

St Dunstan's Review

December 1994

No. 855



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BI-MONTHLY
Free to St Dunstaners

DECEMBER 1994

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Front cover: Tee time in idyllic Pease Pottage. St Dunstaner Alec Carter tries for a hole in one at the launch of St Dunstan's Golf Club.

From the Chairman

THESE WORDS are written in mid-November in order to catch the printer's deadline for the December *Review*. Should things change significantly by the time of issue I will try to update you with a stop press insert.

The process of restructuring Ian Fraser House to provide enhanced Nursing Care and Residential facilities and in due course the closure and disposal of Pearson House is proceeding according to plan (my personal letter of October 14th to each of you refers). Throughout, the Charity Commission has been kept fully informed on what we are doing and why. The likely date of the changeover remains the Spring of 1995, probably May. Case by case arrangements are being made by Welfare for those in special need over Christmas.

Those deserving the most sympathy over this upheaval - which I am afraid is quite unavoidable - are the Staff, some 70 of whom at Pearson House and between 30 and 50 at Ian Fraser House, face redundancy. Every possible effort is being made to ease this unfortunate necessity: a professional counsellor is being brought in, extra typing effort for CVs is being made available, a Job Centre is being established and no redundancy will be effective before mid-January at the earliest.

So far as the 'activities' are concerned (and there are some 20 different ones - e.g. Archery, Amateur Radio, Bowling) my Reunion Officers (Keith Martin and Peter Marshall) will by now have contacted the Chairmen or Secretaries of the various Clubs to help in every way possible with the problem of overnight accommodation (which will no longer be available for this purpose at Ian Fraser House) for those travelling from a distance. I am confident that those Reunions recently held at Ian Fraser House will continue at alternative venues, as in former years.

Sadly the picture I am trying to paint for you would not be complete without giving you a glimpse of a darker side. A small minority of St Dunstaners, mainly from the Brighton area (and hence standing to be disadvantaged least) has formed a rebel group to oppose the whole project. They have enlisted the services of a gullible MP and seem hell-bent on destroying the orderly survival of St Dunstan's. Their conduct has been selfish and subversive. Included in their activities have been strident calls for me to resign. I have the total and unanimous support of the entire Council and for every single letter of protest I have received five of staunch support. To resign in today's circumstances when things are a bit rough would be the act of a coward taking the easy way out and I have no intention whatsoever of doing so.

Thank you - the vast majority - for your loyalty and support at a difficult time and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas. I dare to hope that some spirit of goodwill towards others may yet penetrate the minds of the dissident few.



NOTICE BOARD



EMERGENCY REPAIRS IN ST DUNSTAN'S PROPERTIES

A most unfortunate case has recently arisen in which emergency plumbing repairs were necessary in the early hours and a plumber, not listed on the Emergency Contractors List, was contacted. An exorbitant charge for the cost of the work was demanded and had to be paid before the contractor would leave the property. As a result, the matter is being dealt with through legal channels.

The importance of contacting contractors on the Emergency List cannot be stressed too highly, so if you have either mislaid your copy or are not in possession of a list, please contact your Area Surveyor without delay.

BOOKINGS AT IFH CANCELLED

In view of the changes taking place at the Brighton Homes, will those St Dunstaners and Widows who have already made bookings for Ian Fraser House for 1995, please take this as notification of cancellation of such bookings.

Sue Reynolds

EXTRA MONTH ADDED TO DISABLED RAILCARD

British Rail have announced that the Disabled Railcard will be extended by one month as compensation for days lost during the strikes earlier this year.

This month will be added when renewing existing Disabled Railcards. The offer applies to Railcards renewed by October 12th 1995.

These cards entitle the holder and an escort to a third reduction on most tickets. The card costs £14 and application forms are obtainable from all local stations.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments for the ensuing year were confirmed at the Council meeting held on October 27th:

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds was re-elected President.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach was re-elected Chairman.

Michael Delmar-Morgan, the senior member of Council, was re-elected Vice-Chairman. He did not wish to be nominated for a further term as Joint Treasurer and was thanked for all the work he had done in this field over nearly 20 years.

Sir Richard Pease was re-elected Joint Honorary Treasurer.

John Varley was elected a Member of Council and also a member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. He was invited to become Joint Honorary Treasurer. Mr Varley has an MA in Modern History and is a qualified solicitor. He is a Director of Odey Asset Management Ltd.

Andrew Lyburn was also elected to the Council. He represents the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded.

ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

We would remind St Dunstaners, all members of the family of St Dunstan's and our other readers, that December 9th is the anniversary of the death of our visionary founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, who died in 1921. We remember not only Sir Arthur but also Lord Fraser of Lonsdale and all the other great men and women who have been part of this organisation.

CASSETTE LIBRARY ADDITION

The Life of Sir Edward Dunlop of the Burma Thailand Railway, now available on loan from the PR Department, is recommended reading by one FEPoW St Dunstaner.

'I found the book on 'Weary' Dunlop's life extremely interesting, particularly his PoW months on the Burma Thailand Railway and his post-war activities and achievements,' said Bill Griffiths who was a PoW with Sir Edward. 'I'm sure it will be a great enlightenment to all who read it, including FEPoW colleagues. The tapes are very well read by a variety of male and female readers.'

You do not need to send any blank cassettes for the book, but we would ask for its return.



STAFF ADDITION

We welcome Michael Reinhold who recently joined St Dunstan's Estate Department as Lettings Manager. He was formerly with the National Trust.

MONSTER EEL PROVES LUCKY FOR MASTER ANGLER TINY

A St Dunstaner has been saluted for his sea angling prowess by a fishing tackle manufacturer.

How 'Tiny' Pointon of Telescombe Cliffs, Sussex hooked a 90lb conger eel was reported in the August 1993 *Review*, but that spectacular catch has won him the title of 93/94 Shakespeare Overall Master Angler of the Year.

'Tiny' was competing against 36 sighted anglers and his victory comes with £750 worth of Shakespeare tackle.

DISNEY DESCRIPTIONS

A trio of Disney films have been released as the next wave of audio described videos. The selection is lead by traditional Disney fare, *Bambi*, the animated classic about a fawn's rite of passage, which retails at £14.99.

The other two are live action movies priced £10.99. *Dead Poets Society*, starring Robin Williams, treads ironic waters in an exclusive boarding school, while *Pretty Woman* casts Julia Roberts as a call girl who changes Richard Gere's life.

These tapes can be ordered from RNIB Customer Services on 0345 023153 (for the price of a local call).

The range will soon be enhanced by *Aladdin*, starring Robin Williams once more and featuring songs by Sir Tim (Evita) Rice, and *Cool Runnings* with the late John Candy.

Three documentaries, without description but with heavy narration, are also being marketed by the RNIB.

The Story of the Boer War and *The Battle of the Somme* cost £10.99 each, while *Paras the Official Story* is priced £12.99.

CALL RETURN TAKES HASSLE OUT OF FINDING THE PHONE

Ever rush to a telephone only to pick it up just as it stops ringing? That need not be a problem with BT's new *Call Return* service which tells you the number of the last person who called - even if the number is ex-directory. It is possible to prevent your number from being registered by dialling 141 as a prefix when you make a confidential call. BT make a charge for installing a permanent block on your number.

All you do to use *Call Return* is dial 1471 and a message system in the exchange will tell you the number of your last caller, even if you did not answer the phone. This could also mean that people also return your calls if you did not get through.

Enhancing the user-friendly nature of this free service is a quick-dial facility which is being run on indefinite trial. Having listened to the number on the 1471 message, you will be connected to that number if you dial 1474.

There are some exceptions to *Call Return*, calls from mobile phones or those made with a BT Chargecard will not register. Further details can be obtained on 0800 800 1471.

PROM CLASSIC OFFER

There's lots of pomp, but in the circumstance it's appropriate. A century of the Proms is celebrated on a double CD set from *BBC Music* which only costs £3.99 (including p&p) and runs for 150 minutes.

Composers represented include Mahler, Rachmaninov, Sibelius, Wagner and, of course, Elgar. To order call 0483 268888.

PERFUMED PANTO

A panto production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry is being enhanced with scratch 'n' sniff cards laced with four 'evocative' scents. The organisers are also arranging pre-show picnics for blind patrons and will be providing braille song sheets for performances.

The show runs from December 6th to January 21st, for further details call 0203 553055.

SHAKESPEARE STYLE DICKENS

The archetypal seasonal classic is the latest audio-described fare from the RSC at the Barbican. Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by John (Rumpole) Mortimer gets the audio-descriptive treatment on January 4th. *The Venetian Twins* gets a repeat performance on January 28th.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

The Institute of Ophthalmology, Moorfields would like to carry out a research project into sleep patterns amongst blind people.

Volunteers who are TB or have very little light perception and who would be prepared to attend a 15 minute interview either at HQ or in Brighton are required. They should also consent to their medical documents being made accessible to the interviewer.

Please contact Peter Marshall on 071 723 5021 ext 2251 if you are interested.

SAILING PROGRAMME 1995

A programme of events for blind seamen has been announced by the RYA Seamanship Foundation.

