

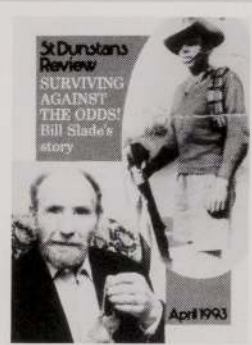
# St Dunstons Review

SURVIVING  
AGAINST  
THE ODDS!  
Bill Slade's  
story



April 1993

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**Cover Picture:** Faded and cracked, the top photograph stands testament to Bill Slade's service. Below, 50 years later he sits at home holding dog tags issued by our army and the Germans, who held him prisoner. Bill tells his own story, starting on page 13.



## From the Chairman

This month at Ian Fraser House, St Dunstaners who were prisoners of war meet again for their annual reunion. As it happens this is also the fiftieth anniversary of a terrible incident in the time one St Dunstaner spent as a prisoner of the Germans. The current issue of the *Review* includes Bill Slade's own account of his survival of a firing squad and the circumstances that led up to his ordeal. It highlights the dilemmas facing prisoners; their courage in facing adversity and, for many, torture and deprivation.

All those attending the reunion will have memories of bad times. They share experiences that they have put behind them and they share their blindness. Yet their reunions are such convivial and happy occasions. Proof, if any were needed, of the strength that men and women can find within themselves when the need is greatest.

*Henry Leach*



## NOTICE BOARD



### WINTER BARGAIN BREAKS AT IFH 1994

A bargain break at Ian Fraser House during January and February is now on offer. You may book in for any three week period, but you only pay for two weeks.

This offer is valid for a three week holiday starting no earlier than January 9th and no later than January 31st. Additional entertainment will be arranged during this special period.

If you would like to take advantage of this, please make your booking with Mrs. Julie Finch, Reservations Co-ordinator at Ian Fraser House on ext. 3230.

### NEW MARCH FOR ST DUNSTAN'S

On February 10th, a march called *Cyclone* was presented and dedicated to St Dunstan's by the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

*Cyclone* was one of five pieces offered to St Dunstan's by their composers, who were student Bandmasters on the Kneller Hall three year course. It was written by Khondker Shahidul Islam from Bangladesh. The march was composed in memory of those who suffered in the disaster of that name in his country last year.

This dedication is thanks to our Admissions Officer, Mr. Peter Marshall. Peter read in *Soldier* magazine that a march had been written for the Star and Garter Home and so wrote to Kneller Hall. St Dunstan's was fortunate in that the Course Director at Kneller Hall is Major Roger Swift, formerly Director of Music of the Coldstream Guards, who arranged and conducted *Joy Bells of Peace*, which was played at our 75th Anniversary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 1990.

A band from Kneller Hall will be playing the march during a visit to IFH on May 21st, 11.15 to 12.15. All those wishing to attend should book as soon as possible. We have only a 'temporary' recording. As soon as a professional version has been made, it will be widely advertised and made available.

### STAFF CHANGES AT HEADQUARTERS

Two senior and long-serving members of staff will retire within the next few months.

David Castleton joined St Dunstan's in 1960 as Assistant to the late Commander Robin Buckley and has been the Public Relations Officer since 1977. He will retire at the end of May and will be succeeded by Ray Hazan.

Trevor Lloyd came from private practice to St Dunstan's in 1973 as Deputy Estate Manager under the late Peter Matthews. He became Estate Manager in 1978 and will retire at the end of July this year, when he will be succeeded by Tim Osborne.

Bill Weisblatt  
Secretary

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKES GALLOP AWAY

Tickets are still available for this year's *Review* Derby Sweepstake.

Tickets are 20p each and will be issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £5). Applications should be made as soon as possible.

Full details appeared in the last *Review*, but each applicant should send their name, address, cheque or PO for tickets, and an SAE, to The Editor, DSS Department, *St Dunstan's Review*, PO Box 4XB, 12/14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's. The closing date is May 14th, the draw takes place on May 19th and the race is being run on June 2nd.

### INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENT

John Wall, Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, has been elected as Secretary General to the European Blind Union. He is also a Member of St Dunstan's Council and we offer congratulations on his new international appointment.



### THREE CHEERS FOR CELIA

Thanks to Mrs. Celia Simmons, the sum of £1,365 was raised for St Dunstan's. Celia is the god-daughter of the late John Doughty of Great Yarmouth and carries on the sports shop he set up.

Celia took over the local sports centre for two days, during which St Dunstaners demonstrated their skills at bowling, archery, braille and remedial sports therapy. Ray Hazan is pictured explaining the advantages of computer technology to an attentive group of schoolgirls.

Several schools in the area were bused in to the centre. Both they and local firms donated generously as a result of the hard work and enthusiasm of Celia, to whom we owe heartfelt thanks.

### BOLSHEVIK BIKING

A tandem tour covering 800 km from Moscow to St Petersburg is being planned by a group of blind and sighted cyclists from the USA for August this year.

They are inviting blind and sighted cyclists from around the world to join them on the journey. The group expects to travel an average of 80 km per day between August 3rd and 17th, allowing time for sightseeing and meeting local people along the way.

The US cost is \$800 (around £600 as we went to press) which includes hotels and food. Further details can be obtained from Rhonda Tichman, PO Box 460697, San Francisco, California 94146-0697, USA. Tel: 0101 415 824 6056.

### SAFETY CHECKS

British Gas will carry out free safety checks on gas installations for any registered disabled customer or aged over 60 living alone.

Checking for suspected gas leaks is also free.

### D-DAY TRIP PLANNED

A battlefield tour visiting Normandy for the D-Day 50th Anniversary Commemoration has been proposed. Dates have not been finalised, but would include June 6th, 1994.

Escort Office research indicates that three nights and four days will cost approximately £225, while two nights and three days would be around £185. The party would stop in Rouen, staying half-board at a three star hotel with en-suite rooms.

St Dunstan's would be supplying transport, but engaging a professional guide. The ferry crossing would either be Dover to Calais (a short crossing, but long coach drive, stopping en route) or Portsmouth to Cherbourg (a long crossing with a shorter coach drive).

Anyone interested should contact Carol Aggett at the Escort Office, IFH for further details.

### LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE

A Bridge for Beginners course will be held at Ian Fraser House from April 19th to 23rd.

Anyone interested in taking up the game should contact Clare Woods as soon as possible.

### ALL ABOARD FOR HMS DAEDALUS

Have you booked for camp at HMS Daedalus? The date is August 6th and applications should be with Elspeth Grant by May 8th at the latest.

Elspeth can be telephoned on 0799 522874 or you can write to her at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG.

### TROOPING THE COLOUR

Some tickets have been issued for Trooping the Colour on Saturday, June 12th and The Royal Tournament on Tuesday, July 20th.

Any St Dunstaner who would like to apply should contact Pat Carlton at Headquarters by May 11th. Final allocations will be drawn from a hat.

Any St Dunstaner wishing to attend these events must pay their own travelling and accommodation expenses.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN

Many happy returns to St Dunstaner John Alton on his 80th birthday, recently celebrated in Victoria, Australia.

John, pictured above with his wife, Norma, migrated from Merseyside in 1949. He tells us that antipodean weather has been unusually awful lately.

'We had hailstones as big as mothballs, but they were frozen together like grapes about five to ten in a cluster,' he said.

### NUMBERS IN REVIEW

Numerologists take note! The Taped Review is sweet 16 this year. Adding those figures together makes seven and double seven, that's 77, the age of the print and braille editions.

If you take 16 away from 77 you get 61 — the same figures in reverse. The Review was launched in 1916 and adding those vintage figures makes 17 and finally eight — which is half of 16.

Arcane academics will tell you that this signifies a continued commitment to bring you the best news and features from the world of St Dunstan's.

### CASSETTE LIBRARY ADDITION

G57 8 × C90s. *In Presence of my Foes—Travels and Travails of a PoW*, by Brigadier Davis-Scourfield.

G58 5 × C90s. *Durban's Lady in White*. Story of Perla Siedle Gibson, who sang to ships entering and leaving Durban harbour during World War II.

Please ask PR Department for a full library list.

### NEW PHYSIO CHAIRMAN

Mike Tetley has become the Chairman of St Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee. His Vice-Chairman is Eric Foster.

