



St Dunstan's Review

June 1995

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BI-MONTHLY
Free to St Dunstaners

JUNE 1995

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Cover picture: Marking 50 years of peace in Europe, Mrs Molly Summerson stands by the embroidered Britannia that will be presented to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. Full details are on page four.

From the Chairman

This has to go to press at the beginning of May; by the time you receive it the planned move from Pearson House to Ovingdean should have taken place and those in nursing and residential care should be settling in well. To nearly all it will have been coming back to familiar surroundings. Mrs Karen Morane, the new Care Manager at Ovingdean, will have been in post for nearly two months. Other changes will include a new Head of Care (the post of Deputy Matron has lapsed) and a replacement for Mrs Christine Dickens as Head of Training and Rehabilitation. Under the new arrangements there are 40 rooms for those requiring nursing care, 29 for those in residential care and 10 for trainees. Until numbers requiring these facilities reduce significantly (which seems unlikely for several years) overnight accommodation for club or other activities will not be available at St Dunstan's Ovingdean (which has reverted to its original name).

At Headquarters Group Captain Keith Martin has retired and the organisation for reunions has been taken over by Major Peter Marshall. Mr Neil Swan takes up his duties as head of Fundraising at the end of this month. Mr John Varley, an experienced financier, has joined the Council and Finance and General Purposes Committee.

At financial year end 1994/95, prior to the sale of Pearson House but allowing for alterations to Ian Fraser House and Staff reductions, in round figures we were facing a deficit of some £4.5million. This was our low point. The measures we have since taken to correct that intolerable situation have been very effective but it will not be until year end 1997/98 that the impact of adjustments to rents, charges and transport is realised fully and our newly launched fundraising drive starts to contribute significantly. Put another way this means that, as seen today, it is unlikely that we shall 'break even' before April 1998 at the earliest - and much can happen in the years between to help or hinder.

It is very important that you should understand this clearly; if you do not please put your queries to me and I will do my best to answer them. There is no 'quick fix' to our situation and if we do not all pull together as a team it can only tarnish our public image and prolong our recovery.

I confirm that various increases in rents and charges are being applied and free transport considerably curtailed, but instances of financial hardship will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. No respectable organisation like ours wants to impose a harsh Means Test; we rely on a spirit of honesty and unselfishness - without which we cannot continue. All the increases to which I referred will be implemented on a scrupulously fair, affordable, no-hardship basis. Were we to pursue any other course those in real need would go by default. (And the selfish, greedy would reap the benefits.) I would not wish to lead that sort of organisation.

To sum up, the last eight months have seen much necessary change and some unnecessary turbulence. The overriding need now is to settle to stability and get on with the job. With your support we shall do so.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



BRIGHTON ESTATE DEPARTMENT ON THE MOVE

St Dunstaners and widows served by the Brighton Area Estate Department should take note that the office has moved to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Surveyors Julian Moore and Mike Robinson can now be contacted on 01273 307811 between 0915 and 1715hrs on weekdays.



Phil Duffee's postal design.

FIRST DAY COVER

We have commissioned a First Day Cover to mark St Dunstan's 80th anniversary year. Proceeds from this fundraising initiative, on sale to St Dunstaners and members of the public, will go to St Dunstan's.

The envelope portrays 1915 with a drawing of a soldier on the battlefield of Flanders, and 1995 with a logo of Reggie Perrin's attempt to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska later this month. The stamp is the 19p issue from the Peace and Freedom series. It is postmarked with a unique pictorial special hand stamp. Inside the Cover is an insert with a description of the work of St Dunstan's and the Alaska expedition. We are grateful to Phil Duffee, who drew the design.

The following have kindly autographed the Covers: The Duke of Westminster, Sir Harry Secombe, Sir James Savile, General Sir Peter de la Billiere, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Jon Pertwee, and Rebecca Stephens (first British women to climb Mount Everest).

Unsigned Covers cost £3 each and autographed Covers £5 each. Please add 60p per order for post and packing.

Orders in writing only, stating preferred signature if desired and accompanied by a

cheque or postal order payable to St Dunstan's should be sent to PR Department, St Dunstan's (FDC), PO Box 4XB, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1A 4XB.

VJ PARADE

London, Saturday August 19th

A Service of Tribute and Promise will be held in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace at 3pm. This will be followed by a parade of veterans and floats down The Mall, finishing at around 5pm. Her Majesty The Queen will review the march past from the King George VI Steps. A coach will be provided from Brighton and the cost of a day return rail fare will be refunded to those travelling from elsewhere. Anyone interested, and who have not already done so, should contact Ray Hazan at HQ.

VE/VJ DAY ALBUM OFFER

The White Cliffs of Dover, as sung by Vera Lynn, and Harry Roy's *Run Rabbit Run* are just two tracks on *A Time to Remember*, the official album to commemorate the 50th anniversaries of VE/VJ Day. Available on CD or cassette, it costs £4.99 (inc. p&p).

Please send a cheque, made payable to MAPA Ltd, together with your name, address and whether you require the CD or cassette, to the Public Relations Department (VE/VJ CD), St Dunstan's, PO Box 4XB, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

This offer is subject to availability, please allow 30 days for delivery.

Orders can only be accepted within the United Kingdom.

OBITUARY: Major Mervyn Sandys

Major Mervyn Edwyn Myles Sandys died on March 16th. A Governor of St Dunstan's, he was a Member of the Council from April 1967 to October 1987. St Dunstaners will remember him from the many reunions he attended over the years.

SEABIRDS AT RAF MUSEUM

Flying boats come under scrutiny in a new exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum, Colindale, London NW9 5LL. *Wonderful Things*, runs from July 18th to October 31st and includes a restored all-wood fuselage from Mitchell's Southampton flying boat. For further details call 0181 205 9191.

MOLLY'S ROYAL STITCH



Molly presents her handiwork to PRO Ray Hazan.

Her Majesty The Queen is to be presented with the first of a special limited edition sampler, completed by a St Dunstan's widow.

Commemorating VE Day, the figure of Britannia seen in the needlework design was worked upon by Mrs Molly Summerson, widow of St Dunstaner John Summerson, who served in the Royal Marines.

Molly recently passed her handiwork to Public Relations Officer Ray Hazan who will be organising its presentation to our Patron.

The kit costs £25 and can be ordered from Simply Cross-Stitch, The Chapel, John Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6AU. (Please send payment with order).

For each kit sold, £1 will be donated to St Dunstan's.