The Foundation will be at the Earls Court Boat Show from January 5th to 15th as a prelude to a very active year, featuring:

Barbados Cruise	January 15th-29th
Sailboat 95	March 4th-5th
Greek Flotilla Delivery Cruise	April 17th-30th
RYA Skipper/Comp Crew Course, East Coast	May 7th-12th
Weekend RCC Rally	June Provisional
Cruise LSP	June 16th-21st
French Adventure Cruise	July 8th-15th
Blind Week, Warsash Sailing Club	July 9th-15th
RYA Skipper/Comp Crew Course, Solent	July 17th-21st
East Coast Cruise	July 22nd-29th
Charity Regatta Royal Lympington Yacht Club	September Provisional
RYA Skipper/Comp Crew Course, Solent	September 4th-8th
Cruise LSP	September 8th-14th
Southampton Boat Show	September 15th-23rd
Blind National Championships	October 6th-8th

For further details contact Debbie Brown, RYA Seamanship Foundation, RYA House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh SO50 9YA. Tel: 0703 629962.

PLANE BRAILLE

Air France is to install safety instructions in braille for blind passengers. The instructions, in French and English, contain a three-dimensional plan of the aircraft with positions of exits and toilets.

HISTORY OF A DISASTER

The tragedy of the Titanic will be outlined in a lecture at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich on February 12th. Priced £3.25, it compliments an exhibition of artefacts recovered from the famous liner. For further details call 081 858 4422.

LIBERAL MP VISITS OIVINGDEAN

Liberal Democrat Defence Spokesman Menzies Campbell visited Ian Fraser House during the recent Party Conference at Brighton.

The MP from Fife met St Dunstaner Des Bissenden and Supervisor Gary Glowa in the picture framing workshop.



POCKET BRAILLER WANTED

Mr John Perfect of Yealmpton, Devon is seeking a Banks pocket braille writer, a very small flat machine that brailles onto a thin tape. Although generally out of use, it's still a useful machine for taking notes. If you can help, please contact the Supplies Department at Headquarters.

MICROWAVE COOKERY BOOKS

Two cookery books, *Basic microwave cookery*, priced £1.50, and *A taste of microwave cookery*, priced £2.50, have been prepared with blind people in mind. Both are available on tape from the Resource & Rehabilitation Centre for Visually Impaired People, 1 Heoly-Gog, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BX. Tel: 0792 872375.

NEAREST BUT NOT DEAREST

A new discount system has been introduced for British Telecom users calling family and friends on a regular basis.

The *Family & Friends* calling plan allows you to nominate five telephone numbers that you regularly dial for a five per cent discount. There is a one-off fee of £4.99 but discounts will be listed on subsequent bills. For further details call Freephone 0800 800 812.

GUIDE TO TAX-FREE SAVINGS

Tax-free savings with National Savings are outlined in a new audio cassette. To order a free copy ring 0645 645000, calls will be charged at local rate.

BALLET AND OPERA BARGAIN

Tickets for the Royal Opera House will be available at bargain rates between £1 and £10 early next year. The offer runs from January 6th to 12th and takes in performances of *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella* and *Otello*. Further details can be gained from the Paul Hamlyn Office at the Royal Opera House on 071 212 9463.

WHO'S THAT GIRL?

Does anyone know this girl? She's likely to be a good bit older now since she used to cheer up St Dunstaner Frederick Bishop while he was at Kemp Town after the Second World War. Fred's brother, who lives in Hove, wonders who she might be. If you can help, get in touch with the Public Relations Department.

Fred was a sapper in 221 Field Coy, Royal Engineers and came to St Dunstan's in March 1946 having been severely injured in a mine explosion in Italy the previous April. However, his wounds were such that he died, aged 25, in January 1947.



ST DUNSTAN'S WALKING WEEK

We would like to see our walking week continue. Some people have indicated that they would be prepared to pay if the venue and price was right.

We are not confined to Sussex. If anyone has any suggestions, cheap deals or contacts, please get in touch with Ray Hazan without delay.

NEW SCIENTIST ON DISK

Would anyone interested in receiving the *New Scientist* on disk please contact Ray Hazan. The format is likely to be an ASCII text file and the price around £1 to £2.

ON THE TRAIL OF AUDIO BIRDS

The sounds of birds in gardens, town parks or the countryside can be appreciated by people with a visual impairment according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

'As birds are all around us there is no need to go further than a garden to enjoy them,' they say. 'There are many ways to attract more birds to your garden.'

In this respect, four free leaflets, available from the RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, (Tel: 0767 680551) cover *Feeding garden birds*, *Tits and nestboxes*, *Planting for wildlife*, and *Ponds for wildlife*.

The Society also markets bird-sound CDs and cassettes and produces a tape edition of its magazine, *Birds*. Recently, they launched their first audio nature trail at Radipole Lake Nature Centre, Swannery Car Park, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7TZ (Tel: 0305 778313). Escorts are admitted free.

ROOM FOR YOUR FABLE

Fed up with Christmas pud? Try burning off some of those calories by exercising your fingers on the typewriter, and why not concoct an entry for the Story Writing Competition 1995 at the same time.

Your story can be fact or fiction and will be judged by an independent panel. First prize is £60, second prize is £25 and there are three runners-up prizes of £5 each.

Full rules for the competition were published last issue. Entries should reach the Editor by the closing date, April 28th 1995.

Send your entry to Story Writing Competition 1995, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

HERITAGE GUIDE UPDATED

The latest edition of the English Heritage guide for disabled visitors to national monuments is available in braille and on tape. To receive a copy, write to English Heritage, Portica House, Addison Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6YJ.

USER-FRIENDLY LIBRARY

Recent improvements to the RNIB's Reference Library may serve as a model for public libraries wishing to increase accessibility for blind people. The introduction of large print and tactile signs, a scanner, closed circuit television and computerised catalogue system are just part of a package intended to make the library more user-friendly.

The move has been feted by Gill Burrington, the first partially-sighted President of the Library Association. 'Library layout is all too often planned without making provision for people with little or no sight, yet with a little more thought, and little additional cost, their needs could be met.'

The Reference Library at RNIB's headquarters holds over 5,000 books, 6,000 pamphlets and 2,300 government papers relating to visually impaired people.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION BY GASLIGHT

A Victorian street display at Preston Hall Museum, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland now features an audio tape guide. Admission is free and further details can be gained on 0642 781184.

LIFE OF MOON REMEMBERED

The Royal National Institute for the Blind held an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Dr William Moon on the occasion of the centenary of his death on October 10th.

VICTORY IN ART AND CRAFTS

St Dunstaners swept the board winning prizes at the third Annual Art & Craft Competition held by the Brighton Society for the Blind on November 12th. They entered 23 articles in seven categories - knitting, basketwork, stools, sewing, baking, woodwork and pottery.

A large rocking horse secured second place for Bill Brenchley in woodwork while Ernie Brown's child's chair took first place in the stools section, though Sid Doy's fireside stool came third.

Charlie Clarke won first prize with a celebration cake which also won Best Overall. Phil Duffee had eight items entered and won first place with three of them, a pastel, which was dubbed Best Overall in its section, an apple picking basket, and an oil painting. A pen and ink drawing was also deemed Best Overall. A small basket received an Honourable Mention. Fred Galway's Baby's Cradle took the first in basketwork which was feted as Best Overall, while Reg Goding took first prize for a picture frame and received an Honourable Mention in Pottery. Jo Huk gained a double first in woodwork and rugmaking and came third in basketwork, while Lionel Scott took first place and Best Overall in leatherwork with a leather handbag.

David Thomas came third in basketwork with a tray and Ron Tingay received an Honourable Mention for his toddler's chair. Bert Wallage took a first and Best Overall for a child's desk and seat, while Terry Walker came second in knitting with a dog lead.

The competition was well attended and St Dunstan's entries were amongst the highest standard. Thanks go to Mary, Joan and Lenie for their organisation.

AU REVOIR DAVID

St Dunstan's says au revoir this month to someone who, although not a member of staff, has been a familiar and friendly face at the London Headquarters for over 17 years. David Chesterman is retiring 'slightly early' at the age of 74 as Director of the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness which has close links with St Dunstan's. David worked on Bomb Disposal during the Second World War and has three children and eight grandchildren. He has gained a certain notoriety for organising fund raising concerts at the Albert Hall and now becomes BCPB's Honorary Concert Director. He is succeeded by Jane Skerrett who has a similar musical background having worked in opera and theatre.



OBITUARIES:

Miss Margot Midgley

St Dunstaners, their widows and many old friends will be sad to learn that Margot Midgley died on October 1st.

In 1956, Miss Midgley joined our staff to become Northern Area Superintendent in the Welfare Department. Having served in the WAAF, she had a special sympathy and understanding for the nature of our work. In the 16 years she was with us, Miss Midgley became a true friend, held in much esteem and affection by those for whom she cared. She retired from St Dunstan's in 1972.

It was only at the beginning of this year that Miss Midgley left London to live in Eastbourne where her funeral service took place. Our sympathy goes to her sister, Mary, and all close friends.

Miss Mary Stevens

Mary Stevens, a visitor for the Southern Area Welfare team, died on October 5th, aged 91.