### SHAKESPEARE IN SOUNDHOUSES

It was Francis Bacon who predicted the advent of amplified and recorded sound when he wrote 'Wee represent Small Sounds as Great and Deepe; Likewise Great Sounds, Extenuate and Sharpe', but it is his contemporary, Shakespeare, who has gained the advantage of modern technology.

Thirty audio-described performances are scheduled for Royal Shakespeare Company productions at London's Barbican Theatre. Another ten are planned for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford using newly installed audio equipment.

Each of these performances will provide a synopsis in braille and large type to accompany the infra-red headsets.

Upcoming ADPs at the Barbican are *Beggar's Opera* (which is by John Gay rather than the Bard) on May 6th, 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th, and *As You Like It* on May 13th, June 4th, 5th, 25th and 26th. Times vary, but further details can be obtained on 071-638 8891.

Details for Stratford were not available at press-time, but information can be obtained on 0789 295623.

A J. B. Priestley revival is also benefiting from audio description at the Royal National Theatre's Olivier Theatre. Kenneth Cranham, television's Harvey Moon, stars in *An Inspector Calls* on April 21st and a June 9th matinee.

Two tickets cost £10 and further details can be gained from the box office on 071-928 2252.

### MILLER'S HOUSE WINS INTERNATIONAL RENOWN

The work of Ted and Iris Miller has been featured in two consecutive issues of *International Dolls House Magazine*.

A special Royal edition of the magazine spotlighted a Tudor Farmhouse model that was presented to Buckingham Palace in 1985, while the next issue examined a more contemporary model, Belvedere, a rotunda-capped mansion with its own electrical supply.

Longtime readers of the *Review* will recall that Ted, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, plans the dolls houses and then instructs Iris on their construction.

### TELETEXT CARD FOR SALE

Teletext card plus software, price £85. This card fits inside the PC and has socket for connection to a TV aerial. Please contact Ray Hazan on 071-723 5021.

### HAPPY EATER LAUNCHES BRAILLE MENU

Now available at Happy Eater Restaurants is a Braille Menu for the blind. Happy Eater is the first roadside chain to introduce Braille Menus for its blind customers.

The menus are available at all Happy Eaters around the country and, according to Ian Pegler, Happy Eater's Executive Director, 'The Braille Menu is just one way of showing that not only do Happy Eater welcome the blind or partially sighted, but that we will also go out of our way to make the visit as relaxing as possible.'

New Braille Menus will be introduced by Happy Eater when its standard menus are changed later in the year.

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Accessible antique architecture of the angled isle is arranged alphabetically and catalogued by the county in a new publication from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

*Historic Buildings of England—A Guide for Disabled People* is primarily concerned with physical access but does cite some instances where provision is made for blind people. An example is Goodwood House, a Jacobean hunting lodge near Chichester, which allows guide dogs, while the local cathedral has a touch and hearing system.

The book costs £3.00 and can be obtained from RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Tel: 071-637 5400.

### AVIATION AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The exploits of an aviation engineer from the days of the Tiger Moth to those of the Boeing 707 are charted in a new book.

Harold Llewellyn has just published his biography titled *Pigs and Wings and other things*. It costs £13 (inc. P&P) and can be ordered from Spindleberry House, Alberbury, Shropshire SY5 9AH.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MRS. RICKABY

Mrs. Jane Rickaby, widow of William Rickaby of Battersea, celebrated a full century on February 17th. Her family joined her for afternoon tea at Harrods, followed by an evening celebration at home.

One of Mrs. Rickaby's family gave her a badge declaring: 'The first 100 years are the hardest.' St Dunstan's wishes her all the best for the next 'easy' century.

### GET A ROUND SOUND

A monthly 90-minute cassette programme, *Soundaround* is now available free of charge. *Soundaround* combines the variety of a magazine with the immediacy of a radio phone-in programme. It tries to mirror the world for people who may never look in a mirror again.

Each edition of the programme contains news and current affairs, regular features on cookery and gardening, technology, competitions, quizzes and a long running entertainment section, *Talent Spot*, featuring *Soundaround* members.

People can receive *Soundaround* just by telephoning 081-741 3332.

### MIKE BITES THE BULLET

Mike Tetley caused a stir by coughing up a bullet as February started.

About six pieces of the Mau Mau bullet that destroyed his sight in 1954 worked their way into his mouth during a bath-time snooze.

There were originally 19 shards left in Mike's head, but they have passed out at various times over the decades. 'One bit popped out in my ear while I was climbing Ben Nevis,' he said.

### RESPONSE FROM BT

British Telecom recently launched the Response 50 answering machine which includes an audible alert when taking a message. A synthesized voice reports how many messages have been recorded and announces the time and date of each one.

A talking clock is another useful feature.

The Response 50 is priced at £59.99 from BT Shops and other retailers. Alternatively, the machine can be rented from BT for £6.99 per quarter.

### MONEY BOX FACTS

Fact sheets from Radio 4's *Money Box* programme are now available, free of charge, in braille.

Offering impartial advice on personal investment, the fact sheets can be obtained from *Money Box*, PO Box 7000, Cardiff CF5 2YU.

An *In Touch* guide, *Money Matters*, also deals with financial issues and can be obtained in braille and tape for £2.95. Cheques or POs payable to BSS should go to *Money Matters*, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

### MARITIME VISITS

Hands on visits to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich can now be organised for groups of eight or more people.

Two events have been pre-planned, *The House of Delights*, a tour of the Queen's House on April 3rd, and *The Old Royal Observatory Restored* on July 3rd, though these are limited to 20 visitors.

Further information can be gained from the Special Needs Adviser, Education Department, National Maritime Museum on 081-858 4422.

### NEW INTRODUCTION FOR FEDERATION

The National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom have produced a new leaflet introducing themselves to the public.

Available in print, braille and tape, it describes the group's work, includes membership details and can be obtained by telephoning 0924 291313.

### SCULPTURE IN SOUND

Audio guides have been produced for blind visitors to Yorkshire Sculpture at Bretton Hall, West Bretton, Wakefield.

Work by Henry Moore is included and a connoisseurs guide has been written by William Kirby, a visually impaired art interpreter, while a layman's guide is read by Sir Brian Rix. Tapes are also planned for specific exhibitions and can be booked in advance on 0924 830642.

### NEW TAPE MAGAZINE

Billed as the audio equivalent of a glossy magazine, *Weekend Listener* offers a lively, chatty brew of fashion, travel, show business and consumer news.

A year's subscription (50 issues) costs £13.95. Further details can be gained from MT Audio on 0892 544796.

St Dunstan's own compendium of news and interesting topics, *Nuggets*, is still available on tape and in braille, free of charge. If you would like to receive it, just contact the Public Relations Department.

### DIGITAL DAILY FROM TOMORROW'S WORLD

The electronic newspaper, outlined in the December *Review*, was officially launched by *Tomorrow's World* presenter Judith Hann on March 9th. *The Guardian*, currently the only paper on the service, invited other publications to join the project.

### THE LATE ROBERT EVANS

Mr. David Evans, son of our late St Dunstaner Robert, has asked us to add some further information to the *In Memory* notice that appeared in the February *Review*.

Bob studied at the University of Wales where he read languages and earned a Masters degree. He was also a Bachelor of Science. His loss of sight was due to working with radar during his service with the Royal Air Force.

As a St Dunstaner he became a well-known personality among the many prominent people involved in horse racing in Newbury where he had a successful physiotherapy practice treating owners, trainers and jockeys. Before he retired to Saltdean he played chess to County standard against sighted opponents.

# THE ADVENTURES OF RICHARD BINGLEY



It was as a teenager that Richard Bingley began his military career. At 19 years old he was a full sergeant, off to France with the British Expeditionary Force.

When the Germans attacked the Low Countries, his battalion was in the thick of things. 'We got involved in Brussels and I saw the city on fire.

'It was during the defence of Hill 60, when three battalions of the Middlesex Regiment had to hold the enemy back, because British armour was the wrong side of the canal, that my machine-gun was struck by a German mortar bomb and my entire crew were wounded. One lad died afterwards!'

Evacuation from Dunkirk followed and Richard spent the next seven weeks in hospital. 'After that, I volunteered for Number 2 Commando, which was a new parachute unit being formed,' he said. 'Soon afterwards, we were renamed the 11th Special Air Service Battalion. On my commission it was reformed as 1st Parachute Battalion.'