WELL RUN, GERRY

St Dunstaner Gerry Jones, of St Agnes, Cornwall together with his escort Mike Sellars, made another successful attempt at the London Marathon. He is also speeding up in this gruelling 26 mile endeavour. In this year's race, held on April 2nd, he completed the course in just three hours and 40 minutes. That's a 15 minute improvement on his 1993 run.

From us all, many congratulations Gerry.

WELLFED UP

Chicken Mandarin and Tasmanian Pudding are just two of the mouth-watering recipes that feature in the *Wellfed Cookbook*.

Published by the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom, it is available on tape and costs £5 (inc. p&p). A braille edition is also being prepared. For further details, call 01924 291313.

DIAL-TALK SAVES YOUR FINGERS

A portable device that dials telephone numbers automatically on any pulse or tone telephone is now available.

Dial-Talk holds ten numbers in its memory and, when held to the mouthpiece, transmits the necessary information to call the required number.

The device has a speak facility and adjustable volume for checking numbers.

Priced £34.95, with battery and inclusive of p&p, it can be obtained from Cobolt Systems Ltd, The Old Mill House, Mill Road, Reedham, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 3HA.

KEYHOLE LOYD ON VIP GADGETS

Epicurean television presenter Loyd Grossman is scrutinising new technology for aiding visually impaired people in *Big Print*, the large type newspaper. He leads a trio of celebrity writers who have joined the publication. The others are Delia Smith on cookery and Alan Titchmarsh on gardening.

BENEFIT BUS ON THE ROAD IN EAST ANGLIA

King's Lynn Benefits Agency have taken to the road in a mobile office dubbed the Benefit Bus. It covers rural areas in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, offering advice on benefits to people who have difficulties reaching town centres. There is a recorded schedule on 01553 67834.

OPINIONS ON TRAIN TICKETS, PLEASE

Members of the public have been asked by Rail Regulator John Swift, QC to air their views on future arrangements for selling train tickets at railway stations. A consultation document, *Retailing of Tickets at Stations*, is available free by calling 0171 282 2001.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

The first issue of *St Dunstan's Revue* (note the different spelling) was released in July 1915, priced 1/- net. Features included an analysis of the virtues of lady coxswains, an examination of life as a VAD, and an unchivalrous account of Selina's singing. Mottoes included 'When you cannot do your own job, interfere with somebody else's', 'Scandal comes out with tea as sure as rash with measles,' and 'Love is blind and unwise - or it wouldn't be love.'

Farewell to Gordon

IT WAS WITH great sadness that the St Dunstaners and Staff at Pearson House said farewell to Mr Gordon Smith, our own 'physiotherapist extraordinaire', himself a St Dunstaner.

Gordon became St Dunstan's Physiotherapist in November 1953, that is almost forty-two years ago and we know just how the St Dunstaners will miss his gentle and healing hands.

Actually it took quite a lot of subterfuge to persuade

Gordon, who is a very modest man, to attend the party but in the end we prevailed.

Brenda Kent did the honours by giving a farewell speech and presenting Gordon with his gift of two cut crystal whiskey glasses and a bottle of good whiskey to fill them.

Gordon then went round the room and said goodbye to the people, who were not only his patients but also his comrades, and all the staff present.



Gordon Smith at his retirement.

Generals welcome new St Dunstaners to the fold

TWO NEW St Dunstaners received their St Dunstan's Badge and braille watch from Generals recently.

Major Christopher Redman of Camberley, Surrey (pictured right) received his from General Sir Peter de la Billiere, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, on May 10th.

Major Redman, who is still a serving Officer in the Small Arms School Corps, lost his sight in a serious car accident.

Sir Peter's son, Edward, will be joining Alan 'Reg' Perrin on the Mount McKinley expedition.



It was the Engineer-in-Chief (Army) who visited St Dunstan's Headquarters on May 4th to make the other presentation to SSgt Mark Brook (pictured left).

Major General John Drewienkiewicz, MA Cantab, handed the watch and badge to our new St Dunstaner. He was accompanied by the commanding officer from SSgt Brook's squadron.

A full welcome for SSgt Brook appears on page 14.

VE DAY COMMEMORATIVE

Every poster tells a story - the inspiration for a unique set of champagne glasses

JOIN THE ATS

August 1941

This poster was commissioned to boost recruitment and overcome the dowdy image of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. The model was a War Office clerk who dared to ask the newly appointed designer to create a poster for the War Office Dramatic Society, and noting her good looks he asked her to act as a model for the new poster. It certainly brightened up the London Underground, but caused an outcry in Parliament. The Press dubbed it 'the blonde bombshell' while one female MP considered it an over glamorisation of the rigours of Army life.' It was finally withdrawn by order of Ernest Bevin.



GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

December 1942

'Dig for Victory' is probably the most well remembered campaign of World War II. This poster for the Army was designed in 1942. The campaign's success resulted in every available space being utilised, from back yards to Royal Gardens, including Army barracks. Britain in 1942 badly needed food and German U-boats were sinking our convoys in the North Atlantic on a punishing scale. Less food in ships meant more armaments. This poster was aimed at military personnel in barracks hence 'Supply Your Own Cookhouse'. 'One lot would plant the seeds, the next lot harvested the crop.' (A.G. 1995)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

January 1944

Designed as part of the National Savings Campaign, this poster also caused controversy. The campaign was handled by the Ministry of Information but Games was asked to design a poster for it. Lord Macintosh of Oldham, Chairman of the Campaign, thought it too modern and refused to publish it. However it was printed in small size for display on pillar boxes throughout the country. Ironically Oldham liked it so much it was enlarged and used by them to spearhead its local 'Oldham Salutes the Soldier' campaign.



THE R.A.M.C. PARACHUTE UNITS

(Royal Army Medical Corps)

July 1944

It was recognised that more medical personnel were going to be required within the Parachute Units and the poster was designed to encourage men to transfer to the Para's. The designer spent three days making sketches for this poster, whilst attending the last training exercise of the First Airborne Division. At its end the Medical Officer commented that it had been 'a good show, with only one broken leg'. 'A week later they went to Arnhem.' (A.G. 1995)

TALK IN HERE KILLS OUT THERE

December 1944

As the military part of the 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' campaign this poster was aimed at military personnel hospitalised for treatment following the Second Front. Idle chat between soldiers and visitors about unit locations and strengths, together with experiences of battle, provided an unwitting source of information to enemy spies. Originally the slogan read 'There's a Jerry Under the Bed', but it had to be changed when hospital matrons protested loudly that 'jerries' (slang for bed pans) were never permitted under our beds! However, the poster survived.



