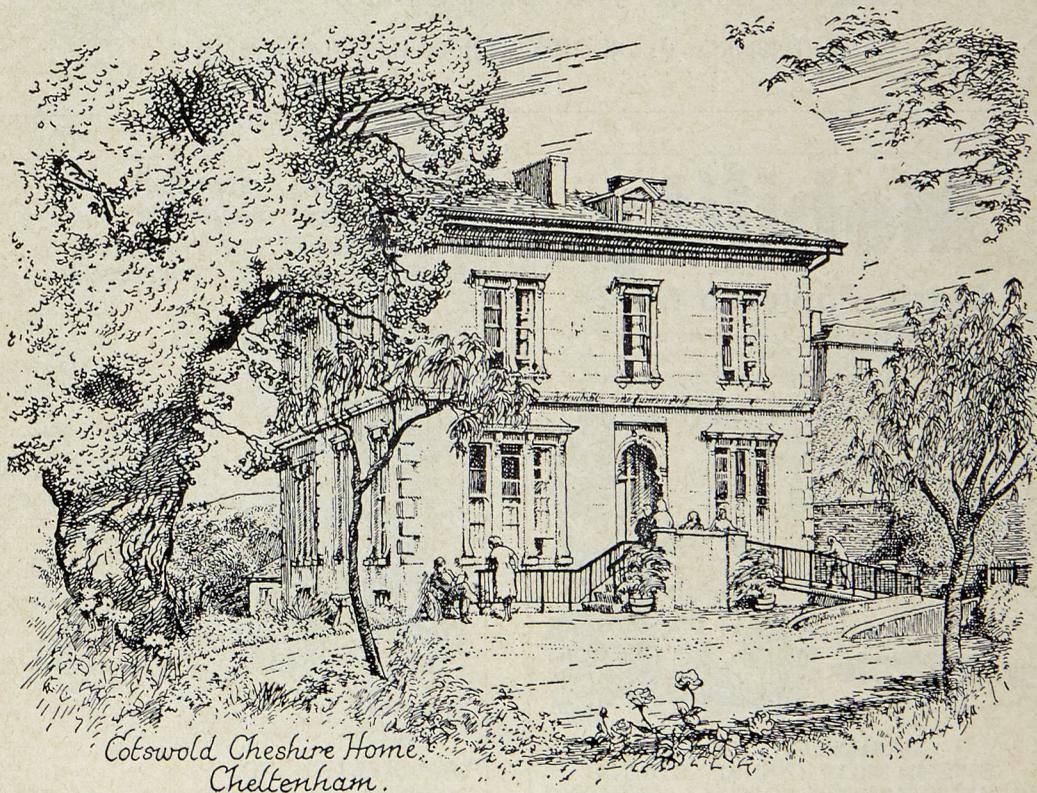


# Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes Price 10p Summer 1974



*Cotswold Cheshire Home  
Cheltenham.*

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The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes

Vol 20 No. 2 Summer 1974 10p

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**Cover:** Artist's impression of Cotswold Cheshire Home, Cheltenham.

# The Chairman's Message

The *Cheshire Smile* is devoted mainly to keeping everyone up to date with news and views from Cheshire Homes, both in Britain and Overseas, and this page is therefore best used by dealing with the work of the Trustees of the Foundation. During the last 10 years we have established central services both to meet the combined needs of the Homes, and to deal with special needs which are not for purely local character. Six such developments may be of interest here:

- a) In 1965 Leonard Cheshire founded the Cheshire Service Corps to train people in the special skills and philosophy needed in caring for the physically handicapped and to help provide the Homes with suitably skilled staff. This training is currently being expanded and it is hoped that it will eventually form part of the 'Residential Social Work' training and qualification at present being developed nationally by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work.
- b) In 1968 a specially equipped wing was added to Le Court Cheshire Home in Hampshire. Its purpose is to accommodate 15 people with special handicaps, notably dependence on respirators, whose care had previously been beyond the competence of most Homes.
- c) In 1970 an Adviser on special equipment was appointed to advise the Homes and individual Residents on the best facilities and equipment to meet their special needs. He has special orthotics training and special knowledge of the architectural and equipment needs of the physically handicapped.
- d) In 1971 a Homes Planning Committee consisting of six Trustees, the General Secretary and the Adviser on Equipment was formed to advise Steering Committees and Management Committees on starting, designing and modifying or enlarging Homes and to advise the Trustees on the viability of new projects and ideas.
- e) In 1972 a Psychiatric Committee consisting of five Trustees, the General Secretary, and two outside members with special interest in this field was set up to foster the Foundation's possible contribution in the half-way houses and Group Homes for ex-psychiatric hospital patients.
- f) In 1974 the Homes Counselling Service consisting of a Head of the Service and two



professional counsellors was set up to offer counsel and discussion to any resident, applicant, staff member, Committee member, or voluntary worker who might feel the need for personal or group guidance in relation to their life or work in the Homes.

- g) In 1974 a small administrative and 'care' wing is being opened in collaboration with the Greater London Council to service the Cheshire Estate of specially designed flats and bungalows built in Lambeth (Tulse Hill) as a combined enterprise between the Greater London Council and the Cheshire Foundation to meet the needs of Londoners with severe physical handicaps in one or more members of the family.

As this is virtually my last *Cheshire Smile* message I hope I shall be forgiven for having itemised in this way the work which has also been done at our end. But whether it be done locally or centrally, our work is directed to the common goal which must never be forgotten.

*Edmund Jones*

# VIEWPOINT

## COUNTING THE COST

In the article entitled 'An Independent View' in the Spring Number of *The Smile*, Edwin Styles raised the question of what he termed 'financial deprivation'. This question has in turn prompted other letters and some deep thinking not only on the part of other residents and the Editors, but also members of Management Committees and of Support Groups.

Under the Constitution as outlined by The Cheshire Foundation the management of each Home is vested in a committee representative of the local community. This committee is in turn responsible for raising its own funds and using them for the benefit of residents with the approval of the Trustees, and statements of income and expenditure together with a Balance Sheet are submitted to them every year. No direction as to the charges made for the accommodation and care provided, nor as to what proportion of the money raised shall be used for capital or other expenditure is stipulated.

With cash flow as tight as it is at present and with little prospect of the money market getting easier or of interest rates declining, with stocks, shares and 'gilt edged' at their present record low for the past 15 years, with charitable appeals increasing and the response to them falling away; with rates and taxes rising and profits diminishing, the climate is anything but opportune for further extensions and development, but despite such a picture of gloom Cheshire Homes are booming. More are being opened, extensions are being carried out and plans for more purpose-built homes are being drawn up not only in the U.K. but throughout the world.

Is not the reason for such expansion because people have been fired by what has been achieved under The Foundation already and they can see that administration costs are minimal and that the money given, the energy spent and the goodwill imparted have been used to such good purpose over the past 25 years?

It was heartening to read in the December issue of *Which* that the Cheshire Foundation spends one of the lowest percentages of its income on administration (2.1%), the fund raising costs though not specified are even less and at the same time it takes pride of place in having the lowest current assets, representing 0.8% of annual expenditure, of the 36 national charities which are listed.

It is interesting to note that in the article on the new Home recently opened at Madurai, South India, the Local Authority provided the land on which the Home was built, and it may be that with the cost of land ever increasing and taking up such a large part of the overall cost of a new

Home, Steering Committees might try to approach and persuade Local Authorities and Charitable Organisations to allow land to be used for such a purpose at a nominal Ground Rent.

The usual term for Leasehold occupation, 99 years, is a long time, and with the present rate of change should we not perhaps be a little over-optimistic to think that Cheshire Homes as at present existing will remain unmolested and out of reach of the winds of change which will be blowing in the next decade or so. Perhaps a conference on such ideas might be an appropriate place to discuss the wider implications of such thinking.

Returning to Mr Styles' article regarding the payment made by residents toward the cost of their maintenance, the charges must vary from Home to Home depending on the services supplied as in all hospitals, nursing homes and similar establishments. Wages and costs vary from district to district. Some Homes rely on voluntary support to a greater extent than others (here we would express the hope that such support in whatever field it is given should be used to the fullest extent). Some Homes have facilities for growing their own produce while others may have none, some may have 'heavy nursing' cases, others may not be geared to take such severely disabled residents, and so the case for differences in costs and charges could be multiplied.

