

St Dunstan's Review

June 1998



From the Chairman



A number of major works (some new, some refurbishment, some essential repair) are imminent at Ovingdean.

- 1 Refurbishment of the First Floor Fuselage is complete and all nine rooms now have full en suite facilities. This extra accommodation has helped us to reintroduce two widows weeks, the first took place in May and the second will be held October 19th-26th.
- 2 Construction of the expanded Rehabilitation & Training area in the Annexe is now complete and is a much needed improvement. Still outstanding is the refurbishment and enhancement for wheelchair facilities in the

Craft Workshop - which will be undertaken shortly.

- 3 Planning permission has at last been obtained to replace the existing flat roof over the Chapel (which is no longer weatherproof) with a cheaper, more efficient pitched roof. This work should be completed by the autumn.
- 4 Easy access to the flat roof in front of the Bullnose on the Second Floor for sitting out and for limited gardening will shortly be available.

Henry Leach

5 Subject to planning permission, it is hoped to provide a small Sports Pavilion (subscribed by donors) in the grounds for use by the Archers and others.

6 The entire Annexe roof has been condemned as becoming unsafe and must be replaced in the next year or two. In consequence, for obvious safety reasons, the Swimming Pool has had to be closed until the re-roofing is completed, which is likely to take at least a year. Alternative pool arrangements at Ovingdean and Hove have been negotiated but it is regretted that these are inevitably more restricted and less convenient despite the provision of transport.

7 During the re-roofing of the Annexe the bar in its present position will have to be closed. Partly at the request of the majority of the Residents and partly to facilitate the provision of escorts the opportunity is being taken to resite the bar in the South West corner of the Main Lounge (ie: furthest from the Dining Room and the Quadrangle) where lavatory facilities are immediately available and there is a good route for the weekly resupply of kegs.

St Dunstan's Review No. 876

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BI-MONTHLY
Free to St Dunstaners

JUNE 1998

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Cover picture:
Stan Tutton and Bill
Weisblatt engage one of
the locals in conversation.

Picture by Beryl John.

WHO'S WHO AT ST DUNSTAN'S

HEADQUARTERS

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Orr Deas, Mrs Margaret	Secretary to Chairman
Osborne, Mr Tim	Head of Estates
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Stanley, Mrs Barbara	Receptionist
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OVINGDEAN

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Castle, Mr Ray	Maintenance Supervisor
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Durie, Mrs Pam	Daily Living Skills Instructor
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Greer, Mrs Jacqui	Head of Nursing & Residential Care
Harrison, Ms Susan	General Manager
Hinton, Mrs Lenie	Craft Supervisor
Hordell, Mr Michael	Facilities Manager
Hordell, Mrs Ronnie	War Pensions Coordinator/Cashier (payments of accounts)
James, Mr Paul	Director, PBK Catering Limited
Lockrane, Mrs Josephine	Nursing & Residential Care Coordinator (room bookings)
Mobsby, Mrs Eileen	Wills & Trusts Coordinator
Morris, Mr Kendrick	Head of Rehabilitation & Training
Roberts, Miss Lucy	Senior ROVI
Sharp, Mrs Janis	IT Instructor
Stringer, Mrs Lynda	Training Coordinator
Taylor, Mrs Olive	Head of Housekeeping
Thomas, Mrs Lynne	Activity Coordinator
Vinall, Mr David	Head of Transport



NOTICE BOARD



OVINGDEAN FETE AUGUST 8TH

Raffles, lucky dips, sideshows, teas, bric-a-brac, handicraft items plus a host of fun is to be had at the Ovingdean Fete to be held on Saturday, August 8th from 1pm-5pm. Jacqui Greer, Head of Nursing at Ovingdean, the organiser, issues a plea to all members of St Dunstan's. Jacqui would appreciate volunteers to help with the stalls plus any donations of items for sale – toys, knitwear, decent bric-a-brac items, cakes, biscuits, jams, etc. Please send items to Ovingdean addressed to Jacqui or call her on 01273 307811 ext 3517. Proceeds are in aid of St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

FAREWELL, CLARE

Mrs Clare Woods, PA/Secretary to the General Manager at St Dunstan's Ovingdean is leaving the organisation on June 5th as her family is moving to Eastbourne. Clare joined St Dunstan's in November 1989 as secretary to Major Arthur Neve. We wish her all the best for the future.

SIGHT VILLAGE 98

An exhibition of equipment and services for people with a visual impairment will be hosted at Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham on July 21st/23rd. *Sight Village 98* will feature displays by organisations such as Cobolt Systems, Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom and Vis-Ability. Admission is free and includes a catalogue in print, large print or braille. Guides will be available to assist visitors. For further details please contact Stewart Morehead or Mark Nickless at Queen Alexandra College on 0121 428 5050.

ONLINE ACTION

An online guide to services for people with visual impairment has been launched by Action for Blind People. *Getting on* explains what kind of help is available for employment and training, special equipment, money, housing and leisure. Internet browsers will find the resource at <http://www.demon.co.uk/afbp>.

GARDENING CLUB

The former Gardening Club Committee would like ex-members to know that a cheque for £2186.63, the balance of the account held when the club disbanded, was handed to St Dunstan's for safekeeping. This will be returned to the Club should it re-form at any time.

OSCARS TALK

Two Oscar winning films *The English Patient* and *Shine* top the billing of the latest audio-described video releases from the RNIB. Additional narration is added to fill in details such as facial expression, scenery, actions and costumes. More Disney fun is offered in *The Rescuers Down Under*. A kidnapping provides the twist in explosive thriller *Ransom*. The tapes are available for hire or rent from RNIB Customer Services on 0345 023153. A catalogue of all available audio described videos can be obtained free of charge in large print, braille or tape from Mary Flaherty at RNIB on 0171 388 1266.

TOUCH OUR MARITIME HISTORY

Two touch tours are currently on offer at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. *An introductory tour of the Queen's House* presents an insight into life at the Stuart Court, while the other includes highlights of the *Nelson Exhibition*. Both include the opportunity to touch objects.

The tours are available most days of the week but need to be booked at least 14 days in advance. (The maximum number for a tour group is six VIP visitors). Admission is £3.50 though escorts are admitted free of charge. For further details contact The Bookings Unit, National Maritime Museum on 0181 312 6608.

FOR SALE

If anyone is interested in purchasing a Yamaha electronic organ would they please contact the PR department for details.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The final date for submitting items for publication in the August Review is June 26th.