Richard parachuted into Sicily on July

13th, 1943 to make an attack on pillboxes sighted at Primosola Bridge.

'My platoon captured two pillboxes,' he said. 'But I got shot in the hand by an Italian officer.' Richard returned fire and shot his attacker, but the wound would haunt him in a future action.

Over a year later, Richard's company were sent to Wolfheze Woods to prepare to move on to Arnhem.

'My Colonel said "Bingley! We have a call from the Bridge. They are in need of ammunition and I'm going to send you with three Bren gun carriers and as much ammunition. I want you to tell them 1st Parachute Battalion will join them as soon as we can get there."

'We put some ammunition in three piles. The first Bren gun carrier came up, we loaded it, and straight away it was hit by a German 88 mm gun.'

Events were repeated with the second carrier and the Colonel decided he couldn't risk the third, adding: 'We'll have to march.'

Richard was ordered to round up men who had been separated from the battalion. The march on the Bridge was being prepared. 'I took a sergeant and private and we went along to the very end build-

ing, a hotel called the Rhine Hotel. We discovered 12 and took them back to the Adjutant.'

Another foray found 14 men, but it was the third trip that was to prove fatal for Richard. 'The sergeant said: "If you don't mind, I really must clean my rifle before we move on to the Bridge." And the private said: "So must I."

'I said: "OK lads, do so" . . . and like an idiot, I proceeded towards the Rhine Hotel and because of circumstances I had to follow the same route that I had followed before — and that is a complete violation of all rules.

'You should never do that because you've alerted the enemy . . .

. . . and I'd obviously been seen by an SS man on the previous occasion, but he couldn't do anything when there were three of us, but when he saw me coming on my own he must have been delighted.

'Now it so happens that I thought to myself: "What a fool I am for coming along a route a third time unescorted — I'm in for trouble . . ." I sensed that something was wrong and suddenly heard him as he came towards me.

'He brought his rifle down across my gun. It caused my finger to press the trigger, so I shot him in the stomach, but I didn't know that.'

The rifle blow had landed on Richard's old wound. 'We had a fight there on the ground for two or three minutes and there he was with a stomach full of lead, fighting like fury . . .

. . . and I don't mind telling you, at one time I thought my number was up. Fortunately, the bullets got the better of him. I had a job fighting him because my hand was in an awful state.'

Richard gave up his search for the missing men and rejoined his company for the march towards Arnhem.

Wavertree 4000  
Information on this subject  
to  
ary of State.  
ice  
Branch,  
Coat School,  
Church Road, Wavertree,  
Liverpool 15.  
number quoted  
'87/B (Casualties)



THE WAR OFFICE,  
CASUALTY BRANCH,  
BLUE COAT SCHOOL,  
CHURCH ROAD,  
WAVERTREE,  
LIVERPOOL 15.  
3rd August, 1943.

Sir,  
In confirmation of War Office telegram dated the 1st August, 1943, I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received by telegraph from the Military Authorities in North Africa that your son, 2nd Lieutenant R.A.J. Bingley, Army Air Corps, was wounded in action on the 14th July, 1943.

No particulars as to the nature of the wound or the name of the hospital to which 2nd Lieutenant Bingley has been admitted have been furnished. If, however, he becomes seriously ill as a result of his wound, further reports will be received by telegraph which will be telegraphed on to you. In the absence of such a communication, it can be assumed that your son is making normal progress in which event you will, no doubt, hear from him in due course about his wound and progress.

In the meantime, communications for your son should continue to be addressed to him at his Unit where arrangements exist for their redirection if necessary.

Will you kindly notify this Office of any change in your address, in case further reports are received.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

*W. Williams*

GUNSHOT WOUND RIGHT

L.W.J. Bingley, Esq.,  
"Belvedere",  
77, Templedene Avenue,

No. *AC 7440*  
(If correct, please quote above No.)

Army Form B 104-81a.

RECORD & PAY OFFICE  
7 JUN 1940  
ASHFORD, MEX.

Record Office, 191

SIR OR MADAM,

I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) *6204212*

(Rank) *Sgt.*  
(Name) *Bingley, Richard A.J.*  
(Regiment) *1/8 MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.*

has been wounded, and was admitted to *2nd Cavalry Ambulance Hospital, Near Heli.*

on the *30th* day of *May* 194*3*. The nature of the wound is *Shrapnel Wound, Neck & Ankle.*

I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council. Any further information received at this office as to his condition will be at once notified to you.

Yours faithfully,  
*G.W. Mann*  
Officer in Charge of Records.

IMPORTANT—Any change of address should be immediately notified to (2689) W4007/P1243 250m 2/18 71160 G & S 302

Charges to pay  
RECEIVED

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

Prefix. Time handed in. 75

75 6.15 PM LIVERPOOL OWNS PAY CO OF YESTERDAY

PRIORITY 400 H N J BINGLEY DELIVERED 77 TEMPLE

AVENUE STAINES MIDDLESEX

NOTIFICATION RECEIVED FROM NORTH WEST EUROPE THAT

LT R A J BINGLEY ARMY AIR CORPS HAS REPORTED

MISSING ON 25 SEPTEMBER 1943. THE ARMY COUNCIL

EXPRESS SYMPATHY & LETTER WILL BE SENT SHORTLY

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

possible, the envelope

Richard Bingley (top left) as a young officer in 1st Parachute Battalion. During the course of the War his life was invariably in peril. His parents received a series of correspondence (left to below) that charted his tribulations through the conflict.



Return to Primosola. Richard stands outside one of the pillboxes captured by his platoon during the raid on Sicily.

'We were mopping up machine guns and snipers in trees, when my sergeant, a Scots Guards sergeant, a wonderful chap, was shot in the throat.

'I went over to see if I could help him in any way and I got shot in the ankle.'

Revenge of sorts was had when Richard's company captured the local SS HQ but triumph was short-lived. 'We couldn't move on to the roads because the Germans occupied all the houses opposite, so we pigeon-holed our way through to the very last house.'

Three German tanks approached. 'They fired at the roof, high explosives, followed by phosphorus.' This was repeated for each floor of the building.

'It collapsed on us,' said Richard. 'Hours later, when the Dutch people pulled us out of the debris, the Germans were waiting for us.'

Richard came round in a builder's yard,

however being captured didn't mean an end to conflict. Richard requested some coffee for his men, but a German ingredient proved rather unpalatable.

'They gave us the coffee, but one of the men said: "Don't drink that, sir, they've just urinated in it".' Richard gathered the cups and threw the contents over the serving German.

Charged with insulting the German uniform he was put in solitary confinement.

Richard was moved to a PoW camp where little could be done for his wounds. 'I was lucky, the doctor of my battalion was in the prison camp, but he hadn't any equipment. All he could do was keep my hand and leg clean.'

Surgery on the wounded hand and ankle was necessary when Richard returned to England, but his military career was far from over...

## REFLECTIONS By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

I wonder what it is to be blind. It breaks down all the certainties of my life. In my world, the one who earns most money is the most important, otherwise you live with a gentle despair. Without sight all that changes.

I say I wonder. In fact, I do not wish to do anything of the sort. To lose any faculty is heart-breaking, but not to see daylight is the most obvious of handicaps. It must lead to an unreal world. Even in imagination one fights shy of such experience.

Yet I meet these people, and they are more real than I am. Long periods must hang upon them and pleasures are limited. When I am with one of them, I

believe that he, or she, is more to be admired than almost anyone else and I tremble to think that I might be a cause of offence, however slight.

Of course, all the structures of the world must stay in place. There must be competitiveness. Some must take charge and force conformity. Someone must add up the figures and prevent the scoundrels who strive to cheat us of our meagre benefits.

Can I say, can I believe, that God loves these blind people — offers them a primacy in His attention — loves them without limit? There is comfort in such a faith. More, it is true.

## Password beats crooks

**M**ANY public utility companies are now operating a password system to crack down on conmen who gain access to homes by claiming to be workmen, meter readers or social workers. The system allows blind people to be sure that they are letting *bona fide* workmen come through the door.

The *Review* asked several firms operating near St Dunstan's HQ how their staff are identified when calling on blind people.