PLEASE KNIT NOW

June 1945

The war in the Far East was now at its height and supplies for our men were urgently needed. Socks in particular were in short supply. Women at home and in the forces were asked to help by knitting them. The poster was displayed in ATS, WVS halls and wherever women congregated. The designer visited art galleries in lunch breaks and on one such outing he met an attractive girl. Engaging her in conversation about the exhibits he mentioned his own work and learned that she too was a designer. On a strand of the wool are the words 'To Marianne' and they married seven months later.

ENGRAVED GLASSWARE

Many St Dunstaners and their wives will remember posters during the war years urging readers to 'Dig for Victory', that 'Walls have ears', etc. over 100 posters were designed in an attic studio at the top of the Ministry of Defence building by artist, Mr Abram Games. At a lecture delivered by Mr Games at the Midlands Art Centre in April this year, he explained how he was chosen for this task - 'my name was the first in alphabetical order.' But his style, the simplicity of the message, the surrealism of some of his designs ensured him a place in the history books of that period.

The Imperial War Museum, which owns the copyright, and Mr Games have kindly allowed QAC Glass, part of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, and St Dunstan's to co-operate in a VE Day commemorative venture. Six of the poster designs have been engraved onto a goblet and signed by the artist. Each glass comes in a lined, fashionable box containing a brochure about this limited edition. Profits will be shared by St Dunstan's and the BRIB. Each glass costs £39.50, plus £5 post & packaging.



ORDER FORM

PIECE NAME	COST	P&P	COLLECT	QTY	TOTAL
Join the ATS	£39.50	£5			
Salute the Soldier	£39.50	£5			
RAMC Parachute Units	£39.50	£5			
Grow Your Own Food	£39.50	£5			
Talk in Here...	£39.50	£5			
Please Knit Now	£39.50	£5			
TOTAL £					

METHODS OF PAYMENT

BY CHEQUE to BRIB for

BY CREDIT CARD: Access Visa

Expiry Date

Signed _____ Date _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL: _____

SEND TO: QAC Glass, The Hungry Horse Craft Centre, Weeford Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6NA
Tel/Fax 0121 323 3036

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

QAC Glass is part of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind Charity Number: 516477

RETURN TO CHURCH STRETTON

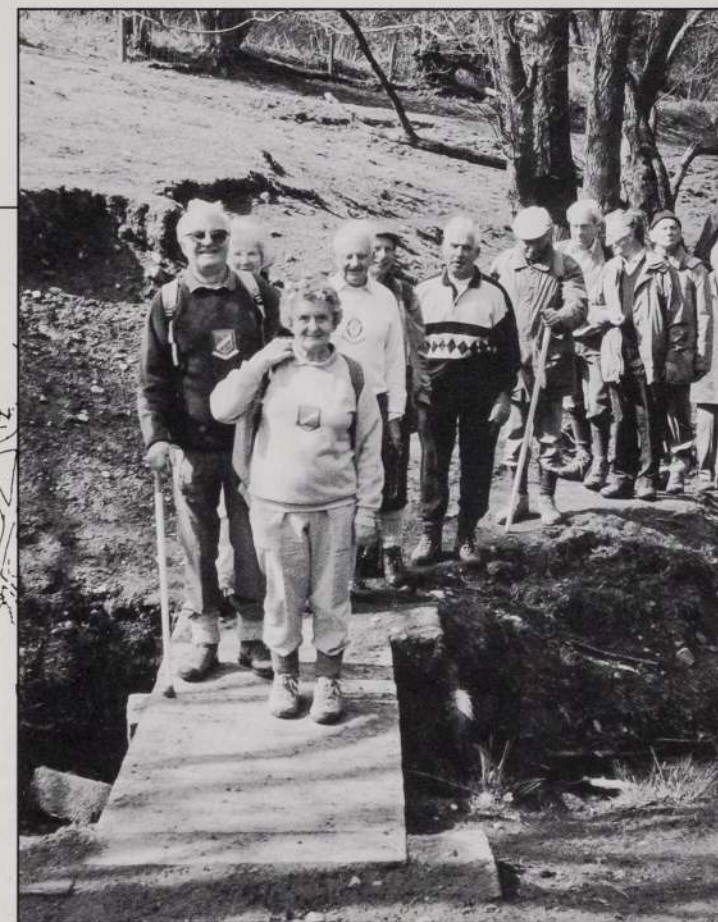
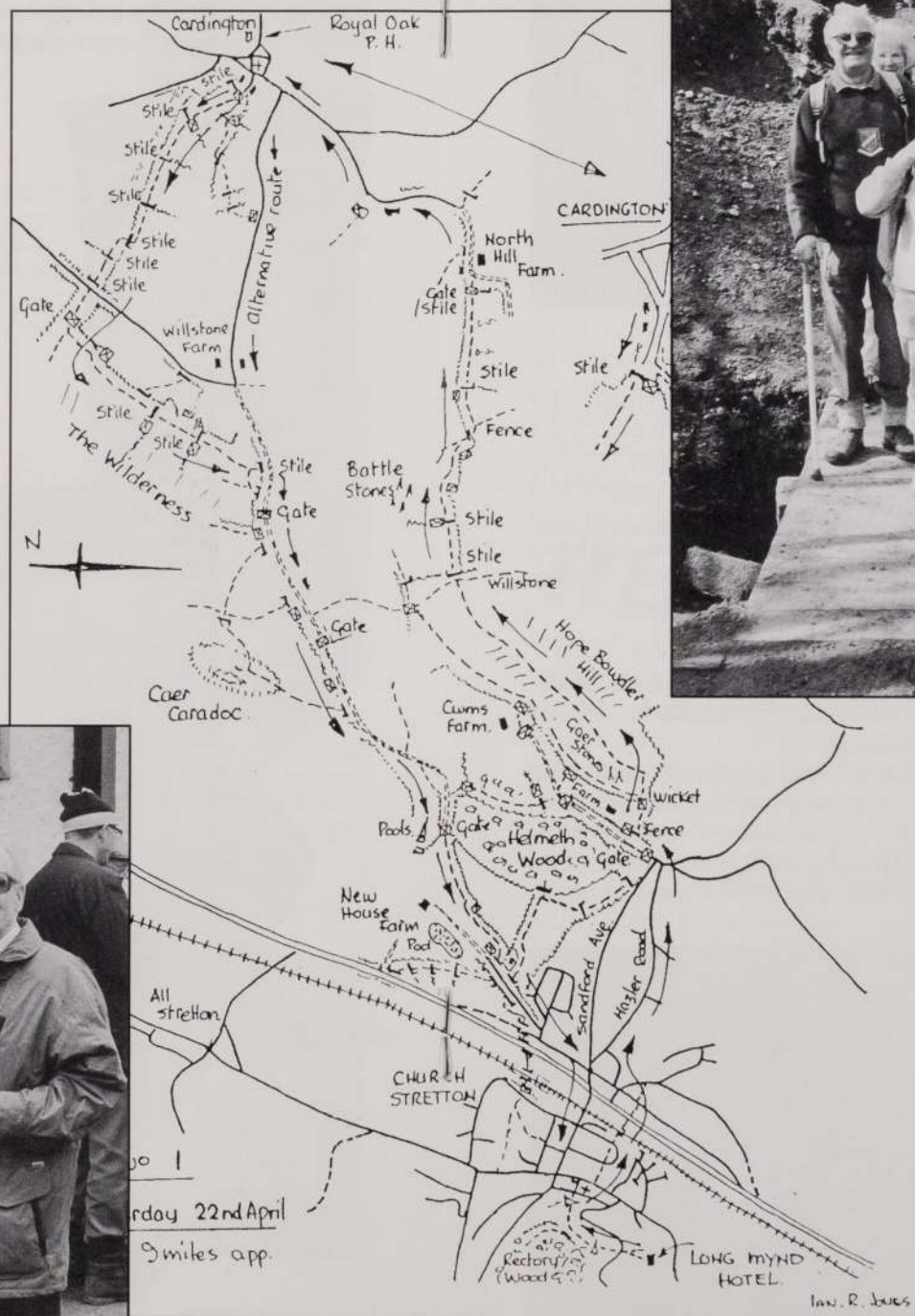
For the duration of World War Two, St Dunstan's found sanctuary at Church Stretton. Fifty years later, seven trainees returned to their old haunts