End of an Era



The death on Tuesday April 21st of Frederick James Hobbs, aged 99 marked the end of an era. He was the last surviving St Dunstaner from the First World War losing his right eye as a result of a shell splinter at St Quentin, France in 1918, 80 years ago.

Fred enlisted under aged into the Royal Engineers during the First World War and because of his early battle experience was recruited into the Special Brigade, whose function was to counter the German gas warfare with our own. He was amongst one of the first intakes at Porton Down. His discharge from the army came one week after Armistice Day in November 1918.

In 1990 Fred represented the First War St Dunstaners at a reception given by Margaret Thatcher at No 10 Downing Street.

In July 1991 Fred, together with other veterans of the Battle of the Somme returned to France to commemorate the 75th Anniversary and to remember those who had not returned. This was

the first time he had been back there. He said it was hard to reconcile the tranquil town of Thiepval with the carnage he had experienced as a young man.

Last November he attended the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph - our last St Dunstaner who fought in the First World War.

Fred celebrated his 99th birthday on March 1st this year. He took part in all the activities organised at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. He could be seen taking his daily walk, straight back and sprightly of step to the end.

His funeral service was held on April 28th at Downs Crematorium, Brighton. Shrouded in a Union Jack his coffin was escorted by two standard bearers, both ex-Royal Engineers from the Brighton area.

Fred's passing is a landmark, because he represented the link with our founding years. For St Dunstan's was founded specifically to care for the War Blind of the 1914 -1918 War.

The Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Margaret Bingham



Margaret Bingham and Sid Doy examine some of the ornate craftsmanship that frequently flavours our national heritage.

The last activity in February was one which gave a great deal of pleasure and interest to all who participated. This was a three hour mystery tour organised and narrated by nursing auxiliary David Habgood. As this was his first attempt at being a 'guide' he hoped to make the venture a success.

Our trip was to be of the South Downs and as we travelled through Newhaven to Beachy Head, he told us of the 12th century parish church in the town and in Piddinghoe - just north of Newhaven - St Patrick's church with a round tower, one of three in Sussex having such a tower. In the churchyard, a pair of leg stocks can be found. On to the South Downs described by some as a 'timeless Stonehenge' because of its rocky aspect in the more isolated regions and where the only sign of life is a few stocky South Down sheep chewing avidly at the sparse turf completely oblivious of the many walkers purposely striding by! Onwards through small villages with unique plant walled cottages to Wilmington with its gigantic figure cut into the turf (could be bronze age) through the medieval town of Lewes and back to Ovingdean. Such an interesting and well researched tour. Thank you, David.

The talk, *Servant's Secrets* given by Edwina, a professional speaker from the Brighton Museum

wasn't quite what we expected. Thinking it would be a kind of *Upstairs Downstairs* as shown on the tv a few years ago. But no! Memorability. Remembering the smells of yesteryear with such commodities as Cherry Blossom boot polish, liniment and so on. Old coins such as halfpenny and threepenny bits were handed round as was a large penny dating back to the turn of the century.

DON'T MENTION IT

Also shown to us were ladies' unmentionables (bloomers) these were like a piece of rough cotton cut into two pieces but with a waistband round the top, joined at the knee but no gusset! We were extremely amused at this and other unusual garments and even more so when Care Assistant Rita Furness modelled these bloomers and a frilly edged lace-up corset. Thank you Edwina for a very entertaining afternoon.

Recently an invitation was extended to St Dunstan's to listen to a talk by Patrick Kinna MBE at St Aubyn's School, Rottingdean. Mr Kinna, who now resides here in Brighton, joined the supplementary reserve in 1939 but because of his exceptional skills as a stenographer was ordered to report to the Cabinet Secretary in Whitehall. After signing the Official Secrets Act he had a variety of appointments: member of the Anglo/French liaison section, appointed clerk to Major-General HRH the Duke of Windsor and later became Churchill's confidential assistant. In his resignation Honours List, Churchill awarded him the MBE. All proceeds from this talk went to the Niemann-Pick disease (NPD) a genetic disorder often affecting young children which generally leads to death at an early age.

Being in a wheelchair does have its uses occasionally as when, with Sue Rowland (Primary Nurse), Samantha Rogers (ROVI) and David Vinall as onlookers, I boarded one of the 'breeler' buses in Brighton centre. The lower part of these vehicles is lowered to pavement-top level thus enabling the chair to be wheeled into the widened interior at the front of the bus. The object of the exercise was to ascertain whether such a vehicle would be of benefit to St Dunstaners and as more

of us will be using wheelchairs eventually, the four of us were very impressed and thought such a coach would be a great boon!

SHAMROCK AND ROLLS

St Patrick's Day was celebrated with a special lunch when such edible niceties as 'Limerick Jewels' and 'Shamrock' were avidly consumed. And enjoyed! (The ingredients were 'run of the mill' but with such descriptive headings the menu could have been that of a 5-star hotel. PBK at their best!).

By a strange coincidence on St Patrick's Day, the house was 'alive with the sound of music' but it wasn't an Irish harp strumming *Danny Boy* or *When Irish Eyes* but the resonant recognisable tunes from handbells. Simon Labett, RNIB Training Officer was explaining various musical techniques with instruments such as the clarinet which he played and then proceeded with the bells (These were pipe-like, about eight inches long with a clapper at the end and emitted a resonant tone when gently shaken). He gave each one of us a number and on his instruction we rang our bell, thus lovely melody. Very interesting and enjoyable and as there is a set of handbells in the house, this has given us food for thought. St Dunstan's Campanologists Group has a lovely ring to it, don't you think?

CAN WE DO YOU NOW?

Vanguard Productions, Portslade entertained us one evening with a 'yesteryear' wireless programme when we heard parts from *ITMA* and *Hancock's Half Hour* with members of the cast imitating such characters as 'Mona Lot', Tommy Handley and "the lad himself". Nostalgia by the gallon! Also we had a race night organised by Race Night Services, Littlehampton, West Sussex. The setting in the lounge was quite authentic with race cards strewn around a large screen showing the race running and the bookie at his desk with all his paraphernalia, taking the bets. A very humorous commentator too but alas, no 'tic-tac' man!!

MUSICAL INTERLUDES

A large party of us attended a variety concert given by the Worthing and District Edwardians in aid of Renning Hall Multiple Sclerosis Holiday Home, Worthing which was most enjoyable. It was held at the Pavilion Theatre, Worthing.