Mary worked for 21 years with the Red Cross and had acted as an advisor on pensioners enquiries for the *Sunday Pictorial*. At St Dunstan's, she advised on the needs of St Dunstaners in employment, children's education, holidays and socially. She encouraged St Dunstaners to take up new trades, either as a working proposition or as a hobby. This included basket and tray making, woodwork and initiating craft skills for goods which could be sold privately or through St Dunstan's Sales Department.

After retiring from St Dunstan's in 1963, Mary worked for the Chalfont Colony for Epileptics where she constantly did night duty. During the daytime, she shared, with her sister, Frances, the care of her ageing father.

Most people will remember Mary Stevens' quiet sense of humour, her unending patience and above all, her love of humanity.

Our sympathy goes to her sisters, Frances and Margaret, and all of their family.

Miss Doreen French

Doreen French died on September 11th. For 22 years, Miss French worked in the Estate Department where she was Secretary and PA to St Dunstaner Peter Matthews who was Estate Manager. She deferred retirement until 1977 when Mr Matthews retired but continued to assist him outside St Dunstan's.

Ruth Marshall

St Dunstaners will be sad to learn of the death of Ruth Marshall on September 16th. Ruth was a VAD in the Sixties and Seventies. We extend our condolences to her son.

Pearson House Anniversary



The Class of 94! The St Dunstaners of Pearson House on the Anniversary of the building's presentation.

SEVENTY-SIX YEARS ago to the day on October 16th, the Federation of Grocers' Associations had presented West House to St Dunstan's but this year's celebration of that event was tinged with a certain sadness. Two days earlier the reluctant decision to move Pearson House services to Ovingdean had been announced and despite the jollity of the occasion, a certain melancholy filled the air.

Matron Chris King addressed St Dunstaners concerns in her speech. 'For the St Dunstaners that live at Pearson House, you will all

have reacted in different ways to the news of what is to happen,' she said. 'Some of you will be happy at the proposed changes, some of you will be upset and some will have mixed feelings. I know that major changes can be very unsettling but your future is secure.'

She went on to say, 'I know you will also think, with love and consideration, about the staff. The news about the future of Pearson House has come as a shock to everyone, but most especially to the staff. Between the two St Dunstan's Homes in Brighton, a lot of staff are going to

be made redundant. Their future, unlike yours is not secure. Their lives are being even more disrupted than yours.'

'The staff here have given wonderful service to the St Dunstaners, to Pearson House and to St Dunstan's. I know they will continue to do so over the next few months. All I can say is a heartfelt thank you to them and I know I also speak on your behalf.'

'Of all the speeches I have made over the last six years, today's has been the most difficult. We cannot pretend that it is not a sad occasion and yet today is meant to be a celebration. So let us make it a celebration, a celebration of all that Pearson House has meant to us. Today, let us live for today. Let us all enjoy the rest of the party, let us sing and dance and talk lovingly with our friends. Let us remember the good times and the good friendships that we have shared in Pearson House.'

'And then tomorrow let us start striving together to support each other through the months ahead to a new future.'



The staff of Pearson House.



On your marks...

Get set...

Get ready...

Swing...

Follow that ball, Des!

WHO'S THE KING OF THE SWINGERS

Simon Rogers follows the members of St Dunstan's Golf Club round 19 holes

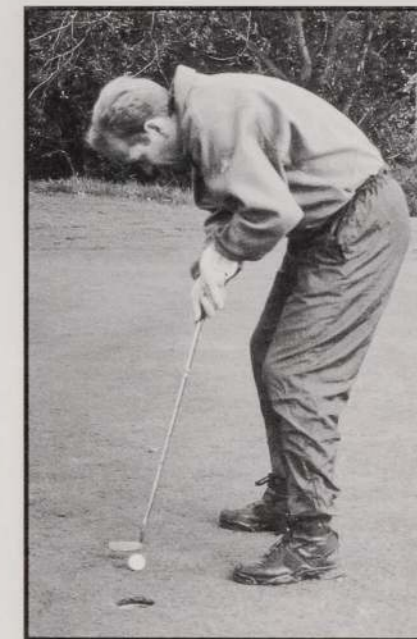
A LITTLE BIT of golfing history was played on October 24th when St Dunstan's Golf Club christened their formation with their first annual prize tournament. About two dozen golfers - blind and sighted - competed at Pease Pottage Golf Club and Driving Range which had lent its facilities for the tournament.

'I personally get a lot of enjoyment out of playing golf,' said St Dunstaner Des Chandler, Chairman of the fledgling club. 'When you think how some sighted players

find it frustrating, you can imagine how the sense of achievement is much greater for those who cannot see.'

The 18 hole contest, sponsored by Laurentian Insurance Company, pitted Des against fellow St Dunstaners Arthur Carter and Iain Millard as well as Craig Neller and Gubbay Steve Sparkes. They were joined by St Dunstan's Sports Co-ordinator, Grant Cooper and Alex Durie, husband of Cookery Instructor Pam Durie.

In the end, it was a visitor who won the day. Ron



Steven Sparkes gets into the swing of things with a Slazenger special.

Tomlinson of the British Blind Golf Association won both the Adam Lezar Trophy for Best Blind Golfer, which had been donated by the owner of Pease Pottage Golf Club, and the St Dunstan's/Laurentian Trophy which went to the best duo, in this instance Ron and his sighted partner, P.Overy.

Close behind in the duos were Arthur Carter with Alex Durie and Steve Sparkes with Chris Falcon. Alex was declared best sighted golfer.

Des Chandler was presented with £400 by Rod Leaver, Managing Director of Laurentian Insurance.



Down the green and over that ditch, Iain Millard puts home.



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



The late John Taylor in the Pearson House craft room with Adjutant-General Sir Michael Wilkes' assistant.

From: Margaret Clarke, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex

On behalf of the whole family, we thank you and everyone else for your kind words, your help, and your consideration. The greatest comfort of all was the quality of care by the whole of St Dunstan's at Pearson House.

It was a comfort to be at Pearson House when my father, John Taylor, passed away. I was there for two and a half days, part of that time by myself, as the rest of the family had yet to return. I did not feel alone since every single person, from the cleaners up spoke to me with great concern and conveyed their upset at our loss.

Over the years my father was at Pearson House, I have got to know them. They hugged me and smiled, the same as they have done over the years. Then, in greeting, now, in my moment of need.

I cannot find the words to form my thanks to the Care Assistants, the Sisters and Matron. They built up my father bodily when he came to them so thin. They bathed and cleaned him when he was ill and unable to do it. They did all this and more, cheered him through each day when he felt ill. They made my family feel at ease, it was a home from home.

From: Stella Warburton, (ex-VAD), Brighton

I was delighted to win the beautiful cake which was raffled by Mrs Revis at the fete on July 30th.

I wish to convey my appreciation to Mrs Sedgwick who made the cake and painstakingly put such accomplished artistry in its final decoration.

From: Mrs Doris Norris, Northwood, Middlesex

My daughters and I would like to thank everybody at St Dunstan's who sent messages of sympathy on the loss of my husband, Jim. It was a great comfort to us. We also thank those who gave donations to St Dunstan's.



Commandant Fawcett - over three decades of service to St Dunstan's.

From: Mrs Elizabeth Fawcett, Rottingdean

I would like to add to the article on the 50th HMS *Daedalus* Camp that, together with Avis Spurway, my late husband, Laurie, organised the first three camps at Seafield Park from 1945 to 1947. He subsequently became a member of St Dunstan's staff for 33 years.

From: Ray Sheriff, Rottingdean

I wish to thank those St Dunstaners, widows, staff and friends for most generously supporting my recent Parachute Tandem Jump in Arnhem. My sponsorship is intended to benefit the Airborne Forces Charity Development Trust and to date, £818.50 has proved forthcoming. Thank you all very much.

Special thanks to Miss Helen Stewart of the Welfare Department for subscribing and collecting.

Finally, I promise not to bother you again regarding sponsorships. My next jump will be for pleasure, not cash.

A feature on Ray's Arnhem Anniversary jump appears on page 12.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

In the December 1944 *Review*, Sir Ian Fraser was denouncing the lack of reference to servicemen in the King's Speech. The Blackpool Home reported that high tides cut them off from trams and that Esmond Knight was performing at the Grand with Evelyn Laye.

German High Command, it was revealed, had failed to disrupt the activities of the Bridge Club and St Dunstaner Captain W.J.Voss was broadcasting for the BBC in French to Belgium.

St Dunstaners paid their respects to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday

A day for remembering

NINETEEN-NINETY-FOUR will be a year to remember, for the dignity of the occasion and for the much improved position of St Dunstan's contingent in the order of march. This latter was due to the extensive efforts and lobbying by our Chairman. In addition, we were most fortunate to enjoy the assistance of WOII Twomey, Irish Guards, who not only kept us in good order, smart and in step, but provided a running commentary on where we were at any time and what was expected of us.

St Dunstan's lined up in Whitehall only yards from the Cenotaph itself. Marching off just behind the band put a spring in our step.

We received an extended commentary on television and both our President and Steve Pendleton, accompanying the Chairman, were mentioned.