British Gas North Thames encourage blind customers to give them a word or number as a security check. 'Don't let people claiming to be employees of British Gas North Thames into your home unless they can quote the password,' they say. 'Our employees will not mind waiting while you check their identity. If in doubt, keep them out — and call the police.'

London Electricity say that password schemes are very popular with their customers generally. 'Some people have difficulty thinking of a suitable word though,' said a spokesman. 'So we will make suggestions if necessary.'

Such methods are not yet universal though. A password scheme is still under consideration at Thames Water who are also examining the potential of braille embossed identity cards.

'We're very concerned about bogus callers,' said a spokesman. 'So we're actively looking at things like password schemes. We're getting a new computer system which should allow us to introduce one later in the year.'

'If anyone is unsure, they should call our customer services office to check the caller is genuine. None of our inspectors will mind waiting on the doorstep.'

Thames Water also stressed that it is on very rare occasions that they require access to the household as most work is carried out on the mains.

Westminster Council's first response was that all their employees carried photographic ID cards which could be checked before opening the door.

Asked how a St Dunstaner would check such a card, a spokesman suggested making sure a sighted friend was present. They later added that a social worker would first make contact by telephone.

## Simon Rogers finds out the latest way to trip up heartless conmen

'There's no password scheme as such, but if a blind person wants to lay down something he or she will say when the social worker calls, then that's OK with us.'

'The other senses are heightened, so a blind person should be able to tell soon enough if a voice is different.' He added that there should be no cold-calling, that is no unannounced visits, by council staff.

British Telecom don't run a password scheme, but told the *Review* that it is very unusual for their engineers to call unannounced these days as most faults can be fixed from the exchange.

'They usually call to a fixed appointment, say between eight and ten-thirty,' said a spokesman. 'In the rare event that an engineer does call out of the blue, a person can phone 151 to confirm that a fault has been reported and that an engineer has been assigned.'

What do the police advise? 'Think before you open the door,' said a Scotland Yard spokesman. 'Call out and ask who is there, put the chain on before opening the door and if you're still not sure phone to check they are who they say they are.'

'Keep the phone numbers of utilities like gas, electricity and water, as well as social services and local council, handy so that you can check quickly before letting anyone in.'

According to the police, bogus callers are not usually violent, though that does not limit the trauma of intrusion suffered by victims. In 1991, over 5,000 burglaries were committed in this fashion.

'We advise people not to buy from people who call unexpectedly, only have building work carried out by recommended companies.'

'If you ask at any police station, the local crime prevention officer will give free advice on gadgets that can be fitted.'

● The *Review* would be interested to hear of any different systems that St Dunstaners may have come across.



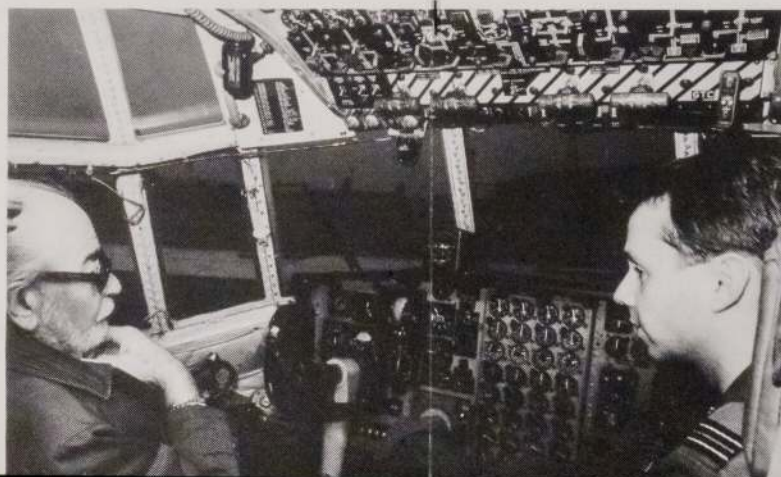
## GETTING TO KNOW HERCULES

**Above:** The mighty Hercules stands behind the St Dunstaners who visited RAF Lyneham.

**Below:** Ever ready, ever vigilant, the radar room that guides Hercules safely home.

**Right:** Paul Walker listens to incoming aircraft with the officer in charge.

**Bottom Right:** Arthur Taylor with Flight Lieutenant Andy Potts on the flight deck.



They look impressive lined up on the tarmac. Large, squat and sitting low on the ground, they are the Royal Air Force Transport Command's Hercules aircraft. A group of St Dunstaners with their escorts got to know the Hercules when they visited RAF Lyneham on February 10th.

They were the guests of 47 Squadron and their individual hosts, Flight Lieutenant Andy Potts and Sergeant Load Master Rob Hick had both been involved in flights into besieged Sarajevo. A reminder that active service can take place in 'peace-time'.

Under their guidance the St Dunstaners visited the Radar Room and the Control Tower as aircraft were landing and taking off. They rode in the fire fighting vehicles that are always at readiness against accident. Pilot, Andy Potts showed them over the flight deck of a Hercules while Sergeant Hick introduced them to his world, the yawning cargo area with its hydraulic ramp opening up the rear of the fuselage and through which tanks and lorries can be driven or supplies or soldiers parachuted on to their targets.

Back at the Squadron crew-room Jim Fraser, ex-RAF, presented an inscribed St Dunstan's shield to Squadron Leader Ian Barrett. It was a small token of thanks for an interesting and enjoyable day getting to know Hercules.

Fred King, who used to work in Sick Bay at Pearson House, was escorting Ken Revis. He served with the RAF and visited Lyneham playing for his unit's football team. The St Dunstan's eleven on this occasion consisted of: Josh Callum, Jim Fraser, Tom Hart, Joe Huk, Norman Killick, Ken Revis, Ray Sheriff, Arthur Taylor, Mike Telley, Ken Walker, and Paul Walker.



*Bill Slade with the captured ensign of his persecutors*

## FACE TO FACE WITH THE FIRING SQUAD

**F**FIFTY years ago, on March 31st, three British prisoners of war stood before a German firing squad. They had refused to continue working on track repairs to a railway line carrying troops and war materials. Their leader, Bill Slade, was given one last opportunity to comply on behalf of his colleagues. He refused and the shots rang out.

Amazingly all three survived. Norman Cullity was unscathed but fell to the ground; Lawrence Kavanagh was shot in the chest; Bill Slade fell with a wound in the chest, still conscious. As he did so, the German officer, realising he was still alive, placed his revolver against Bill's temple, firing a second bullet through his head which destroyed one eye and damaged the retina of the other.

Now Bill is the sole survivor of the trio as both his fellow prisoners have died since the war. He was only 17 when he joined the Queen's Royal Regiment as a reservist. Called up at the outbreak of war, he served with the Second Battalion in

*Continued overleaf*

Palestine and North Africa before transferring to the irregulars Egypt, known as 'Layforce' after their commander Colonel Laycock. With them he was involved in desert raids behind enemy lines. Later they became the 50th Middle East Commandos.

Based in Crete, he was involved in several raids on the Italian islands. Later he was among the rearguard facing the German invasion of Crete and was finally taken prisoner, aged 21.

Bill takes up his story . . .

A ship took us over to Salonika, Greece, where we were housed in old Greek barracks until further orders came through for our removal by cattle trucks to Germany.

First stop was Milburg (Stalag IV B) a large de-lousing centre — as we were riddled from head to foot with lice — and that was the forerunner of typhus, so the Germans were very quick to get this done. After cleansing, we stayed on at Stalag IV B until various camps were allocated to us — such as RAF, Navy and Army.

On the train through Czechoslovakia, myself and some other men were dropped off in a small place called Kommotau, now Chomutov, near Prague, where I was housed in a small Arbeit Commando 173 for work in many forms such as street cleaning, emptying dustbins and labouring. This continued for a long time — and I was prepared to do this as a prisoner of war.

We were then moved to Teplice, working in a pottery factory. Disturbances broke out between the various nations there — Turks, Maltese and the Cypriot prisoners. The small number of English were blamed, we were then moved again this time to do work on railway lines.

I attempted to escape. Failure led to 21 days in solitary confinement — bread every other day, fresh water every day. After that time was up, I was returned to work on the railway.

I was taken every morning with about 18 others to a stretch of the line that needed constant attention — as it was the main line for the dispatch of war material, (desert coloured) that was manufactured in Czechoslovakia and vital for the Desert Campaign. We heard that Rommel had met with much success (before El Alamein) and had to stand away from the line

many times throughout the day whilst this vital war material passed through.