Bob Ashmore prepares a pineapple upsidedown cake in the new training kitchen.

Music and movement is still run for those who need a little extra 'limbering up' and often at weekends, when there is little to do, craft work can be done, supervised by staff and volunteers. Talk about busy bees!

Tea and a show at Princess Marina House at Rustington was enjoyed by all who went and our thanks go to the staff for their hospitality.

EASTER MYSTERY

On Good Friday a Mystery Tour and tea organised by Jan proved to be very entertaining and we finally arrived at Pease Pottage Service Station for tea.

On Easter Sunday there was an in-house Easter egg hunt when contestants were given written instructions and clues to find the eggs. All of them were located successfully and prizes were awarded to the winners.

THREE MEAL COURSE

Our new kitchen is well patronised. (What a joy it is to say "I have slaved over a hot stove all morning!") Pam has come up with a brilliant idea whereby three St Dunstaners at a time can use the facilities to prepare a three course meal. One does the soup, another the main course and the third the sweet.

This is done on a three weekly rota when each person prepares a different course. Of course, we get to sample our efforts!

Kendrick Morris provides an in-depth description of the new kitchen and other parts of the new Rehabilitation and Training wing on page 16.

Computer Club News

by Ray Hazan

A gathering was held at Ovingdean on April 28th. This gave us an opportunity to absorb the atmosphere in the new training wing. The aim of the open plan layout is that it should give trainees the feel of the working environment with telephones, conversations and people moving around in the background. It has certainly succeeded in that!

There was plenty of general discussion but the main event was a comparison by Janis of two Windows screen reading programmes – JAWS and HAL95. This was helpful for those considering purchasing equipment for the first time and wondering which to buy. There were several people in that category within the group, showing that one is never too old to learn new tricks!

A dinner was held in the evening and the quality of food was matched by the company! Our grateful thanks to Trevor Richardson of PBK who served us all well.

Shamus Reading of Dolphin Computer Access Ltd held a 'surgery' the following day. His demonstrations of HAL95, Cicero (a text scanner and reading system) was well received.

Most interesting was the fact that similarly to the JAWS system, Dolphin is on the point of launching a software speech synthesiser. This obviates the need for an external speech synthesiser, which can cost from £300 to £650. The 'voice' uses the sound card, with which most computer systems are fitted as standard these days.

THE INTERNET EXPLAINED

A new publication *The Internet for Blind users* has been hailed as an "absolute must read" for blind computer users. "It's a guide for the complete novice, the objective is to level the playing field," said author Steve Elliott.

Available in 3 1/2 inch floppy disk format, it is compatible with screen reading software. Priced at £11.99 it runs under DOS or Windows (A print version costs £15.99) and can be ordered from PCP, PO Box 984, Lowgate, Hull HU7 4GP. For further details telephone 01482 820743.

INTERNET INTRODUCTION COURSE

Janis Sharp, IT Instructor in the Rehabilitation and Training department at Ovingdean has planned a two day group course Introduction to the Internet for July 14/15th. Topics to be discussed will include:

- What is the Internet?
- What would I use it for?
- How much does it cost?
- How to go about getting connected?
e-mail
- How easy is access by the visually impaired?

There will also be an opportunity for questions, discussion and hands-on practice. Anyone wishing to attend should book their place with Janis and arrange accommodation, if required, through their Welfare Visitor. There will be no cost for the course

but accommodation must be paid for.

TUTORIAL TAPES

I am compiling a library of tutorial tapes. There are two currently available *Word6 for Windows95 with HAL95* and *Cardfile with HAL95*. Anyone wishing to receive a copy should send a blank C60 tape to Janis stating which topic is required. Large print and braille copies are also available. Details of additional titles will be published in future editions of the *Review*.

FIZZIOTHERAPIE REUNION

No, I have not forgotten how to spell physiotherapy but a directive has come from the European Union that as from the year 2000 all European countries will be required to adopt this new spelling as agreed by an all country working party.

I would like to draw to the attention of all fizzios that a reunion weekend has been allocated at St Dunstan's (Ovingdean) from Friday, September 25th until Sunday, September 27th. As usual it would be pleasant to hold a dinner on the Saturday so if you are going could you let me know so that I could arrange numbers. I have asked Neil Swan and his wife to attend the dinner as he is not only St Dunstan's Head of Fund Raising but both are osteopaths.

Mike Tetley

NB. The directive was dated April 1st and was later declared that it was an April fool!!

Martin's Maundy Money

Mr Alfred Martin, widower of the late Dorothy Martin of Emsworth, Hampshire was one of 144 local parishioners to receive this year's Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen. The ceremony took place at Portsmouth Cathedral on April 9th. "I felt very proud and humble at the same time. It was in recognition of my work both here and in my previous diocese in Devon."

In the past, the Sovereign gave alms, food and clothing to the poor on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday. Today, the act is purely ceremonial. Mr Martin received a total of 72 pence in seven sets of one penny, two penny, three penny and four penny sterling silver coins plus two pence. The total represents the age of our Queen. The coins which are specially minted are the only silver coins still produced in the United Kingdom.

Master Mariner Bows out



The Master of the Master Mariners Captain D.A. Watt, Merchant Navy (ret'd) with Ted John at Liverpool Marina, Coburgh Dock.

Ted John of Wallasey recently handed over the Presidency of the Merseyside Master Mariners' Club after 12 months in office. He also ended his three-year spell on the committee. "I have had, and am still enjoying the Fellowship of the sea, which is hard to describe but is most amicable and satisfying."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Send a letter, tape or disk to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

From: Mrs Elsie Cole, Shoreham-on-Sea, West Sussex.

I would like to express through the *Review*, my sincere thanks to all those friends who sent cards and flowers on the loss of my dear husband George. They were a great comfort at a sad time. Thank you.

From: Mrs Elsie Galway, Sandbach, Cheshire

On behalf of myself and family we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who sent so many letters of condolence and sympathy cards including the retired staff of St Dunstan's on the death of a beloved husband and father. It was so comforting to know how respected Fred was. Grateful thanks also to Headquarters and Mrs Henderson for all their help and assistance during this time of sorrow.

Love and regards to you all.