More importantly, we were there to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice. It was encouraging to see and hear the large numbers of young spectators standing eight deep lining the route.

In his address, Sir Henry thanked those involved in organising the day, especially Keith Martin, who retires next spring. He welcomed General Sir Edward and Lady Burgess. Sir Edward was immediate past National President of The Royal British Legion. 'I take it as a great compliment that they should have marched with us.'

For gallant and distinguished services

THERE'S a little piece of memorabilia which St Dunstaner Bob Fullard can hold up with some pride. The document relates to the circumstances under which his father, Alfred Fullard, came to be awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

A mere 22 year old, though he had already served in India prior to the First World War, Sergeant Alfred Fullard was with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)(1) in the thick of the Battle of the Somme. His platoon officer wounded, Sgt Fullard braved enemy fire to retrieve the stricken subaltern who would later become the Earl of Bradford.

He was mentioned in Despatch from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and was awarded the DCM for gallantry.

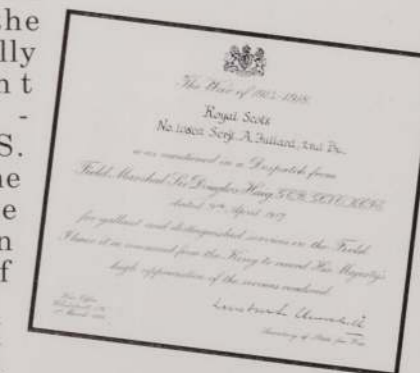
The record of the King's appreciation that

Sir Henry went on, 'So to Remembrance Day. Who do we remember and why? We remember those who gave their lives, their sight, their limbs and their health in two World Wars and many other conflicts. We remember them with gratitude and with pride. We remember them with humility for their great sacrifice.' He expressed the hope that their younger successors would not be called upon in similar circumstances, but felt confident they would match the same selflessness if called upon.

Ray Hazan responded by describing how he had once been asked by a 12 year old whether he had rather been in the place of a comrade killed by the bomb which had injured him. 'My reply was that, thanks to St Dunstan's, the answer was "no", for none of us would have achieved half of what we have, were it not for the help, support and encouragement we receive from St Dunstan's.' The other half of the equation was the support between St Dunstaners themselves. He went on to pay tribute to those St Dunstaners who had been an inspiration - Lord Fraser, Sir Mike Ansell and Dickie Dufton, and to the many present in the room who continued to inspire their colleagues. Life is a series of partnerships and Ray expressed the hope that we would all continue forward in a spirit of comradeship and co-operation to preserve St Dunstan's for those who would inevitably be blinded for their country.

accompanied this award bore the now historically significant signature - Winston S. Churchill - the future Prime Minister, then Secretary of State for War.

'The DCM came with a gratuity,' adds Bob who also served with The Royal Scots when he joined the army. 'You had a choice of a lump sum of £10 or 6d per day for as long as you served. Ten pounds was a fortune in those days and I think my father took the lump sum.'



Ray Sheriff reports on the activities of the Battle of Arnhem 50th Commemorative Anniversary

RETURN TO THE BRIDGE TOO FAR

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE that a period of 50 years has past since the Battle of Arnhem, September 17th 1944, code name - Market Garden. The object of the Airborne operation was to capture the Bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem, which ultimately proved the Bridge too far. It is now, quite rightly, renamed The Bridge to the Future.

Newspapers of the day did not reveal the true struggle of the Parachute Regiment.

Ray receives his medal of honour from Michael De Jong.

the occasion, so subsequently completed a further three jumps at various venues. As a result, I was invited to join a team of ex-Arnhem Veterans for a commemorative para-drop upon the wartime DZ. The jump to take place on the exact date, September 17th, in keeping with the operation of 50 years previous.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions the jump had to be called off. Obviously, the sheer disappointment was unimaginable to all concerned. Planning and training over a period of two years were lost due to cloud coverage. Though the team had the honour of being presented to HRH Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief Parachute Regiment, the disappointment still remained.

However, all was not lost. By way of consolation, 39 of the Vets managed to complete a jump on the following day at an airfield 20 miles north of Arnhem. Not quite the right venue or desired atmosphere.

Unfortunately, my regular tandem master, Martin Ramsey, had to return to the UK earlier that day. However, a young rather laid-back Dutchman did the necessary job of bringing me safely to earth from 10,000ft. The weather conditions were not ideal, it was cold and wet.

Anyhow, the desired effect was achieved - a successful fifth jump, good landing, no sprains, bruises or broken bones. What more could one ask. This particular jump was made from a Twin Turbine Prop Sky-liner with rear door exit. One can leave the aircraft from a sitting position for-



Ray is presented to Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment.

ward or backward roll. I prefer the latter.

The main reason for our visit to Arnhem proved twofold. First, to attend the Sunday Memorial Service held at the Airborne Cemetery, Oosterbeek, where there are almost 2,000 graves of fallen Airborne personnel. Obviously the whole proceedings were most moving and emotional, especially the ceremony of Laying of Flowers by Dutch school children. From their position at the foot of each grave, at a given signal, they lay their floral tokens beneath each headstone. I understand the children are encouraged to memorise the name of the soldier on which grave they have laid their flowers.

For this anniversary, Her Majesty The Queen was represented by HRH Prince Charles. Also paying homage were Queen Beatrix and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Secondly, I was also privileged, with 15 others chosen by the Arnhem Veterans Committee, to represent various units who took part in the Battle. I was there on behalf of the 1st Parachute Brigade. We were to receive the 50th Anniversary Arnhem Commemorative Medal. The venue for this occasion was the Rhinehall, Arnhem. This proved quite informal and once again the Dutch children played the leading part as presenters, making a pleasant change from the usual VIPs.

As per usual, I found the treatment afforded by the Dutch people quite overwhelming and embarrassing. So helpful, kind and hospitable. They treat the survivors of the Battle of Arnhem like heroes, a people who have suffered the deprivation of freedom, cruelty, starvation, during their years of German occupation. So, I think the clog should be on the other foot.

DAILY MIRROR, Friday, September 22, 1944. No. 12,719. ONE PENNY. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

DAILY Mirror

DEMPSEY'S 2nd BRITISH ARMY REACHES THE LAST RHINE CROSSING—LINKS UP WITH PARATROOPS AT ARNHEM, SAY NAZIS

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GENERAL DEMPSEY'S Second British Army, bursting across the southern arm of the Rhine delta over the captured Waal bridge at Nijmegen, have reached the northern arm—the Lek, last big water barrier to the outflanking of the Siegfried Line.

This sensational admission was made by Berlin last night. Dempsey's men, it was stated, have linked up with the isolated British paratroops in heavy fighting at Arnhem, on the Lek.

This reported ten-mile thrust found no confirmation at Nijmegen, where it was stated all hard fighting at Nijmegen.

Air scouts have spotted German transports moving east out of Arnhem.

The Allied front-line message said the spectacular battle for the concrete bridge at Nijmegen ended in our favour. Germans had the bridge destroyed.

But before they could do so they were surprised by American airborne troops who crossed the river to the west and closed in from behind while British tanks made a frontal attack.

More reinforcements, including Polish paratroops and supplies were flown to the airborne army yesterday.

Thunderbolt escorts destroyed twenty German planes in all fights. Four Thunderbolts are missing.

"RED ARMY IS INSIDE WARSAW"

—ANNOUNCE HUNS

THE Red Army has entered the western suburbs of Warsaw the German news agency announced last night. Earlier admission that the Russian troops of the Vistula and isolated pockets.

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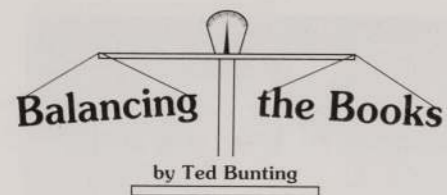
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Mask of Treachery

Author: John Costello

Reader: Robert Gladwell

Duration: 34.25 hours

Catalogue number: 7699

I am greatly disturbed by this story of the traitor, Anthony Blunt, but impressed because I appreciate the vast amount of research required to present such a formidable chronicle. It disturbs because it destroys ones trust in all branches of government.

If what it says is true, homosexuality is at the bottom of it all! According to Mr Costello, it was virtually impossible to be educated at a British public school without becoming at least familiar with homosexual practices; 'the old boy network', was really the 'old boy-friend network', and up it men of indifferent ability have climbed to high positions. This is how Blunt, not the most brilliant student, was able to gain admission to the 'Apostles', a supposedly elite group within Cambridge University, and how the infamous Guy Burgess entered the BBC and British security.

To the layman it seems incredible that known communist supporters like Burgess, Maclean and Philby, were able to gain access to so-called state secrets, but they did, with apparent ease, just as Blunt who recruited them, was able to move as he pleased around Her Majesty's royal palaces.

This is a long, long book and sometimes gets too bogged down in detail, but the information it gives is secondary to the questions it poses. It shows how the traitor and sexual deviant can rise to the higher echelons of our society... Who CAN we have confidence in? That's what I'd like to know.

The train now leaving on Ron's table...