Perhaps 75% of all residents in the Homes in the U.K. are sponsored by the Social Services Departments of Local Authorities and it is they who in the main accept responsibility for the balance of the day to day maintenance charges for residents after they have been assessed to contribute according to their financial circumstances. It is up to Management Committees to negotiate with their local Director of Social Services a true and realistic charge for providing that special degree of care and attention which is due to residents in Cheshire Homes. Such an agreed charge will then usually be accepted by any other Local Authority using the Home.

The contribution made by residents is usually calculated in accordance with the Regulations made under the Social Security Acts and takes into consideration income from whatever source plus a 'notional income' from capital. At present if a resident has capital less than £325 it is completely ignored, as will any income it may produce. If capital is between £325 and £800 a weekly income of 5p for every £25 will be assumed, and for capital in excess of £800 a weekly income of 12½p per week per £25 is assumed and taken into account. At the time of writing all pensions and invalidity allowances will be going up as from 22nd July, at which time the amount disregarded as personal allowance or pocket money will be increased from £1.55 to £2.00 per week. Private pensions, annuities, superannuation payments and other such regular income is also taken into account when assessing

the contribution a resident will make towards his maintenance but the first £1.00 of any such income is also disregarded.

- (A) Thus if a resident has an Invalidity Allowance of (say) £10.65 with less than £325 in savings, he will be required to contribute £10.65 less £2.00 personal allowance, i.e. £8.65.
- (B) With a Retirement Pension of (say) £10 and with £800 in the bank, the assessment would be
- |   |   |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
| £10 less £2.00 personal allowance         | = | £8.00           |
| £800 capital – disregard 1st £300         |   |                 |
| 5p per £25 for next £500                  | = | £1.00           |
| (which is again disregarded)              |   |                 |
| and so he would be required to contribute |   | £8.00 per week. |
- (C) With an Invalidity Pension of (say) £10.75 per week, capital of £5,000 and a private Works Pension of (say) £2.00 per week the assessment would be
- |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Invalidity Pension                  | £10.75 |
| Works Pension                       | £2.00  |
| Notional income from capital £5,000 |        |
| disregard first £300                |        |
| next £500 at 5p per £25             | 1.00   |
| balance £4200 at 12½p per £25       | 21.00  |
|                                     | £34.75 |
- Total assessed income

of which the first £2.00 from Invalidity Pension and the first £1.00 from any other income is disregarded = 3.00 leaving up to £31.75 per week as the contribution the resident would be required to make depending on the Standard Charge for the individual Home. Such a charge should decrease regularly each Quarter as the capital sum upon which the 'notional income' is calculated, decreases.

While £2 per week personal allowance may be enough to provide sweets and comforts for patients in geriatric wards of hospitals, we strongly submit that it is by no means sufficient to enable handicapped residents in Cheshire and such-like Homes to keep themselves alert, alive and active and to maintain a way of life in line with the able-bodied members of their family and their friends with whom they have every right to be equal. Clothes and cosmetics, books and records, papers and periodicals, stamps and writing materials are costly but essential items, not to mention the cost of presents the giving of which provides so much pleasure but is well nigh impossible on such a pittance.

This then is but a fragment of the case to present to the Minister of State, Mrs Barbara Castle, and we look forward to hearing that some revision in the Regulations will soon take place. We would also call upon Mr Alfred Morris, the

Minister for the Disabled to add his weight to what we feel are just demands.

The Disablement Income Group and other Organisations are also pressing for a review in assessments and allowances and we are pleased to add our weight to any such representations.

If the Cheshire Foundation is to retain its identity, its freedom from 'institutionalism', its ability to run the Homes as those who are so committed and concerned feel that they should be run; if the Homes are to be free of State control, if we really want to preserve that degree of autonomy, and freedom which was envisaged by the Founder 25 years ago, and if the Cheshire Foundation is to maintain its position in the vanguard of progress in these matters let us each one be determined to go forward prepared to raise the money we need by our own efforts and from our own resources. Let us continue to fight for the improvements we seek for the benefit of the disabled wherever they may be and above all let us have the faith to believe that what we are doing is the right thing to do, and we shall not fail.

So much goodwill, time, energy, money and inspiration is given freely and unstintingly by friends in the community wherever Cheshire Homes exist throughout the world that we must continue to hold on to our present independence with all the strength at our disposal, we shall then continue to go forward.

## The National Listening Library

The National Listening Library which started in 1972 is a registered charity, whose costs are met largely from voluntary funds with a small Government grant.

It has a membership of more than 1,000 physically handicapped people and over 550 titles are now available to them.

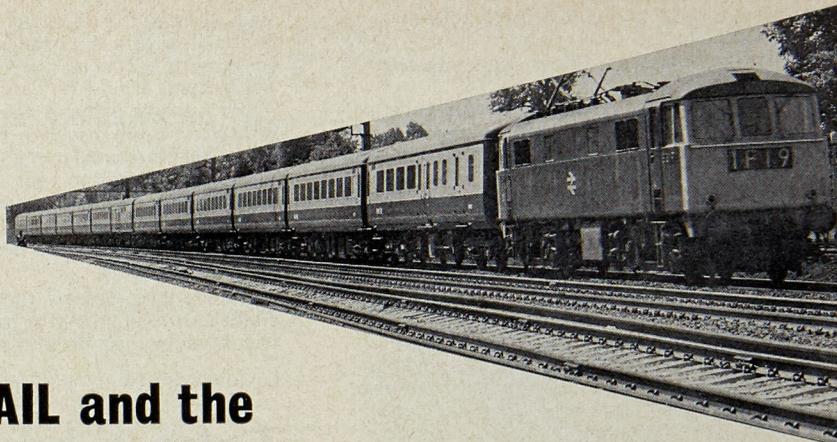
Members include suffers from crippling diseases such as osteo-arthritis and rheumatism, and those who are post-operative patients.

Anybody – other than blind people who have their own organisation – can hear, on a special reproducer, any one of hundreds of titles recorded by famous actors and broadcasters. Some of the tapes are thirteen hours long.

At present the Library operates only from London but it hopes to set up local Committees.

Prior to taking up her appointment as Director of the National Listening Library, Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd was Director of the National Innovations Centre, which had to close due to lack of funds.

Further details and particulars obtainable from The National Listening Library, 49 Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 7LH.



## BRITISH RAIL and the Disabled Traveller

The Department of the Environment circular 102/73 'The Disabled Traveller on Public Transport' is primarily concerned with the needs of the disabled who may, or might in principle, be able to use public transport and is directed to transport operators and vehicle manufacturers. It suggests that:

- (a) In the short term, wherever minor modifications of transport systems could alleviate hardships experienced by the disabled, operators and manufacturers should endeavour where possible to implement them.
- (b) In the longer term, the needs of the disabled call for increasing thought at the research and development stage of transport design and manufacture.

This paper sets out to show the extent to which British Rail is able to follow these guidelines and outlines the facilities which are both currently available and proposed for the future for the mobile disabled most in need of practical assistance.

### BRITISH RAIL'S APPROACH TO THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED

British Rail has always endeavoured to adopt a sympathetic approach to the needs of the disabled and, subject to the overriding financial constraints imposed on the Board, it is the intention to so continue in the future.

The requirements of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, are, of course, being carefully followed. Indeed, in addition to meeting the statutory obligations, the Board has been prepared to extend the spirit of this legislation beyond the Act's mandatory provisions where this can reasonably be achieved without undue expense.

The need for continuing dialogue with those most concerned is fully recognised and, to this end, the Board's Officers are frequently in touch with the principal bodies representing the interests of the disabled, taking heed of, and indeed welcoming constructive criticisms and suggestions.

### CATEGORIES OF DISABLED

The mobile disabled can be classified into three broad groups:

- (1) **Ambulatory**  
– those capable of using their legs to some degree with or without walking aids.
- (2) **Wheeled-Chair Users**  
– those obliged to use wheeled-chairs, but who can be moved from their own chair to passenger seats and who can use, on their own, toilets equipped with physical aids.
- (3) **Wheeled-Chair Bound**  
– those who cannot normally be moved from their own chair or use toilets without the aid of trained or practised assistants.

### FACILITIES AT STATIONS

- (1) **For the Ambulatory**  
Standard wheeled-chairs are available for use under staff supervision at principal stations for conveying passengers between cars, taxis, ticket offices, etc. and train sides.
- (2) **For the Wheeled-Chair User**  
Narrow wheeled-chairs, specially designed for use in confined spaces such as coach interiors, are obtainable on prior advice for use under staff supervision for taking passengers between their own chair or car and passenger seats on trains.

