



**St Dunstons  
Review  
January/February  
1987**





## From the Chairman

In our last *Review* I looked over my shoulder at some of our achievements during the past year. Now we need to look ahead to 1987 — *this* year.

We can look forward to a lot. In the spring, a new lift in the Annexe at Ian Fraser House. In the autumn, completion of the work at Pearson House, an end to all that mess and chaos and a better, brighter place to live in. In between, an undiminished programme of reunions, hobbies, club activities, sport, visits and holidays; and a fuller participation by our widows. Perhaps a rather better summer?

So as the hail hammers at your window panes, the gales howl in your chimneys, the cat won't go out because of the snow and your elderly car battery gives its reluctant croak before lapsing into final silence; comfort yourselves with the thought that already the days are getting longer, spring is only just around the corner and I hope you will all look forward to enjoying a very...

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Henry Leach*

### WHAT'S ON IN 1987

Please add this to the calendar of events: 1st Computer Weekend 11th-12th April, 1987.

### THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff at H.Q., Ian Fraser House and Pearson House thank the many St. Dunstaners and other friends including widows, at home and overseas who have sent Christmas greetings, and regret they are unable to respond individually. To all of you however, we send the warmest greetings and good wishes for your happiness and health in 1987.

Carol Henderson and family thank all St. Dunstaners for their Christmas greetings and send good wishes for the New Year.

Phyllis Rogers thanks the many St. Dunstaners who have kindly sent Christmas greetings and sends greetings to you all for your health and happiness in 1987.

Kathleen Broughton sends her thanks to all from whom she has been so pleased to receive Christmas greetings and telephone calls which help to keep her so closely in touch with St. Dunstan's.

Vivien Jackson wishes all her St. Dunstaners and Widows and their families good health and happiness for 1987 and would like to thank all those who sent her cards and greetings this Christmas.

### REVELATION FOR THE HANDS

An exhibition of sculpture for people to touch opened in Leeds City Art Gallery on January 22nd and runs until March 22nd. The exhibition, entitled 'Revelation for the Hands', includes works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and many other famous names, in a variety of materials from the conventional wood, bronze and stone to resin, fibre glass and synthetic ocelot fur! It has been designed to be enjoyed by blind and partially sighted visitors.

From April 5th to May 16th the exhibition will be at the Mead Gallery at the University of Warwick Arts Centre.

### RESPECT YOUR OLD TIME-KEEPERS

Several cases have occurred recently where removal men have bodily removed grandfather clocks and other types of antique timepieces without dismantling them. This causes a great deal of damage, sometimes to the wooden cabinet itself and, invariably, to the clock movement. Removal firms frequently disclaim any responsibility under the insurance which they say does not cover mechanical derangement.

Old clocks are expensive to repair, particularly if cabinet work is also involved. So please, when clocks of this type are to be removed, call in an expert to dismantle and pack it ready for the removers to handle.

## St Dunstons Review

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Cover Picture: During the Ladies Reunion, some of St. Dunstan's 'birds' pose under an appropriate sign at Harewood House.



# Electronic Organ Weekend

October 17th - 22nd

By Stan Coe

Our long weekend began on Friday morning, 17th October by our worthy chairman Jim Padley opening the gathering that had assembled in the Winter Garden. After a resumé of what had taken place during the past year we then discussed suggestions for the coming year. Many voices spoke up and a happy note was immediately struck by all of us.

On our first afternoon most of us joined the outing which, as usual, was a great success allowing us to relax over a pleasant tea at the Wingrove Hotel in Alfriston. During our coach trip out, the remainder left in the house were entertained by Clive Allen with a 20th Century medley on the organ and by the remarks during dinner it was obvious everyone had enjoyed themselves. In the evening we were entertained by Mr Norris who, although he was playing for the first time on a very strange organ to himself, gave a very good performance. During his recital he broke in with a splendid pianoforte medley, that for myself was an excellent introduction to his skill on any keyboard. We were also very fortunate, for we had more pleasure to come from this gentleman when we paid our visit to the Seaford Royal British Legion on Tuesday evening.

After a Saturday morning free, we were entertained in the afternoon by Roy Bannister in the Winter Garden who had brought along some multi dubbing recordings which were introduced by his charming wife, Joyce. On the Saturday evening all of our members, with their escorts, sat down to a magnificent dinner, presented by the Red Ball catering company. We had as our guests Mr and Mrs Ernie Took who volunteered to give any of the men private tuition whenever time permitted. The evening was a resounding success and judging by the conversation we would hope to repeat a similar evening at next year's weekend. After the food, accompanied by some very good wine,

had been dealt with we all regrouped up in the annexe where Ernie played out the evening as many of our group tripped the light fantastic.