IT WAS A lovely sunny afternoon when a group of St Dunstaners, with their wives and friends, gathered at the Longmynd Hotel in Church Stretton, to enjoy five days of country, or should I say hill walking.

During the first evening's briefing Ray Hazan was asked what happens if it rains, to which he confidently replied that we would just carry on regardless, and when we got back to the hotel would we please take our boots off at the door and walk to our rooms in stocking feet!

We woke to a cloudy Saturday morning, and just after breakfast Joyce told me that sleet, or was it snow, was fall-

ing. Nevertheless, well protected in anoraks and various styles of headgear, we set off through the town, through a farm and steadily up and up across fields and along stony, muddy tracks. The rain became heavier and the wind stronger, while flocks of sheep with their lambs ignored the weather, took no notice of us and just bleated as we passed. The guide dogs found the high stiles a problem and had to be lifted over the bars. Curving round towards Caradoc, we dropped down to Cardington and the Royal Oak, a warm and friendly little pub, where we found those of our party who had come out by car and there we dripped



Above: One of the routes taken by our walkers. **Left:** A group of Church Stretton trainees. **Right:** Over the ditch.

as we fortified ourselves with both liquid and solid refreshment for the wet and slippery walk home.

There could be no other day like that, and fortunately there wasn't, Sunday being dry and pleasant for walking. In the evening the vicar of St Lawrence Church invited us all to the evening service.

Ian Jones, our local leader, had planned our walks and with his wife, Olive, and other friends enabled us to enjoy struggling up narrow rocky paths, striding along high exposed ridges with close cropped grass beneath our feet, and down through muddy tracks, sheltered valleys, over well filled brooks,

and wooded slopes to pubs in Little and All Stretton.

BBC1 TV joined us for lunch at the Yew Tree in All Stretton and after a few words with some of us, the cameraman hurried ahead to get a picture of us climbing over stiles and crossing a planked bridge. The following morning BBC Radio Shropshire spoke to Ray Hazan, and also to those of us who had trained in Church Stretton. I remember those days and when a lady stopped her car to speak to us you may imagine my pleasure, on recalling how children used to help us over the stile by the church, and she told me that she was one of those little nine year old girls who had done so.

Mary Marsden, who initiated the idea of placing a St Dunstan's plaque in the parish church, has always taken a great interest in our organisation. She told me of the ready and enthusiastic willingness of local farmers and residents to do anything that would make it easier for us to cross their fields, or in any way assist in making our visit a happy and pleasant one and this they certainly did.

The hotel gave us a private room for our final farewell dinner and Ray was able to thank the hotel and Ian and Olive Jones, along with Mary and Wilkie Marsden, for all that they had done to make the visit such a success. Not forgetting Robbie, who had done so much of the daily administration and even made photographs available for a VE Day exhibition in All Stretton.

Finally, Trevor Tatchell echoed all those thoughts in a most entreaty manner



A well-earned rest! Our intrepid walkers take the weight of their feet for a while.

and the next morning we left Church Stretton in warm sunshine.

A PS. from Ray Hazan:

Of the 11 St Dunstaners who attended the walking holiday, seven trained in Church Stretton during the war. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, Norman Hopkins, Trevor Tatchell, Bert Ward, Bob Fullard, Tom Hart and Stan

Tutton. Bill and Betty Weisblatt kindly provided transport and ex-Daedalus 'dogs' Bill Reid and Peter Westbrook lent their invaluable support.

The media interest was encouraging and as a result of the item on BBC1 TV a telephone call was received from someone who had seen Norman Hopkins tank hit and had recognised him during the interview.

Excerpts from the Editor's Postbag

From: Rob Williams, Proprietor of The Yew Tree

We enjoyed having you all at The Yew Tree. Please give our regards to all the St Dunstan's people, hoping we will see all again soon.

From: Ian Jones, Church Stretton Ramblers, Walk Organiser

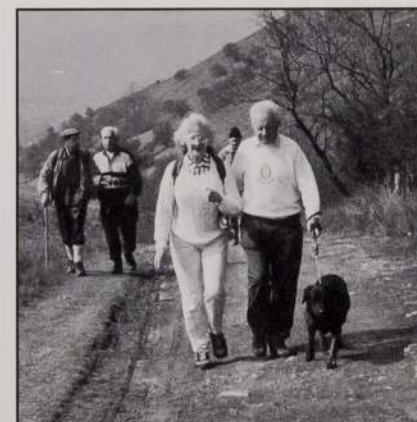
On your behalf, I have thanked all the helpers and it seems that everyone found the occasion a most rewarding

experience. Your group was full of life and there was never a dull moment.