It was then I took immediate steps in explaining to the guard that this was war work — in my opinion contrary to the Geneva Convention. He raised his rifle to shoot me there and then 'as the others were doing it, so why shouldn't I?' He called me a Bolshevik and threatened to report me to the Camp Commandant on return to the billets. He did so.

The Camp Commandant warned me that if I did not go to work with the rest of the men the following morning I would be shot! He then left saying he would return for my decision at 8 o'clock that night.

I returned to my hut, and sat, knowing full well that he meant what he said. He returned that evening — but in the meantime I had unexpectedly been joined for my stand against this particular work by Norman Cullity (Cheshires) of the Intelligence Department and Sgt Lawrence Kavanagh (51st Commando).

When the Commandant entered the hut accompanied by two of the guards he asked me for my decision. It was the same, I would go to work elsewhere . . . but not on that particular line. I warned him it was in contravention of the Geneva Convention that I was forced to do this work, and I was within my rights to refuse to do so . . .

He went berserk and drew his revolver, the guards immediately loaded their rifles. It was under this threat that he said I was a Red Bolshevik and an instigator of trouble, stating that I had already done solitary confinement for escaping and that he had been in touch with the German High Command for a firing party to be sent at 6 o'clock the following morning.

I was to be shot in front of the whole camp as an example. This work was so vital to them that they could not afford to lose time on it.

The camp was electrified as to what would happen. I knew he meant it, and he knew I was determined also, determined not to do this war work that was helping them in their desert victories. My hut was in the middle of the camp and many prisoners came in, wondering as to the decision I would make . . . offering advice and also making many comments like 'trouble maker' and 'we have to do this because we are prisoners'.

But the knowledge that Kavanagh and

Cullity would stand by me the following morning and refuse lifted a great weight off my mind.

I sat alone at the table in my hut throughout that night . . . thinking of many things, of the seriousness of the position we were in, questions that had to be answered . . . could they . . . would they shoot us as registered prisoners of war? We were not refusing to work . . . only on that particular line.

My thoughts turned to the many who would be killed or maimed before this war was over. Someone had to protest over this kind of work!

### The decision

Dawn approached . . . but in my own mind I was fully convinced that what I was doing was *right* and, with the firm assurance of two stalwart comrades, I faced the inevitable.

At 5.30 a.m. I was alerted by the sound of heavy transport and a lot of orders being shouted in German. Amidst the thud of jackboots and clatter which, I presumed were rifles, when I was disturbed from my thoughts by 'Larry' Kavanagh saying to me 'They have arrived then'. I said 'Yes . . . I heard them not long ago'.

Within a short time we were joined by Norman Cullity who said, 'Still going through with it Bill?' I said 'Yes'. I then asked them both 'How do *you* stand about it as it will soon be time for the decision to be made as to what you are going to do?' Their reply was 'We are with you Bill'.

Soon after the Germans came round waking everybody for work, the rest of the prisoners in our hut neither asked nor made comment as to the decision I had made with Kavanagh and Cullity . . . although they knew.

Just before it was time to go to work the Camp Commandant and a German officer came into our hut — he told me that the firing party was here . . . did I still refuse? My reply was 'Yes'. It was then that he was informed that Kavanagh and Cullity were of the same opinion as myself, he refrained from any comment . . . only ordered all prisoners outside with myself, Kavanagh and Cullity the last to leave.

Outside, I notice that most of the men had lined up in ranks, the usual procedure ready for marching off to work. They ordered the three of us to the left, away

from the rest of the men. It was then while being lined up, with our backs towards the barbed wire and facing the hut, that I saw the Firing Squad being assembled, only six feet away, under the command of the German Officer.

The Camp Commandant went up to Kavanagh and Cullity and spoke to them saying it was foolish of them to join me and would they reconsider before it was too late — join the rest of the men and go to work. Their reply was inaudible to me but no movement was made, he then rejoined the German Officer who was giving the order to load rifles . . . take aim . . . and FIRE . . .

I remember quite clearly a thud to my chest and a tearing sensation in my back — but I realised that the bullet had missed my heart. It seemed to me a considerable time before I sank to the ground, still conscious of what was happening.

It was then that the unexpected and merciless act took place, the German Officer, knowing I was still alive . . . took out his revolver . . . placed it against my temple . . . and pulled the trigger!

There was a shattering blow to my head and the second bullet passed through my head tearing out my left eye and damaging the right. I was still conscious . . . and alive with full knowledge of the damage that had been done to me, especially my eyes.

The rest of the men that had witnessed this shooting were then marched off for work.

**Bill's life was saved by the attentions of an Australian and New Zealand medical officer and later by treatment in a German military hospital. He was repatriated in an exchange of wounded prisoners and when he became totally blind he came to St Dunstan's for rehabilitation.**

After training he worked as an industrial inspector, using brailled measuring equipment, until his health brought about his retirement. It was also through St Dunstan's that he met his wife, Sally. They were married in 1966 and now live in Aldwyck, near Bogner Regis.

Bill Slade is the only British PoW to receive compensation, his wounds having been accepted as a Nazi war crime. 'Thanks to the efforts of the late Lord Fraser of Lonsdale who was then Chairman of St Dunstan's,' said Bill.



## Upgrading Talking Books

MEMBERS of the Royal National Institute's Talking Book Service will hopefully have noticed an improvement in the quality of the reading in the higher catalogue numbers. The aim of this article is to describe how this is achieved. A totally separate issue is the quality of playback which will be mentioned later.

Mr. Ian Turner is the manager of the recording studios and has been involved with Talking Books for the past 27 years. His hard work and the 'restyling' of his staff, has resulted in the enhancement. In addition, the Institute can now boast some of the best speech recording studios in London.

Originally, titles were chosen by a selection committee, which met three times a year. This resulted in the recording studios suddenly receiving a list of 200 titles, with which it never caught up. All selection is now through Lorraine Toogood, the Librarian in Peterborough. Lorraine uses four guiding principles. Members can send specific requests direct to her. Members will frequently comment as to the type of book they would like — thrillers, political biographies, etc. Lorraine will 'consult' with the library's computer to find which types of books are most in demand. Finally, Lorraine pores through many publishers' lists. These criteria result in a constant trickle of titles passed to the recording studios cutting down the backlog and the time from selection to producing the finished article.

An innovation, introduced by Ian, is the preparation of the book before it even reaches the narrator who is to record it. Decisions must be made as to the number of narrators for each book, accents and pronunciation. There are some 87 reference and pronunciation dictionaries in the library. Helpful notes for the narrator will be added to the printed text. Where possible, narrators with a knowledge of the subject or accent are chosen.

One of the fundamental changes in the studios is the nature of what was once called the 'sound engineer'. Now, he or she has become a 'production engineer'. They enjoy reading books themselves and most probably have degrees in either English or Literature. It is they who choose their nar-

rators and they will frequently coax them through the reading like a director on stage or film set. The production engineer monitors two narrators at a time.

Only productive readers have been retained — they number some 90, and preparation before the recording session means that a large proportion (100 minutes) of the two hour recording session goes 'in the can' or into the final master tape! Between August and November 1992, for instance, a total of 122 titles, each of an average of just over nine hours duration were added to catalogue number 8925.

The recording is currently in analogue form on a one inch tape, which is subsequently transferred to the Clarke and Smith cassette as we, the users, receive it. From next year on, recordings will be made in digital format, which will mean master tapes do not deteriorate and may provide the master format for the next generation of talking books.

A great improvement in the quality of the playback has been made with the introduction of the Clarke and Smith TB 2000 playback machine. The new unit is slightly smaller and lighter than the existing Mark IV, and can have rechargeable internal batteries fitted with variable speed an optional extra. The TB 2000 is only being made available to new members of the library or those who can prove a special need and is an interim until the next generation of machines is developed. This is going to be a difficult decision as so many technologies are being constantly introduced. Finance means that a new system must last for some 20 years to be viable. Suffice it to say for the moment that the RNIB is examining, with other nations, principally the USA, new formats. An experimental Compact Disk playback system has been produced.