From: Penny Goodwin (Blue's Batperson), Kemptown, Brighton

I am instructed by Brigadier Blue, Chief Rodent Operative, Pearson House (ret'd) to convey his pleasure over the splendid papier mâché cat sculptured by Sid Doy and portrayed with him in the *Review*. Blue says he's sure Sid has modelled it on him as the tail is erect - the classic sign of friendly greetings and feelings.

Blue wishes me to convey his love to all his friends at St Dunstan's. He is now 16 years old and is recovering from a bout of bronchitis and tonsillitis. He finds tinned mackerel fillet in soya oil very satisfactory for a convalescing pussy and makes sure I maintain high nursing standards. He reckons Tony Cowie is an OK vet as he has the latest in whizz antibiotic jab technology, teflon coated sterile needles, so no nasty discomfort.

No prizes for guessing which serf panders to the convalescent patient's every need.

A Step in Time....

Ramblin' Ray Hazan lures fellow St Dunstaners out on the Stratford trail once more ...

When the Lord sent the floods in Noah's day, it was to purge the land of sinners. It is most strongly emphasised that this was not the case when after St Dunstan's departed from Stratford-upon-Avon, the town and our hotel suffered their worst flood for 150 years! Had the St Dunstan's walking holiday taken place a week after Easter, it would have been a sorry, boggy and muddy tale, which would have been written.

Whilst returning to the same hotel, the *Queen's Moat House* (or should it be 'Float House'?) for the third year running may not be enterprising, well known surroundings and events render it a comfortably familiar start to the holiday. From under a mound of suitcases, bags, poles, boots, coats, anoraks and hats - well you never know what the weather will do - emerge cries of delight as old friends meet up again. Some make their way to Stratford High Street to consume a cream tea to build up their strength for the coming days, others to window shop, while some mentally prepare in the sauna, steam room, jacuzzi or swimming pool.

After dinner on the first evening we were delighted to welcome Alan Cumming, Chairman of the Stratford Ramblers, our hosts-to-be for the next five days. Sadly missing was Ray Bennett, our point of contact, who is recovering from a recent operation. Ray had, in his by now accustomed and efficient way, sent us the itineraries for our five walks, including instructions as to how to drive to the start point each day. Fortunately, Bob from Careline is familiar with the area. Thanks to the St Dunstan's grant to Clubs and Activities we were able to hire a coach for the duration, which was much appreciated by the wives and escorts, who have previously had to drive us all to the start points.

I have to confess to being a little hazy about the following five days. I remember we had a variety of sunshine and showers, a lot of fresh air, a few muddy paths and some welcome pub lunchtime breaks. But time, distance and place were unnoticed due to the animate conversations we all



Mike Tetley tests the ground ahead.

enjoyed with the many Stratford Ramblers who accompanied us each day. From butchers to organists, from receptionists to curtain makers, from lay priests to pilots - the variety, the kindness and the warmth of our escorts ensured a lively and friendly 'entente cordiale'.

We passed Foxcote Manor recently purchased by an American toy retailer, who is spending £6 million on the house and its estate. He objects to some radio relay masts, which spoil the view, but has offered to pay for their relocation! Toys 'R' obviously him! We passed within view of Broadway Tower, built so that a wealthy landowner in the 18th century could win a bet claiming he could see three counties from his land. We walked through farmyards with their pungent aromas, over streams and styles, and along paths through fields of sprouting rape and corn. Fortunately, there were no cases of altitude sickness as we scaled the highest point in Warwickshire at 800ft - there was only the sting of rain blown horizontal by a fierce wind to contend with.

These walks are not without their moments. We wear carrier bags over our boots at lunchtime to avoid leaving pubs looking as though a muddy typhoon has passed through. One couple, not in our party, was heard to remark on leaving, "we feel under-dressed; we're not wearing carrier bags!"

On the final evening, a slightly more formal dinner is held and speeches are made. The fruity Welsh



Above: Our gang of walkers.

accent of Trevor Tatchell was sorely missed on this occasion, but his pipe was not! Ray wondered whether a 'Mincing Step Award' should be presented to the 'wally of the day'. He suggested some possible contenders; Tom Roddy who was so keen to get to the jacuzzi, he left his camera on the coach; Ken Walker who thought he was boarding the St Dunstan's bus, but ended on a tour of Stratford; Norman Hopkins who lost his dog lead, though it was widely believed he had thrown it away in disgust on hearing the Wales rugby score against France; Ted John for making believe he was receiving a signal from Italy via a wire coat hanger stuck in the back of an amateur radio set, and Mike Tetley for believing him!; Stan Tutton for urging his escort to "ignore me" when showering at 4 o'clock in the morning while singing "There'll be a welcome in the hillside"; and Ray who nearly lost those parts the IRA failed to remove when he said 'I hear the bags coming' (referring to carrier bags, of course!) and his wife thought he had said 'I hear the bag coming'.

It was Ted John who summed up the week in thanking the Stratford Ramblers for the warm way in which they had looked after us. Old friendships had been further cemented and new ones created. The group departed in a happy mood little aware of the watery devastation they would leave behind. We sincerely hope that by the time our Stratford friends read this, some semblance of normality will have been resumed.

PS Norman's dog lead was kindly handed in shortly after the walk ended!



Above: Ted John does it in stile.

Below: Tom Roddy and Mary Hopkins take a break.



ST DUNSTAN'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 13th - 15th 1998
by Arthur Taylor (Short-Wave Listener)

Despite the fact that it was Friday the 13th as members and their wives and escorts began to arrive at Ovingdean for their first meeting in 1998, I am pleased to be able to report that everyone checked in safely. The atmosphere was soon filled with excitement as friends met up once again.

The AGM took place the next morning in the Winter Garden. The Chairman, Bill Shea (G4AUJ) began by welcoming everyone to the meeting but said that it was his sad duty to have to report that two members, Tommy Gaygan and George Cole had recently gone "Silent Key" and he asked everyone to stand in silent tribute to them both. Occasions such as this are always very emotional, as we pay our respects, but it does give time to reflect and to remember people like George and Tommy who we were all privileged to call our friends.

Tributes have already been paid to both men in the April *Review* but for the purpose of this report I would like to add my own personal contribution to what has already been said about them.

To me, Tommy was a man of immense courage who never lost his sense of humour despite all the trials and tribulations that he had to suffer. The sound of his laughter above all the hubbub of conversation in the dining-room at Ovingdean is something that I shall never forget and treasure most of all.