May I make a suggestion that on future walks you use smaller guide dogs to make it easier to get over stiles. A Jack Russell would be ideal.

From: Denis Church, Walberton, Arundel, West Sussex

We all had a super time - the hotel was most comfortable, the escorts were a most considerate and companionable group, the walks were varied,



Norman and Mary Hopkins on the green hills of Church Stretton.



Hiker's three - Mike, Ray and Ted.

the weather, apart from the Saturday, was kind to us and the television and radio interviews gave an added spice to those with memories. The round of applause which Trevor's ebullient speech on the last night drew forth, was tribute to what you both had done for us.

From: Ted and Beryl John, Wallasey, Wirral

The welcome we received from all quarters was most generous, and we were grateful for the excellent accommodation and food so well organised. There is no doubt that our guides were hand picked!

From: Bill and Bridget Reid, Stubbington, Nr Fareham, Hants

Just a note to say how very much we enjoyed our holiday, meeting friends again - and making new ones! The hill walking - new to me - was a delight!

A moment to spare... with Sydney Scroggie

IT'S SOMETHING less than a mile from Bridgefoot to Rosemill, villages flanking this house, and last year the County Council, desperate to do something with its money, put in a kerb on the south side of this stretch of road. They had recently constructed a new corner at the Rosemill end, stood back to admire it, then realised they'd forgotten to put in the drains.

Whenever it rained it resulted in a lagoon from side to side of the road. Though strictly speaking unnecessary, it was a very nice kerb they built from Bridgefoot to Rosemill, the Scroggie house in the middle of it, but what a mess of mud and rubbish it became, for there's no longer a road man these days to attend to that kind of thing. Walking to work I used to chat with the last one, who

told me he was busy three months every year scything verges and, 'Syd', he said, 'God help me if I scythed a wasps' byke in half.' We've got a horticultural implement here in Scotland called a clat, a kind of hoe and this I started cleaning up the kerb with, first working towards Bridgefoot, then towards Rosemill, and two months work now sees the kerb as clean and tidy as ever our old road man would have left it. 'Sydney,' says my wife, Margaret, 'you're just trying to get an M.B.E., from John Major for services to the community.' I don't know about that but what I did get out of it was a nice bit of exercise at a time of year when there was nothing to do in the garden, a feeling that things were now as neat and tidy as they should be.

REFLECTIONS by Rev. Cuthbert Le M. Scott

THEY TAUGHT me, long ago, the principles of naval gunnery. In order to get a shell onto a distant target the gun must be elevated to point up into the sky a certain amount - and of course the ship is rolling about under you. To get the right elevation on the gun, the sightsetter turns a little hand wheel until he gets a pointer to indicate the desired range. The effect of this is that the gunlayer's gunsight points down into the sea. The gunlayer turns his gun elevating handwheel so that, not the sea, but the horizon (and perhaps the target) appears in his gunsight; and so the gun itself points up the required angle. Provided that the range has been estimated correctly and other mathematical factors have come out right there is a chance of getting the shell to where you want it.

I have long considered this strange - though not more weird than other things at sea - that to get elevation on a gun you start by looking down into the sea.

That is a little like the way one buys a lottery ticket, and then another and then another, again and again, with not much hope of a substantial prize. And also, more wretch-

edly, like the dreadful loss and suffering that our countrymen had to go through to defeat the wickedness of Hitler, the Nazis and their accomplices. But even more to the point is the story I am always trying to tell.

It is that the very beginning and source of everything that is, from remote galaxies to a little child running after a ball, that He (or She perhaps) found it right to come out of the heavens down to earth, to be born as a boy in Bethlehem. For this to have happened is of immediate importance to anyone who is poor, or maimed, or misguided; and then to all the other folk. By this coming down from more superior realms to our earth (or sea) elevates the truth about each one of us to a strength defeating wickedness, time and death. Our value is shown to be above price.

This is entirely wonderful; it is too special for us humans to get our minds around. No wonder people like us turned on this Child and sent Him, cruelly out of our world. But this strange thing is true. He was killed and rose from the dead. He is a winner, and comes again to us to offer His friendship. We need not fear.

BRAILLE NEWS from Terry Walker

THE BRAILLE Authority of the United Kingdom (BAUK) is still in consultation with other English speaking countries throughout the world. In order to arrive at a braille system which is common to each country we are trying to standardise the individual signs and systems. Currently the unit under discussion is the capital letter. I attended a meeting recently where points were put forward and consequently I feel that you would like to participate in any future changes, or intentions of change.

CAPITALISATION IN BRITISH BRAILLE

Please read this article carefully before answering the questions set out below. As you are probably already aware, BAUK has been asked to give serious consideration to bringing the capital sign into full use in all public braille produced in the United Kingdom, starting with educational material. Our official braille code book 'British Braille' makes it clear that the capital sign is not generally used in this coun-

try. Rules are provided for those who wish to show capital letters. Some educational establishments do use the capital sign in braille produced for their own internal purpose, but none of the major publishing houses does so on a regular basis.

CONSULTATION

BAUK has decided to respond to this request by issuing a consultative questionnaire inviting people to choose between a number of options for change or to vote for no change. All users of braille, resident in the U.K. aged 12 or over, whether they are blind or sighted and whether they read braille by sight or touch are eligible to take part in this consultation exercise.

The way in which you vote will enable us to decide what action if any to take as regards extending the use of the capital sign in this country. BAUK is making no official recommendation and will not seek to influence the result of the questionnaire; but some of its affiliated organisations as well as other groups or individuals may well wish to campaign for a particular outcome.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

We want the maximum publicity to be given to this questionnaire, so tell your friends about it and encourage as many as you can to respond. If you know someone who would like to participate, but has not received a copy they should contact the RNIB, in Peterborough, who will send them one, either in braille or large print according to their choice. Some of the organisations affiliated to BAUK may

also hold stocks of the questionnaire for distribution to their members or clients. You may receive more than one copy, but only one response should be sent in. Or using the questionnaire left, simply send your responses, ensuring the question number is against each answer. This to be sent to Dr M.J. Tobin, PhD, BA, RCEVH, Department of Special Education, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. To reach there by September 30th, this gives you four months in which to respond.

We would recommend that you do so as soon as possible. Doctor Tobin has kindly agreed to produce a report for BAUK analysing the responses and this will be discussed probably at our April

1996 meeting.