**(3) For the Wheeled-Chair User and the Wheeled-Chair Bound**

Special toilet facilities are available at certain stations and will be progressively provided, where 'practicable and reasonable', in station reconstruction and refurbishing schemes and also at other principal stations where this can be done at reasonable cost.

**(4) For all Passengers**

Medical Centres with fully qualified staff are available at major stations.

The Board is co-operating with the Central Council for the Disabled who plan to publish a guide of the facilities available for the disabled at principal British Rail stations. This will include information on car parking facilities, access to ticket halls/platforms/refreshment rooms and toilet facilities.

The Department of Environment circular mentions that in the wider sense, disabled travellers include many people with lesser or temporary handicaps, instancing expectant mothers, adults with young children, people with suitcases, also the elderly with no specific impairment. Although British Rail channels its limited financial resources towards helping those most in practical need, nevertheless, it does recognise the wider problem by providing at busy stations self help luggage trollies. Escalators are available at a number of stations, and the facility will be provided, where appropriate, in major station reconstruction schemes.

**(1) For the Ambulatory**

Wider entrance doors, fitted with a hand hold to assist passengers joining and alighting, are fitted to all recently built Inter-City coaches.

**(2) For the Wheeled-Chair User**

In Second Class open type Inter-City coaches, tables are being omitted from end bays. This will improve access for the transfer of passengers between a narrow wheeled-chair and a passenger seat and permit some freedom of movement for the passenger when seated.

**(3) For the Wheeled-Chair Bound**

Future First Class open type coaches for, inter alia, the High Speed Train are being designed to allow for the temporary removal, on prior advice, of one single seat and the associated table to provide space for an occupied wheeled-chair, to eliminate, as far as possible, guards van conveyance on Inter-City services and allow the wheeled-chair passenger to enjoy a 'normal' environment.

**THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM**

The provision of special facilities of this kind is

bedevilled by the perpetual conflict between financial and social considerations. Following receipt of the circular, the Board asked the Department of Environment whether they could make available financial resources for special provision for the disabled. The Department replied that whilst the circular was intended to encourage the Railway Board to bear in mind the needs of the disabled, it would still rest with the Board to decide just what additional measures to take and, amongst other things, to take their commercial remit into account.

Despite the problems, the Board will continue to endeavour to improve the travelling conditions of this deserving section of the community.

## Take a bow, Staunton Harold!

*Mr Leslie Websell, who lives at Coalville, near Leicester, recently enjoyed a holiday at his local Cheshire Home. He enjoyed it so much, in fact, he was inspired to pen the following:*

Who are these? Why sit they here?

Some in the twilight of their lives

Waiting for the dark

They must now sit in wheeled chairs

Their lives passing away

Their sole companions, perhaps,

Just the song of the lark.

Their bodies distorted, caused

By pain and disease.

But does man care

Whilst he takes his ease?

Only the dedicated, the true sons of God,

Try to ease their burdens by doing

What little they can

In helping their fellow brothers

As did the Son of Man.

They seek not fame or glory,

As they toil onwards day by day,

Hoping against hope to ease the pain

Of their fellow brothers

As they go on their way

Hoping to implant just a seed of hope

When all seems lost to those

Who are at this Home to stay.

Well may we rejoice as in

This Home of ours we live,

And thank with all our hearts and souls

The day one man decided to give

His life to the service of others.

And so well he gave it to the crown

But his crown will be all-enduring

Which he will receive from the

King of Kings.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*From Winifred Pickup, The Grange.*

Dear Mr Styles,

We have never met, but I read with interest your article in the *Cheshire Smile*.

I have been a resident at the above Home since we opened, and we celebrate our third birthday on 19th May.

We are lucky enough to be situated on a bus route and near the shops, so we do not have many staff problems on that score. We are a small unit, just sixteen residents. I suppose some would think this ideal, but I have my doubts; when there are more, one can at least lose oneself in the crowd, but we seem to live in one another's pockets, and you cannot make a move without everyone knowing.

I agree with your four problems, and your answer to your first three are feasible, but I can't agree on the social one.

You are fortunate to be able to go out to work and meet people and earn money so you could at least pay for a round of drinks or a meal and really be part of the scene. However, when you are chair-bound as I am, people just don't want to know. Your idea of links sounds fine, but it just doesn't work. People just won't go to the trouble to arrange for a visit for you especially when it entails negotiating steps and perhaps toilets. The whole thing becomes an embarrassment, so one begins to wish one had stayed at home. We are lucky, I suppose, as we are able to visit the theatre and we do get groups coming to the Home to entertain us.

You say the best thing for the disabled person is to stay in his own home, but this to my way of thinking is the quickest way of becoming a cabbage. I have spent hours alone each day while my husband was at work; when he did return after doing all the chores and we could sit down there was never much to say, because I had nothing to talk about. Since being here, though not ideal, it is certainly an improvement on my life at home, but having been on both sides of the fence this one is certainly the best.

*From David Dunn, Alne Hall.*

What a joy it was to gather in the beautiful Minster at York on the 12th May, to give thanks to God for the 25 years of the Cheshire Homes Foundation. Eighteen of which I have spent at Alne Hall.

The service was a memorable occasion which everyone present thoroughly enjoyed and felt was an active rededication for the future.

There were 14 homes represented from all parts of the country – the nave was filled with 150 wheelchairs and the Minster was filled to capacity with friends and supporters.

With kind regards to all.

*From Janet W. Maller, Oaklands.*

Here's a few lines in which I would like to sincerely thank you for sending the Spring 1974 issue of the *Cheshire Smile*, a letter and the March 1974 bill. All of which arrived on April 22nd, so we stated selling right away.

Ronnie and I are in charge of the accounts and sales of the *Smile* here at Oaklands now, so we'll do our best to boost the *Smile* sales here from now on.

Thanks for putting the Oaklands article in this issue, everyone here sends you all their best wishes for the future.

*From Paul Hunt, London N8.*

Your Spring issue contained many items of interest. I was particularly struck by the report from the Matrons' Conference that they seek the right to attend Management Committee meetings, and also to elect two Matrons to the Board of Trustees.

It seems clear that the Matron of each Home should attend all Management Committee meetings – and indeed that staff and resident representatives should do so too. Those who actually live and work in a Home should surely take part in its management. The overwhelming case for staff and resident participation has been made so often in the *Smile* that it ought not to need re-stating.

However, the idea of two Matrons being elected to the Board of Trustees is quite new. At first sight it might well go some way towards creating the 'immediate communication between Homes and Trustees' mentioned as desirable at the Annual Conference. Would it not be even better, though, to think in terms of some Trustees being elected by the permanent *staff*, of all grades, in the Homes? And, of course, the logic of any

development like this must be for the election of some *residents* as Trustees also.

Progressive experiments like these would help to fulfil the G.C.'s aim of 'forward thinking, and giving a lead in the field of disability'. No doubt there would be snags and problems to be overcome, as with any new idea. But perhaps the newly-appointed Counsellors will be in a position to promote resident and staff participation at all levels of the Foundation. In view of Roy Billington's comment 'that there is no substitute for democratic rule', he should be a progressive influence.

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## St. Giles, Capetown Death of Mrs. R. Murray

Mrs 'Queenie' Murray passed away suddenly on Thursday, 28th March.

Life has no pleasure nobler than friendship. Queenie's genius was in the cultivation of friendships through St. Giles. Seeing all her friends coming together in happy and meaningful comradeship, whether in workparties, socials, games or sports, gave Queenie much pleasure. As one who treasured her friendship, I know what her loss means to all.

Happiness is something you can't chase and catch though many spend their lives selfishly seeking it. Yet Queenie knew that happiness is a gift which comes quietly and unsought when helping one's less fortunate friends.

King George V's motto may well have been hers:

'I shall pass through this world but once. Any good deed I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being - let me do it now. Let me not delay it, nor defer it for I shall not come this way again'.

Having been trained as a nurse, dedicated to serving others, Queenie spent her entire life in such service and always made one feel that she enjoyed doing so. She died in harness and we are grateful that she was taken gently and quickly without undue suffering. Now she lies beyond grief and beyond all the pain that this world can do.

All who knew her will treasure her memory and count themselves lucky to have been privileged to know her.

