

St Dunstan's Review

April 1994

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BI-MONTHLY
Free to St Dunstaners

APRIL 1994

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Cover Picture: Happy Birthday Great-Grandad! Nine month old Emily inspects the walking stick given to Albert Grimshaw on his 100th birthday. Full details on page eight.



From the Chairman

This second edition of the *Review* of 1994 finds us remembering with gratitude and admiration the lives of several great men, all of whom have played a large, and special, part in the history of St Dunstan's: the Marquis of Normanby, Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, our previous President, Richard Dufton, a longstanding member of Council, and Len Wiggins, a devoted member of staff for over 30 years. Full tributes appear elsewhere in the *Review*, but I add my personal condolences to their families in their time of grief.

I am glad to report that we have at last turned the corner on our financial problems. There is no room whatsoever for complacency, but we are close to a position of 'breaking even' compared with our £2.5m deficit of two years ago. Now we must build up some reserve - our strength for the future.

And a further bit of good news: as from April 1st the 'free stay' period at IFH for St Dunstaners will be increased to 28 days; that for wives and widows will remain at two weeks.

Finally, a number of Area Reunions have been organised and I hope that most of you will be able to enjoy them.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



DESK-TOP REVIEW

This issue of the *Review* marks a radical change in production methods. It is the first edition to be produced using Desk Top Publishing technology.

Traditionally, articles have been re-typed by Creative Press, returned to St Dunstan's as 'galley proofs', cut up and pasted down to mimic the final page. These paste-ups were then sent back to the printer who used them as a guide for a final proof which was passed back to Harcourt Street for approval. This system was amended last year when we started sending articles to Creative on computer disk, by-passing the typesetter for the most part. Now all pages will be produced in-house using a Desk Top Publishing system.

The computer revolution also has a tactile side to it. Scottish Braille Press have started taking copy on computer disk, (which should speed up delivery of the braille edition) but we think it will be a long time before we get a synthesised voice on the *Talking Review*.

That said, we are currently investigating the possibility of producing a disk edition of the *Review*. Any St Dunstaner who would be interested in receiving such a beast should drop a line to the Public Relations Department with details of their computer.

Finally, we would like to apologise for the unprecedented delay that arose from our re-organisation, though for once, some braille readers found their version of the *Review* coming through the post first.

IAN FRASER HOUSE WICKET GATE AUDIO LOCATOR

Following St Dunstaners experiencing difficulty locating the Wicket Gate on their return to Ian Fraser House, an electronic locating device has now been installed on the gate. The device activates a portable bleeper when the exact location of the gate is reached. Any St Dunstaner who wishes to take advantage of the locator may collect the bleeper from the Lounge Desk prior to leaving IFH for the day.

BRIGHTON BIRDIES

Feeling teed-off? Try a few relaxing rounds of golf next month. The second Golf Weekend takes place at Ian Fraser House from May 27th to 30th. Contact Sports Co-ordinator, Grant Cooper, at IFH for further details.

EVENTS AT IFH

I have been advised that some St Dunstaners have been disappointed because they have been unaware of events due to take place during their stay at Ian Fraser House.

If anyone would like to give us a call at the Escort Office (0273 307811 ext. 3212), we will be pleased to tell them of any events that coincide with their visit.

We have recently commenced day trips to France which have proved very popular and have, therefore, decided to continue these every six to eight weeks.

Carol Aggett,
Entertainments Officer

HOW OLD IS NUGGETS?

Does anyone know how old *Nuggets* is? The earliest reference to St Dunstan's eclectic braille magazine is in a 1936 copy of the *Review*, but that concerns a re-launch. Back then, *Nuggets* culled items of interest from various magazines and newspapers and translated them into a handy sized braille package.

'It's much the same today,' said *Nuggets*' Editor, Kay Lord. 'We have topical features, some serious stuff and some puzzles. When the Grand National fell last year, we had an article on the legality of the event, how much it was going to cost the Jockey Club without the event taking place.'

'The nicest thing a St Dunstaner ever said to me about *Nuggets* was the feeling of normality it gave him. He liked being able to put it in his pocket and pull it out on a train. He told me that people only ever read the headlines to a blind man, so he appreciated the background news it contains.'

Nuggets is free of charge to St Dunstaners. It's available, in braille and on tape, on request from the Public Relations Department and if anyone knows when the first issue came out...?.

IAN FRASER HOUSE RED

Red and white wine will be available on request during lunches and the evening meal, in the Main Dining Room at Ian Fraser House, from April 1st. It will be sold by the glass at current bar prices, on a cash basis at time of order. Please ask your waiter for this service during your next visit.



ADJUTANT GENERAL VISITS BRIGHTON HOMES

General Sir Michael Wilkes, K.C.B., C.B.E., discussed the finer points of handicrafts with St Dunstan's Brenda Rea (above) when he visited Ian Fraser House on January 25th. He also met, among others, John Gasston, Reg Goding, George King, Martin McCrorie and Percy Stubbs during his tour of the building.

Later, he observed Colonel Charles Newton-Dunn presenting St Dunstan's with a ceremonial kukri on behalf of the Ghurka Welfare Trust. The Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach accepted on our behalf.

St Dunstan's Richard Bingley also made a presentation, a donation of £1,000 to Tilakman Tulachan in aid of the school for blind children where he will be working when he returns to Nepal.

After lunch, the Adjutant-General visited Pearson House where he met Ernie Brown, Tom Higgins, Jo Huk and other St Dunstaners.

WITHDRAWAL OF £10 NOTES

Following the introduction of the new style £10, the Bank of England has given notice that the old style £10 note will cease to be legal tender after May 20th 1994. After this date, most bank branches will continue to accept the old notes for a period and they will always remain payable at the Bank of England. The new notes were highlighted in the February 1994 *Review*.

BIGGER PRIZES FOR DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

This year's Derby Sweepstake prize money will be increased by around £80 thanks to the DTP system now used to produce the *Review*.

St Dunstaners who have already entered the Derby Sweepstake will have noticed that we have adopted a new format, with a computer-produced certificate representing the tickets. In previous years tickets have been printed externally and the cost deducted from the prize money. The new system allows us to avoid this expense, freeing all funds subscribed for the prizes.

The introduction of computer technology is nothing new to the sweepstake. For many years numbers have been drawn by Ray's Randomiser, though we suspect that the horses linked to them will continue to be pulled from a more traditional hat.

Tickets are still only 20p each (issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 costing £5) though the numbers purchased will be recorded on a single certificate.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, payment 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 and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. Every application made in the British Isles must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

A breakdown of how the prize money will be allocated was published in the February *Review*. No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

Applications should be made as soon as possible. Closing date is Tuesday, May 17th. The draw will take place in London on May 20th. The race will be run on Wednesday, June 1st.

IFH SUMMER FÊTE

There will be a Garden Fête at Ian Fraser House in aid of St Dunstan's on Saturday July 30th. The fête will consist of side-shows and stalls. Several ladies have kindly volunteered to knit items for sale, but all knitting, sewing and handicraft contributions would be gratefully received, as would donations of second-hand books and bric-a-brac items.

Any garments made for sale should be labelled with a size and washing instructions. Transport of items to IFH can be arranged by contacting Sue Reynolds on ext. 3215.

FOOT TREATMENT AVAILABLE

Sister Maureen James, RGN, who works in the Dispensary at Ian Fraser House, recently qualified as a chiropodist. Any St Dunstaners, wife or widow, (staying at Ian Fraser House or living locally) can make an appointment to see her for treatment or advice.

BAND CONCERTS

The Entertainments Officer at Ian Fraser House has tickets available for military band concerts at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, on July 11th and 13th. Transport will be provided from Ian Fraser House, but those who live near London may wish to make their own travel arrangements. Please contact Carol Aggett on ext. 3212 for further details.

TROOPING THE COLOUR

Some tickets have been issued for Trooping the Colour on Saturday, June 11th and The Royal Tournament in July. The exact date for the latter has yet to be confirmed.