On the following morning, that being the Sunday, many of the group attended the Church service at St Peter's Church, Brighton. After lunch on that same afternoon, a young man, one Steven Thorpe who was accompanied by his parents, joined us in the Winter Garden where we listened to a feast of music which entailed every type, from Church recital to popular hits of the day. There is no doubt this 23 year old virtuoso of the keyboard has a great future. As I said in my address to him, his music has the beauty and clarity of raindrops that glistened in the sunlight, revealing in every pearl of water, the colours of the rainbow. Such is his delivery and the magnitude of his performance one could listen to him spellbound for many hours. On the same evening once more we were dazzled by Tony Back who gave us a complete evening of wonderful music, as well as a quiz and then rounded his evening off, asking us to join in a sing-song, which everyone in the house enjoyed. It is obvious that here is a man who will be asked to come back at any time to give us more of his musical charm.

After a free morning the Monday afternoon was taken up by a spectacular performance by Alan Blake who in his inimitable style, had us all humming, tapping our feet and thoroughly enjoying a grand selection, and if that wasn't sufficient he tinkled the ivories while everyone in the lounge sipped their tea. At our usual Monday evening dance Ernie Took provided a galaxy of music in his own easy style, where once more we danced and sang the whole evening. A very enjoyable day.

Tuesday morning saw the whole group gathering in the Winter Garden ready to have our General Meeting, which was

chaired by Jim Padley. Many things were discussed for the forthcoming year as well as the happiness which had been evoked by the present weekend for which a vote of thanks went to Sheila Morris for all the help she had given us. It appears that the same chairman and committee have to stand for one more year and the meeting declared itself closed just before lunch. Our weekend which had obviously been a resounding success came to an end as we listened enraptured to one who has become our dear friend, Douglas Reeve. His easy manner and pleasant wit rounded off a wonderful electronic organ weekend.

## ELECTRONIC ORGAN FOR SALE

A St. Dunstaner wishes to offer his Wurlitzer electronic organ for sale. It is in good condition, complete with stool and instruction manual. The asking price is £500. Would anyone interested please write to The Editor, *St. Dunstan's Review*, at Headquarters.

## UP WITH THE BRAINS Computer Weekend, November 15/16th

By Ray Hazan

The whistling in the corridor stopped abruptly as the two old friends met.

'Hey ho, and what are you doing down here?'

'I've come for the computer weekend'.

'Oh, up with the brains are you?'

I am grateful to that unknown inquisitor, for it enables me to dispel from the very beginning the idea that you need brains to use a computer. Typing skills, imagination and a good dose of idleness (let the machine take the strain), are ample qualifications for the beginner!

The computer enthusiast varies little from any other enthusiast in that he or she is more than willing to share knowledge and experience. The object of the weekend, therefore, was to gather together all

## SECOND DAN JUDO MAN

Congratulations to Peter Watson, of Brighton, who achieved his Second Dan over and above the Black Belt at the Headquarters of the Kyushindo International Judo Association at Highgate on November 16th.

To show that he is Second Dan, Peter received a secondary badge for his belt, following the initial circular badge awarded on achievement of the First Dan, which he received in December 1985. He will now be working towards his Third Dan in November 1989. Peter explained that all the Judo movements have been learnt by the time you reach black belt stage and that the Dan grades are purely for the purpose of perfecting your style and skill; each grade has to be that bit better than the last. In Kyushindo Judo you are not allowed to make use of strength and size: balance and timing are of all importance. Peter also teaches classes of all levels in Judo, besides practising himself every week, and is studying for a First Aid Course examination which he will do this month (Jan 87).



ducing ourselves, describing the machine we were using, and for what purposes. Answers varied from those who were attending simply to find out what all the fuss was about, to those who find the computer essential to their work, or hobby pursuit. This form of introduction meant that those of similar interests could get together. Much time was allowed for this and for beginners to 'play' on the key-boards throughout the weekend.

On the Saturday, we were addressed by our first guest, Paul Blenkhorn of Diamond Wilkinson Associates. Paul recently moved to the company from Birmingham, where he was a trail blazer in writing programs which enabled blind people to use primarily the BBC micro, and now, the NEC and the new Amstrad PC. Because of the widely varying degree of knowledge in the audience, he confined his talk to giving a useful and interesting overview of various systems, from speech units to braille embossers. His talk prompted many questions, and we were privileged to have him there despite the many demands on him.