Vincent Granger

## Are you happy here?

*Rosemary Shevlin, from St. Patrick's Home, County Carlow, asks that question - and then tells us why she doesn't really expect an answer!*

'Are you happy here?' *she feels*, is a question that just about takes the biscuit, and falls into the same category as 'How do you do?' (a form of greeting, and not a question at all, really). The questioner would be a bit shocked if you gave a truthful answer to either. So very often I feel like replying, 'Why, are you?' Nobody - but NOBODY - is perfectly happy in this world: Shelley realised it when he wrote *We look before and after, and pine for what is not*: God is aware of it, too, because He created us and knows about everything we ask and are asked.

But we don't usually make a theological discussion out of the question, and so, not wanting to appear to be a hard-to-please person, we answer, 'Oh yes, quite happy, thank you', and leave it at that.

Obviously, we chronically handicapped bodies are not going to be glowingly happy whether we are basking in the sun in the Bahamas or swaying about in a cable-car over the snowy Alps - they are still the *same* bodies, and difficult though it might at first appear, ONLY if you have learned to accept all your limitations can you possibly gain any inner contentment. I don't mean that you have to give in and accept that there are some things you can do and some you can't: you don't have to sink into that cabbage-like existence in which you passively accept anything and everything that comes, and put it down to 'the will of God'. Once you have come to grips with reality, it does not the slightest bit of harm, either, if you indulge in an occasional escape into the fantasies of never-never-land.

For there is no type of happiness without contentment; once contentment has been achieved, happiness will surely follow (but beware of starting to analyse your happiness - the whole thing disappears as soon as you have any doubts). Accepting yourself as you are involves accepting others as they are, and mere humans will never attain the standards of your imagined perfections. If you start picking holes in those around you, you will discover that your own perch becomes a cold and lonely spot!

One place undoubtedly will suit you better than another: but, contentment comes from within, and it is aided by - not formed by - surroundings. Perfect happiness, we are told, will be found in heaven . . . and no nearer than that (all the looking in the world won't find it any nearer. And the way there depends on your going through 'Cheshire-land', so why not make your journey as smooth as you can?)

Put the original question a better way - 'Are you content here?'

Be like me and answer, 'Yes, I am'.

# Crusading—1974 electronic style—for the handicapped

Respect for the dignity of the disabled person as an individual is a concept to which many of the able-bodied pay lip service. Roger Jefcoate is one of those rare people who put the idea into practice.

An expert in electronic equipment for the severely disabled, Roger was one of the early pioneers of the P.O.S.M. communications device and worked closely for many years with its inventor, Reg Maling. The initials P.O.S.M. stand for Patient Operated Selector Mechanisms. When spoken, this becomes 'possum', the Latin for 'I can'. An encouraging motto for the disabled it was felt.

Over a period of 11 or 12 years, the two men developed Possum equipment from the early typewriters operated by a foot switch, chin pressure or the 'suck and blow' method, to the highly sophisticated environmental control systems which are in use today. These will



Roger Jefcoate was responsible for supplying electronic equipment to Hilary Pole, M.B.E., with whom he is pictured left. A victim of myasthenia gravis, Hilary has been called the most disabled person in Britain. She has only a flicker of movement in her toe, yet with this machine she is able to type and operate a whole range of communications gadgets.

switch on heat, light or television, draw curtains, sound an alarm, and enable the user to speak on the telephone or find out who is at the front door.

While he was with Possum, Roger personally originated or installed more than 400 electronic machines for the use of the physically handicapped and achieved international renown. Recently, however, he decided to give up his deputy directorship of the POSM Research Project and become an independent consultant in the field.

Since Possum first led the way, various other types of electronic aid for the disabled have come onto the market, and Roger felt that he could give more objective advice if he had no vested interest in any particular product.

His new job includes lecturing on the techniques he has developed in the field of electronic systems for the disabled. He gives talks to such audiences as social workers, Rotary clubs and local authority officials. He finds that people concerned with the care of the disabled are often confused by the wide range of aids available, and his lectures help to clarify the situation.

He also visits individual disabled people to decide what types of equipment would be most appropriate to their particular need. In this aspect of the work, The Spastics Society, is one of his major clients, and he recently visited Irton Hall School in Cumberland to advise on a special typewriter for Susan Brookes, a little girl who has difficulty in using her hands.

Once the appropriate aid has been decided upon, Roger will then try to get the Ministry of Health to foot the bill. If this fails, he will persuade some local organisation to raise the funds. He feels that the public are more willing to donate money for a specific local objective — such as a typewriter for Joe Bloggs down the road — than subscribe to general charity funds.

He has also designed an economically priced range of simpler electrical aids for the elderly and for people who are not disabled enough to need the more complex Possum-type systems. These include two-way household intercom units, a bird-food hanger to stick on the window, and a sonic torch for operating electrical gadgets by remote control.

The marketing of this range, known as Interlock Systems for the Disabled, is based on the Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, where several of the residents are actively involved in production.



Roger Jefcoate with H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and Dick Boydell, winner of The Spastics Society's Achievement Award for 1973. Dick, who now lives at the Society's Oakwood Centre in Essex, was one of the first spastics to use a remote control typewriter, operated by a foot-switch. Despite his severe physical handicaps, the equipment has enabled Dick to take up work as a computer programmer.

Another of Roger's projects is a mobile laboratory, manned by a qualified technician, specialising in electronic systems for the disabled. This will speed up the installation and servicing of equipment for people living in parts of the country where this specialised knowledge is not available.

Roger describes his work as a 'one-man-crusade' on behalf of the disabled. He is certainly providing a unique service, providing as it does technological expertise, a gift for fund-raising, and a genuine concern for the needs of each disabled person without the slightest hint of condescension.

Crusading 1974-style obviously brings in little financial reward and it must have taken some courage to give up a regular salary and embark on the perilous seas of independent consultancy. But Roger is following in a long family tradition of practical Christianity. For nearly 30 years his father, Mr A. C. Jefcoate, has been involved in raising funds for the Vellore Hospital and Christian Medical College at Tamil Nadu in India.

For many years Mr Jefcoate, senior, has organised annual concerts in aid of Vellore at the Albert Hall and, in November, 1972, he arranged an additional event there for the Possum Users Association, which raised over £6,000.

Roger's parents have given him every encouragement in his new venture, and much practical help on the administrative side. The whole family has become actively involved in helping the disabled, and this, surely, is what charity is all about.

For further information please contact:  
 Roger M. Jefcoate, Willowbrook, Swanbourne  
 Road, Mursley, North Buckinghamshire  
 MK17 0JA. Telephone: Mursley (029 672) 533.

## Passed to H.Q. for attention

At the end of last year the Foundation celebrated its Silver Jubilee – twenty-five years of progress and development of which any organisation would be proud. The Foundation is now firmly established as a flourishing concern, and is very likely to continue to grow and prosper in the same admirable way.

Speaking as a former businessman, however – and I, too, am proud of my quarter-of-a-century in my particular field of public relations – I feel compelled to be critical of what I consider to be a very serious omission from the Foundation's records . . . namely, the absence of an up-to-date list of Homes WHICH ALSO INCLUDES such details as the name of the Matron/Warden; the number of residents in the Home; the age limit for admission, if any; the various facilities offered; the weekly maintenance charges, and so on. Some time ago I required just this sort of information, but was told that I would have to contact each Home individually.

Surely the compilation of such records as this is a relatively simple and straightforward job; like so many public relations jobs, many *are* simple and straightforward. But very important, nevertheless.

*Harold Morel*

*St. Michael's, Somerset*

## This is your life . . .

How's this for cold and hard analysis?

Asked to comment on Mr and Mrs Average's three-score-years-and-ten, here's what the computer came up with:

24 years had been spent in bed;  
 12 years at work;  
 8½ years in amusement;  
 6½ years in getting about (by foot and by car);  
 6 years in eating;  
 6 years in washing and dressing;  
 3½ years in being educated;  
 3 years in reading for pleasure  
 and  
 6 MONTHS ONLY in worship.

There's probably a moral lying around there somewhere!

## Amateur Radio Net

The Cheshire Homes Amateur Radio Net continues to meet every Thursday afternoon at 1.45 p.m. using a wavelength of about 81 metres (3690 Kilo Hertz) Tom Dugdale, call sign G3KQK, of The Hill Cheshire Home, Sandbach operates the control station, in the activities room at The Hill and is usually in radio contact with Harry Houghton, G3OPY, at Staunton Harold, Wing Commander Wally Dunn, G2LR at Old Cleeve, near Minehead, John Hurst, G3MCR at Bolton, Reg Powis, G3WNJ at Fareham, Hants, Joe Roscoe, GW6IL, at Mold, North Wales, Bella Kahn, G4BWK at Manchester, John Rudge, G3ZAO at Stroud, Les, G3RCX at Southend, Digs Acheson, G3WJT at Guildford, Tom Kelty, G4BRV at Stoke, Jack Lord, G3BIA at Teddington, Frances Woolley, G3LWY at Wincanton and Tom Dunlop, G3YZE at Whitchurch, Hants.