Any St Dunstaners who would like to apply should contact Pat Carlton at Headquarters by May 9th. Final allocations will be drawn from a hat.

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

Tickets are also available at IFH for the Royal Tournament on the evening of July 22nd. The cost is £8.50 per ticket, but regrettably all the wheelchair tickets have been allocated. Transport will leave Ian Fraser House during the afternoon. Bookings should be made with Carol Aggett on Ext. 3212.

CALLING ROYAL ENGINEERS

Royal Engineer St Dunstaners may be interested in a veteran's reunion taking place at Chatham, Kent on September 10th-12th. For further details contact Des Chandler on 0273 472193.

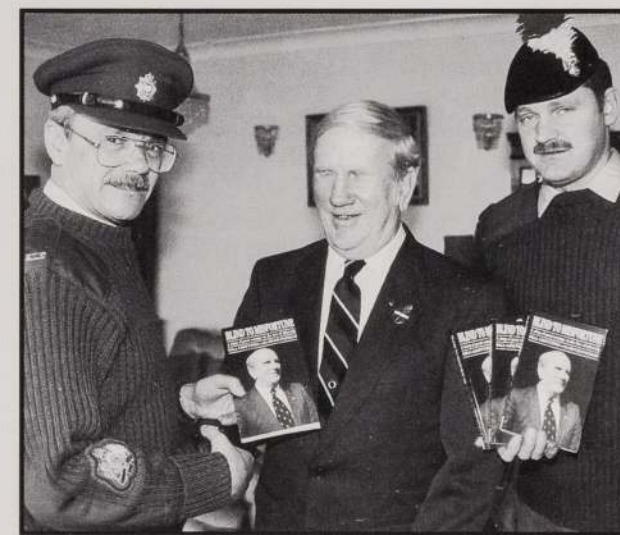
NEW BRIDGE CASSETTE

Fledgling bridge players may be interested in the latest addition to the Cassette Library at Headquarters - **G60 (C90) Competitive Bidding** by Alf Field.

Other bridge tapes are:

- G9 (C90)** The Acol Bridge system
- G41 (C90)** Introduction to Contract Bridge.

All are available by sending a blank cassette to the Public Relations Department.



BILL'S BOOK IS CADET PRIZE

Army Cadets winning school cadet force competitions are to be rewarded with a copy of Bill Griffiths's autobiography.

Warrant Officer Tom Dewhurst of Fulwood Barracks and Warrant Officer John Phillips, the staff instructor for the Army Cadet section of the Combined Cadet Force at Arnold School, Blackpool, bought a batch of books to give as prizes. They are shown collecting the august tome from Bill.

LADIES BROOCH FOR SALE

The St Dunstan's Ladies' Marcasite Brooch - a jewel-encrusted version of St Dunstan's badge - is available once more. The cost is £23 including post and packing.

Orders should be placed with Supplies Officer, Angela Higson at Headquarters.

THANK YOU CARDS

The Public Relations Department holds an over run of Christmas cards and envelopes. With the page bearing the 'Season's Greetings' cut off, they could be used as 'thank you' or message cards. On the one side, the altar, standards and the St Dunstan's badge. On the reverse is adequate blank space for brief letters or notes. Please contact the department if you would like some.

A LOT OFF THE TOP, BUT LEAVE THE EARS

The demon barber of olde London Town is the latest play to benefit from audio description at the Royal National Theatre.

Privates on Parade actor Denis Quilley reprises his performance as the cuticle-cutting, culinary crazy Sweeney Todd on April 5th.

He's joined in this production of pie-crust perversion by Julia (*Fresh Fields*) McKenzie. Further details can be obtained on 071 928 2252.

GUARDSMEN REUNITE

Blindness has reunited two ex-Irish Guardsmen after 40 years. In 1939, Fred Galway of Sandbach, Cheshire, and Joe Kelly of Garston, Liverpool, joined the Irish Guards within a week of each other. In 1940, both were sent to France to cover the retreat to Dunkirk. Both were wounded and taken prisoner within 30 minutes of each other; Fred was blinded and Joe was badly injured, although he retained his sight.

During the next three years they were to follow each other to various P.O.W. camps. They suffered malnutrition and hardship. 'We did not get a shower for six months,' said Joe, who contracted tuberculosis as a result of his incarceration.

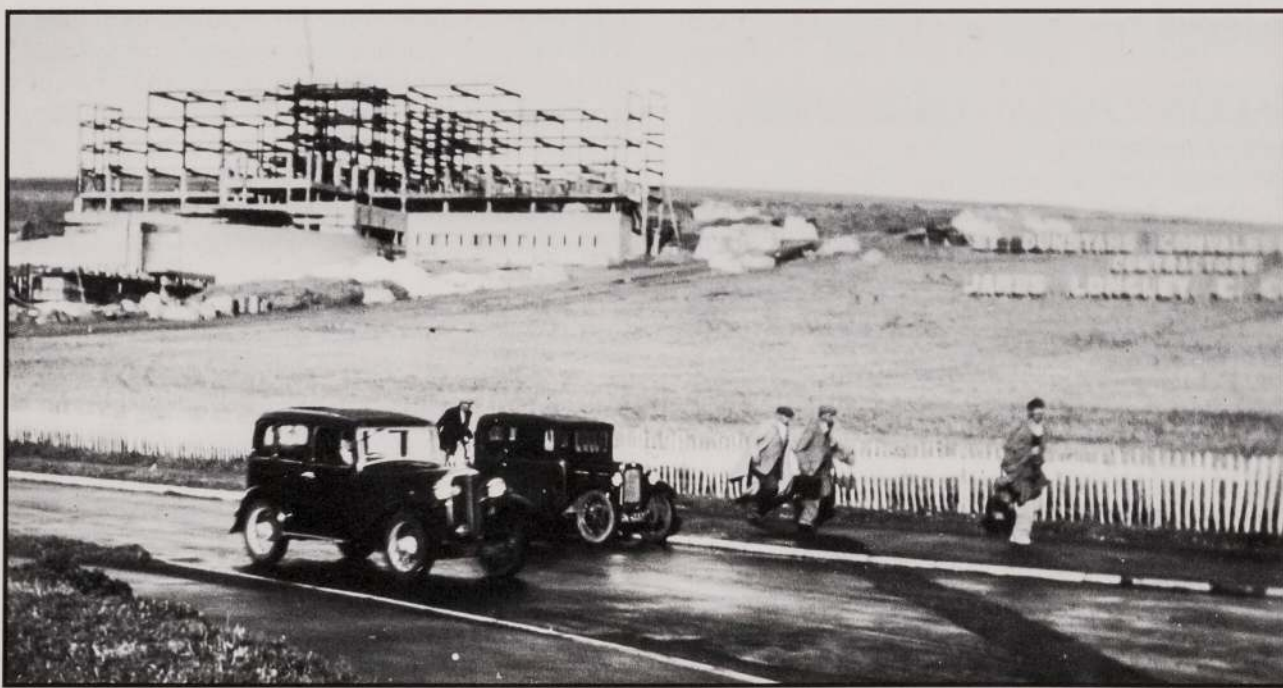
Fred and Joe lost touch after the war. Then, one day five years ago, John Ireland, the Secretary of the Northern Branch of the Irish Guards Association, who regularly brought 'old friends' to meet up with Fred at home, came along with Joe. They have visited each other regularly ever since.

Last year, as a result of his wartime experiences, Joe's sight deteriorated and he became a St Dunstaner.

Fred and Joe are looking forward to spending time together at Ian Fraser House later in the year; Tilly lamps are being polished, prior to being swung!

Sir Norman Longley, C.B.E.

The building contractor, Sir Norman Longley, C.B.E., died on January 24th, aged 93. Sir Norman was formerly Chairman and joint Managing Director of the building firm, James Longley & Company, the firm which built Ian Fraser House. Our photograph shows the '...skeleton rising from the downs...' in 1937.