If you were visiting IFH without a calendar of events at hand, you would only have to keep your ears open to learn about the meeting in progress. The dining-room, corridors and bar echoed with such phrases as 'just to the left of the function 1 key', 'I find nested loops a trial', and 'get AS%'. Technology is full of jargon, but all the speakers had to be congratulated on the way in which they kept everything simple, and it was during the 'off-duty' periods that much of the benefit was obtained from discussion and explanation.

We had two further excellent speakers on the Sunday morning. Mr. Vivian Daniels, a former radio producer, who has written many of the programs now used by the visually handicapped community. Being blind himself, his programs are ideally suited to use with the voice synthesiser. It was both useful and interesting to listen to the philosophy behind the writing; his approach, his objective and its execution. The proceeds of the money he earns from his software goes to a charitable trust in aid of third world blind people.

Our second speaker, David Calderwood was the founder of the 'Computer Talk' quarterly cassette magazine. This is a must for any user, especially for the BBC Micro owner. The cassette contains many items of interest; how readers use their systems, latest developments, extracts from magazines, software evaluation and copies of programs written by other enthusiasts. The tape costs £4 per annum and initial enquiries should be made via the secretary, Mike Cassidy, 137 Almond Road, Gorleston on Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8EN. David is a games enthusiast and has written many audio games, including golf, pin ball, and many others. He gave us a mouth watering appetiser into a totally different facet of computing.

The final session was a useful input by all members present. Phil Duffee is maintaining a register of all users and asked that anyone owning a computer, whatever the make, should write to him letting him know which system they have, how they use it, what programs they run. He can then act as a focal point to redirect enquiries. He did emphasise that all enquiries should be in writing, as telephone calls interrupt lessons. Peter Jones reiterated that his 'St. Dunstan's Prog 1' was freely available on both disk and cassette. This contains diary and sorting facilities that would get any beginner off to a good start. The student tape library has a good collection of books; membership of the library is not necessary, simply contact Goswell Road on 837 9921 and ask for a list of tapes.

We were pleased, and fortunate to have with us Tom Laydon of the Manpower Services Commission. Quite apart from being of immense help practically, his knowledge and advice within the working environment was of great benefit to us all. What better than to end on a note of advice from him. Second hand BBC Micro's are becoming cheaply available. The early models can be easily updated, thus for a 3 figure sum a whole new challenge can open up, be it a talking typewriter, office filing system, a talking game, or a mental stimulator. We look forward to having you join the group at our next weekend in April, 1987.



## SAFE PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE

By Walter Thornton

*Walter Thornton, O.B.E., Chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution of the Blind (BRIB) shows the Rt. Hon. Norman Fowler, MP, Secretary of State for Social Services, a model of the BRIB's Rehabilitation and Resource Centre.*

This was the title of a one-day seminar held recently at the Department of Transport in London, as part of the European Road Safety Year. It was the latest in a succession of meetings which began five years ago during the International Year of the Disabled, when the declared objective was 'Travel without Handicap for the Handicapped'. Two civil servants have been closely identified with the process represented by this series of meetings, Sir Peter Baldwin, K.C.B., former Permanent Under Secretary, and Anne Fry. The latter's contribution has been recognised by her appointment to head the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, a statutory body established by the Transport Act of 1985, and also by her being one of the 'Women of the Year' at the 1986 Savoy Luncheon.

'Safe Paths to Independence' had Peter Bottomley, M.P., Under Secretary of State for Transport, as its principal speaker. Others represented consumer groups such as the National Federation of the Blind, the Access Committee and St. Dunstan's. There were also representatives

from sections of the community providing services, such as the police, local government, British Home Stores, Avon County Council Surveyor's Department, the Electricity Council and the Street Works Act Review Committee. One does not expect results overnight from seminars such as the 'Safe Paths to Independence' one. It does, however, represent another stage in the process of shaping opinion which leads to action.

It brought out the need for handicapped groups to pool their efforts to secure action. It was another step in the constant campaign to restrict pavement-parking (a reminder about which is being sent out by the Department of Transport with car licence reminders) and to promote avoidance of other unnecessary obstructions on pavements, like the portable shop signs which seem to have mushroomed lately. Once again, it brought home the need for co-operation by all and sundry in easing the progress of the handicapped in going about their lawful business. It was another reminder to the powers-that-be that independence for