Ron Ellis introduces regular commuter Simon Rogers to some trains he can appreciate



AS A HOBBY it always appealed to Ron Ellis, but it took him 60 years to get on the right track and take it up. Now he's taken the plunge you'll find the likes of *King Edward VI*, *Henry VIII*, *St David* and *Lady Margaret Hill* in his living room.

These famous names were once the lifeblood of the Great Western Railway. Ron has collected models of their finest engines. 'When I was a young lad, about 14, I used to look in the shop window at the model trains and I vowed to get myself one, but it took me 60 years to make up my mind.'

Other trains in Ron's collection include the *Flying Scotsman*, *The Britannia*, *Bradley Manor*, *Sir Francis Drake*, and a limited edition *Royal Scot*. He's selected each of the Hornby OO gauge trains to represent a different class of engine.

A passion for trains was sown while his father was a driver for GWR. 'He used to take my

brother, Eric, and I down to the sheds on a Sunday and we'd get a close look at the steam engines.'

Ron has commandeered a small dining room in his house for the model trains, dubbing it 'the shed' after the rail-side holding he visited as a child.

'Being blind and deaf, I can't have a layout for the trains, so I've set them up on a single track. I feel the details on the train and it creates a feeling of nostalgia, it brings back lots of memories. The quality is so good that I always find something different. These models are so perfect in detail it's a sheer pleasure to run my hands over them.'

'You can tell the Great Western's because they had bronze funnels. They were made at Swindon. My only gripe with these models is that they haven't made them to the original colours - they paint them all as they were after the railways were nationalised and became British Rail.'

Ted Miller records the events of the recent Handless Reunion

A day at the palace



St Dunstan's Handless Group with honoured friends, Sir John Gingell, Sir Henry Leach and Mrs Elizabeth Dacre.

OUR SPECIAL GROUP of Handless St Dunstaners met in the Winter Garden on September 15th for a welcome supper with David Bray as our host. We were joined by our President, Mrs Elizabeth Dacre and members of staff. It was a very enjoyable meal and a very happy party followed. Sue Reynolds certainly knows how to make a party go.

Our only regret was that John and May Proctor could not be with us and Dickie Richardson is still not well enough to attend our reunions.

Our programme was a very busy one and the following morning we departed for London. Our first stop was for lunch at the Worshipful Company of Farmers City Hall. Mr Vaughn Wilshaw and his wife, Avril, travelled with us and told us a little of the history of the Company. We have to thank them for making the visit possible. Arriving in the City of London, we were met by the present Master - Mrs Anne Wheatley-Hubbard, and the Master-elect - Mr Forman.

Officially welcomed, we sat down to a lovely meal. The mushroom soup was excellent,

I wish my wife knew their recipe. I always said I didn't like mushrooms, but I have never tasted a better soup.

After the Loyal Toast, The Master enlightened us on the Guild's work. Dating from Saxon times, Guilds are now known as Livery Companies. The Worshipful Company of Farmers share their City Hall with the Worshipful Company of Fletchers (the Arrow makers). The symbols on the Farmers' badge consist of wheat, a

tawny owl and a farm woman with a sickle and their motto is 'Give us our daily bread' from The Lord's Prayer.

They have training groups, consumer protection societies, give educational help to Wye College and Nuffield Scholars, and are a charitable umbrella for members in times of need. It was a most interesting talk.

Gwen - our Chairlady - presented Mrs Wheatley-Hubbard with a St Dunstan's plaque. After thanking our hosts for their generous hospitality, we boarded the coach for a special visit to Buckingham Palace.

Our driver was allowed to park in the inner courtyard, quite close to the entrance steps, and after satisfying the security police that we were all

The Farmers' badge consists of wheat, a tawny owl and a farm woman with a sickle and their motto is 'Give us our daily bread' from The Lord's Prayer

There is so much to see and wonder at...

quite 'armless', we were allowed in.

We were privileged to have a guide to ourselves and all the staff were very kind. The rooms are so magnificent that you really have to see it to appreciate the wonderful decorations, pictures, chandeliers and furnishings, etc.

It has not always been known as Buckingham Palace, it was once known as Buckingham House, after the Dukes of Buckingham who owned it. Only comparatively recently has it served as the official residence of the British Monarchy. It was first lived in by Queen Victoria, but the property was acquired originally by George III and transformed by George IV from a private residence to the magnificent palace that it is today. He chose as his architect, John Nash.

We learnt that the famous Marble Arch, now at the corner of Hyde Park, once stood at the entrance of the Palace forecourt. In all, the Palace has 19 state rooms, 52 Royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms, some 450 people work in the Palace and the ballroom, the largest of the State Rooms, is 123ft x 60ft. The magnificent grand staircase of Carrara marble was made by Samuel Parker in 1828-30, and is the finest of its type in England and then cost £3,900.

There is so much to see and wonder at, I could not possibly do it justice in these few lines, but I hope I have told you enough to whet your appetite and make you want to see it for yourself.

Our thanks to everyone who made our day so exciting, from the Palace Staff, the Farmers,

our driver, Phil and Chris, and of course, Elizabeth, who makes our trips possible.

On Saturday, we left for our supper invitation from Mr and Mrs Stewart Roberts, the High Sheriff of East Sussex and his wife, at their home, Mount Harry Lodge, in Offham, Lewes. What a warm welcome we received.

After a splendid supper, we were entertained by a young electric organ player. Our hosts were most charming and made us feel so much at home. The young ladies who helped at the table were so nice too. How happy we all were singing all the old songs with Elizabeth leading the dancing.

We were singing all the old songs with Elizabeth leading the dancing

The evening ended far too quickly.

Before we left, our hosts were presented with a gift of dog leads made by Terry Walker and a vote of thanks from us all. It was a lovely evening.

On Sunday morning, we attended the service in the chapel which was conducted by our padre, The Rev Brian Tyler. Sue Reynolds read the Lesson and our Bill sang a hymn before communion. After the closing hymn we made our way back to the lounge for morning coffee.

Later, Bill and Alice went with Mrs Dacre to St Martin's

Sir John hoped he would be able to carry on in a way Mrs Dacre would approve

Church in Brighton, where they laid a poppy wreath by the Memorial Tablet to commemorate the Battle of Britain. In the evening, we went to dinner at the Thistle Hotel in Brighton. It was an enjoyable meal in pleasant company and we ended the evening with a few drinks in the bar at IFH.

On Monday, we met with Headquarters staff including Mr Gerard Frost, St Dunstan's Secretary, Miss Cynthia Mosley, Miss Marion Lurot, as well as Dr Fletcher, and our new President-elect, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, to discuss a few of our problems with them.

That evening, the final dinner was held in the Winter Garden. Before sitting down to our meal we went into the Annexe where drinks were served and we met our guests.

We were so pleased that Ivy Southall, Stan's widow and Iris, her escort, and Joan Higgs, Fred's widow and her daughter, were able to be with us. It revived memories of many other happy reunions and it was

lovely too that Sibyl was able to act as escort for Gwen. Among our other guests, we welcomed the Chairman of St Dunstan's, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, our guest speaker, Sir John Gingell, Mr and Mrs Weisblatt, Colonel and Mrs Hislop, Mrs Anne Colahan, Lord and Lady Lloyd of Benswick, Dr Fletcher and Mr and Mrs Frost.

After another splendid meal our President, Elizabeth, rose and with a few well chosen words informed us that she at last felt she ought to hand over the responsibility of our little

group. Sir John, a Member of St Dunstan's Council, had readily agreed that, when Mrs Dacre felt it time to give up, he would be very pleased to take over. She said she will always be ready to give advice when needed as she still looks upon us as part of her family.

This was a very sad moment for us all, as we are only too aware of all she has done for us over so many, many years. Of the homes and places we have visited, and of her friends who have entertained us so generously. We know she will still have a part to play in our reunions.

She always finds the right words

Sir John rose to thank Mrs Dacre and hoped he would be able to carry on the job in a way she would approve.

It was then time for Gwen, our Chairlady, to give a vote of thanks. As usual she always seems to find the right words to say, and after thanking Mrs Dacre for her endeavours on our behalf, she presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a gift from us all, she also presented a little gift to Bill Weisblatt.

There was much laughter,

mingled with sadness, as the evening drew to a close, and we have so many people to thank for our lovely weekend. We were pleased to meet Barbara Bishop from Buckingham Palace. We understand she helped in the arrangements for our visit to the Palace. Thank you.

Finally, to David Bray and your staff at IFH, Gerard Frost and the staff from Headquarters, thank you for all your help and to Elizabeth, all our love and best wishes.

FUNDRAISING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ST DUNSTAN'S FAMILY DAY, SOUTHSEA

A watery sun greeted the small band of St Dunstaners who arrived on Southsea Common on September 18th. Thanks to Arthur and Kit Lowe, St Dunstan's was the organiser and principal beneficiary of the 'Family Day'. The Chairman, accompanied by The Worshipful, The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Councillor Dr Allen Burnett, declared the fete open.



A friend from the Burma Star.

There were rides, market stalls, bands and arena displays. In the St Dunstan's marquee, Phil Duffee showed his skills at basket making, Terry Walker demonstrated braille and the talking computer, Ray Hazan made wooden toys and Roberta, Jennie and Denise did their best to sell a variety of items from books to jewellery.