TALKING PAPER AVAILABLE AT IAN FRASER HOUSE

The Brighton, Hove & District Talking Newspaper for the Blind is available on request at the Lounge Desk at Ian Fraser House.

This weekly 90 minute tape features local news and items of interest.

OBITUARIES:

The Right Reverend H. R. Darby

'Tug' Wilson of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, represented St Dunstaners at a memorial evensong for the Right Reverend Harold Richard (Dick) Darby on February 27th in Southwell Minster. Reverend Darby officiated at the Far Eastern Prisoners of War and Prisoners of War memorial services and will be sadly missed.

Dr J.D.W. Pearce

Dr John Dalziel Wyndham Pearce, known as Jack, died on January 25th, aged 89. Dr Pearce, a descendent of the 18th-century Jacobite outlaw, 'Rob Roy' MacGregor, was formerly Consultant Psychiatrist to St Dunstan's. He also ran psychiatric teaching at St Mary's Hospital, London and was widely feted for a text book called *Juvenile Delinquency*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Drop us a line or tape at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB

From: Penny Goodwin, SRN, OND, Kemp Town, Brighton

How charmed I was to see the photo and comments concerning Blue Velvet Pearson. As Matron of Pearson House from 1981-1987 it was my privilege to be interviewed by Blue as prospective purveyor of appropriate comforts. He had already tested our cuisine by visiting the night staff on a regular basis and they advised him that if ever there was a sucker tailor-made, Matron Goodwin was there for the asking, already being possessed by twin tabby mogs. Auspicious year, 1985, when Blue walked into our lives.

Blue vetted Commander Conway (who decided he should be Blue Velvet Pearson) and Dr Knott, who thought he was very gracious to consider living with us.

However, we had to ensure he didn't belong to anyone else and following consultation with the Cat's Protection League HQ in Horsham, we put up notices in local shops and let it be known a cat had been found.

Mercifully for us, he wasn't claimed, but I took him to Tony Cowie for a thorough MOT and vaccination jabs as he had been limping. The X-rays showed extensive bruising and Tony said we would never be sure if Blue had been kicked or knocked down by a car. Blue has never been keen on being picked up and I'm sure this has something to do with it.

I swear that cat knew when the probationary period was over. He soon became adept at selecting the best duvets to sleep on and was found cosily curled up on Denis Pettitt's ecclesiastical pyjamas one fine day! St Dunstaners used to sitting in a particular chair started feeling before they sat. If Blue was asleep, God forbid *he* should be moved!

When Blue took over Pearson House officially we weren't sure of his birth date. Tony, expertly examining Blue's teeth, said: 'Two to three years old - nearer three than two, I'd say.' Well, we all have a *proper* birthday, don't we? I reflected carefully, picked up my office phone and spoke to David Castleton at HQ.

'When was Sir Arthur Pearson born?'

'Why?' demanded David.

'I'll tell you when you tell me.'

'Er - I'll phone you back.' Later, he informed me it was February 24th. 'Now tell me why,' said David.

'Well, Blue's taken over Pearson House, so I

think, as a mark of esteem, he'd better have the same birthday as Sir Arthur.' Nobody dared say me nay.

As far as I know, Blue still reigns supreme on his own chair in Matron King's office. It looks from your photo as if the present purveyor of comforts is doing nicely.

From: Angela and Joe Prendergast, Leyland, Lancashire

Joe and I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the staff at Ian Fraser House for their care and help when Joe was taken ill during our recent stay. Their concern and good wishes helped us through a very difficult time.

From: Richard Bingley, Newton Abbot

St Dunstaner Tilak Tulachan will be playing an active role in the running of a school for blind children in Western Nepal, where there is a very high incidence of blindness and eye disease.

Many St Dunstaners seek to assist Tilak with fund raising for his worthy project. So, on May 16th, during the Gardening Week at Ian Fraser House, a Coffee Morning will be held. A charge of 50p will be made for tea or coffee.

On the same day, escorted by Care Assistant Jim Farmer, I will embark on a 10 mile sponsored walk to assist with fund raising, arriving at the Coffee Morning at 10.30 am.

David Bray has agreed that donations may be received at IFH from St Dunstaners and members of the staff anxious to help this cause. All monies raised will go to assist Tilak's blind children's school and should be passed to Sue Reynolds.

From: Mrs Rosa Wiggins, Storrington, West Sussex

My sincere thanks to all concerned at St Dunstan's, not forgetting the many St Dunstaners and their families, after their overwhelming response and floral tributes after the sudden death of my dear husband Len on January 31st. I never realised he was so popular with everyone.

A special thank you to all the staff at Headquarters, whose kindness and words of comfort will always be remembered.

ALBERT GRIMSHAW HITS A CENTURY

Royal Telegram as St Dunstan's oldest gunner is one hundred years young

Family, friends, VIP's, and the band of the Royal Regiment of Artillery joined together on February 21st at Ian Fraser House to help Albert, a retired Gunner, to celebrate his 100th birthday. It was a truly festive occasion.

There were four generations of Grimshaws present; Albert's daughter, Margaret and her husband, Albert's grandchildren, Tim, currently serving with the REME, and Susan, mother of great granddaughter, Emily, aged nine months. Over 200 guests were present.

The musicians, under Bandmaster Major Terry Davis, played a selection of military, classical, pop and 'sing alongs'. During the interval, the Master Gunner, General Sir Martin Farndale, KCB, passed on the good wishes of all retired Gunners.

PBK came up trumps in producing three cakes in the shape of the figure 100. Albert needed a bit of family help to blow out the candles. He was then presented with a silver topped walking cane from St Dunstan's, an engraved tankard from Pearson House, a regimental plaque from the Master Gunner and from the Bandmaster, a tie normally worn only by members of the Royal Artillery Band.

Albert had a wonderful day. He had one regret - 'I didn't polish my own shoes this morning!' What better sums up Albert's day than a monologue written and delivered by Terry Walker.

Albert and St Dunstan's.

There's a famous seaside town called Brighton,
That's noted for fresh air and fun.
And Mr and Mrs St Dunstan's
Put a building out there in the sun.

They filled it with soldiers so wounded,
They didn't know what they would see next.



The Master Gunner, General Sir Martin Farndale, presented Albert with their regimental shield. Asked if he could feel the cap badge, Albert replied: 'Yes Sir!'

Then Mr and Mrs St Dunstan's
Wrote a book and published the text.
All the Services, we will look after,
St Dunstan's their family name.
Then when they come home from Flanders,
We'll teach them a new sort of game.

There was a Lance Bombardier named Albert,
Who came in a terrible state.
But when they reached in for his heartbeat
'Ee' it was going at a very fine rate.
'This one's a good'un', said doctor,
'He'll live to a hundred, I'm sure.
Then he bandaged his badly bruised body,
And metered a medical cure.

Then Albert went off to the Esso,
A chemist in peacetime his job.
He worked right through the ranks there at Esso.
They paid him, yes, quite a few bob.

He picked up his wife at a party.
She went there with young Nick, a nice chap.
And he showed them the way of all soldiers,
And pinched her while Nick had a nap.
Then off they all went to see vicar.
The church was up Manchester way.
They fixed up a date to get married,
December, and Christmas the day 1924.

Now Albert lives here at St Dunstan's.
He's made it. That doctor was right.

He's a friend of us all, and so faithful,
And Albert still knows how to fight!

New Chairman at Cardiff Institute

St Dunstaners Trevor Tatchell and Norman Hopkins have been elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind (CIB) respectively.

In the 127-year history of the CIB, this is the first time that St Dunstaners have held these offices.

Trevor and Norman believe that it is in the interest of the, approximately, 1800 registered blind people of South Glamorgan that the CIB serves that they should have input into their own needs.

Trevor stated: 'The CIB has a proud record of service, not only in its incidence of work-

shop employment, but also an ever-growing welfare department looking after the needs of clients in a voluntary capacity. The CIB also works closely with the local authority Social Services Department, with both statutory and voluntary bodies working closely together. Norman and I have been blind since 1943 and 1944 respectively and, therefore, have over 100 years personal knowledge of the requirements of those we represent.'