BAUK will then issue a public statement which will include the voting figures, the action we intend to take and the date at which any change in British practice will take effect. The implementation date will be chosen so as to give publishing houses adequate time to make the necessary preparations.

RULES OF USE

Because the Capital Sign, dot 6 is not generally employed in British braille you may be unfamiliar with the rules governing its use.

Single dot 6 capitalises only the letter immediately following it, while two dot 6's capitalise a whole word. If a series of words is written in full capitals, each word in the series

must be preceded by two dot 6's. Below are some examples to illustrate the current rules but it is important to realise that, if we were to go over to full capitalisation in literature we would want to try to harmonize our practice with that of other English speaking countries, and we would also need to consider the effect of this change on our technical codes. For both these reasons some alterations to our current rules might have to be made.

EXAMPLES

Chapter One (each word is preceded by a single dot 6)

Churchill (preceded by one dot 6)

THE JUDGEMENT (Two dot 6 in front of each word)

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name (a) It should be used to show capital letters wherever they appear in print
2. Address (b) It should be used to show capital letters wherever they appear in print in educational material only
3. Age (tick section)
12-25 26-45 46-65 over 65 (c) It should be used to mark all proper nouns and in other cases where the reader might be doubtful as to whether there was a capital letter in print, but not to mark the first word of a sentence or the pronoun I
4. Are you visually impaired (d) There should be a dual standard in British braille. Braille written as at present in the United Kingdom and written with full capitals should both be regarded as correct
5. If yes to 4, at what age did you begin to lose your sight (e) There should be no change to present British practice
6. How long have you been using braille (f) Other (please specify)
7. Do you normally read braille by touch or sight or both (g) Not sure - don't know
8. For which of the following purposes do you use braille:
(a) Leisure
(b) Independent Living
(c) Study
(d) Employment
9. Which one of the following options best represents your preferred view with regard to the use of the capital sign in British braille.
10. Which if any of the other options listed would you find acceptable if you could not have your first choice

St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion 1995

by Alf Lockhart

FRIDAY APRIL 7th, was the start of this year's Annual Reunion for St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War. Our guests included Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO, accompanied by Lady Gingell, also Mr Harold Payne, OBE, and Mrs Payne. Harold is National President of the Far East ex-Prisoners of War Clubs and is also connected with many other organisations concerned with ex-PoWs. Because of the circumstances at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, we could not stay there so had our social evening at the White Horse, Rottingdean.

The Social Evening proved to be a great success. There were about 15 St Dunstaners, together with their wives and escorts. A further group of St Dunstaners and several members of staff joined the company and although on unfamiliar territory, we had a bar in the function room at the White Horse so managed very nicely, thank you.

Saturday morning we held our AGM. Due to the recent death of Mrs Elizabeth Dacre, who had been President of St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War, our Chairman, Bill Griffiths, opened the meeting. After mentioning members who had died since we last met (the list seems to get longer each year), we paid our respects to The Fallen and then pro-

ceeded to see about electing a new President. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell was approached and said he would be pleased to accept. Sir John was then proposed, seconded, and duly elected.

The matter was raised of a fitting memorial to our dear friend Elizabeth Dacre. It was decided that she was too great a personality to be handled by any single club or group. It was, therefore, suggested that headquarters be asked to contact the chairmen of various clubs, with which Mrs Dacre was involved, to consider a suitable memorial, and the siting thereof, to one of St Dunstan's 'truly greats'.

The meeting then continued and the importance of maintaining a presence at the House at Ovingdean was emphasised. All clubs are urged to continue with their activities, carry on come what may. If St Dunstan's Ovingdean, is not used to its full potential it will wither and die. We do not want the same fate as befell Pearson House to visit Ovingdean, do we?

In the Treasurer's Report, Ray Sheriff mentioned that the late Olive Kershaw, widow of John Kershaw, had made a donation to St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War. A letter of thanks has been sent to her Estate on our behalf.

We assembled in the Winter Garden at half-past six for pre-dinner drinks. Everybody was in buoyant mood, having come to Brighton wondering how this Reunion would be. It turned out to be the most enjoyable. Tom Hart and Ray Sheriff must take full credit for the success of the weekend. They had worked like Trojans arranging accommodation and catering and it worked out well. We sat down to an excellent meal, absolutely no sign of austerity and we must thank PBK caterers, and especially Kozy who managed the whole layout and service of the Reunion Dinner. Thank you Kozy and your staff.

Harold Payne was Guest Speaker. His speech was well received and he touched on the preparations for this year's VE and VJ Day anniversaries. After dinner we made our way to the bar.

The Memorial Service on Sunday morning was conducted by The Reverend Cuthbert Le M. Scott. It was good to see the Padre, he came out of retirement just to be at St Dunstan's again. When the Service was over we had tea in the Lounge, after which we made our way back to the White Horse.

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.

Colonel John Gough, of Kemp Town, Brighton, was admitted to St Dunstan's Guiding Vision category on April 7th.

The nephew of General Gough (Commander 5th Army, 1915 to March 1918), he completed his Young Officers' Course, joined his regiment in India and his career then followed the normal pattern for a young officer of his day.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was posted with his regiment to the Middle East and received penetrating injuries to both eyes at the Battle of Tobruk, in 1941. He later returned to his regiment and in 1945 was given command of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment. On relinquishing his command in 1948, Colonel Gough was appointed Commandant at the School of Armour, Bovington, from which post he retired from the Army as full Colonel in 1953.

Colonel Gough is a widower and he has one married daughter.

SSgt Mark Brook, was admitted to St Dunstan's on March 1st. He is 31 years of age.

Mark Brook joined the Royal Engineers at the age of 16 as an Army

Apprentice and specialised as an Electrical Plant Technician. In subsequent postings he saw service in the Falklands, Canada, Cyprus, Norway, Gibraltar and with BOAR. His aim was to obtain a Regular Commission and a degree in Electronics and Computing but a bad fall while taking part in a Commando course is thought to have led to his loss of sight and multiple sclerosis. However, after six years hard work Mark obtained a BSc., last October and is now at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for training.

When his training is completed SSgt Brook will return to Norway, where he has his home, with his wife Grete and their three young children.

Mr Eric Hilton, of Rossendale, was admitted to St Dunstan's on March 16th.

Mr Hilton, is 71 and served in the Royal Navy between June 1942 and November 1945. An Able Seaman he lost the sight of his left eye in 1944, due to shell blast. He was invalided out of the Navy in 1945.