George also had a terrific sense of humour although it was perhaps somewhat different to Tommy's style. I can only describe it as impish, but when delivered with that wonderful Welsh accent that he had, then I feel sure that there are many of us who treasure some anecdote of his that can still raise a smile. He was justifiably proud of his prowess on the Morse key and, in that respect, the title of "Maestro" would surely be applicable.

The meeting then got under way. Things ran very smoothly and it was good to hear from Ted John

(G3SEJ) that the Society was in a sound financial position. The existing Committee was re-elected without change.

Later that same evening, we all assembled once again in the Winter Garden for an entirely different type of meeting. It has now become a regular feature for the Society and everyone was looking forward with eager anticipation to see what PBK had in store for them. As usual they were superb and they are to be congratulated on the very high standard that they maintain.

Bill Shea welcomed everyone and particularly our guests for the evening. They were Eddie Wilson and his son Matthew, Ian Sherriff and his wife Jan, Peter Westbrook and his wife Pat, Robin Bellerby (G32YE) and his son Richard, our very good friends Dave Mitchell and his wife Sally and Tom Hart's son Christopher and daughter-in-law Lynn. Last but not least, none other than our old friend Mary Frith, as bright and perky as ever.

After dinner there was a lot of light-hearted banter that would have done credit to the *Morecambe and Wise Show* during which Ted John gave us a rendition of his famous story that has now become his trademark. Unfortunately, it cannot be repeated here in the *Review*.

It so happened that it was Beryl John's birthday and she was presented with a cake and a flower arrangement to mark the occasion and this was accompanied by a rousing chorus of *Happy Birthday*. The cake was soon cut up and distributed to the diners and this was followed by a sincere vote of thanks from Beryl herself.

Finally, Ian Sherriff rose to make a short speech. He said that he had been on the periphery of St Dunstan's for some 20 - 25 years ever since as a young member of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew, he was asked if he would stay behind after the Royal Tournament, Earls Court and join something called St Dunstan's Camp, he decided to have a go at it. Eventually, not only the camp,

but also the St Dunstaners too became a part of his life. It has made him feel part of a family that has come to be so very special to him.

In that context he said that he had been very privileged and in all those years there had been lots of laughter and much happiness in his life as a result.

In conclusion he added that this was a very special night because it had also been Ted's birthday on the previous day, and he offered his very special congratulations to them both from Jan and himself. He added that he knew that they often got telephone calls from the Bishop and promised them that these would continue again in the near future. By way of explanation, he told his audience that he had called them one night and told Beryl that he was the Bishop of Liverpool. He said that he had heard about her prowess as a chorister and invited her to join the cathedral choir to celebrate High Mass! Beryl was completely convinced that she was actually going to sing at the cathedral, but what she actually said to Ian when she learned the truth is not recorded because any further comments were drowned by roars of laughter. He ended by saying that he had a wonderful 25 years with us and this night, like all previous occasions, had been extremely memorable and he expressed his thanks to one and all.

A moment to spare with Sydney Scroggie

Do They Really Exist?

It was amongst the pines of the Rothiemurchus Forest that I encountered my first ghost. The last rays of sunset slanting through branches, the rugged Cairngorms rising nearby. He was a silver-haired old Gentleman, noble in appearance, commanding in presence, with silken knee-breeches and buckled shoes. The general appearance of this apparition suggested the XVIIIth Century as the period when he strolled these wild regions alive. It was not an hallucination, or at least I don't think it was.

In fact we had a short conversation, the two of us before I plunged deeper into the forest casting a glance behind me, however, which revealed only trees, heather and the sun's rays, but nothing of the old gentleman who had so surprisingly accosted a young XXth Century character heading for the hills.

The next day, Sunday, was mostly taken up with activities in the radio shack. In the evening, Bill Shea and Ted John were scanning the amateur radio frequencies and looking for an interesting contact. Eventually, through the jumble of voices they picked out a call-sign that made them both sit up and take notice. The prefix was "SU" which showed that this was a station based in Iraq and Ted lost no time in putting out a call to him. However, it seemed that there were many other amateurs who were also interested in making contact with that station so Ted had to bide his time and wait his turn in the queue. Eventually contact was established and it transpired that his name was Ahmed and he lived in Baghdad. The conversation centred around the usual things such as site location, type of equipment being used, signal strength, etc, etc and that was that. However, Ted must have created a very good impression out there in the Gulf because Ahmed kept referring to him as "My very good friend, Ted!" By then it was getting rather late, so G3STD closed down and its operators toddled off to bed, happy in the knowledge that they had spent a happy and rewarding weekend together.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at Ovingdean on October 10th. This promises to be a very special occasion and members are requested to book in early.

Time passed, a mine exploded on the slopes of Monte Grande in wartime Romagna, and I was at Church Stretton, Shropshire together with another blinded Scotsman Sammy Stinson.

The two of us had colds, had retired early to bed, and desultory chat had given way to silence when I felt my feet being reconnoitred through the covers by what I took to be a human hand. Next my own hand, outside the covers, was lifted and caressed in a kindly loving way by what seemed to me to be the gloved hand of an old lady, vexed by the idea of a young chap blinded in the war. At this moment I heard Sammy. "Who's that," he cried; and something of the same sort, he told me, had happened to him. Who the lad had been in the Rothiemurchus Forest, I'll never know, perhaps a former laird of these regions and as for the old lady of Battlefields' house, motherly kind-hearted, she was a ghost of the very nicest kind.

Taking Sir Henry prisoner

by Alf Lockhart



Former Prisoner of War Tom Hart presents Sir Henry with a framed painting of a pheasant.

St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War held their Annual Reunion at Ovingdean over the weekend April 17th - 19th. It was one of the largest gatherings for some years.

The reunion was presided over by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO. The Guest speaker was Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, KCB, AFC. The Chairman of St Dunstan's, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, GCB, DL, who is due to retire this year was another welcome guest. The new Pensions Officer from Headquarters, Lt Col Irven also attended with Mrs Irven. Another old friend whom we were pleased to see was Major Arthur Neve.

We started arriving at Ovingdean on Thursday and by Friday we had quite a goodly number present. There were 15 ex-POWs with their wives or escorts, from various parts of the country, and there were seven local ex-POWs, also accompanied by their wives or escorts. We met in the bar and had quite a natter, some of us had not met for five or six years. A buffet was provided and as the wine flowed so the spirits rose. Or in some cases, a large quantity of spirits were 'downed'.