Trevor was employed as the RNIB's Director in Wales for forty years and Norman practised as a physiotherapist both with the NHS and privately.

FUND-RAISING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsored run
Stephen Perfect, son of St Dunstaner, John, organised a sponsored run. Our photograph shows Stephen and his friends in their St Dunstan's T-shirts.



Thank you, all

We are grateful to the following, who have been involved with donations to St Dunstan's:

Several Royal Naval and Royal Air Force establishments.

Mr and Mrs V. Hazan in celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Our widow Mrs Hawes, who held a coffee morning.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

Joe Humphrey, who continues fund-raising in Northern Ireland.

The many who made donations in memory of the following St Dunstaners:

Admiral Sir Frank Twiss

George Hewett

William Beatty

James Wheeler.

From: Tommy Gaygan, North Harrow, Middlesex

In September 1993, our Welfare Visitor, Barbara Davis, called on us at the same time as Bob Hoults, a member of the Ruislip Bowmen. She suggested that the Club should raise some money for St Dunstan's with a sponsored shoot. Bob approached their committee and they finally decided this would be held on December 12th.

The weather could not have been worse on the day. There was heavy, strong winds, biting cold and a very muddy football field, into which my archery board sank deeper with every arrow. In spite of all this, spirits were high and I send a big thank you to Bob and to George Carter who were such a help.

Between us we raised £1070.23 and my thanks go to all the St Dunstaners, staff, friends and neighbours who supported me - you were great.

Colonel Sir Michael Picton Ansell, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.

Colonel Sir Michael Ansell died at Pearson House on February 17th, 1994, aged 88.

Sir Michael will be remembered as the man who, despite blindness, made Britain one of the leading equestrian nations in the world and stimulated interest in riding as a competitive and leisure sport. He was a familiar figure at the Horse of the Year Show and at the Royal International Horse Show.

Born in The Curragh, Co Kildare, he furthered the tradition of his family by following both his grandfather and father into the Army, via Wellington and Sandhurst. In 1923 he was commissioned into the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. During the pre-war years Sir Mike developed such a high standard of horsemanship that he toured America with a Trick Ride and represented his country at polo and was a prominent member of the British Show-Jumping team.

In 1939 he became the youngest commanding officer in the British Army, when he took command of the 1st Lo-

thian and Border Yeomanry at the age of 34. During the retreat to Dunkirk, they were searching for a ship to take them back across the Channel at St Valéry in June, 1940, when they hid up in a farm house. The farmer told another British unit about them. This latter group, fearing an ambush, went in shooting. Sir Mike was badly wounded and walked five miles to give himself up and receive medical attention. His injuries included severe damage to both eyes and the loss of four fingers of the left hand. He became a PoW and was later awarded the D.S.O. for extraordinary bravery at the time he received his injuries. In 1957 he was exceptionally honoured by being appointed Colonel of his regiment.

His sight gradually failed and he was repatriated in 1943. In 1947 he came to St Dunstan's, where he learnt braille and type-writing. Having studied market gardening whilst a prisoner-of-war in Germany, he completed a course in horticulture at Reading University, after which he started to run a

flourishing flower farm at his home in Bideford, Devon, winning prizes at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Sir Mike put show-jumping on the map, being a principal contributor to the success of the British team which won a gold medal in the 1952 Olympic Games. He was also made a C.B.E. that year. His services to show-jumping were recognised when he was appointed Chevalier, Order of Leopold, Belgium, in 1932, and awarded the Commander's Cross, Order of Merit, German Federal Republic, in 1975 and the Olympic Order, Silver IOC, in 1977. In 1988 he received the Gold Medalion of the German War Blind Federation for his services to the war blind.

He was knighted in 1968 and was a former Deputy Lieutenant and in 1967 High Sheriff of the County of Devon. Until he retired in 1975, Sir Mike was Chairman of the Council of the British Horse Society and Show Director of the Royal International and Horse of the Year Shows. He was appointed to the Council of St Dunstan's in 1958 becoming Vice-Chairman in 1975 and President in October 1977, from which post he retired in 1986.

Sir Mike wrote three books: *Soldier On*, his autobiography, *Riding High*, about show-jumping, and *Leopard the Story of my Horse*, about the horse which served him faithfully in the years prior to the Second World War.

His other interests included knitting, which he learnt as a prisoner-of-war, fishing and making jig-saw puzzles, which he took up at the age of 73. Despite the loss of four fingers on his left hand, the jig-saws were highly competent works of art, one of them being auctioned for £80 and another presented to Her Majesty The Queen in 1985, when she visited Ian Fraser House.

Sir Mike took an active part in St Dunstan's affairs. He compared it to a Regiment and he admitted to deriving much inspiration from his fellow St Dunstaners, who were often worse off than himself. He spoke at many reunions, urging his colleagues to take up hobbies and keep active. He himself was a keen fisherman catching salmon and big game fish off the coast of Kenya.

Sir Mike was twice widowed. He leaves two sons, Nicholas and



Colonel Sir Michael Ansell as he will always be remembered.

Antony, and a daughter, Sarah.

Major-General Nicholas Ansell, C.B., O.B.E., carried on the family tradition by commanding the 5th Royal

Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

The late Lord Fraser of Lonsdale said: 'Mike Ansell would probably call himself an ordinary fellow, although nobody else would.'



Sir Frank Twiss at a St Dunstan's Reunion.

Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.C.

Frank Roddam Twiss was born on July 7th 1910. He entered Dartmouth, which he always maintained '...was much worse than any Jap PoW camp...', as a cadet in 1924 and went to sea in 1927, serving in the *Revenge*, *Rodney* on her first commission, *Bideford* and *Malaya*, before qualifying as a gunnery officer in 1935 and serving in the *Grenville*. He married his first wife, Prudence Hutchinson, in 1936. In 1939 he was gunnery officer and senior staff officer of the 16th Flotilla, serving in the de-

stroyer *Malcom*, then, in May 1940 at the height of 'invasion fever', he was sent to Devonport Dockyard to stand by the cruiser *Trinidad* and missed the action at Dunkirk, much to his regret.

Later in the summer of 1940, he joined the heavy cruiser *Exeter* as gunnery officer. In February 1942, during the Battle of the Java Sea, the *Exeter* was part of a mixed allied force of cruisers and destroyers whose aim was to prevent a Japanese invasion of Java. The *Exeter* was sunk on

March 1st and after 20 hours on a life raft, Twiss was picked up by a Japanese destroyer and taken first to Macassar, then to a prison camp which was unknown to the Red Cross. There and at various other camps Twiss and his fellow prisoners endured years of malnutrition, depravation and beatings. They lacked adequate clothing and medical facilities and dysentery and beri-beri were endemic and when he was repatriated after the war, Twiss weighed half his normal weight. He was awarded the D.S.C. in 1945 for his gallantry during the action on the *Exeter*.

In 1945, Twiss was promoted to Commander

and given his first command, the frigate *Porlock Bay*. Then, to his horror, he was appointed Gas Commander at *HMS Excellent*, a shore establishment in Portsmouth. He became the Commanding Officer of *Excellent* in 1950 on his promotion to Captain, during which time he ran a herd of cows, a pig farm and a flock of chickens on the establishment! Twiss loved variety. He enjoyed his time as Deputy Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff from 1951 to 1953, a hectic period with Churchill returned to power and

Continued overleaf

The Marquis of Normanby

NATO being set up, Captain of the Fishery Protection Squadron, Commanding Officer of *HMS Gamecock*, a Royal Naval Air Station, and, in 1957, commanding the cruiser *Ceylon*.

1960 saw his promotion to Rear Admiral and he returned to the Admiralty as Naval secretary to the First Sea Lord, Lord Carrington, who became a lifelong friend. In 1962 Sir Frank was appointed C.B. and became Flag Officer Flotillas, Home Fleet and in 1965, at the height of the confrontation between Indonesia and Malaysia, K.C.B. and Commander Far Eastern Fleet. At the cessation of hostilities in 1966, he returned to London as Second Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Personnel, being promoted to full Admiral in 1967. During the next three years, he oversaw a difficult period of defence reviews, which saw a reduction in naval strength whilst the political realities demanded a wider range of tasks. One of his principal tasks during this period was the introduction of the military salary.