The day grossed some £1,700 for St Dunstan's funds as well as much goodwill and a higher profile. We are grateful to members of the Burma Star Association, who lent invaluable help and to Kit and Arthur for a year's hard work in the preparation.

In appreciation of our supporters

We are more than grateful to the following, amongst many, who have contributed to St Dunstan's:

In memory of:

St Dunstaner James Norris
Ex-member of staff Miss Margot Midgley
Colonel Richard Simms-Reeve

Joe and Marjorie Humphrey for their continuing support.

Regimental Association of the Royal Dragoon Guards.

HMS *Avenger* (which was handed over to the Pakistani Navy on September 23rd) for a further donation.

The Military Vehicle Trust.

Small Arms School Corps.

The Black Watch Association.

The Fleet Air Arm Association, Hanworth Branch.

Mr Plunkett, a Royal Marine serving in Northern Ireland, who with his father, a member of the Royal Marines Association, Belfast Branch, did a 30 mile sponsored walk.



There's a song to be sung. Gwen Obern, Marjorie Ball, Margaret Jones, Madge Pratt and Emily McClarnan are in tune.

SEPTEMBER 22nd saw the start of the St Dunstan's Ladies Reunion which was held once more at Ian Fraser House. A very warm welcome was made by Sue Reynolds and we got down to the business of exchanging news and happenings over the past 12 months. It was a great pleasure to have with us, Cynthia Mosley, David Castleton, Bill Weisblatt and Colin Bentley

Stock with it! At last, Gwen Obern, Emily McClarnan and Madge Pratt have Bill Weisblatt just where they want him.



which completes the ingredients needed for another successful weekend. Later a good supper helped to fortify us adequately for the programme to follow.

Early next morning, we were whisked away by coach to West Thurrock, to the Lakeside shopping centre. This was a wonderland of shops of all kinds, and a happy time was spent by all - and I do mean 'spent'. The inner man was not forgotten. Our needs being very adequately met at the House of Fraser, which had a familiar ring to one and all.

With restored energy, we set off on Saturday morning for Michelham Priory at Upper Dicker. A short version of its chequered history was given by a guide. This Augustinian priory was founded in 1229 by Gilbert de L'aigle, the Lord of Pevensey, whose family came from Normandy. Augustinians came from Hastings Priory to start the community. They came to be known as the Black Canons, because of the colour of their habit. The Priory continued to prosper until 1537 when it was dissolved and its wealth

plundered by King Henry VIII. The Church, Chapel House and dormitory at Michelham were destroyed and the contents sold off to boost the coffers of the King.

The land and remaining buildings were sold off and either neglected or renovated, according to the occupancy.

One room in the house - which eventually became a gentleman's residence - displayed many articles of kitchen utensils, which were obvious forerunners of things we have today. Flour produced at the water mill was utilised in the preparation of the meal which was eaten in the Great Barn. It was a very peaceful spot and a joy to be there. The evening was spent partaking of a magnificent buffet, in the company of our Chairman Sir Henry Leach.

What must be one of the highlights of the weekend has got to be the guided tour of Brighton and the surrounding area. Glenda Clark mentioned some of the many famous people who have lived there. It would appear that the population of Brighton is double that of Hove - a great

A priory engagement

St Dunstan's Ladies visit the home of the Black Canons during their annual reunion

number of them being students. The Peace statue marks the boundary between Brighton and Hove. At this point, even the pavement changes colour. There was a lovely story about Devil's Dyke - unfortunately too long to repeat here. It ends where the Devil is thawted and in temper kicks a pebble which lands in the park below.

The 'pebble' is a huge boulder in the park known as the goldstone from which the Football Club derives its name. A blend of facts, fiction and many historical events

which kept us truly entertained.

The dinner on our last evening provided a splendid meal as always, with many thanks to PBK and also the staff at IFH which provided unobtrusive help whenever it was needed. Thanks must also go to the management for organising a splendid weekend.

We noticed that two of our number, Dorothy Phillippo and Alys Briggs were indisposed and unable to be with us. We send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Sir Henry with Ann Willard, Barbara Bell, Zia Houlton and Elsie Aldred.



PHILISTINE'S PALET

by Simon Rogers

Fifty miles inside the Arctic circle may seem a strange place for a trade delegation to go, but that's where a friend of mine found himself. At a paper makers festival in Finland, he accepted an invitation to cross into Russia, to a small town where night-time lasted noon to noon and pub goers bought ten pints a time because the taps would dry before final orders. The local food had an exotic nature if not an exotic taste. It was lamprey stew! A lamprey is a nasty blood-sucking parasite and the Russians were serving them in a 'fatty watery slop.' Rings of vampire like teeth floated to the surface of this mix at breakfast, dinner and tea. (Actually, I lie, the breakfast was lamprey soup, a diluted version of the previous night's offering).

St Dunstan's cookery teacher Pam Durie doesn't know where to buy lampreys round here, but even if she did, Pam reckons this beef stew with dumplings will taste a lot better. Somehow I think she's right.

Ingredients

3/4lb Braising Steak; 1 medium onion; 2 medium carrots; 1 medium turnip (opt.); 1 1/2pt stock/gravy; 1oz oil; 1oz flour; seasoning herbs; 2oz self raising flour; 1oz chopped suet; pinch of salt; 1-2tbs cold water.

Have the butcher trim and cut the meat or buy it ready cubed. Peel and clean the vegetables. Cut into slices. Heat the oil for approximately 30-40 seconds, then fry the meat, turning it occasionally to seal all sides.

Remove meat with a draining spoon and place in an oven proof dish. Fry all the veg 4-5 minutes. Remove with the draining spoon and place in a casserole dish.

Add the flour to the pan and combine, using a wooden spoon, with remaining oil. Add all other ingredients and bring to boil. Carefully pour the liquid into the casserole dish. Cover with a lid and cook in the oven on R3 170° for 1 1/4hrs.

Meanwhile, make the dumplings. Start by putting the flour, suet and salt in a mixing bowl. Mix together and bring to a dough using water. Roll into balls about the size of a large walnut.

Add dumplings to the casserole dish, baste with gravy. Re-cover and cook for a further 3/4hr.

Definitely one up on lampreys, but as for my coley curry...

Roosendaal Revisited

YOU MIGHT say that I am on an emotional 'high', having just returned from Holland and being involved with their commemorations and celebrations concerning the 50th anniversary of a town's 'Liberation Day'. I shall find it difficult to convey my feelings of this unique experience but would like to share some moments with you.

On October 30th 1944, after very heavy battles in South Holland, Roosendaal, a town in the area, was 'liberated' by infantry of the Polar Bear Division (49th) and 9th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, in which I served.

This year, a party of 32 Tank veterans, plus wives and friends, travelled in a group on the overnight ferry on October 27th and arrived in Roosendaal on the 28th. After settling into the hotel we were soon involved with the itinerary. There was a big reception at the Town Hall with all the dignitaries. Here the Mayor spoke very sincerely about the feelings of the Dutch people and how much they wanted to show and express their deep gratitude to us as their 'liberators'. This was the theme over the next two days and at times one felt quite overwhelmed and embarrassed. However putting this point to some of the Dutch folk, they tried to explain to us that having been oppressed and in constant fear for four years - how overjoyed they were when they saw British troops entering their town. They had their freedom again and this was something people in Britain could not fully understand they said.

We went to three exhibitions where photographs and newspapers and loads of memorabilia were displayed. There were photos of our tanks entering town and many of my colleagues recognised them. There were scores of local people desperately anxious to talk and make enquiries about some 'Tommies' they had befriended in 1944.

The hospitality as you may imagine was out of this world and we were wined and dined in superb style. There was little rest however and Saturday morning took us to Nispen, a little village in 1944, but now part of Roosendaal. I had stark recollections of this place as my own tank was hit and the cupola blown off and the turret put out of action. My friend and tank commander was badly injured and with the rest of the crew we managed to carry him back on an old door through some heavy shelling to a small first aid vehicle parked in this blazing village.

That's how I remembered it and here we were now in 1994, walking through a lovely area all bedecked with bunting and banners for the celebratory occasion. On entering the village church, the congregation clapped us as we walked in and this was a moving experience.

After the church service there was a small parade to a memorial where wreaths were laid in memory of villagers who had been killed here in the battle. Many of the Dutch spoke English and they were constantly coming up to us to shake us by the hand.

We left Nispen on our coach to cheers and flag waving from the inhabitants. Children presented everyone with a lovely red rose. Incidentally, Roosendaal translated means 'Place of roses' and their town crest shows three roses.

The evening found us in the Zeelandia Hall for 'Reunion Night' and this was probably the highlight of the trip for me. One of my friends in the Tanks brought a lady along to our table. She had a 1944 photograph of myself and another friend Jock. When she said 'I am Ginger' I was completely overwhelmed as this was one of the daughters of the family we knew so well in Roosendaal at that time. We called her Ginger as we couldn't pronounce the Dutch name, and she was a redhead anyway. Her brother was with her - he was a boy of seven back in those days.