It was quite a good evening but it was decided that at next year's reunion we would try to arrange for some music - just to keep the feet tapping to match the tongues wagging.

Saturday morning we held our AGM. After the Exhortation we stood in silence for a minute to remember our dead comrades. Then came the Apologies for Absence. There were quite a lot of these, the most notable being those from Sid Hoyle and Sam Keating.

The main topic of the meeting was finance or rather the lack of it. Because of the parlous state of our accounts, the Committee decided to forgo any honoraria which they would normally receive to help defray the cost of phone, stamps and stationery etc. Perhaps we will be richer by next year and so be able to meet our commitments and honour our obligations.

Our Chairman Bill Griffiths MBE, has been having a busy time as usual. Earlier in the year he came to London to take part in a BBC documentary about the life of Sir Laurens van der Post. Bill had known Sir Laurens since wartime Java. Indeed, so did many other St Dunstan's ex-POWs. In fact Sir Laurens was until his death an honorary member of St Dunstan's ex-POWs.

More recently he was in the City of London at St Lawrence in Old Jewry. There he met Viscount Slim and the Countess Mountbatten. The Service was dedicated to the Far East Campaign. Viscount Slim is the son of the 14th Army Commander General "Bill" Slim. Lord Louis Mountbatten was Supremo of South East Asia Command. He gets about does our Billy but he always has Alice with him to keep him on the straight and narrow.

Sir John and Lady Gingell welcomed the guests and said how delighted we were to have Sir Henry and Sir Roger with us but unfortunately, Lady Austin was not able to join us at the Dinner.

Sir Roger spoke of the growing commercialism of Charities. It is 'Big Business' now. He also told us a story of a father giving the rudiments of capitalism to his young son and of the son's

practical interpretation of it. A good story and very well received. Sir Roger was then presented with a plaque to mark the occasion of his visit.

Tom Hart then presented to Sir Henry, our retiring Chairman of St Dunstan's, a framed picture of a pheasant. Sir Henry expressed his delight and pleasure of the gift. Later Elsie Lockhart presented Sir Roger a bouquet to take home to Lady Austin and then another to Lady Gingell.

In his closing speech, Bill Griffiths invited Sir Henry to become an honorary member of St Dunstan's ex-POWs. Sir Henry accepted and was presented with a badge.

Afterwards we adjourned to the bar where Sir Henry and Sir John joined us and there most of us stayed until closing time.

On Sunday morning, the memorial service for St Dunstan's ex-POWs was enhanced by the Soester Byzantyns Koor, a choir of about 40 Dutch people who generously offered to take part in the service. A magnificent gesture of solidarity with us. They were wonderful. They are very sympathetic people and as the *Last Post* was sounded at the end of the service, these young people from the Netherlands had tears streaming from their eyes.

Our Sunday evening entertainment was another choir, The Bellavoce. They are an all woman choir from Brighton with beautiful voices and a programme of popular songs. A most fitting end to our weekend.

Before I bring this report to a close, I must give thanks to Trevor Richardson of PBK for the way he handled the catering. The meal was cooked to perfection and the expertise and professionalism of the service was of the highest quality.

Sir John and Lady Gingell have our most sincere thanks for the strong support which they give to St Dunstan's ex-POWs. We also owe a great deal to Susan Harrison and all the staff at Ovingdean for the willing assistance they gave in getting things organised.

What would we do without Beryl Gardner and Mary Stenning. These two ladies put in a tremendous amount of work to help the Hon Secretary Tom Hart and Bill Griffiths to make these reunions

such a success. So thanks to Tom and Billy and we now look forward to next year.

The 1999 ex-POW reunion will be held over the weekend April 9th-12th. Anyone who wishes to attend this reunion, must book accommodation at Ovingdean through the correct channels. At the time of writing this is through your local Welfare Visitor.



The Gillyvors

Author: Catherine Cookson

Reader: Arthur Blake

Duration: 11 hours

Catalogue number: 8380

Good storytellers have ever been popular and none can deny that Catherine Cookson writes "a canny tale". This one, set in the Victorian age relates how a country schoolteacher became a social outcast when he chose to cohabit with a local girl and produced with her six children out of wedlock. Such a scenario would hardly raise an eyebrow today of course, but it was thought quite scandalous and shocking then, though it goes without saying that those most ready to cast outraged stones were themselves steeped in greater sin.

But the condemnation was widespread nevertheless and it was preached from the pulpit that the sins of the father shall be visited on the sons (and daughters too) and though it is possible to trace the odour of bigotry in such a pronouncement, the fundamental selfishness of the parents certainly created problems for the offspring which family affection and the best education the father could provide could do very little to offset: there is, moreover, no evidence that the family laughed a lot. For anyone who likes their stories well spiced with unhappiness and tragedy however, *The Gillyvors* will be a real treat and I have no hesitation in recommending it to you. After all, what does it matter that it is a miserable tale that "goes on a bit" if one can confidently claim "Aye, but it's true to life isn't it?"

THE NEW REHABILITATION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

by Kendrick Morris,
Head of Rehabilitation & Training

St Dunstaners may be aware that a lot of building work has been going on between the Craft Workshop and the Annexe walkway to build a two floor Rehabilitation and Training Area. On the ground floor a new lounge has been built which has an archway access to the Craft Workshop and an automatic doorway into the garden.

The new lounge area is a relaxed, multi-purpose place for people to come and enjoy a wide range of activities. The lounge has a braille and tape library, an IT access area where people can use a CCTV to enlarge print, a computer and scanner to enable print to be voice synthesised. Future plans include Internet access and a talking book machine.

A new kitchen has also been built on the ground floor, with three work areas. The first is a wheelchair accessible kitchen, that allows the use of gas and electricity, where people can use a washing machine, tumble drier and dishwasher, a low level oven with hot plate stand, convenient cupboards and drawers, and a sink with accessible taps. The other two are standard kitchens, one electric, and one gas, with colour contrasted worktops - light for one kitchen and dark for the other. The lighting in the kitchen is adjustable when required. There is a dining table



The faucets at the front of this low-level sink unit allow a wheelchair user to draw water with ease.

with chairs and a daily living aids display area. St Dunstaners and guests alike can come into the dining area to make tea for themselves and their friends.

The lounge, dining area and the craft workshop are open from 9.00am to 10.00pm. This allows for activities and social events to continue in the evening. The kitchen area, though accessible, is not meant to be used without staff supervision.