Sir Frank retired from the Royal Navy in 1970 and became Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in the House of Lords. He was made Serjeant at Arms of the House of Lords and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain in 1971, retiring in 1978, the year he was appointed K.C.V.O. He was also a member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from 1970 to 1979.

His eyes never properly recovered from damage caused by sea water and fuel oil from the *Exeter*, resulting in blindness in later life and Sir Frank becoming a St Dunstaner in 1990. His first wife died in 1974, but Sir Frank married Rosemary Maitland in 1978. Admiral Sir Frank Twiss died on January 26th, aged 83. We extend our deepest sympathies to Lady Rosemary and his family.

Oswald Constantine John Phipps, better known as the 4th Marquis of Normanby or, more personally to St Dunstaners, as 'The Skipper', died on January 30th, aged 82.

As a young Lieutenant he earned a special place in St Dunstan's history by establishing a school for blinded soldiers while he was a prisoner of war.

He was born in 1912 and styled Earl of Mulgrave, succeeding his father as Marquis in 1932. He joined the 5th Battalion Green Howards in 1939 and became their honorary Colonel Commandant in 1970.

Wounded and captured at Dunkirk in 1940, Lord Normanby was imprisoned at Obermassfeldt, Thuringia, where he was strongly affected by the conditions faced by prisoners blinded in action. He convinced his captors that he was highly placed in St Dunstan's management, though at that time he had no formal knowledge of the organisation, and persuaded them to gather blinded PoWs under a single roof where they could be taught braille and other necessary skills.

Aided by a Larouse dictionary, he constructed a braille alphabet with match-heads stuck through cardboard. The makeshift school grew, with Sid Doy, Dennis Fleisig, Tom Hart and Jimmy

Shepherd among the St Dunstaners who 'graduated' from it.

It was not always straight forward, though Lord Normanby was able to negotiate many things, such as typewriters, that would have been seen as luxury items to men held in Italy or the Far East.

'I often wish that you could be with us to see our Branch of St Dunstan's,' Lord Normanby wrote to St Dunstan's Chairman of the day, Sir Ian Fraser. 'I feel sure it would cause you some amusement, also some pleasure, for nowhere will you find a better group of men either in spirits or in loyalty to St Dunstan's and never will these men forget that they owe everything to St Dunstan's, as indeed they do. St Dunstan's will also, I hope, be infused by their especial spirit, which in the dark times of depression has not received the advantage of freedom and tuition which have helped their fellow St Dunstaners at home.'

Eventually, he was able to demonstrate this especial spirit when the freedom of the blinded PoWs was secured. Several times before, Normanby and his men had been packed up for the journey only to be returned to the camp at the last minute. 'Hitler changed his mind,' was how he de-

scribed this set-back. In October 1943, though, the repatriation finally happened and they disembarked at Liverpool.

Normanby received the Military M.B.E. for his work in Germany, he also accepted a place on St Dunstan's Council which he held until 1980 when he became a Vice-President. In 1943, he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lord Cranborne, Secretary of State for Dominions. His maiden speech in the House of Lords pleaded the cause of ex-service men after the war.

Churchill appointed him the Government Whip in the House of Lords in 1945, but before the year was out he had crossed the benches 'on impulse' to become the only Labour Marquis. After a dispute over financial policy, he left their ranks and ceased to align himself to a particular party line. He married the Hon. Grania Guinness in 1951 and they had two sons and five daughters.

Normanby was proud of his Yorkshire origins and took great satisfaction from his appointment, first, as Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire, then as Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire and as High Steward of York Minster. As Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund, he managed to impose a northern drift and secured several renowned works for display



The Marquis of Normanby with Sir Ian Fraser at St Dunstan's Machine Shop at Church Stretton.

outside London.

His work for blind people continued. Not only was he a Member of St Dunstan's Council, but he also became Chairman of the National Library for the Blind in 1946 and served as their President from 1977-88. He also became Chairman of King's College Hospital and echoing his success with St Dunstan's, Germany, he developed it as an

unrivalled teaching hospital. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1985.

To conclude in the words of one of his St Dunstan's pupils: 'Lord Normanby was a perfect English gentleman and a wonderful teacher. We St Dunstaners who were with him in the prisoner of war camp will remember him with respect and lasting affection.'

Richard Dufton, C.Eng.,



Richard Dufton with an experimental version of the revolutionary ball-point pen.

We are sad to report the death in Reading, Berks, of Richard Dufton, aged 82, on Saturday, February 5th 1994. Richard became a St Dunstaner in 1941. Despite blindness Richard will be remembered, amongst other things, as 'the man who made the ball point pen work'.

Richard was born in Helton, Westmorland. On leaving school he helped on his parent's farm until joining the Royal Navy in 1934 as a member of the Lower Deck Engine Room Division. He was blinded during an air raid whilst on an engineering course in Plymouth in March 1941.

He went to Church Stretton for rehabilitation and retraining. Just a year later, he was one of seven St Dunstaners to be taken on at Miles Aircraft Ltd., near Reading, where he was involved

M.I., Mech.E. Member of Council

by Ray Hazan

in work on experimental aircraft and aero engines. He worked with the aid of a tactile drawing board and a phenomenal memory and mind for figures.

In 1943, Hungarian born Lazlo Biro took out a patent for a ball point pen. Miles saw great advantages to this writing instrument for use by test pilots at high altitude and in other adverse conditions, and purchased the development and manufacturing rights. Richard led the work in solving the problems of ink flow and devising the cheap plastic ink refill. Up till then, the biros had cost two pounds and fifteen shillings. He became Chief Designer in 1948. By the time he left Miles Aircraft in 1961, they were making half a million pens a week. Richard was elected to the Institute of Mechanical Engineers on acceptance of his thesis on the

Technology of Ball Point Pens, completed in 1960.

Lord Fraser saw great potential in Richard's knowledge and experience and wished to direct this towards providing technical solutions to the problems of blind people. In 1961, Richard became Research Director of St Dunstan's, liaising with many national and international bodies on a wide variety of subjects including talking books, sonic and other mobility aids, Wireless for the Blind, education and employment of the blind and braille. He saw the evaluation in this country of two reading devices, the Optacon and in 1979 the Kurzweil Reading Machine, the first computer to 'make the printed word talk'. He presented papers at several scientific conferences both at home and abroad. Richard was a respected and expert member of each.

Richard retired in 1977, in which year he was made a Member of St Dunstan's Council. He was a keen gardener and managed a three acre garden producing both vegetables and flowers. Richard was an energetic, enthusiastic person and a highly competent user of the long cane. He spoke with quiet authority about a vast range of subjects. He was a great example and inspiration especially to us new St Dunstaners.

Richard and Norma were married in 1944. Norma, who was one of the first VAD's to be employed by St Dunstan's at the outbreak of the Second War, devotedly cared for him after he suffered a stroke in 1991. Richard will be sadly missed by his former colleagues throughout St Dunstan's. He leaves his wife Norma, and twin sons, Michael and John.

Len Wiggins

Our Technical Visitor, Len Wiggins, died suddenly on January 31st. St Dunstan's Don Planner writes:

I was greatly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Len Wiggins. My first introduction to Len was in 1976 when I was coming to the end of my retraining at Ian Fraser House. On returning home, Len spent many a fruitless day scanning the area where I lived, searching for employment. His search was eventually rewarded when he obtained for me a position with an engineering firm in my home town, where I worked for two-and-a-half years before being made redundant.

Len was once again on the spot searching, eventually placing me as an assembly worker for an electronics firm. Unfortunately, after two years, I was again made redundant.