Despite innovation, two customs thankfully remain. Groups, pubs, firms and individuals are encouraged to donate the £500 cost of a recording to the library. Once the print edition has been recorded, the readers' copy is presented to the donor or donors with grateful thanks for the many hours of pleasure and company gained by the users of the RNIB Talking Book Service.

## A speaking team retires

Robert and Joyce Pringle retire at the end of April after nearly 22 years' service to St Dunstan's. They are very much a team — really a double act — when they are entertaining meetings, particularly in schools. Over the years they have had a heavy mail bag of letters from youngsters who have learned from them how blindness can be tackled. Joyce, of course, has been the driver and in covering their area, the South and West of England, they have covered more than 160,000 miles — the equivalent of 15 round trips to Auckland, New Zealand!

Robert is a post-war St Dunstaner. He joined in 1948 after he was blinded in a terrorist incident in Haifa while serving with the Palestine Police. He worked in industry before his appointment as a speaker in 1971. Since then he and Joyce have loyally spread the word about St Dunstan's work in all weathers and enjoyed and endured experiences which would make an excellent book! Perhaps they will write it in retirement but whatever they do in future all St Dunstan's will wish them well for they have faithfully served our organisation and enhanced its reputation.



*Flash of inspiration. Robert Pringle demonstrates his invention, 'Flash Harry', which he used to explain the rudiments of braille. The device was built by Norman French, our research engineer.*

## OBITUARIES: Former staff

### CHARLES LAWRENCE

Charles Lawrence, who died on December 27th, 1992, will be remembered by St Dunstaners in two roles. He first became associated with St Dunstan's in July 1969 when his wife, Maria, was appointed Housekeeper at Broadhurst Gardens, where he assisted her while continuing his own employment with an insurance company.

Later, in November 1973, he became a staff member himself when he joined the Estates Department as Insurance Clerk. He still continued to help at Broadhurst Gardens, his early morning cups of tea being greatly appreciated by Maria's guests!

He retired from the Estates Department in December 1982 but continued his

involvement at our hostel until the Lawrences, as a couple, finally retired in May 1983. Later that year at the London Reunion they accepted a presentation from their many friends among St Dunstaners.

We offer sympathy to Maria and members of her family.

### JOHN BRADY

St Dunstaners who knew him will be sorry to learn of the death of John Brady on January 6th. He was Estate Surveyor in the North West from just after the Second World War until he left in 1970 to take up business interests of his own. In the early post-war years he was responsible for acquiring properties for the many St Dunstaners settling in his area on completion of their training.

## By Yon Bonnie Bank by Ray Hazan

**Y**OU do not have to be blind to be frustrated not knowing if a credit sent to your bank has yet reached your account. Or conversely, that a creditor has not yet presented your cheque and you wondered why you seemed richer!

What would you say to being able to access your own banking affairs without having to go through a third party at any time of day? Several banking services now offer direct access to their computers from which the visually handicapped may take advantage. This article will describe just one of those services.

The Bank of Scotland, not to be confused with the Royal Bank of Scotland, operate the Home/Office Banking Service (HOBS). St Dunstaner Charlie Daly was the first to use the scheme and has been of great encouragement and help to

others. I joined the service on July 1st, 1992. Anyone with a computer and modem, a device to connect the computer to the telephone line, can have direct access to the bank's computer.

There are four levels of security in order to enter the system, including two passwords of your choice which must be changed at least once a year. If there are more than three false attempts to enter the system, then you are locked out, thus, there is a fair degree of security. Once successfully into HOBS, your computer screen will act as the bank's terminal and a blind person uses the speech system on his computer to read the screen out to him or her. The terminal not only displays information, but will accept dates and figures enabling the user to carry out transactions directly into the bank.

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## A moment to spare ... with Sydney Scroggie

Last issue, Sydney explained how he thwarted the course of true love by imposing his wooden leg on an inpromptu discussion of Mendel's laws of heredity ...

Still within the learned halls of Oxford, he now reveals how the limb, made of English willow, just like a cricket bat, was able to prompt morbid and malevolent mirth, even when detached from his person.

This wooden leg, the product of Rochampton hospital, now began to give trouble, so that it was necessary to put it in a large cardboard box provided for this purpose, have it carried down to the General Post Office, and post it to London for repairs. This duty was entrusted to two friends of mine, Michael Billington and Bruce Jones, and between them they placed the cardboard box with its contents on their shoulders, passed under the Warden's lodgings at the College gate, and set forth towards the centre for His Majesty's mail.

Michael came from Barnsley in Yorkshire, a town, as he would humorously remind you, in the ancient Wappentake of Staincross, while Bruce, a fair-haired chap I believe, was rather more proud of a somewhat sketchy Welsh

connection than the Cirencester which had shaped his actual outlook and accent. Neither of them were likely to set the academic world on fire though they were nevertheless bright and waggish fellows, who looked after their blind fellow-undergraduate with cheerfulness and solicitude, and now, as they entered the General Post Office with their inscrutable burden, were grinningly determined to make the most of this little commission. As the large cardboard box was lowered on to the counter Bruce adjusted his expression to one of a kind of sinister ambiguity while Michael, for his part, glanced furtively around him with narrowed eyes. Behind her polished counter the girl looked first at this odd pair of customers then with a dawning apprehension at the burden they had just deposited before her. 'If you please,' she said; 'what's inside this?' Bruce placed both hands on the counter, thrust his face close to hers in awful proximity, and when he replied it was in deep and macabre tones. 'As a matter of fact,' he said, 'it's a leg.' He paused to let this sink in, then concluded in a voice even more ghoulish and sepulchral. 'This,' he said, 'is the first instalment!'

On opening your HOBS account, you will automatically be given an investment account, about which more later, a cheque book, Switch/cheque/cash card and receive both a print and braille statement if requested. The cash card is valid at Barclays and Lloyds cash points, as there are very few Bank of Scotland branches south of the border. Indeed, you may have a long journey if you want to personally contact your manager other than by telephone!

A statement, covering up to the past three months, can be called up at any time. Your investment account, depending on the amount, earns interest comparable to a building society. You can easily transfer money between accounts thereby keeping as much as possible invested and transferring to current account each time you issue a cheque. You can access detailed lists of all your standing orders and direct debits with their amounts and dates of payment. They can only be initiated or cancelled in writing.

The bank can hold a list of payees such as BT, Gas and Electricity. When their bill is received you simply call up the payee on your screen, fill in the amount and date of payment — no cheques to fill in or visits to the local showroom. All transactions can be programmed in up to 30 days in advance. You can order services such as cheque books, brochures, etc., via the system and even leave messages.

If you already have a computer, then the costs are as follows: a modem card costs £75.20. The *Eazilink* communications software is a shareware programme whose registration fee is £35. The bank charges £4 per month. There are charges of 10p per standing order and 15p per direct debit. Further charges are incurred if the current account becomes overdrawn. Many of the transactions described above can be automated, i.e. the issuing of passwords and the correct menu responses pre-programmed into the software. Thus it takes an average telephone time of 45-55 seconds to pick up a statement, and one minute to carry out a transfer. All your business can be stored to disk for retrieval and perusal in your own time. For more information about the HOBS scheme either write to: The Bank of Scotland, Central Banking Services (HOBS), 2 Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh EH11 1PZ, or telephone 031-346 6338.

## Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

### Into The Heart Of Borneo

Author: Redmond O'Hanlon

Reader: George Hagan

Duration: 8.75 hours

Catalogue number: 5549

If you were looking for a good travel book, you'd need to go a long way to find the equal of this one. It is splendid!... Interesting, informative and extremely easy on the ear. Yet it is hardly a travel book at all, but an adventure story... A splendid account of a five-man expedition into the primitive steam of a tropical rain-forest.

And what men they were! Three tattooed Dyak tribesmen, superbly fit, and masters of their environment, and two over-weight white men, (overgrown schoolboys you might almost say), who were much more at home in an Oxford college than in a native dug-out up a Borneo river. Yet the expedition was an undoubted success.

However, provided the men remained on friendly terms with each other, it had to succeed! For there was no real purpose for it that I could discern.

True, there were vague hopes of seeing a special species of rhino, and talk of climbing some mountain or other, but apart from keeping the leeches and the mosquitoes away, the main activities of this remarkable team seem to have been bird-spotting, fishing, playing tricks on each other, and getting pleasantly drunk in native long houses.