The first floor of this extension is the Rehabilitation and Training Department, where Trainees learn braille and information technology skills, and have access to careers counselling and the Rehabilitation Officers. This area comprises of an open-plan office environment where the IT instructor and Rehab Officers are based, with their equipment, and two small enclosed offices where Lynda Stringer, Training Coordinator, and Kendrick Morris, Head of Rehabilitation & Training, reside.

Around two sides of the open-plan area is a lino walkway which allows ease of access.

The colour scheme on both floors has been to paint the wallpapered walls ivory, and to use bright green for handrails and wall sockets. The floors are a medium dark brown, with a hint of flecked green, blue and red. This has created a feeling of warmth and relaxation in these areas.

By having the Rehabilitation and Training Team working closely together we have enhanced our service to St Dunstaners.

Our thanks go to the Annexe Steering Group Committee who met regularly in consultation with staff and Residents (Sid Doy, Margaret Bingham and Ron Cattell), so that this venture was a joint success for all those involved.

The new Rehabilitation & Training Department will be officially opened in September.

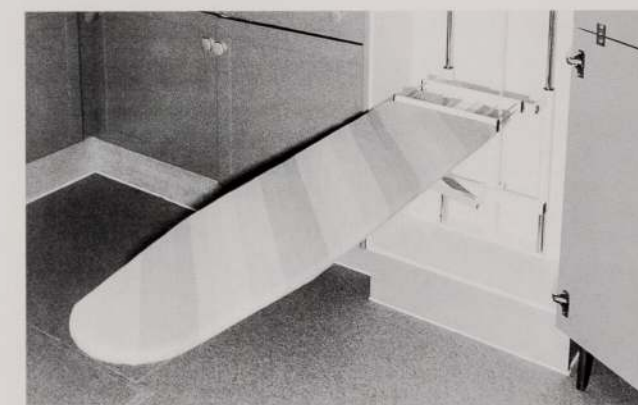


Above: Extendable shelves lend an ergonomic advantage to packing away pots and pans.



Above: ROVI Samantha Rogers and Senior ROVI Lucy Roberts prepare for a braille tutorial.

Below: An ironing board that can be adjusted to suit the height of the user is another handy feature.



Reunion Round-up

As this is Sir Henry Leach's final year as Chairman of St Dunstan's he has been attending each area reunion to bid farewell to as many St Dunstaners and widows as possible.

The first of this year's reunions was held at *Jarvis Norwich Hotel* on April 1st where eight St Dunstaners and 13 widows attended. Mr Michael Delmar-Morgan presided on behalf of St Dunstan's Council.

As usual Ovingdean hosted the Brighton reunion where St Dunstan's Council Member John Walbrugh presided and 17 St Dunstaners and 24 widows attended. Mrs Daisy Kenward, widow of Edward Kenward, who will soon celebrate her 104rd birthday was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs Walbrugh.

On April 29th HMS *Liverpool* was receiving a cheery welcome as it sailed back into port, the



Mrs Daisy Kenward, aged 103 with Paul Walker.

'Reds' were preparing to thrash West Ham 4-0 at home and St Dunstan's had taken over *The Gladstone Hotel*. There were 25 St Dunstaners and 14 widows present and Sir Henry presided.

The second Brighton reunion at Ovingdean was attended by 29 St Dunstaners and 15 widows. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

HAIR HITLER

Strange news from waxwork museum *Madame Tussaud's*. The hair on the figure of Adolf Hitler has been growing! Twice now it has "extended" by three inches. A case for an exorcist, perhaps, but so far the problem has been dealt with by a barber.

Science seems at a loss to explain this but the demon dictator's dummy, like all at Tussaud's, is crowned with human hair, in this instance imported from Germany. Popular speculation suggests that 60-odd years of accumulated bacteria somehow "re-activated" the hair during hot weather (hair and fingernails are known to continue growing after death, but the phenomena has only been documented up to three months).

The Hitler effigy has been the centre of an ironic mystery in the past. During the blitz when Tussaud's was bombed to the ground it somehow escaped being burnt by the searing fire.

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

We welcome the following new St Dunstaner and hope he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Mr Andrew Mahoney of Abbeymead, Gloucester became a St Dunstaner on March 24th. Now aged 31 he served in the French Foreign Legion from 1985 to 1989. An expert French linguist he joined The Royal Marines on returning to England, serving first with a Commando and then with the Special Boat Section.

Whilst on a jungle exercise Lance Corporal Mahoney received a severe head injury from a falling tree which blinded him in the right eye and severely distorted the vision in his left. Since leaving The Royal Marines he has started work for Ensleigh Insurance Services in Gloucester. Mr Mahoney is married to Lorna.

CLUB NEWS

BRIDGE

We have had a successful year although our members are fewer. We meet on the last Sunday of each month for our regular duplicate sessions. We would be pleased to welcome any St Dunstaner who comes to Brighton to our club and could find a partner for him or her.

The winning duplicate Bridge pair over the year was Wally and Pam Lethbridge with an average percentage of 52-97.

We had an away match with Horsham Bridge in the spring and a return match at home in the autumn. We lost the trophy on each occasion. We also had a match against the local Masters - we did not win this match either. The Masters very kindly brought a bottle for each St Dunstaner.

This year we have lost two very popular and regular visitors, Bert Ward and Bob Fullard. They will be sadly missed and we send our sympathy to their families. We were also very sad to learn that Jeff Connell passed away recently. Jeff did such a lot for the club in the early days. Our sympathy goes to his wife and family.

Our 'Christmas Party' was held at the end of January this year. It had to be postponed in December owing to the illness of our Chairman Reg Goding. Thankfully he is now fully recovered and back in harness once more.

We played our spring match away to Horsham on April 19th. The home team won the trophy. We hope to beat them when we meet again in October.

Secretary Fay Andrews
Chairman Reg Goding

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Rachel Turner on February 23rd. She is the grand-daughter of *Dave and Brenda Thomas* of Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Joseph Lanzon on March 18th. He is the grandson of *Mike and Margaret Kelbie* of Portsoy, Banffshire.

Amy Louise on April 7th. She is the first grandchild of *Ken and Sylvia Burton* of Washington, Tyne & Wear.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Jan Gutowski, son of *Mary and the late Boleslaw Gutowski*, has been awarded the Tyson Medal for Astronomy and Mathematics and has been made a Scholar. He has also received the Certificate of Advanced Study in Mathematics with Distinction.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

David and Ruth Smith of Worcester, Hereford & Worcester on March 29th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Trevor and Beryl Tatchell of Cardiff, South Glamorgan on March 27th.