True to form, Len was on the doorstep and after due consideration, I returned to Ian Fraser House to train as a telephonist. After completing my training and working for five months as a telephonist at Ian Fraser House, Len again came up trumps with a post for me working for the National Health Service, although, as he knew, my preference was to work for a bank.

Two years later, unbeknown to me that he was looking out for a job with a bank on my behalf, Len contacted me and informed me that I had an interview for a position with the National Westminster Bank, in Chatham. This position was secured with Len's help and although transferred and now working in Poole, Dorset, I have had ten happy years of employment with the Bank, all down to Len's hard work and support.

To all those St Dunstaners and their wives who knew Len, he was not only a Technical Visitor and Placement Officer, but also a very good friend, always there to help regardless of the problem. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Rosa. A memorial service to Len will be held in the chapel at Ian Fraser House on April 26th at 3.00 pm.

Mike Halliday recalls ups and

SPIRITS

IT'S DIFFERENT this time, very different. Here I sit on the back of a Brittany Ferry, facing south, basking in the sun with a beer in hand, accompanied by my wife, Rosemary, 'sans biere'. After a stimulating stay in St Malo it is inevitable that thoughts turn to many a happy trip with my dear old Pop, Les Halliday, his birthday treat in latter years. He died in January this year, but lives on at such times; engraved in the sub-conscious.

Of course a holiday abroad with Rosemary is easier; there is more freedom, less embarrassment and headache. But what a large hole there is. Hitherto there was both; now there isn't. Most of my life, from the age of 14 to 54, I have been part-time 'dog' to a wonderful person. Most of that time I have appreciated it and have a wealth of observations and memories of one man's fight. Today is just the day to put some on record.

It is some nine hours to Portsmouth. On such a trip for instance, we no longer have the green Rohan trousers tied to the railings, drying out after a deck accident. A rush for the 'heads' which ended in failure!

We haven't been through the life jacket drill three times, nor worked out the cabin layout. We don't know the ship's tonnage or overall length, nor have we toured every deck. Yes, we have a torch and a whistle and know our muster station - old habits die hard.

Time for coffee? We just go! No tripping over rubber mats. No debate on why 'ferry coffee' is so awful when it's a French boat. St Malo coffee is superb.

Ah, I nearly forgot the lost Dad story. Let's go back to St Malo for a while. One year (let's say 1991, not sure) we docked at around 0700hrs after an overnight crossing on the *Duchesse Anne*. Down the endless aluminium spiral stairs with sharp corners everywhere to catch bags and blind men. On through Customs 'sans trolley'; there never are enough. Customs officials long-gone, it's taken us a while to get that far! Onto the bumpy-bus over welcoming cobbles to the hotel. Feels like the Continent already.

Ah, it's too early to go to the room so let's have our first Continental breakfast. Sounds easy to me. Well it ain't! Guess who would like an 'OXO'. Well it's not actually French and translation is a little tricky. I know, meat is viande in French. Luckily we have an intelligent waiter who comes up with 'Viandox' - super; something else we've learned for the 'come in handy' library. Here we are enjoying a relaxing drink in the Place Chateaubriande, with baguette and cheese for breakfast. Now we can really relax for three days. I should have known better.

'Have you brought the Rennies, Michael?' 'Oh no,

downs at home and abroad with his father, Les

OF SAINT MALO

I haven't. I'll just pop into the pharmacie and find the local equivalent.' Fairly easy. Back in 15 minutes; no Pop! How the hell? Try Reception. Ah, there he is, telephone in hand talking to an English-speaking member of the Gendarmerie! 'My son has gone off and left me,' I hear him say. 'Incroyable, sacre-bleu,' thinks I. How does he do it? It transpired that he had nodded-off immediately after I left him, then woke up 'somewhere in France' with rather hazy memories of how we got there. Apparently there was a lot of shouting which I was lucky enough to miss. No harm done so it's on to the next hazard. That's how it was with Pop, and he still made it to 84 years.

Another leap in time to my own RAF days. On one of many long weekend leave visits home I entered the kitchen at Saltdean with trepidation. It usually was somewhat messy. This time it really was a good effort. Black ceiling and greasy stove with carbon coating. 'Well Pop, what have you been up to this time?' 'What do you mean, Michael?' 'Of course, it seems OK to you, I suppose. The black look - is this the Sixties fashion?' 'Oh, I did have a chip pan fire; is that what you mean?' 'Well, yes. That does explain it.' 'Put it out with the rug you know, same as last time.' The solid fuel stove in the corner had then added some 'texture' to the decor, with fine ash blended into the grime.

While we're in the kitchen, let's have another true story. Some of you will remember lead pipes and old fashioned taps. Not like Pop's taps you won't. Was a time whilst still at school I came home on wash-day to modified taps. We had an old fashioned washing machine with a dodgy wringer. Being strong of

arm and spirit, Pop had 'improvised'. 'Why not wind the sheets around the taps and twist them dry into the sink?' Why not indeed? However, lead was never a tough metal. Ductile, yes! We ended up with a hot and cold twisted pair; common in wiring, not so with pipes. Possibly the only ones in the world. That did have to stop P.D.Q., to avoid flash-floods in the kitchen.

You could not out-think Pop. I thought that I was quite good at anticipating a potential hazard. Not so. He would always dream up a new one, even as a young man. In later life it would seem more cruel to laugh, but what else do you do? It was just hilarious.

Back to St Malo; there was that great boon to mankind, the speaking clock. When it talks all night, several times an hour at times, it can be less than useful. To confiscate it only leads to more direct shoulder-shaking and repeated questions about time. Not too sure why it mattered?

When it wasn't time it was counting money until some was scattered under the bed, which did seem to defeat the object somewhat. Maybe I mock too much. That's not the intention. Memories are funny things and clearly so individual.

I write of a man who would give anything away, even household furniture, to help others - not always wise but how amazing. Few of us can be so useful or so Christian. A lesson to us all was dear old Les. I salute you, Pop, and thanks for everything.

Now it's back to our own holiday with a tear in the eye, but a smile in the heart. A man to remember Les Halliday, 1908 - 1993, RAF and St Dunstan's.

Physiotherapist's Golden Anniversary

Clifford Carlton of Morecambe, aged 77, recently celebrated the Golden Anniversary of his qualification as a Chartered Physiotherapist in 1943.

In May 1940, Clifford enlisted in the Royal Engineers, becoming a member of the Bomb Disposal Squad. In September that year, at Mill Hill Barracks, London, he and several colleagues were examining a fuse taken from a dismantled 1000kg bomb when it detonated.

The explosion killed one officer and blinded Clifford.


After discharge from hospital, Clifford came to St Dunstan's, by then located at Church Stretton, Shropshire, where he embarked on the 'Masseurs' Course, as it was then known. He qualified in 1943 and took up his first professional appointment in May 1944 at Pinderfield Hospital, Wakefield. Clifford is still in practice today.

St Dunstan's Area Reunions 1994

A short note about the reintroduction of area reunions was sent to St Dunstaners and widows in December 1993. This was followed in February by details of a provisional programme, with a pro forma for completion. We thank those who then let us know their wishes, either by telephoning or returning the pro forma. We shall be sending you details of the arrangements of your reunion nearer the time. Anyone who wishes to attend a 1994 reunion should contact Keith Martin at Headquarters as soon as possible. The programme is:

Tuesday, April 19th	Liverpool	Crest (The Gladstone), Lord Nelson Street
Wednesday, April 27th	Brighton (1)	Ian Fraser House
Wednesday, May 4th	Exeter	Crest, Southernhay East
Tuesday, May 10th	Sherborne	Post House, Horsecastles Lane
Thursday, May 12th	Cardiff	Post House, Pentwyn
Thursday, May 19th	Norwich	Post House, Ipswich Road
Tuesday, May 24th	Southampton	Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue
Saturday, May 28th	Birmingham	Post House, Chapel Lane, Great Barr
Tuesday, May 31st	Cambridge	Post House, Bridge Road, Impington
Saturday, June 4th	London (1)	Regent Crest, Carburton Street
Wednesday, June 15th	Leeds/ Bradford	Crest, Bramhope
Thursday, June 16th	Newcastle upon Tyne	Crest, New Bridge Street
Tuesday, June 21st	Nottingham	Crest, St James' Street
Thursday, June 23rd	Brighton (2)	Ian Fraser House
Saturday, June 25th	London(2)	Regent Crest, Carburton Street

The Reading Reunion has now been amalgamated with one of the London Reunions.



Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Napoleon 1812

Author: Nigel Nicolson
Reader: Gordon Dulieu
Duration: 8 hours
Catalogue number: 5928

Unnamed military experts are said to have agreed that Napoleon Bonaparte was the greatest general of all time, ranking higher than Hannibal, ahead of Alexander and head and shoulders above Charlemagne.

Well he was a little man who climbed high; I'll not deny that, but oh dear me, what a fearful cropper he came in Russia. This exceptionally brilliant book tells how it all came about; in stark word pictures which are frequently too explicit for comfort. Nigel Nicolson follows the dwindling fortunes of Napoleon's army of half a million plus, from its swaggering jump-off points, until the starving remnants were creeping back like cringing, whipped dogs, and 'Old Boney' himself had sneaked back to Paris with his tail between his legs.

Yes, Bonaparte left his freezing forces to their fate. I never knew good generals did things like that, but he abandoned them to disease and starvation; to the butchering partisans and Cossacks. All this, if Mr Nicolson is to be believed, without so much as batting the proverbial eye-lid.

Perhaps a mark of good generalship is absolute indifference to the lives of one's men; perhaps greatness increases in direct proportion to one's own casualties. But if this is NOT so, then I am at a loss to know how France's great hero achieved his high reputation. One thing I do know though, now that I've heard this superb account; a soldier in 1812 could

have been safer with a viper down his trousers than sent to fight for Napoleon.

London Childhood

Author: Angela Rodaway
Reader: Rosalind Shanks
Duration: 7 hours
Catalogue number: 5776

Providing we possessed the necessary skill and application, I believe we could all write a better story of our formative years than Angela Rodaway has done here.

It is not that I'm suggesting her descriptions of the hovels she and her family lived in are inaccurate, you understand, nor that the clothes they wore and the diet they existed on were not in every way as poor as she says they were; but had the rest of us also been raised amongst society's needy 'have nots', we would not, I'm sure, try to make such a virtue of the fact. In my book, there is nothing ennobling in poverty, and neither is want, dirt, deprivation and unemployment the stuff of which nostalgia is made.

Also, I hope, the story the rest of us would write, would be what I like to think of as a 'real' story; one with a beginning, a middle and an end; not a series of only loosely connected episodes, which, although often interesting or amusing in their own right, seem to lead precisely nowhere.

From which you may infer that the humdrum events of *London Childhood* left ME less than wildly enthusiastic.

It is possible, of course, that the book could have the opposite effect on someone else. So read it for yourself by all means, just don't blame me when you don't like it, that's all!



NOTICE BOARD



FOUR WEEKS LEFT TO ENTER STORY CONTEST

Don't forget to send your tale for the 1994 Story Writing Competition.

You can write on any subject, in any style, fact or fiction. An independent panel will assess the entries.

First prize is £60, second prize £25 and there are now three-runners up prizes of £5 each. The first and second prize winners will have their tales published in the *Review*.

Full rules were published in the October *Review*, but entries should be received by the closing date, April 30th, 1994.

Send your tale to Story Writing Competition 1994, St Dunstan's *Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

JOIN THE WALK FOR ST DUNSTAN'S

Plans are in place to make this year's South Downs Walk, April 18th-22nd, a sponsored event for St Dunstan's. A similar effort was made several years ago for HASICOM. Please contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters for sponsorship forms.

NEW VENUE FOR METRO SPORTS

The National Metro Sports will be taking place at a new location this year. It will be based at The Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Donkey Lane, Enfield, Middlesex and will take place on Saturday, July 16th between 10am and 5pm. The usual track and field events will be on the programme.

Accommodation will be available for Friday and Saturday

nights. There will also be a social evening after the events.

Application forms and further details are available from Derek Mileman, 29 Gilda Court, Watford Way, London NW7 2QN. Tel: 081 203 1236.

START 1995 WITH A WINTER BARGAIN BREAK

After the popular success of this year's bargain breaks at Ian Fraser House, it is hardly surprising that they are on offer again for 1995.

As before, St Dunstaners and widows 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 8th and no later than January 30th. Additional entertainment will be arranged during this special period.

If you would like to take advantage of this, please make your bookings with Jackie Hunter, Reservations Co-ordinator at Ian Fraser House on ext. 3230.

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.

Sergeant Alan Perrin of Exmouth, Devon joined St Dunstan's on February 9th. Mr Perrin, aged 30, enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1980, serving as a Weapons Instructor, but was severely injured in a hand-grenade explosion. He is currently at Ian Fraser House for rehabilitation and training.

As a junior, he developed a love of rugby and played at Corps level for the Royal Marines. He also became

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS

We would like to thank the St Dunstaners who have telephoned or written to comment on the new size *Review*. Here are a few of them:

'I was very pleased to see the new type *Review*. The larger print made it much easier to read,' was one comment.

'Just a short note to let you know I received the *Review*. The new format is great and very easy to read,' said another.

'The wife says it is the bees' knees,' was our favourite comment.

We hope you feel likewise about the new style. If, however, you have a suggestion or constructive criticism about any of the changes, we would equally like to hear from you.

an instructor in Arctic warfare and fought in the Falklands Campaign with 42 Royal Marine Commando and also did a tour with the Special Boat Section. Mr Perrin and his wife, Suzan, were married last December.

Mr Desmond Thompson of Exmouth, Devon came to St Dunstan's on March 2nd. He joined the RAF as an instrument technician in 1941 and served in India and the Middle East. In 1946, he was posted to a Maintenance Unit in Kashspirite, Egypt where he was severely wounded in an explosion caused by sabotage.

On being discharged from the Service in 1947, Mr Thompson re-

turned to his trade as an instrument technician but, with deteriorating vision, had to give up this trade and he joined the Civil Service, retiring in 1976. He and his wife, Georgina, have a son and daughter. He is a keen Ham Radio enthusiast and holds a PMG Certificate and a B licence.

CLUB NEWS

BRIDGE

Pairs match played at IFH on January 16th

1st	Mrs Shirley Holborow & Miss Mary Stenning	60.0
2nd	Wally Lethbridge & Mr Goodlad	55.0

Individuals match played at IFH on January 23rd

1st	Reg Goding	69.3
2nd	Mrs Vi McPherson	68.0

League match against Crawley at IFH on January 30th

Everyone spent a pleasant afternoon when the result was a win for Crawley by 16 points to zero. Our team was: Wally Lethbridge, Bill Phillips, Alf Dodgson, Vi McPherson, Reg Goding, John Whitcombe, Pat Padley & Carol Berry.

Pairs match played at IFH on February 6th

1st	Bill Phillips & Dr Jane Goodlad	62.5
2nd	Wally Lethbridge & Mr Goodlad	52.8

Individuals match played at IFH on February 13th

1st	Bill Phillips	69.0
equal	Reg Goding	
2nd	Alf Dodgson	59.5

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations on the birth of: Mathew Collins in Australia last October. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Eileen Owens of New Milton, Hampshire, widow of *George Owens*.

Alexander Skellet on November 4th, 1993. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Sybil Parker of Stamford, Lincolnshire, widow of *Bernard Parker*.

Ben Abbenett on December 3rd 1993. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Winifred Earwaker of

Wickham, Hampshire, widow of *Alfred Earwaker*.

Adam Birchall on January 21st. He is the grandson of *John and Sheila Wellings* of Neston, South Wirral.

James Witherspoon on January 27th. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Yvonne Caudle of Woodlands, Hampshire, widow of *Lindsay Caudle*.