But there is real pleasure in this brilliant book. There is knowledge too! Things that make you exclaim 'Well I never knew that' and I can almost guarantee you'll feel quite sorry when the recording comes to its end.

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### AWARD FOR BRAILLE FILM

*Sight by Touch*, the late Jimmy Wright's film about braille, has won a Silver Award in the British Medical Association's Film and Video Competition. This was one of 19 Silver Awards — there were three Golds — in a field of 234 entries. Sadly, this news came too late for Jimmy but he would have been much encouraged by this further success for his company, Cinexsa Films.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Richard at the garden last year.

**From: Richard Bingley, Newton Abbot**  
St Dunstaners will be pleased to know that phase two of Richard Bingley's scented garden for blind, deaf and disabled people in Newton Abbot is progressing smoothly.

Construction work commenced in February and the garden will be completed and open to the public in August 1993. The design for a water sculpture has been agreed and it will consist of five granite urns with cascading water.

So far £4,000 has been raised towards the £8,000 needed for phase two. Richard plans a ten mile sponsored walk, with an escort, from Ian Fraser House on Saturday, May 15th. His second walk will be in August on the day of the opening ceremony at Newton Abbot.

St Dunstan's soft toys will be gratefully accepted by Richard for his bring and buy stall at several coffee mornings he is organising and, of course, he will welcome sponsors for his ten mile walks.

Thank you very much indeed.

**From: Reg Kingsland, Hailsham, Sussex**

It is very heartening news, I'm sure, for all St Dunstaners who make such a grand effort every year at the Cenotaph, to know that the Chairman is making his own strenuous efforts to secure the assistance of some martial music.

I hope Sir Henry Leach will excuse me for putting forward my observations from a detailed study of the video, which may be of help in discussions with the British Legion Organisers.

It appears to me that the Band which moves off behind the Executives is too far in front and the second Band which joins

in later (by which time St Dunstan's is almost back at Horse Guards Parade) is too far behind for either Band to be heard even faintly by St Dunstaners.

Obviously the role of the Military Bands cannot be altered, but the silent march could possibly be improved by allocating St Dunstan's a position earlier or later in the procession.

I have attended the Cenotaph Service for nearly 20 years as Reg Page's escort and regard it as a great honour and privilege to march with St Dunstan's with or without music.

**From: Mrs. Lyn Evans, Saltdean, E. Sussex**

I should like to express my thanks to the St Dunstan's Physiotherapists and to all the St Dunstaners who have sent me such warm messages of sympathy at the loss of my dear husband Bob.

The letters, cards and telephone calls I have received have been a great comfort to me at this time.

**From: Percy Stubbs, Norwich, Norfolk**

May I thank all the staff at HQ and Ian Fraser House for their kind cards, letters and floral tributes after my wife's death on January 20th.

To all her friends with whom she had spent many happy hours in years past, especially the members of the Bowls Club and their wives. I know she would wish to be remembered for many happy times with what she called 'her bap on the mat' and would wish you all to remember her with affection and happy memories.

On behalf of myself and family, our dearest gratitude.

**From: Mrs. Rose Shed, Burgess Hill, W. Sussex**

My family and I wish to thank all St Dunstaners, their wives, friends, and members of staff who wrote so many kind messages of sympathy when George passed away.

We especially appreciated the thoughtfulness of all St Dunstaners who sent cards, letters and donations.

I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for being so good to us while George was in hospital.



Jimmy and his family, outside Buckingham Palace on the day he received the OBE.

## A Tribute to Jimmy Wright

by David Castleton

JIMMY Wright will always be remembered as the only St Dunstaner — the only blind person? — to be a film producer. That, however, is only part of the story. My earliest memories of him are of an enthusiastic figure pounding around the circuit at Ewell, competing in the regular St Dunstan's race-walking events held there. At reunions — before his marriage — he was famous for coming each year with a different, attractive female escort! One of them became permanent. She is named Janet, Jan to her friends, and they were married in 1967.

Other memories include following him across the Channel as he hung in the harness of a parachute, raising money for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund; in another parachute harness flying free and guiding himself with radioed directions from the ground to a safe landing, this time to raise funds for an arterial scanner at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, where he had undergone heart surgery himself.

A quietly spoken, smiling man, beneath his gentle exterior Jimmy hid a hard core

of resolution and a store of energy that enabled him to maintain his company, Cinexsa Films, against all the odds in an intensely competitive world. His documentary films won awards and TV showings and he made two successful films for St Dunstan's. For most of his productions Jimmy had to raise funds from sponsors. Having done this, he then recruited his crews, planned and co-ordinated locations, the processing of rushes, film editing and the dubbing of the sound tracks. In the dubbing studio Jimmy's keen ear was an enormous asset.

Film making despite all obstacles was not enough to absorb all Jimmy's energies. He turned his fund-raising skills and organising ability, honed in his film business, to founding his local talking newspaper, and to the causes of the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, St Peter's Hospital and the Julie Andrews Fund for research into arterial disease. For his charitable work he earned the OBE; for his war service, the DFC.

Jimmy survived a blazing aircrash as a film cameraman, a multitude of plastic surgery operations subsequently and, later in life, serious heart surgery. It is not surprising that he seemed almost to disre-

gard his blindness. He was generous and wholehearted in everything he did and this endeared him to his many friends in the film business, among his fellow Guinea Pigs, in St Dunstan's and elsewhere.

In a world in which so much mean-mindedness can be encountered we can ill spare the like of Jimmy Wright. He will leave a gap in many lives but none so severe as in those of Jan, and his two sons, Christopher and Nicholas. St Dunstaners and Staff will wish to offer their warmest sympathy to them.

## RANDOM ACCESS

### Computer hints with Ray Hazan

#### Loading HAL into upper memory

The following was gleaned from Dolphin Systems via Mike Gammon. It concerns those using DOS 5 with upper memory manager, and wishing to load HAL high. Try the following:

1. Issue 'MEM' command and note the size of the 'largest executable program'.
2. Add the following in your Config. sys file at the end of the line that reads 'DEVICE=c:\DOS\EMM386.SYS NOEMS'. Additional text 'I=E000-EFFF'.
3. Add the letters 'LH' at the beginning of the line in Autoexec. bat that loads HAL.
4. Reboot.
5. Issue 'MEM' command as in 1 above and see if the largest program size has changed.

There are two caveats. In the case of a Higrade 386 this addition caused the screen to blank. If this does work for you, you will not be able to use the 'HAL -R' command to unload HAL.

#### For Disposal

Many 5.25" disks and several 5.25" boxes. The disks contain a variety of software. Please contact Ray Hazan at HQ.

#### New Speech System

This system from Viewpoint technology costs £540. Anyone who would like a cassette with demo and more details should send a blank tape to Ray Hazan at HQ.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's

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

**Mr. William Hibberd** of Beaconsfield, who recently celebrated his 84th birthday, became a St Dunstaner on February 10th.

He joined the 12th Royal Lancers straight from school in April 1925 and, having left the army in 1937, was mobilised again in 1939. Whilst serving abroad, he lost his hearing and contracted meningitis resulting in the loss of his sight.

Post-war, he worked as a cinema manager, then in administration until his retirement. He played soccer for his regiment and was also a keen swimmer.

**Lawrence O'Neill** of Birmingham also joined us on February 10th. He trained as a driver with the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939. He went with the BEF to France and was evacuated from Dunkirk.

He was then posted to the Middle East following the campaigns in North Africa and was blown up at Ravenna in Northern Italy in February 1945. The explosion cost him both forearms. He was awarded the Territorial Medal.

Mr. O'Neill worked as a clerical officer in the civil service from 1947 until 1983. He is married.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIGHTON BRIDGE CLUB

We played our second match in the West Sussex Inter-League at IFH on January 10th when we entertained Crawley. Our team was depleted following the death over the turn of the year of Bob Evans and George Hudson who will be greatly missed.

Crawley gained a well deserved and sweeping success (their first at Ovingdean) by 16 victory points to nil.

#### League match played at Ian Fraser House on January 31st, 1993.

Crawley Horticultural were our opponents for the third League Match. We spent a very pleasant afternoon when we won by 73 match points, leading to a net result of 15-1.

Our team was Bill Phillips, Alf Dodgson, Reg Goding, John Whitcombe, Wally Lethbridge, Vi Delaney, Ron Freer, Pat Lynch.