All stations describe their weather and discuss items of general interest. The Nets are brought to a close at about 3 p.m.

Wing Commander Dunn would like to hear from the Homes which have been equipped with short-wave radio receivers, on how they are receiving the above stations and also from any other Home interested in taking part in this scheme which brings all parts of the country into your Homes.

G2LR

## “WALLY DUNN” writes

‘I served with the Group Captain throughout the war being responsible for the radio and radar which he used to such good effect, and later when helping him as his Northern Representative he asked me to try and organise a Radio Short-Wave Net in the Homes – not an easy job but with Tom Dugdale at The Hill and Harry Houghton at Staunton Harold Hall to help we have progressed’.

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## For Sale

**Philatelists, please note:** Packets of 10 or 15 Definitives, 10p. From Mrs Hennessy, Rose Cottage, Rowley Drive, Cranleigh, Surrey.

## Summer will see Cheshire Home open

(Reprinted from North Devon Journal and Bideford Gazette)

North Devon's first Cheshire Home should be ready by early summer.

The home will be at Barnstaple, near the entrance to the Forches Estate.

The property, previously Forches House, has been acquired on a long lease from Barnstaple Corporation.

An appeal for £30,000 has been launched to convert it. So far, £2,000 has been subscribed.

‘Everything is going ahead,’ said a spokesman for the project this week. ‘Plans have been approved, and the response from the public has been magnificent. We have found help forthcoming from all sides’.

The home, when complete, will have accommodation for five people, but eventually the total will be increased to twelve.

It will be the only home for the adult physically handicapped in North Devon.

The Forches site was chosen for the Barnstaple development because of its nearness to shops, people, and a pub.

‘It is a race between us and inflation,’ said Mrs Primrose Coham Fleming. ‘The cost of the lift has risen from £5,000 to £8,000 in one month, so it has meant going back to the drawing board’.

The target date for the opening has been set for June.

In an attempt to speed matters a massive house-to-house and street collection is being organised throughout North Devon.

## The Dream Come True

The Cheshire Home stands in the midst of the earth  
A landmark for all to see;  
She stands like a light in the middle of the night  
A hope for the world to be.

She stands there most humble wishing to serve,  
In every way dignified.  
She makes no proud boast of what she has done  
She leaves others to decide.

She came as a dream of a man we all know  
A dream that's out-done by the fact;  
For no one could guess when he started to build  
How great the ultimate act.

John Ranson

Holme Lodge

# P.U.A. Concert 1974

By Robert Bowell

On the 19th October, 1974 the Possum Users Association is holding its second charity concert at the Royal Albert Hall. As with our first concert in 1972, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh has very kindly agreed to be our Patron for this event, and Sir Adrian Boult has agreed to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra. For our soloist in Tschaiakowsky's 1st Piano Concerto we are extremely fortunate in having John Ogden who is one of this country's leading pianists and winner of the Tschaiakowsky Competition in Moscow in 1962.

The programme will begin with Beethoven's Egmont Overture which should provide a popular and rousing start. This will be followed by the Tschaiakowsky Piano Concerto, and then after the interval we shall hear Dvorak's 9th Symphony, 'From the New World'. This last work seems very suitable for our Concert, as Possum electronic equipment has opened up many New Worlds to our disabled members.

This concert promises to be as outstanding a success as the first, and we are anxious that as many people as possible should know about it, and be able to attend. Special arrangements will be made for people in wheelchairs, most of whom will be able to enjoy the superb acoustics of the gallery. Coaches will also be arranged from several parts of the country, and with the Concert being on a Saturday we hope to fill the Royal Albert Hall.

Priority bookings for the concert begin on 1st July, and continue until the 31st August, when booking will be open to the general public. Ticket order forms for these priority bookings will be available from Robert Bowell, 'Copper Beech', Parry's Close, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1AW, and Concert publicity leaflets can also be obtained from that address. When writing please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

## How I Started To Paint

By Sue Barton, youngest resident of the Teesside Cheshire Home

It started about three years ago. I was trying to write by holding a pen in my mouth, but I couldn't make the letters small enough, and they were all over the place. The result looked more like an abstract painting than like writing.

So, in spite of having a photo taken for the newsletter, showing me at work, I gave it up. The main difficulty seemed to be my chair, which

prevented me from getting the right angle. But the possibility of being able to paint remained in my mind, and I was frustrated by the fact that I couldn't.

Eventually I got another chair, which it took me some time to get used to – but which I gradually realised was much more suitable for me to paint in. I was bored, and often thought of ways of getting started again.

One day Christine, Matron's daughter, saw some cartoons I had, and suggested I coloured them in. This gave me the push I needed, and so Enid, our O.T. organiser, discussed with me how I could hold a brush in my mouth. We eventually decided to use a cigarette holder. I had some oil paints left over from a previous attempt.

In order to develop control over the brush, I tried to do my first landscape, which proved very hard. Despite the difficulty I enjoyed myself so much that one day I casually mentioned to Enid that I would like to learn more. Before I knew what was happening, Enid had arranged to take me each week to a further education art class.

I was nervous at first, but I am pleased to say there was no need to be, as the teacher and class members have accepted me merely as a fellow-student. This means a great deal to me, because sometimes we find when we go outside we are treated as half-witted. I suppose people don't understand, and think our brains are disabled too.

My painting has been greatly helped by the provision of a board which acts as an easel. The Spastic Society made and gave it to me. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them, and everyone else who has helped me to start painting.



Group Captain Cheshire VC and Mrs. Cheshire in audience with His Holiness the Pope during the recent visits to Vatican City

# MATTERS OF INSURANCE

(Reprinted by courtesy of The Guardian)

## A GOOD TURN INTO TROUBLE

Using your car while doing someone a good turn is not the kind of situation which one would think could lead to complications over your motor insurance policy in the event of an accident in the course of carrying out that good deed. But in fact it is very easy to transgress the terms of a policy in just such circumstances.

While the scope of motor insurance policies has been broadened in recent years, partly through changes in legal requirements and partly through pressure by consumers, attitudes towards the interpretation of the terms of those policies has correspondingly been tightened.

The result of this situation, which has arisen to a considerable extent from the inexorable rise in the cost of meeting claims, is that many motorists who have decided to take a chance on the meaning of a clause – or who simply did not realise what it meant – have found themselves in difficulties.

'Limitations as to use. A. Use for social, domestic and pleasure purposes'. This is a common restriction found probably in the majority of motor insurance policies issued to private drivers. Equally common exclusions are: 'Use for hiring or any business purpose' and 'Use for hiring, commercial travelling, or the carriage of goods in connection with any business'.

These paragraphs in a certificate of motor insurance may appear to be simple and straightforward with little opportunity for misinterpretation. It is surprising, however, just how many drivers run into problems over these paragraphs, particularly with regard to what is meant by 'social uses'.

Unfortunately these problems very often arise where the insured driver has been doing a good turn, such as helping charity. Good intentions, unfortunately, do not count when it comes to the legal interpretation of the small print and the costs of ignorance can be high.

If you are involved in an accident while using your car in a situation where it does not come within the terms of your policy you could, for example, find yourself being prosecuted for driving while uninsured. The cost of defending any such charge would, of course, have to come out of your own pocket.

Quite apart from this there would be the cost of repairing any damage to your vehicle, which could be heavy enough in itself. Far more serious would be the compensation payable to the owner of any other vehicle involved and for injury suffered by anyone on the road. Awards for

injuries sustained in road accidents can today be very high indeed.

It is no use thinking that you can escape the consequences of compensation through the good offices of the Motor Insurers Bureau. Although the bureau will settle a claim against a driver who is uninsured it may then take steps to recover all or part of the cost from the driver or owner of the car concerned.

And of course any payment that the bureau does make will be for the benefit of the third party – there will be no money for you if you are injured or for the repair of your vehicle.

Another point which must be watched even when you use the car within the terms of the policy is when the policy is due for renewal. Your cover note will almost certainly provide cover only for the minimum legal requirements under the Road Traffic Acts, even if you hold a comprehensive policy. If, therefore, you are involved in an accident before you have paid your renewal premium you could still be faced with heavy bills to pay.