This family had been so kind to us and we formed a close relationship. The Dutch people were really on the point of starvation but they desperately wanted us to eat with them and share everything. Jock and I used to take our rations along and 'Momma' used to cook them and we ate with the family. They were eventful and happy days, but after about four weeks we had to move on.

Jock was very keen on Ginger and corresponded with her for quite a while but he never went back to Roosendaal. In fact he died about 10 years or so after the end of the war. I had lost the address and knowing I was going back to the town felt very frustrated and helpless as I couldn't make contact.

Therefore, you could imagine my pleasure and joy when we met up again after 50 years. She had gone to a lot of trouble in making enquiries to establish a reunion. Needless to say we had lots to talk about and now we will certainly keep in touch.

Sunday October 30th was the big day and celebrations commenced with a Thanksgiving Service in the very large and beautiful

church. Our group joined other small units of ex-servicemen of the 49th Division and we marched into the church to tremendous applause followed by the singing of *Land of Hope and Glory*. The atmosphere was electric and charged with emotion producing many a tear in the eye and many a lump in the throat from we 'Old Sweats'! The whole service was most impressive with music from Mozart's Coronation Mass performed by the choir, organ and orchestra.

The weather was quite foul but despite this the crowds were lining the streets as we marched from the church to the Polar Bear Memorial for the laying of wreaths ceremony. A flaming torch, which had been carried by runners over the past few days from Normandy, was used to light the flame at the foot of the memorial.

We spent an interesting few hours on the Monday morning at the Commando barracks

and they provided us with lunch, and not of the 'survival' kind! Then the Town Hall received us for an official farewell ceremony. The Mayor again spoke with great compassion about their liberation and the part we played and of our comrades who were killed in achieving it. He concluded by saying, 'How can we ever repay these deeds? By never forgetting and telling our children and our children's children what happened - that's the least we can do.'

The Town Council presented each man with a beautiful commemorative plate and photograph of the first tank entering Roosendaal. Then we mingled with our Dutch friends for a short while to say our 'goodbyes' before boarding the coach. There was a warm glow in our hearts as we waved our farewells and a feeling of great affection for the people of Roosendaal with whom we had been reunited through history.

Mike Tetley on the Physiotherapy Conference that ran September 30th to October 2nd

Magnetic orientations

THE conference commenced with a meeting of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee on the Friday evening, followed by a social in the Annexe. At the annual meeting on Saturday morning the following officers were confirmed:

Chairman	Mike Tetley
Vice Chairman	Eric Foster
Committee members	Gordon Smith Norman Hopkins

Concern was expressed at getting speakers for the relatively small numbers attending and it was agreed in future that the conference would be more a social gathering of St Dunstan's Physiotherapists.

Following the lecture by Dr J.M. Adam, an open forum was scheduled so that St Dunstan's Physiotherapists who had many years of experience could inform their colleagues of some of the hints and tips they had acquired over the years and so pass them on. A debate on the use of these tips could then follow.

However, the first quarter of an hour was allotted to the representatives of a Japanese medical manufacturer to introduce the products made by Nihon. This took up all the time. Nihon followed the usual Eastern practice in medicine of trying to prevent disease and give the patient a feeling of 'wellness'. They do this through magnet therapy encour-

aging patients to wear insoles with about 100 magnets in each sole, costing £60. I found the lumps produced by the magnets quite large and at first uncomfortable to walk on. They displayed mattresses and pillows with many magnets sown on them and magnetic rollers and an electro-magnet called a Kenko bio beam. This agitated the red blood cells by working on the iron in them and was claimed to prevent an enormous range of diseases.

Our guest of honour at the evening dinner was General Sir Frank and Lady Elizabeth Kitson. I first knew of him in 1954 when, as a Captain in the Rifle Brigade, he started an intelligence unit. He was very clever at handling men. Captured Mau Mau terrorists were brain washed so that they worked for the British Colonial Government. They formed pseudo gangs under the command of a soldier from the Kenya Regiment and at night infiltrated the proper gangs shooting them or poisoning their food. Sir Frank wrote a book, *Gangs and Counter Gangs*, which is on cassette at the RNIB Peterborough Library and well worth reading. His talk was on selecting the right man for the right job.

It was a happy evening with 18 St Dunstan's physios, their wives and escorts, as well as six widows. Many members of staff were our guests as a small token of appreciation for the services they have always extended to us, thank you one and all.

Vi Mc Pherson records the final bridge drive at Harrogate

THE LAST DEAL OF CARDS

THE last hand for blind bridge players at Harrogate has been played.

It is a gathering that has been taking place for 54 years, but numbers have dwindled - only seven attended this year, of which only four were blind. This has meant we had to say goodbye to many of our friends in Harrogate and the surrounding districts of Bradford, Ripon and Oakdale.

Each day we played against a sighted team and won four out of six matches. Each match was played with a wonderful friendly spirit and the hospitality we received was unbelievable. Everybody seemed sorry to think this was the end of a wonderful era, but we made many good friends who will keep in touch with us.

We had the Yorkshire News reporter visit us and we were on the news at nine o'clock next morning. Then we had the reporter/cameraman from Yorkshire TV who made a video of Bert Ward, Alf Dodgson, Wally Lethbridge and Ralph Pacitti.

We finished the week with an excellent lunch at The Drivers Inn, Bishop Thornton, then a bridge drive in the evening at The Rugby Club in Harrogate, prizes for visitors only.



Last hand in Harrogate. Bert Ward, Peter Wiltshire, Ralph Pacitti, Wally Lethbridge, Vi McPherson, Kay Pacitti, Alf and Joyce Dodgson and Jock Carnochan.

We had a good journey home thanks to Mike Varney, our St Dunstan's driver, in spite of a flat tyre on the M11 which was dealt with quickly.

Last but not least, we want to thank our Tournament Director, Mr Cedric Cockcroft. For the past 14 years he has organised and directed all our bridge venues with vigour and strength unsurpassed when dealing with blind people, he will be forever in our thoughts not just as a director but as a true friend. Thank you for everything Cedric.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

On behalf of St Dunstan's we welcome St Dunstaners recently admitted to membership.

Mr Edward Boyce of Robertsbridge, East Sussex joined on September 21st. As an 18 year old he became a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. After training, he was posted to the Far East and was captured by the Japanese when Hong Kong fell in 1941. Mr Boyce spent the rest of the war as a FEPOW. Due to the deprivation suffered his health deteriorated greatly over the years.

Mr Boyce and his wife, Sheila, have been married for over 40 years and have three adult children.

On October 12th, we welcomed **Mr Arnold Sladen** of Ashton, Preston who joined the Army in 1940 and served with the Loyal Regiment. He was wounded in action in Tunisia in 1944. Returning to civilian life, he worked as a joiner until retiring. Mr Sladen is married to Reta and they have two daughters.

Mr Philip Dobson of Birdholme, Chesterfield joined St Dunstan's on October 17th.

In 1968, he was serving with the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters in BAOR and Northern Ireland where he was seriously wounded on patrol in 1972. Since leaving the army, he has been unemployed. Mr Dobson is divorced.

Major Christopher Redman of Camberley, Surrey became a St Dunstaner on October 19th. He joined the Army in 1965, serving with the Infantry until, having reached the rank of Sergeant, he transferred to the Small Arms School Corps.

He served with them world-wide as an instructor and was commissioned in 1988. Following promotion to Major, he was posted to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst but, whilst on duty he was involved in a very serious car accident.

Major Redman, has served world-wide in countries such as Borneo,

Hong Kong, Brunei and Northern Ireland. He and his wife, Sally, have two adult daughters.

On November 1st, we welcomed **Mr Robert Reid** of Knightsbridge, Cheltenham. He joined the army in September 1940, serving with the newly formed Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a craftsman in Singapore where he was captured by the Japanese and became a prisoner of war.

He left the Army in 1946 and returned to Manchester and his job as an air driller. He retired in 1975. Mr Reid is divorced.

CLUB NEWS

ARCHERY

A new challenge came from within our walls. IFH staff of the Greenways Archery Club threw down the gauntlet, digging deep into club funds they came up with a handsome silver plate as a trophy.

We accepted the challenge with the

calm assurance of a well-oiled machine (we were drunk at the time). Late afternoon saw the killing field saturated with humanity. Confidently, the Greenways mob led by that loveable bar steward 'Bargepole Nick' (before minds boggle, the name refers to the length and thickness of his blockbusting arrows.). And so began this historic battle.

Back and forth swayed the fortunes, sometimes even forth and back until suddenly dusk took a hand, St D's gems sparkled in the gloom, the highly polished plate presented at dinner by PBK was enjoyed with the babble of happy conversation. The rest of the evening melted away dancing to the swing music of Ernie Tooke and the swinging Tookers, thus ending the first of what shall be a fine annual event.

Greenways Silver Plate Team scores

SDAC	
John Lilley	1541
Tom Hart	1483
Bill Grimes	1478
Bob Forshaw	1445
	5947

Greenways AC

Ernie Elliot	1381
Bill Chabnan	1381
Jenny Low	1354
Nick Watkins	1310
	5426

Other results

Royal Insurance Trophy		
1st	John Lilley	1649
2nd	Bill Grimes	1501

Spurway Trophy

1st	John Lilley	1585
2nd	Bill Grimes	1494

George Allen Shield

For most blues		
Bill Grimes	23	
Bert Wood	22	

Annual return match with Cuckfield Bowmen

St D's scored 5881, Cuckfield 5725. A narrow win for St Dunstan's by 56 points.