#### Pairs match played at IFH on February 7th.

1st	Reg Goding & Faye Andrews	56.2
2nd	Jerry Lynch & Don White	53.5

#### Individual drive played at IFH on January 15th.

1st	Wally Lethbridge	69.0
2nd	Mrs. Padley	64.3

#### Pairs match played at IFH on January 17th.

1st	Wally Lethbridge & Mr. Goodlad	67.3
2nd	Bill Phillips & Dr. Goodlad	54.2

#### Individual match played at IFH on February 14th.

1st	Alf Dodgson	69.00
2nd	P. Norris	
	Miss Stenning	54.8
	Wally Lethbridge	

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**We offer our congratulations on the birth of:** Kayleigh Mauger on September 20th. She is the great grand-daughter of *Stan Tutton* of Pearson House.

Alexander Turner in Warsaw, Poland on October 7th, 1992, Jacob Elkan on July 3rd, 1992 and Emma Swan on November 13th, 1992. They are all grandchildren of *Professor Alan Milne* and his wife, *Susan*.

Alicia Entwistle on November 18th. She is the grand-daughter of *James and Doris Norris* of Northwood, Middlesex.

Sarah Louise on December 19th, 1992. She is the great grand-daughter of *Peter and Betty Surridge* of Reedham, nr. Norwich.

Charley Cope on December 23rd. She is the first great grand-daughter of *Hollis and Cissie Capon* of Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Rebecca Filby on December 24th. She is the grand-daughter of Mrs. Lilian Filby of Streatham, London, widow of *William Filby*.

John Robinson on January 25th. He is the grandson of Mrs. Olive Robinson of Darlington, widow of *Jack Robinson*.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Kim and Graham Adams on their marriage on October 24th. Kim is the daughter of Mrs. Peggy Halse-Hearne of Hythe, Kent.

David and Ann Madgwick on February 27th. David is the grandson of *Frank and Doris Madgwick* of Crawley, Sussex.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Harry and Joyce Blamire* of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire on their Ruby Anniversary on January 17th.

*Tom and Peggy Lukes* of Old Colwyn, Clywd on their Golden Anniversary on February 8th.

*Ted and Beryl John* of Wallasey, Wirral on their Ruby Anniversary on February 28th.

*Peter and Betty Surridge* of Reedham, nr. Norwich on their Ruby day on March 7th.

### DEATHS

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

Mrs. Hughes on December 12th. She was the mother of *John Hughes* of Aberffraw, Anglesey.

Judith, sister of *John Gasston* of Findon, W. Sussex, on December 27th.

Geoffrey Hale on January 6th. He was the son of Mrs. Louise Hale of Bristol, widow of *Charles Hale*.

Laura on January 6th. She was the sister of Charlotte Howe, wife of *Frank Howe* of St John's, nr. Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mrs. Gwendoline Marchant of Dartford, Kent on January 17th. She was the widow of *Albert Marchant*.

Mrs. Kate Stubbs on January 20th. She was the wife of *Percy Stubbs* of Norwich.

Mrs. Mildred Hughes of Norwich on February 3rd. She was the widow of *Frederick Hughes*.

Mrs. Gertrude Pugh of East Molesey, Surrey on February 10th. She was the widow of *Henry Pugh*.

Mrs. May Duffy, mother of *Alan Duffy* of Plymstock, Plymouth on February 15th.

Raymond Tutton on February 21st. He was the brother of *Stan Tutton* of Pearson House.

Mrs. Annie Jolly of Nuneaton, Warks, on February 22nd. She was the widow of *James Jolly*.

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

# In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

## **Henry Bennett, Royal Artillery**

Henry Bennett of Norwich, Norfolk died on January 8th, aged 84. He served as a gunner in the Royal Regiment of Artillery from December 1940 until his discharge in 1945 after being wounded in Phillipeville, Algeria.

After the war, Mr. Bennett worked as a manager for the Victoria Wine Company.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Edith, son, John, and all the family.

## **Leslie Halliday, Royal Air Force**

Leslie George Henry Halliday of Saltdean died on January 22nd, aged 84. He served in the RAF as an Aircraftman(1) and was injured in 1945 while working as a wireless operator.

Our sympathy goes to his sons, Michael and Adrian, and all other members of the family.

## **Thomas Bradley, 4th Lancashire Fusiliers**

Thomas Bradley of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria died on February 3rd, aged 93. He enlisted in 1917 into the 4th Lancashire Fusiliers and served in France until his discharge in 1919. He was gassed in 1918 and suffered mustard gas degeneration of the cornea.

Mr. Bradley made his living as an artist and was a very fine portrait painter. After his sight failed he became a partner in a print publishing company.

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

## **Fred Sedgwick, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Fred Sedgwick of Littleborough, Lancs died on February 3rd, aged 74. Enlisting in 1939, he served with the Lancashire Fusiliers until the end of the campaign in Sicily. He then acted as a battle casualty replacement for the Royal Scots Fusiliers and was wounded in the Anzio landings, losing his left eye as a result of gunshot wounds. Later he transferred into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps with whom he trained as a crane operator until his discharge in 1946.

After the war he became a crane operator and warehouseman with a local cotton mill, eventually becoming foreman. He married in 1942 and was a DIY enthusiast.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Olga, daughter, Shirley, and all other members of the family.

## **Horace Wilson, Royal Armoured Corps**

Horace John Wilson of Torquay, Devon died on February 11th, aged 69. From 1942, he served as a Trooper with the Royal Armoured Corps until he lost his sight in 1944 as a result of being injured in France by a shell.

An electric welder before the war, Mr. Wilson became a shopkeeper and ran a newsagents until retiring in 1979. A keen gardener, he once grew a 1lb tomato. He and his wife were also closely involved with animal welfare groups.

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

## **James Wright, OBE, DFC, Royal Air Force**

James Ernest Frederick Wright of Shepperton, Middlesex, popularly known as Jimmy, died on February 12th, aged 70.

Enlisting in 1942, he served in the Royal Air Force, but two years later he was severely burnt in a plane crash at Taranto, Italy. Mr. Wright defied the odds that day and went on to establish a film company.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jan, sons, Christopher and Nicholas, and all members of the family.

A personal tribute appears on page 21.

## **William Carpenter, Shropshire Yeomanry & Shropshire Dragoons**

William Henry Carpenter of Worcester, died on February 13th, aged 91. He enlisted in the Shropshire Yeomanry & Shropshire Dragoons in 1921, but was wounded the same year in an accident which caused him to lose the sight of his left eye.

Before enlisting, Mr. Carpenter was an agricultural student and he returned to farming. He farmed 245 acres until he retired, aged 70, but continued to keep sheep for another decade.

Our sympathy goes to his son, Edward, daughter, Ann, and all other members of the family.

## **James Mash, Royal Army Service Corps**

James Frederick Charles Mash of Jersey died on February 14th, aged 82. He enlisted with the Royal Army Service Corps in January 1940 and served as a Private until 1944 during which time he suffered an accident which resulted in the loss of his sight.

Previously a lorry driver, he returned to his old firm where he worked as a storeman until retiring in 1970. Mr. Mash was very involved with the Buffaloes.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Hilda, their two sons and daughter and all other members of the family.

# REMEDIAL AND SPORTS THERAPY UNIT AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

A remedial and sports therapy unit is being set up in the old gym at Ian Fraser House. St Dunstaner Martin McCrorie is the therapist and is offering this service at a reduced fee.

The number of times that Martin attends would depend to some extent on demand, but we envisage starting with one session per week, increasing if appropriate.

This questionnaire is to gauge interest in the unit and also lists the treatments Martin is able to offer.

**If you are interested, please fill in the questionnaire and return it to Cherrie Duncan at IFH.**

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## REMEDIAL AND SPORTS THERAPY UNIT

Please put a tick against those treatments in which you may be interested.

- |                                        |                          |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Remedial Physiotherapy                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports Therapy                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Remedial Massage                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Relaxation Massage                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Holistic Massage                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aromatherapy                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reflexology                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shiatsu                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stress Management                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Relaxation techniques                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paraffin Wax and other Heat Treatments | <input type="checkbox"/> |

I would be interested in treatment weekly/monthly/occasionally.

Please delete as appropriate.