It should be remembered that the 15 days of cover given by the cover note is not a period of grace. If you made a claim arising out of an accident between the date of expiry of the policy and the date on which you actually paid your renewal premium, the insurer could disclaim liability.

Before you decide against using your car to help the local vicar or youth club with its jumble sale, however, examine the limits to which you can go without penalty. Social, domestic, and pleasure uses will clearly include taking your children to school, visiting friends, going on holiday, or shopping trips. It would also include any work done for a charity in a voluntary capacity. If, however, the charity has a paid organiser or official to whom you lend your car to carry out work for the charity, there could be problems.

There would be no cover if the vehicle was insured on the basis of 'named drivers only' and the organiser was not one of those named. The work of a paid official for a charity could also be said to be his business. You could then find that the insurance company argued that its policy did not include lending your car in connection with the official's business.

A similar situation could arise if you lent your car to the local vicar for use in collecting items, say, for a jumble sale. It would be possible to argue that such work was part of the business of being a vicar and therefore not within the description 'social, domestic and pleasure' uses.

If you use your car yourself for these purposes on a voluntary basis you should be covered by the wording on the certificate – provided you do not load so much into the vehicle that it is no longer roadworthy. This may seem an odd point to

mention but if you own a large, roomy car it is surprising what people may expect you to carry.

A fund-raising event for a church or charity often needs such items as, for example, a public address system. Provided the dealer delivers the equipment in his own vehicle there is no problem. If you decide to carry both the dealer and his equipment in your car no problem should arise either.

If, however, you offer the dealer the use of your car, say, to take the equipment back to his shop while you help with cleaning the site after the event you could be in trouble. Such use could be construed as lending it for business.

Some of the situations described could no doubt be argued in a court of law and you might win your point on what is social use and what is not. On the other hand you may lose. Forecasting a legal interpretation is difficult; it is simpler to avoid having to test the argument.

#### **An Insurance Broker friend of 'Greenacres', I. McG. comments on the article**

It is difficult to comment in detail on this Insurance article, but we are in general agreement with the facts which have been given. We feel that generally speaking no problems usually arise with charitable work, provided that the vehicle is used solely for social, domestic and pleasure use and provided that there is no limitation on the drivers.

The main lesson to be learnt from the article is to check up on your Insurance Policy and to look at the Certificate of Insurance which should also be read in conjunction with the Motor Policy. The Certificate of Insurance sets out reasonably clearly the use permitted of the vehicle and the main consideration under the Policy wording is to see if any special terms have been imposed.

The main people who could run into difficulty are professional people, such as teachers, social workers and ministers. If a family car is insured in the husband's name, then there would generally be no professional use for any person other than the husband in person. This can lead to trouble, for example if a wife is a school teacher and uses the vehicle to go to school and then uses the car during the *course of her duties*, in connection with school activities. However, the Policy could be specially extended to cover professional use by a single person in place of the Policyholder by arrangement with the Insurance Company. This extension can often be given free of charge, provided that professional use is restricted to the one named person, but other people can be included for professional use at an extra charge.

As previously emphasized, the main consideration is to look at one's Certificate of Insurance which should be read in conjunction with the Policy, also read the Motor Policy to see if there are any special conditions which may apply to it. The recommended Insurer for general Insurances of the Cheshire Foundation Homes is the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Limited of Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN, who would also be pleased to advise regarding Private Car Insurance.

### *. . . also at your service*

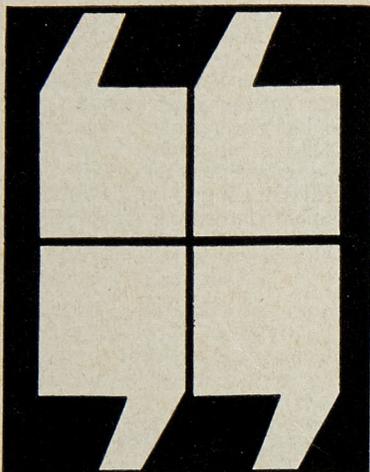
**The Spenco Wheelchair Cushion** (Everest and Jennings) provides effective relief from body fatigue, back strain and general discomfort. Made from a skin-like urethane fabric and *Naugahyde*, it is chemically inert and bacteria-resistant, and has a weight and a 'feel' similar to human fat. The buoyant ride of this synthetic fat is also similar to the body's own internal cushioning system and eliminates the major cause of pressure sores.

The Spenco Cushion is recommended for the prevention and relief of discomfort and pressure sores associated with regular wheelchair use. It will fit either junior or adult size chairs, and is easily transferred from chair to car by the sturdy carrying straps. It will normally maintain room temperature and remain comfortable during use. Square in shape (17" x 17"), at the time of going to press it was priced at £22.20 plus VAT (p. and p. 70p).

Also for use with wheelchairs or whenever additional back comfort is needed, the **Spenco Back-rest Cushion** can be pre-cooled before use, and will give unequalled comfort and support to the lower back. Fitted with nylon straps for individual height adjustment. Size 13" x 16". Price at time of going to press £11.10 plus VAT (p. and p. 70p).

**Foot Comforters.** *Rentoul Workshops*, Truro, Cornwall, is not only a workshop specialising in the manufacture of aids for the disabled, but it also employs disabled workmen. One of its recent products is a very comfortable pair of slippers.

Medically designed in thermo-expanded plastazote – a material which moulds itself to any shape of foot within twenty-four hours of wearing – they can be worn inside as sturdy slippers or outdoors as casuals. Priced at £1.50 (p. and p. 15p).



# Around the Homes

## **Beechwood Cheshire Home, Huddersfield**

This is the first report from Beechwood for a long time, but we are hoping to keep you better informed of our activities, in future.

After being without for more than a year, we were delighted to welcome in March our new Matron, Mrs Crombie and her husband and two daughters and we hope that she and her family will be very happy amongst us.

The drive at Beechwood was very narrow and winding, so the Venture Scouts decided to do something about it. With their leader, Lawrence Jones, they worked very hard, digging away part of the front garden, to widen the drive. They have worked in their spare time at the

weekends, thus saving the Home a considerable amount of money. It will be a great improvement when it is finished.

A sponsored Marathon Walk of 30 miles, was held in Huddersfield, during the night of March 23rd, to raise funds for a Cardiac Ambulance. Two of our residents took part; Reg, in his wheelchair, was pushed by the Venture Scouts and Roy, who is totally blind, walked with them. It was a bitterly cold night and unfortunately both of them had to retire after 25 miles, due to the extreme cold. They both hope to raise a large amount of money from their sponsors.

On Easter Saturday, our very kind Indian friend, Mr Bonsal, prepared an Indian meal for us, instead of our usual evening meal. He does this each year, about this time, to commemorate the death of his brother, who was disabled and passed away in India, a few years ago, at the age of 22.

In March, we had a very successful Cheese and Wine Party, combined with a Fashion Show. We really needed elastic walls that night to accommodate all the people who came. We are very grateful to the organisers who worked so hard to raise £150 for the Home.

Our Spastic residents are taken once a month to the Swimming Bath in the new Sports Centre in Huddersfield. This is an outing they all look forward to and enjoy.

We are all looking forward to the Summer and better weather, so that we can sit out in the grounds.

*Joyce Burgoine*

## **Spofforth Hall**

Some weeks ago a strip of turf was missing from the lawn at the back of the house, and daily the strip grew longer and as it grew, we grew 'curiouser and curiouser'.

However, we now know what it is all about as it is a path which is being made to a sun-house in memory of Mr Phillips who was a member of the Management Committee before he died last year, a very kind and helpful person much loved by all the residents. Naturally the proceedings are being followed with great interest and, of course, speculation. We are looking forward to using it in the summer and hope the weather lives up to our expectations. We are also keeping our fingers crossed for a fine day for our Gala as we have been unlucky for the past few years – that is weather-wise, not financially fortunately.

*Wyn and Possum*

## Le Court Film Unit

### How it all began

The Le Court Film Unit started about 18 years ago when one resident, Neville Thomas, made a black and white 9.5 film about Le Court. It was virtually unedited and had no sound track, but it had a compulsion of its own. This film disappeared on one of Group Captain Cheshire's visits to India.