Winning team: Tom Gaygan 1489; John Lilley 1488; Bert Wood 1465; & Norman Perry 1439.

Many thanks once again to Cuckfield's Mrs Vardon and Mrs Grout for their lovely lunches.

Indoor shoot

Our last day brought the annual trip to the Isle of Wight for the indoor shoot with other disabled people, put on by the Wight Bowmen. Suffering from journey lag, our performance wasn't much cop but we made up for

this by cleaning up with their club raffle prizes.

To all our fellow archers and wonderful helpers, we wish you all a joyful Christmas and good health throughout the New Year.

Bert Wood

Aktion Men

John Lilley and Norman Perry recently took part in the Nottingham University Aktion Games. John came first and Norman had a second in the archery.

BRIDGE

Pairs match played at IFH on September 18th

1st	Reg Goding & Mrs Clements	67.5
2nd	Alf Dodgson & Mrs Vi McPherson	64.2

Individuals match played at IFH on September 25th

1st	Mrs Vi McPherson	64.8
2nd	Bill Phillips	58.0

Individuals match played at IFH on October 9th

1st	Bill Phillips & Dr Jane Goodlad	60.0
2nd	Reg Goding & Mrs Faye Andrews	56.7

Individuals match played at IFH on October 16th

1st	Wally Lethbridge	66.7
2nd	Mrs Pat Padley	57.1

Overall pairs results for 1994

1st	Reg Goding	317.7
2nd	Bill Phillips	298.6

Overall individual results for 1994

1st	Reg Goding	299.2
2nd	Mrs Vi McPherson	294.8

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of: Rebecca in June. She is the first great-grandchild of Mrs Ada Cook of Swindon, widow of *Len Cook*.

Amy Parker on June 26th. She is the great grand-daughter of Mrs Sybil Parker of Stamford, Lincolnshire, widow of *Bernard Parker*.

Bradley Adam on September 1st. He is the great grandson of *Peter and Ethel Price* of Hythe, Kent.

Peter Phillips on October 7th. He is the grandson of *Colwyn and Mary Lloyd* of Llanelli, Dyfed.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Paul and Barbara Fisher on September 29th. Paul is the son of *Cliff and Phyllis Fisher* of Ower, Hampshire.

Joyce and Frank Thomas on October 16th. Joyce is the widow of *George Hudson* of Peacehaven.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Basil and Owena Chambers of Fairwarp on September 19th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Leslie and Rose Tanner of Morden, Surrey on celebrating 62 years of marriage on October 15th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Peter Watson of Brighton on passing his elementary exams in braille.

Stuart Hodgson on gaining an Upper Second BA in Business Economics. Stuart is the grandson of Mrs Hilda Mash of St Peter, Jersey, widow of *James Mash*.

Michelle Webster on passing a 1st class B.Eng Honours Degree in Engineering with French. She is the granddaughter of Catherine Webster of Garston, Liverpool, widow of *Harvey Webster*.

Cristopher Gerrard on receiving the Mechanical Shield and Sigta Award at Hastings College. He is the grandson of Mrs Lillian Grimes of Eastbourne, widow of *Douglas Grimes*.

Mrs Muriel Millen, widow of *George Millen*, on being awarded a Certificate from the Birchington Red Cross thanking her for the help she has provided over 50 years.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

The mother of *Robert Pringle* of West Ealing, London on September 15th, soon after her 89th birthday.

Mrs Olive Kershaw on September 18th. She was the widow of *John Kershaw* of Rastrick.

Mrs Ellen Ollington of Fleet, Hampshire on September 21st. She was the widow of *Henry Ollington*.

Mrs Martha Gladys Shenton of Stratford-on-Avon on September 21st. She was the widow of *Roland Shenton* and had celebrated her 100th birthday last December.

Mrs Olive Barton on September 28th. She was the wife of *Tom Barton* of Scalby, Scarborough.

Mrs Louise O'Reilly of Accrington, Lancashire on September 30th. She was the widow of *Thomas O'Reilly*.

Mrs Gladys Hancock of West Drayton on October 2nd. She was the widow of *Charles Hancock*.

Mrs Nancy Shallcross on October 4th. She was the wife of *Charles Shallcross* of Farndon, Cheshire.

Mrs Pauline Moody on October 16th. She was the wife of *Douglas Moody* of Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Mrs Phyllis Pierrepont on October 25th. She was the wife of *Harry Pierrepont* of Boston, Lincolnshire.

Mrs Ada Isherwood of Bury, Lancashire on October 28th. She was the widow of *Harry Isherwood*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

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

Norman Follis MBE, National Coal Board, Bevin Scheme
Norman Follis, MBE, of Cardiff died on September 10th, aged 67. He registered for National Service in 1945 but, instead of joining the Royal Navy which was his preference, he was directed into the coal industry under the Bevin scheme.

In November 1947, Mr Follis was totally blinded as a result of premature shot-firing at the coal face. He became a shorthand typist with the National Coal Board. He qualified as a Chartered Secretary in 1972, gained an honours degree in Social Psychology and Philosophy with the Open University in 1982 and held a management post at NCB South Wales Area Headquarters in Cardiff from which he retired in 1986.

Joining St Dunstan's in 1985, he was also engaged in running a newsagent's business with his family and in 1989, his life was featured in an HTV film. In the 1990 New Year's Honours List he was awarded an MBE - for services to the blind and the community in Wales. In the same year he re-

ceived an Honorary Fellowship from the Cardiff Institute of Higher Education. He was also Chairman of the South Wales Talking Magazine and was presented to the Princess of Wales (with Norman Hopkins and Trevor Tatchell) during her visit to the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

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

Frederick Day, Royal Norfolk Regiment

Frederick Albert Vernon Day of Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire died on September 17th, aged 77. Enlisting in March 1940, he served with the Royal Norfolk Regiment and was posted to India in October 1941. In January 1942, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Singapore when it fell. His discharge came in May 1946. Returning to civilian life, he worked as a bricklayer until his retirement. Mr Day was very keen on racing and snooker and spent a great deal of his leisure time following sports programmes.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Kathleen, their son and daughter, Raymond and Christine, and all members of the family.

Fred Holding, Royal Artillery
Fred Holding of West Horwich, Bolton died on September 17th, aged 98. He joined the Royal Artillery in April 1915 and fought on the Somme and Ypres Salient. In 1917, during his second tour of duty in the Salient, he received a bullet wound to his eyes, losing the sight of one eye. With his remaining sight he was able to work in local government as a School Attendance Officer until retiring in 1961. A keen gardener and bowler, he became a St Dunstaner in 1993.

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

Frederick Clay, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Frederick William Clay of Layer De La Haye, Colchester died on September 24th, aged 82. A staff sergeant in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, he had joined as a regular soldier in 1929. He went with the British Expeditionary Force to France and fought a rear guard action at Dunkirk where he was wounded by a shell explosion.

Mr Clay continued his service career until 1961 when he then went to work for the Military Provost Staff Corps in Colchester. As his sight deteriorated, he became a telephonist with the Colchester and

North-East Essex Co-operative Society. He retired in 1976.

Our sympathy goes to his son, Raymond, his good friend, Audrey McAvoy, and all the family.

William Stanley, Royal Artillery
William George Stanley of Shifnal, Shropshire died on October 1st, just a few days before his 84th birthday. He served with the Royal Artillery from July 1940 and suffered severe wounds during action in Holland. He came to St Dunstan's in 1944, training in joinery which became his occupation for the next 30 years.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Betty, their son, David, and all members of the family.

Emrys Tucker, Royal Engineers
Emrys George Tucker of Abercarn, Newport, Gwent died on October 17th, aged 70. He served with the Royal Engineers from May 1943. His loss of sight resulted from a head injury. Trained as a physiotherapist, he took a post at Norwood & District Hospital. At his home in nearby Dulwich he built up a successful private practice. Later he took senior appointments at other hospitals in the area and his last post was at Greenwich Hospital. He was also physiotherapist to Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. He retired in 1982. His wife, Olive, who was sister-in-law to our late St Dunstaner Llew Davies, died in 1977. Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Patricia and Susan, and all members of the family.

Joe Messenger, Royal Artillery
Joe Messenger of Oldbury, West Midlands died on October 18th, aged 82. He served with the Royal Artillery from 1933 to 1943.

Mr Messenger was wounded in Malta, losing the sight of one eye. After retiring as a foundry worker, he particularly enjoyed his garden and greenhouse.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Lilian, their sons, Tony and Stephen, and all the family.

Frederick Fribbins, Gloucestershire Regiment

Frederick William Fribbins of Upavon, Pewsey died on November 4th, aged 78. He had enlisted as a private with the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1940 and was injured by a mortar bomb in Burma. In later years, he worked as a boot repairer.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Joan, their daughters, Kathleen and Carol, son, Michael, and all members of the family.