop a line. We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to 'your house' in the not too distant future.

The following members of staff are available to assist you:

Manager	David Bray ext. 3220
Assistant Manager	Sue Reynolds ext. 3215
Manager's Secretary	Clare Woods ext. 3221
Reservations Co-ordinator (Bookings)	Julie Finch ext. 3230 or 3218
Movements Co-ordinator (Transport)	Linda Holder ext. 3217

**Lt. Col. David Bray,
Manager**



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