After this Eric Hilton trained as an engineer, serving with the Fishing Fleet, during this time he obtained a 2nd Class Steam Certificate. After the

In the evening we were entertained in the Lounge by the Brighton Male Voice Choir, conducted by Mr Paine. This choir was formed in 1927, not that any of the original members are still in it. They sang all the well known songs and we enjoyed it immensely.

I feel that I must give Tom Hart, Ray Sheriff and Bill Griffiths our praise and admiration for the way they managed the Reunion under extremely adverse circumstances. Of course, I have not forgotten Mary Stenning and Beryl Gardiner. These two ladies, with their organising ability and secretarial skills, are an absolute tower of strength to the committee who I know fully appreciate the work they do. Once again our thanks to them both and the committee. You did a first-rate job as did Kozy with the catering. The date of the next Reunion is to be April 13th/15th, 1996.

NOTE FOR ST DUNSTAN'S EX-POWS

Tom Hart has asked me to mention that we are still accepting subscriptions. These are now needed more than ever. So if any well-wishers feel that they can assist in this area, please contact either Tom, or Ray Sheriff.

Fishing Fleet was disbanded Mr Hilton turned his gardening hobby into a profession. He eventually became a self-employed landscape gardener and ran a successful business for many years. However, with the deterioration of his remaining sight, he is now retired.

Mr Hilton and his wife, Catherine, have three sons.

George Cyril Maslin of Rottingdean, was admitted to St Dunstan's on April 26th, in the 'Guiding Vision' category.

Mr Maslin is aged 81. He joined the TA in March 1931, the Brighton Royal Signals Squadron and trained as an Operator Signals and distinguished himself in this field. At the outbreak of war in 1939, he was embodied into the regular army and moved almost immediately with his squadron to France. He is a Dunkirk Veteran.

Having reformed in England, the squadron was posted to Malaya where he was captured by the Japanese in February 1942. He remained a FEPoW until November 1945 and, as a result of the deprivations he suffered, became severely deaf. This was also the time of the onset of his blindness

and he was discharged in 1946.

Sadly Mr Maslin's wife died last year. Their one daughter is married and lives in Canterbury.

Clifford Lewis Gower of Westbury, Wilts was admitted to St Dunstan's on April 26th, in the 'Guiding Vision' category.

Mr Gower, agd 74, trained as a surveyor before being conscripted in 1942. He was posted into the Royal Corps of Signals and trained as a Linesman. Following which he was posted to a Signals Squadron, attached to an Armoured Brigade in North Africa, where in 1943, the Squadron came under attack from German dive bombers and he received injuries to his eyes. Mr Gower was retrained and transferred into Military Intelligence, although remaining a Signalman in the Royal Corps of Signals and served in Greece and Italy. Returning to the UK in late 1946, he was demobilised in February 1947 and resumed his civilian occupation of surveyor.

He married Irene whilst in England on short leave in 1945 and they have three married daughters.

Mr Gower enjoys travelling. His hobby is cabinet making and he is a member of Probus, the organisation for retired executives.

James Marsland of Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire joined on April 26th. By falsifying his age, Mr Marsland joined the Cheshire Regiment in August 1934. Upon the outbreak of war, he moved with his Regiment to France where he received a minor wound and was evacuated to the UK before Dunkirk. He was then transferred to the Royal Tank Regiment and served with their 50th Regiment in the 8th Army. They were moved to Athens in late 1944 and he fell victim to a terrorist attack, receiving serious wounds to both eyes. He came to St Dunstan's at Church Stretton for treatment and rehabilitation, at the end of which he had recovered the sight in one eye. Back in civilian life, Mr Marsland worked as a warehouseman for a local firm in Altrincham until retiring at the age of 64. He and his wife, Frances, have a son and daughter.

CLUB NEWS

LATE WINTER ARCHERY

by Bert Wood

Arriving at Butlins Ocean Hotel, Saltdean, we were greeted by a short fat hairy Redcoat, who helped Norman Perry and myself to book in and then escorted us to our room. Such a nice boy, Hi-de-Hi. The room was ex-

tremely good, so too the food and service.

The first half-term of the year at Longhill School meant the gym was available once again for St Dunstan's Archery Club. Seven poor but dedicated archers scraped together the cost of the trip (never knew pawnshops still existed) in order to keep the club going.

In spite of the cash flow problem, everyone seemed to be bearing up, or down as the case may be. Archers, coaches and all our loyal helpers greeted each other warmly. Moist of eye and clinging together like deserted children, Carol Aggett and I quietly bringing comfort to the both of us, remembered the recent loss of our partners, Emily and Gerry.

Three days of indoor archery dispersed the cobwebs, and the stress and strain of life without IFH and Mrs Dacre. Day one, a getting-to-know-you-again day, equipment that is, after five months of inactivity This meant concentrated practice the whole day in order to remove the rust and prepare for the next day's big trophy.

Day two and the Laurie Austin Trophy is up for grabs. This the first trophy of the year was fiercely contested with a Portsmouth round of five dozen arrows each archer. After a hard day's fight John Lilley claimed the trophy. Bert Wood a close second and A.N. Other was third.

Chief Coach, Ted Bradford organised a fun shoot on the third and final day, as always this was much enjoyed by all.

Our evening meal at the White Horse also proved a success. President of the Club, John Glaizier attended and regretted our present situation and hoped things will improve. So ended our short but happy get-together and we all look forward to the next.

BRIDGE

As usual we were fortunate enough to hold our Easter Bridge Drive in the Annexe at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, on Sunday April 9th.

There were five tables in all and a very pleasant afternoon was had by everyone, with plenty of nice prizes to be won. The winners were as follows:

1st M. Douse & A. McGregor
2nd M. Stevens & T. Rowbottom
3rd J. Douse & J. Stevens

Our tea on the day was well presented with a nice variety of food, and our thanks go to Vi McPherson and Joyce Dodgson for their services. Also thanks to Mr Ian McGregor, the tournament director, for keeping us all in order.

April 23rd, we again had an invitation from Horsham Bridge Club.

This is an annual event. In past years, St Dunstan's kindly provided transport on such occasions but as you all know these concessions have now come to an abrupt halt. After many enquiries and phone calls we were able to obtain a coach for the day from our local Social Services Department. We had to supply our own driver and after asking around our friend Ron Silverthorn came to our aid, offering to help us on his day off. Thank you Ron. The competition at Horsham was as keen as ever but being among friends of many years standing a social afternoon was the end result.