In 1958 four of the residents, including Neville Thomas, formed a co-operative film unit. All are in wheelchairs and have impaired hands. Each did several jobs. This was completely self-supporting and independent except for the invaluable help of a BBC documentary producer who acted as Adviser. The first film, *Living Proof*, took four years to make, was financed by jumble sales and dances, cost £150, and won a three star award in the Amateur Cine World competition in 1962.

This film gives a vivid picture of life in the original Cheshire Home, Le Court. While not perfect technically, its warmth and humanity make it attractive to any audience. Three star award, Amateur Cine World Competition, 1962. Colour. 25 minutes. Rental £1.45.

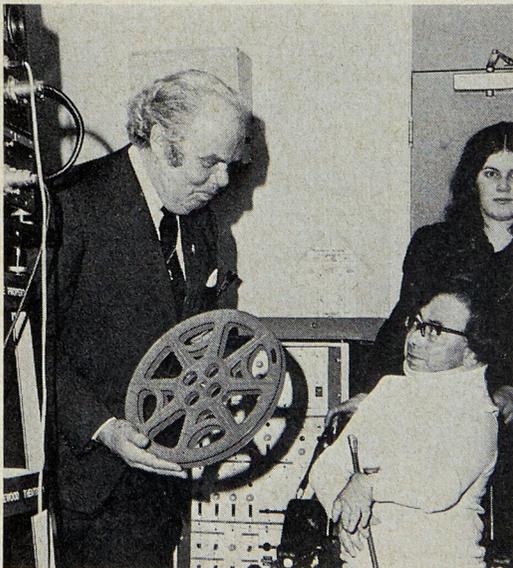
The second film, *No Limit*, costing £275 was financed by a charitable foundation. The Unit had gained enough expertise to win it a silver cup at the International Film Festival on Rehabilitation in Rome in 1964. The quality of the colour was infinitely better. A 16mm camera had been donated, and the members were much more confident about camera work, editing, commentary

writing and sound editing. It is about some of the specialised gadgets evolved at Le Court to solve individual problems. The gadgets were designed and made by voluntary helpers. Awarded silver cup, International Film Festival on Rehabilitation, Rome, 1964. Colour. 20 minutes. Rental £1.45.

Surprisingly no films had previously been made about gadgets for disabled people, so *No Limit* and the two subsequent films, *Challenge* and *Words Without Hands*, were all about gadgetry. This seemed the only subject the Film Unit could usefully exploit. *Challenge* contrasts the ease with which members of an ordinary family eat, drink, wash, shave, make up and move about, with the ingenuity necessary for disabled people to do the same things. Gadgets and techniques, some simple, some complex. Colour. 25 minutes. Rental £1.25. While *Words Without Hands*, commissioned by the Writing and Reading Aids for the Paralysed Committee of the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases is Not unexpectedly, about writing and reading aids. Narrator, Robert Robinson. Colour. 16 minutes. Rental £1.20.

The building of the new West Wing at Le Court provided Brian Line, one of the other members, with a unique opportunity to make *Maybe Today*. A documentary with music about a community's search for individual privacy, and the building of a new wing of 18 single rooms at Le Court to achieve it. Commentary by Frank Hennig. Colour. 12 minutes. Rental £1.20.

Further information from Brian Line at Le Court, Liss, Hants.



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## Mote House Cheshire Home

On 10th November the residents with the help of the House Committee ran a coffee morning for the Cheshire Home in Manila, the attendance was staggering, and it gave us great pleasure in sending a cheque for £100 to this Home.

### Mayfayre, 11th May

This is always a big day for us, and this year we welcomed Sheila Hancock and her daughter, they both endeared themselves to all residents and public. Our big draw made a record profit of £728.

Maurice Byass



*Photo courtesy Hill's Welsh Press.*



**Cheque Presentation.** More help towards the new wing at the Danybryn Home – Ken Prout and Marjorie Bartlett were there to see a cheque for £250 handed over to Mr Geoffrey Freedman, Chairman of the Management Committee (right) by Mr W. A. Breeze, Chairman of the Welsh Hospitals and Health Services Association.

*Photo courtesy Hill's Welsh Press.*

## New ambulance for Danybryn

A chance remark has solved a pressing problem for the Danybryn Home in Radyr, near Cardiff.

The ancient ambulance which had been used to transport patients for hospital and dental treatment finally expired after years of faithful service. With nearly £70,000 to find for the new wing currently being built, the Management Committee were hard put to it to find the extra money to provide a new vehicle.

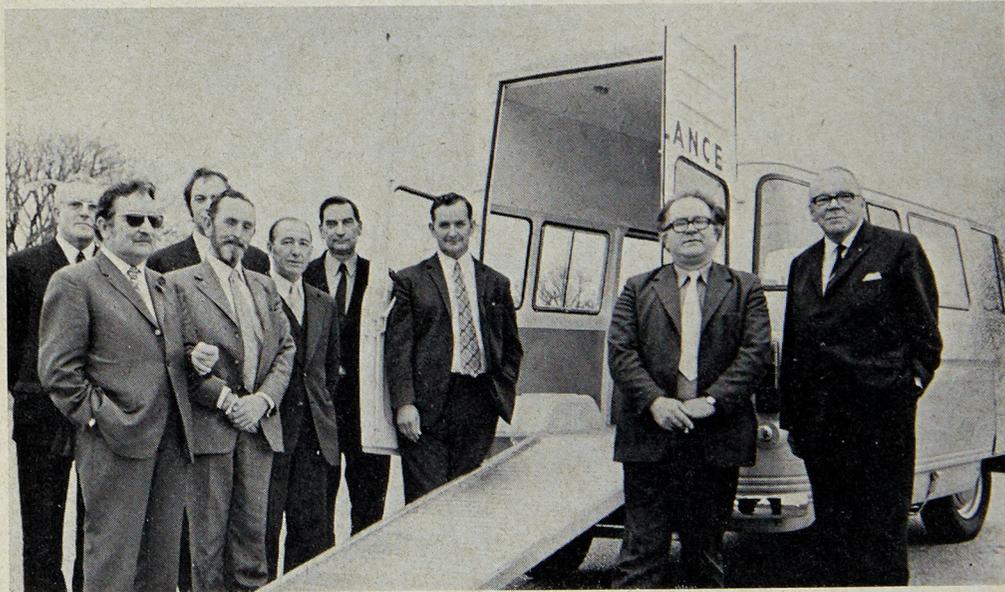
The Home's driver, Mr Ron Warrington, happened to mention this problem during the course of conversation with his brother-in-law Mr Bill Llewellyn. Bill is treasurer of the Barry Fund Raising Committee run by employees of B.P. Chemicals (International) Ltd., based at Sully. And, by sheer coincidence, this Committee – which organises a Fund which raises over a thousand pounds for charity each year, everyone from the general manager down to the post-boy making a voluntary contribution – had not decided where their 1973 donation was to go:

Mr Llewellyn put the matter before them, and without hesitation they agreed to help Danybryn.

They contributed £1,200 towards the cost of the

custom-built Commer ambulance which has been specially adapted to carry three wheelchair passengers plus two more seated alongside the driver. In addition, there is a tip-up seat for an attendant, and a ramp which pulls out at the rear in order to load the wheelchairs. In thanking the B.P. Committee for their splendid gift, the Chairman of the Danybryn Management Committee also acknowledged 'the chance remark made by Mr Warrington' which had resulted in the great load being taken off the minds of his colleagues – it was very heart-warming, he felt, to discover that there were so many sympathetic and generous people about.

Our picture (left) was taken during the short presentation ceremony and shows Mr Geoffrey Freedman, the Chairman of Danybryn's Management Committee (right) shaking hands with Mr Llewellyn, the Chairman of the B.P. Fund Raising Committee. Also pictured are a few of Danybryn's delighted residents, and representatives from the Management, House and Comforts Committees; the President of the Home, Mrs D. Elliot Seager, is standing behind Mr Llewellyn.



Picture shows (left to right) : Mr W. Llewellyn (Charity Committee Treasurer), Mr J. D. Dempster (Administrator Danybryn Cheshire Home), Mr C. H. Thompson (BP Chemicals General Manager), Mr R. Haggerty (Charity Committee Secretary), Mr D. Cureton (Committee member), Mr L. F. Brown (BP Chemicals Service Manager), Mr L. T. Morgan (Charity Committee member), Mr R. Harris (Charity Committee Chairman), Mr E. E. Neal (Chairman Danybryn Cheshire Home Management Committee).

(Photo: Hill's Welsh Press Ltd., Cardiff.)