George and Lilian Roake of Saltdean, East Sussex on March 28th.

Bob and Joan Osborne of Saltdean, East Sussex on April 24th.

Ronald and Phoebe Phillips of Steyning, West Sussex on April 24th.

Vincent and Ruby Garner of Wallington, Surrey on May 5th.

George and June Shepherd of Reading, Berkshire on May 8th.

William and Mary Crombie of Horsham, West Sussex on May 10th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings of Verwood, Dorset who celebrated 66 years of marriage on March 26th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Jean Downward on April 3rd. She was the wife of *Herbert Downward* of Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

Mrs Kathleen Lowe (known as Kit) on April 9th. She was the wife of *Arthur Lowe* of Hayling Island, Hampshire.

Madame Rosalie Lasowski on April 11th. She was the wife of *Jean Lasowski* of Crépy-en-Valois, France.

Mrs Ruby Lucas of St Asaph, Clwyd on March 6th. She was the widow of *Jack Lucas*.

Mrs Evelyn Woodget of Yelverton, Devon on April 3rd. She was the widow of *Dudley Woodget*.

Mrs Edith Shonfield of Reading, Berkshire on April 7th. She was the widow of *John Shonfield*.

Mrs Edith Channing of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire on April 20th. She was the widow of *Frederick Channing*.

Mrs Elsie Ince of Peacehaven, East Sussex on May 2nd. She was the widow of *John Ince*.

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.

Henry Sawbridge,

Royal Corps of Signals

Henry Sawbridge of Onchan, Douglas, Isle of Man died on March 4th while on holiday in Tenerife, aged 75. He had been a St Dunstaner since April 1992. He enlisted at the age of 18 and served as Signaller with the Royal Corps of Signals. Having trained as an Intercept Operator, he was posted to Malta where No.8 Wireless Group were stationed and it was out there he contracted the illness which led to his eventual blindness. He moved with them to North Africa and Italy before his final discharge in 1946. He married Joan Kelly in 1951. At the time of his call-up, Mr Sawbridge was half way through his training as an Articled Clerk with a firm of Accountants and, on his return to civilian life, he rejoined his old firm and qualified as a Chartered Accountant, a profession which he practised until his early retirement. It was then that he and his wife moved to the Isle of Man. Throughout his life he retained a keen interest in all sports. We send his widow Joan and their six children our sincere sympathy.

Captain John B. Windsor,

2nd Canadian Armoured Regiment

Captain John Best Windsor of Victoria, Canada died on March 6th, aged 77. He became a St Dunstaner in 1944. Having graduated top of his class at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, before the outbreak of World War II, he was serving with the 2nd Canadian Armoured Regiment when he was wounded in action at Melfa River, Italy in 1944. After training at Church Stretton he repatriated to Canada in 1945. He attended Queen's University School of Industrial and Personnel Management, graduating eighth out of a class of 32. He wrote several

books, the first entitled *Blind Date* contained sketches of life at Church Stretton. A later book *The Mouth of the Wolf* was introduced by Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. Captain Windsor also involved in local government and ran as a candidate for the New Democratic Party. In 1969 he returned to school attending the University of Victoria and obtained a BA and MA, concentrating on Canadian History. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen, son Stephen, daughters Jane and Judith and all members of the family.

Frederick Hobbs,
Royal Engineers

Frederick James Hobbs of Ovingdean died on April 21st, aged 99. At the time of his death he was our oldest St Dunstaner. Having enlisted, shortly before his 16th birthday, with the Royal Engineers, he served as Corporal until his discharge in November 1918. Earlier that year he was wounded by a shell splinter in St Quentin, France and he lost his sight as a result. On his return to civilian life he became an industrial chemist, working in South Africa and Rio de Janeiro for some time. He married and had five children, some of whom went abroad as far afield as Mexico and Brazil. Fred was already a widower by the time he was admitted to St Dunstan's in 1984 and coped very well indeed on his own, and particularly enjoyed cooking. He was given a special 90th birthday party by his family who travelled from far and wide to attend. He eventually became a resident in May 1989. Our sympathy goes to his children, grandchildren and all other members of the family.

Wilfred Saxby,
Royal Air Force

Wilfred Saxby of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk died on April 24th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1964. He enlisted in September 1939 and served as Corporal in the Royal Air Force, until his discharge in 1943 due to ill health. After the war he went into the teaching profession and eventually became Assistant Headmaster. He later became a Lay Preacher and also did a lot of public speaking. Always very involved with local church activities, he and his second wife Doris, together with some other couples in Brockley, at one time

started a Puppet Theatre to raise funds for the church restoration appeal and this proved to be a great success. He will also be remembered as a regular contributor to our Short Story Competitions in the *Review*. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all members of the family.

Edward Paris,
King's Royal Rifle Corps

Edward John Paris of New Malden, Surrey died on April 30th, aged 80 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1949. He enlisted in January 1940 with the King's Royal Rifle Corps and served as a Rifleman until his discharge in 1942. It was whilst on leave in England that Ted, as he was known by all, suffered bomb injuries to both his arms and lost his sight. On his return to civilian life he did various jobs, including joinery, and at one time he owned a launderette. In his leisure hours, he enjoyed archery, cookery and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Janet, his sons John and David and all other members of the family.

Sydney Kirkham,
Reconnaissance Corps

Sydney Kirkham of Birkenhead, Merseyside died on May 3rd, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. Called up for service in 1940 he trained as an Infantryman, during which time he wore three famous cap badges, The Cheshires, the Loyal Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment. His Battalion was then re-badged and overnight became the Reconnaissance Corps and posted overseas. After a change of plans, they were eventually diverted to Singapore, then up country to Malaya, fighting their way down again to Singapore. Sydney received serious wounds to his eye and chest and, following his capture, spent four months in Changi gaol before being sent to work on the Burma railway. During this time, he suffered severe health problems but, on his return to civilian life after his discharge in 1946, he quietly resumed his job as a milkman and continued until his retirement. In later years particularly, he derived a great deal of pleasure from his garden. Despite an illness, Mr Kirkham bravely attended the Liverpool reunion just four days before he died. Our sympathy goes to his widow Florence, their daughter Carol and all other members of the family.