I wish to thank the Horsham committee for a wonderful tea and for opening the bar for us. Our team of eight were: W. Phillips and A. Clements; W. Lethbridge and M. Stevens; Peter Surridge and D. Cotton; A. Dodgson and V. McPherson. The result of the match was a win for Horsham.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of: Jennifer Megan on December 28th. She is the great grand-daughter of Joe Kibbler, of Warley, West Midlands.

Three grandsons to *John and Sheila Wellings*, of Neston, South Wirral. On August 24th last, Shane son of Richard Wellings. Then on September 24th, Jack son of Paul Wellings and on January 27th this year, Thomas Adam son of Michael Wellings.

Ben on December 3rd. He is the grandson of *Ted and Beryl John*, of Wallasey, Merseyside.

Elizabeth Anne Reid on April 24th. She is the grand-daughter of *Julian and Margaret Stevens* of Rottingdean.

WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Robert John, who married Rosemary Hamilton on October 15th last at Bakewell, Derbyshire. Robert is the son of *Ted and Beryl John*, of Wallasey, Merseyside.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Tony and Joyce Parkinson, of Blackpool, on March 28th.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Tom and Betty Page, of Morecambe, on April 9th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ted and Win Higgs of Wokingham on May 12th.

Bill and Mary Burnett of Maidstone, Kent on May 19th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings of Verwood, Dorset who celebrated 63 years of marriage on March 26th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Joan Allen of Brightlingsea, Essex on March 14th. She was the widow of *Joseph Allen*.

Mrs Lilian Chapman of Cambridge, on March 29th. She was the widow of *Reginald Chapman*.

Mrs Kathleen Lewis of South Croydon, on March 12th. She was the widow of *Cecil Lewis*.

Mrs Yvonne Loveridge of Sevenoaks, Kent on March 30th. She was the widow of *Arthur Loveridge*.

Mrs May Wood of Plymouth, Devon on March 30th. She was the widow of *Robert Wood*.

Mrs Annie Miles of Faversham, Kent on April 19th. She was the widow of *John Miles*.

Mrs Elsie Green on March 1st. She was the wife of *Robert Green* of Wakefield.

Mrs Rose Kirsop on April 2nd. She was the wife of *William Kirsop* of Bideford.

Norman Millard, aged 41, on April 10th. He was the son of Mrs Doris Millard of Worcester and the late *Leonard Millard*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

It is with deep 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.

Charles 'Charlie' Rentowl, Royal Air Force

Charles George Rentowl of Southampton, died on March 11th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1957. Mr Rentowl enlisted with the Royal Air Force in February 1939, serving

as a Corporal until his eyesight failed, he was discharged in April 1945. Prior to his RAF service he had been a shop manager and was trained in boot repairing on return to civilian life, retiring in 1968 on health grounds.

'Charlie' Rentowl particularly enjoyed gardening, dominoes (he was chosen to play for the Hampshire Team) and tray making. Music and Ham Radio were two other pursuits and more recently going on cruises. He lived with his sister, Lil, following the death of his wife, Ivy May, in 1969. After his sister's death in 1992 he became a permanent resident at Ian Fraser House.

Our sympathy goes to his nephew, Barry Bound and wife, and all other members of the family.

Harry Meleson, Civil Defence

Harry Meleson of Wembley died on March 29th, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1955. Mr Meleson joined the Civil Defence in 1939 and was a post warden with the ARP until he was injured in 1943, which resulted in the loss of his sight. Before the war he had been a peanut roaster and fruiterer and had also had a wholesale confection business. After the war and having received necessary training, he again ran a successful business for nearly 20 years. He won several prizes for carpentry and toymaking, but his main interest was bridge.

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

John Hughes, Yorks & Lancs Regiment

John Caradog Hughes of Aberffraw, Gwynedd died on April 4th, aged 73. He served as a Corporal with the Yorks & Lancs Regiment and was wounded by a mine explosion whilst serving in Italy in January 1944, when he was just 22. Mr Hughes received injuries to both eyes and a subsequent operation restored the sight of one eye, enabling him to work for some years as a batman at Tycroes Camp. Unfortunately his sight failed again and he became a St Dunstaner in 1974.

John Hughes always enjoyed life, singing giving him the greatest pleasure. As a member of his local chapel and choir he took part in many concerts locally and further afield.

Our sympathy goes to his sister, Beryl, with whom he shared his home and all members of the family.

Arnold Sladen, The Loyal Regiment

Arnold Sladen of Preston, Lancs died on 7th April, aged 80.

He served as a private with The Loyal Regiment from October 1940,

and was wounded at Tunis in April 1944. Mr Sladen was discharged from the Army two months later. His injuries had caused the loss of one eye, nevertheless returning to civilian life he worked as a joiner until retirement age.

Following the failure of his remaining sight Arnold Sladen became a St Dunstaner in 1994, by which time he was in poor health. We understand that Mr Sladen had enjoyed stamp collecting and was a jazz enthusiast.

Our sympathy goes to his widow Reta, his two daughters from his first marriage, Marcia and Carol, and all members of the family.

Mrs Eileen Maynard, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Eileen Emily Maynard of Bromsgrove, Herefs & Worcs died on April 17th, aged 82. She served in the ATS from October 1942, and was wounded in an air raid in Birmingham in 1943. Eileen became a St Dunstaner in 1953, but her health prevented her from taking any training and this frailty was to remain with her throughout the years. Nevertheless, Eileen was a very capable lady in looking after herself and her home and we were able to enjoy her company on her many visits to Ovingdean and attendance at reunions for our lady St Dunstaners.

Our sympathy goes to her sister-in-law, Jean Ansell, and all members of the family.

William Hibberd, 12th Royal Lancers

William Horace Hibberd, permanent resident Pearson House, died on April 22nd, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1993. William Hibberd enlisted in 1925, with the 12th Royal Lancers and served as a Trooper until he was discharged, apart from a two year period between 1937 and 1939 when he left the army. During this service he saw the changeover from horses to armoured cars.

He was posted to Egypt, both before and during the war and to Libya, where he sustained bomb blast injuries which resulted in the loss of his hearing and damage to his sight.

After the war Mr Hibberd was a cinema manager for 15 years. He then took up clerical work, finally retiring when he was 65. In earlier days he played soccer at regimental level and was a keen swimmer.

On becoming a St Dunstaner Mr Hibberd who was a widower, with no children, became a permanent resident at Pearson House where he was affectionately known as 'Bill'.

Our sympathy goes to his nephew, Mr David Dunlop and wife, and all other members of the family.