Luke Jepson on February 18th. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Olive Simmon, of Harrogate, widow of *Tom Simmon*.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to: Michael and Sandra Wellings on their marriage on September 30th, 1993. Michael is the eldest son of *John and Sheila Wellings* of Neston, South Wirral.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to: *Wilfred and Doris Saxby* of Brockley, Bury-St-Edmunds on February 8th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to: *Jim and Doris Mead* of Rothwell, Kettering on January 29th.

Lyn and Irene Edwards of Coventry on February 27th.

Max and Joan Ash of Ringwood, Hampshire on March 4th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Winifred Baldwin on January 26th, aged 86. She was the widow of *Albert Baldwin* of Portslade.

Mrs Edith Bunting on February 13th, aged 98. She was the widow of *Ernest Bunting* of Tottenham, London.

Mrs Florence Wake on February 27th. She was the wife of *Joseph Wake* of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Mrs Emily Taylor on March 1st. She was the wife of *David Taylor* of Birmingham.

Mrs Bertha Cooper on March 7th. She was the wife of *James Cooper* of Southsea, Hampshire.

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.

James Wheeler, Straits Settlements Volunteer Force

James Henry Wheeler of Steyning, West Sussex died on January 12th, aged 80.

Enlisting in May 1935, he joined the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force. On the eve of war he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and was serving in Malaya when the Japanese invaded in 1941. With the fall of Singapore, he was imprisoned in Changi Gaol and later put to work on the Burma Railway.

Promoted to Captain, he remained on active service until 1946, when he was discharged from the Army. He remained on reserve for a further two years.

On leaving school, Mr Wheeler had served an indentured apprenticeship with the Austin Motor Company and, on completion of his Articles, he was seconded to their agents in Singapore, where he spent most of his working life. Deeply interested in cricket and rugby he represented Singapore in both sports.

Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Sally, Penelope and Janet, and all members of the family.

Edmund Constantine, 7th (Light Infantry) Parachute Battalion

Edmund John Constantine of Sevenoaks, Kent died on January 19th, aged 66. Having enlisted in 1945, he served as a private in the 7th (Light Infantry) Parachute Battalion, including a time in Palestine, until his discharge in 1947. In civilian life he worked as a milkman for many years but later became a PVC welder with the London Association for the Blind.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jane, son, Stephen, and all members of the family.

James Williams, The West Yorkshire Regiment

James Williams of Barnsley, Yorkshire died on January 19th, aged 76. He joined The West Yorkshire Regiment (now The Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire) in 1936 and was with his battalion in India before the outbreak of war.

After the Japanese invasion of Malaya and Singapore, Mr Williams was caught up in the fight-

ing in Burma and received gunshot wounds to his face. He was discharged in 1944.

As he still had some useful vision, Mr Williams returned to his pre-enlistment occupation as a coal miner. He married in 1947 and had six children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. When his sight deteriorated further, he took a position on the surface but continued working at the mine until the age of 60. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Joan, and all members of the family.

Lawrence O'Neill, Royal Army Service Corps

Lawrence Kevin O'Neill of Birmingham died on January 22nd, aged 73. He was recruited into the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939. He trained as a driver and went with the BEF to France, eventually being evacuated from Dunkirk.

He was posted to the Middle East and the campaigns through North Africa and Sicily led him to Ravenna, Italy where he was blown up in 1945. The explosion cost him both arms, his sight and hearing. He was awarded the Territorial Medal.

After the war, and in spite of his injuries, Mr O'Neill joined the civil service. He retired in 1992.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Ann Marie, and all the family.

Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, K.C.B., D.S.C., Royal Navy

Admiral Sir Frank Roddam Twiss, K.C.B., D.S.C. of Westbury, Wiltshire died on January 26th. With a naval career spanning nearly half a century, he became Gentleman Usher of Black Rod in the House of Lords. A full tribute appears on page ten. Our sympathy goes to his wife, sons and daughter, and all members of the family.

Herbert Greasley, Royal Engineers

Herbert Edward Greasley of Coventry died on January 28th, aged 76. He served in No 1 BDS, Royal Engineers and was injured by an enemy bomb during disposal in Italy. The explosion cost him his sight and also left him partially deaf as well as causing a severe injury to his left leg. He was discharged in 1944 and became a St Dunstaner the same year.

He joined the Inspection Department of Morris Motors in 1945 and retired 34 years later.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Hilda, daughters, Linda and Julia, and all other members of the family.

Frederick Mogford, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Frederick George Mogford of West Twyford died on February 1st, aged 81. Enlisting in 1942, he served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in England, India, Burma, Malaya and Singapore, rising to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. After his discharge in 1946, Mr Mogford joined Cigarette Components Ltd and was their Chief Purchasing Officer when he retired. A couple of years ago, he was awarded the Alan Nabarro Medal by the British Diabetic Association for coping with the disease for over 50 years. Diabetes not only led to the deterioration of his sight, it also meant the amputation of a leg.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Lilian, his son, Ron, and all members of the family.

Ronald Harris, Royal Artillery

Ronald William Harris of Newbury, Berkshire died on February 2nd, aged 77. He was a driver in the Royal Artillery from 1942 until 1943, when he was discharged after receiving gunshot wounds. He was fired upon by enemy aircraft in North Africa.

Before the war he worked in the building industry, but on retiring to civilian life, became a mushroom farmer. He loved gardening, handicrafts and made superb dolls' houses and soldiers' forts. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Patricia, and all the family.

Richard Dufton, Royal Navy

Richard Dufton of Twyford, Berkshire died on February 5th, aged 82. Blinded while on a naval engineering course, he was a leading member of St Dunstan's Research Department. A full tribute appears on page 12. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Norma, twin sons, and all members of the family.

George Hewett, Royal Air Force

George Cooper Paley Hewett of Saltdean died on February 7th, aged 94. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. He began World War One as an apprentice fitter in a Naval dockyard at Holyhead and it was his work there on aircraft engines that led to a placement in the Royal Flying Corps when he was called up. He was training at Halton when the RFC became the Royal Air Force.

Demobbed in 1919, he resumed his apprenticeship and qualified as an engineer. The Depression prohibited a career in this direction however, and Mr Hewett became a

swimming pool attendant with the Liverpool Corporation, rising to Superintendent.

At the outbreak of World War Two, he rejoined the RAF where he worked with the inventor of Radar, Dr Watson-Watt for two years before being posted to Singapore. He was taken prisoner during the invasion and subsequently suffered great deprivation.

Following his admission to St Dunstan's, he took a great interest in handicrafts. Mr Hewett also designed and made rugs which he presented to various organisations such as the RAF and Red Cross. He joined the Brighton Athletic Club and won many trophies during five years of race walking.

Our sympathy goes to his son, Michael, and daughter, Olga, and all the family.

Sir Michael Ansell, 1st Lothian and Border Yeomanry

Colonel Sir Michael Picton Ansell of Bideford, Devon died on February 17th, aged 88. A former President of St Dunstan's, Sir Michael is best known for revitalising the sport of show-jumping. A full tribute appears on page ten.

Our sympathy goes to his sons, daughter, and all the family.

Frederick Worton, Royal Air Force

Frederick William Worton of Solihull, West Midlands died on February 27th, aged 83. He served in the Royal Air Force as a Leading Aircraftman from June 1939 travelling to the Middle East. He was discharged in September 1943 due to ill health. He was employed in the Civil Service and was Chief Clerk at COD Chilwell until 1975.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Shirley, and all the family.

Robert Sindler, Royal Artillery

Robert Woodroff Winn Sindler of Dorchester, Dorset died on March 5th, aged 85. He served as a Bombardier with the Royal Artillery in North Africa and Italy from September 1939. In November 1941, he was blown up in an armoured car in Sidi Rezeg, sustaining injuries to his eyes and ears. He was then captured and held in Italy until 1944.

After his discharge, he returned to Southern Rhodesia where he worked as a market gardener, government bee inspector and planter until he retired, aged 69, and moved back to Britain.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Betty, sons, Ian and David, daughter, Jean, and all the family.