## Chiltern Cheshire Home

### Happiness is Sharing

#### Church's first wedding for two years

Cupid took to wheels as well as wings to make it 'Valentines for keeps' for Cynthia Holmes and Gordon Taplin, who were wed at Gerrards Cross.

For it was a wheelchair wedding for the couple, who are both residents at the the Chiltern Cheshire Home at North Park.

Cynthia and Gordon became the first couple for two years to be married at the United Reformed Church at Packhorse Road, where many of their Cheshire Home friends in wheelchairs joined the 100-plus congregation at the marriage service conducted by the Rev. Alan J. Frost.

Also chairborne was the chief bridesmaid Miss Sylvia Holmes, Cynthia's sister, who is also a resident at the Home, and younger sister Christine was the junior bridesmaid.

Because so many of the guests were in

wheelchairs, they had to be transported to the church by special coach and that meant in the best tradition of weddings, the bride was late!

But all went well, in spite of torrential rain throughout the morning, and many local residents and shoppers stopped to see the bride arrive, and the happy couple leave.

Among the guests at the church and the reception held at the Home were many relatives and friends from the couple's home towns of Flackwell Heath and Reading.

And for guests Mr and Mrs Allan Parker, of Stag Lane, Great Kingshill, the day was a particularly special one – for they were celebrating also their own Pearl Wedding, having been married on this date thirty years ago.

For the ceremony the bride wore a hand-made white crocheted trouser suit in a lace pattern, with a tunic top threaded with blue velvet ribbon. The bridesmaids wore red velvet, with white fur capes. All three carried posies of mixed flowers. The bride's travelling dress was a navy blue and white jacket with matching navy trousers and white accessories.



## Hawthorn Lodge, Dorchester

### What's the matter with Katie – or a trip along the promenade

*By a member of the non-medical staff.*

Although a sad expression is usually seen on a person's face when handicapped children are mentioned, or seen, have you ever thought that quite a majority of these children are in their own way happy children?

Previously I had not any experience of helping with them but recently helped the nursing staff take some of them for a short stroll by the sea. There were three nurses and myself and we each had two or three children in our care. Some could walk – the others rode in buggies, sometimes a smaller child sitting with legs over a bigger one and across the cover and they seemed to find it quite comfortable and enjoy the ride.

I had Katie, and although I had seen her walking fairly well when returning from school this particular day she seemed to be having difficulty so I asked a nurse, 'What's the matter with Katie?' She told me she was weak in her legs and would take the reins herself as she was used to her, and gave me another little girl to guide along instead. But before I parted with Katie her shoe came off and as I didn't seem able to get her heel in again I thought, 'well there is only one way – if I can't get the shoe on Katie I will have to stand Katie in the shoe!' which I did by slipping her toe in and as I stood her up her weight pushed her heel down, so we were both quite happy.

I have noticed that those who can play with a toy, never tire of doing so, which seems a happier way than most normal children who do seem to have so many toys given them to play with now that it is almost not even the proverbial 'Five minutes wonder'.

### Organised Chaos

'Organised chaos is the order of the day', says Mrs Herd our Housewarden on many occasions through the year. Perched on a stepladder she will be referring to a pile of produce from Harvest Festivals, an avalanche of eggs at Easter, or a torrent of toys at Christmas according to season, with endless cartloads of 'cast-offs' all the year round.

All this, of course, is a great tribute to our army of supporters, particularly the Dorchester Friends with their weekly market stall for secondhand clothing, the Summer Fete each June and the Christmas Toy Fair. Or equally the Weymouth Friends with their own Christmas Fair, their



jumble sales, their Attic Treasure stall and the floats in Weymouth Carnival serve to maintain the continuous interest of the people in this part of Dorset.

We have 31 mentally handicapped children in permanent residence with two or three more for holidays. We have a nursery staff of 15 (nine of whom live in), domestic and administrative staff of another 10 or so. Mrs Pitman, our cook, works marvels in the kitchen to provide for the various dietary needs of the children, to say nothing of at least 25 lunches each day for the staff.

We aim to encourage the children to lead as near normal lives as possible. They have enjoyed visits to the cinema to see *Mary Poppins* and *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, as guests of the Plaza. They have seen the 'Lions of Longleat'. Mountjoy Special School's outing to Brownsea Island was a highlight for the Hawthorn Lodge children attending school. A visit to Lady Colfox's farm was popular as was the trip to the Cricket St. Thomas wildlife park. Nearer home they go to the beach hut at Weymouth on fine days, or shopping in Dorchester with the nurses.

*John Henderson*

## Douglas House, Brixham

(Reprinted from the Torbay Herald Express, 5 April, 1974)

A prediction that the second stage in development of the Torbay and East Devon Cheshire Home, at Brixham, would be started within two years was made by the Chairman of the Management Committee, Mr Hamish Turner.

The development of the Home, which accepted the first of its 26 residents in July, 1972, depended on the availability of funds, and an increase on the recent £50,000 estimated cost of the extension is threatened by rising building costs.

The extension will include an occupational therapy room, sitting room and additional accommodation to bring the total number of residents up to 34.

Mr Hamish Turner said recently that the Committee may have to borrow more money and keep what they had already. He added that it was 'going to be a headache' to decide when they could start, but hoped it would be within two years.

In his annual report Mr Turner summed up the past year as being one of great progress.

'Building costs are up 60 per cent, and we must aim to make a start before too long', said Mr Turner.

He thanked the Home's support groups for 'a fantastic job', financially and socially, adding that without their efforts the first stage would never have been paid for, he pointed out that work had already begun on the new wheelchair park and laundry room.

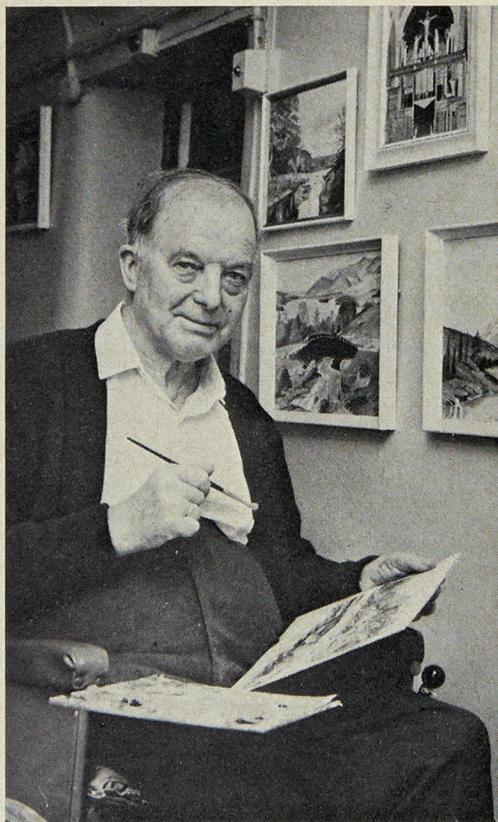
## Douglas House

This Cheshire Home is a very active one and the residents themselves hold various functions in the course of a year. We have held Disco's which are most successful and various types of dances, a fashion show at which the residents themselves modelled garments and all sorts of social functions. For the coming few months we have on April 3rd a Spring come Easter Disco and on the 6th June which is the anniversary of our official opening in 1973, we are holding a garden party.

## White Windows, Sowerby Bridge

Perhaps the most interesting event of the quarter was a successful exhibition of paintings by Mr Tom Parker, a resident of the Home for the last 14 years. During the exhibition, which ran from 6th to 27th April, the basement corridor was converted into an art gallery, the walls being lined with Mr Parker's work. The event attracted much outside attention and was filmed by Yorkshire Television, appearing on their 'Calendar' programme on 10th April. The art critic of the *Yorkshire Post* visited the exhibition on the opening day, and reports on it were published in that newspaper and in the *Halifax Courier*.

On 27th March the Bishop of Wakefield, Dr Eric Treacey, visited the Home. He attended the evening service in the chapel which was conducted by the Rev W. Gibson, vicar of St. Peters, Sowerby. And on 13th February we received a visit from Mr John Hilton of the Cheshire Homes Counselling Service.



Thomas A. Parker, White Windows Cheshire Home, Sowerby Bridge  
Nr. Halifax, Yorks.  
Photograph: *The Yorkshire Post*.

## St. Bridget's, East Preston, West Sussex

After a wonderful Christmas with entertainment provided, some of our residents took part in a production of their own. With the help of a couple of young students, they provided plenty of laughter with a skit on Snow White called *Boot Black and the Four Twerps*.

In January the Rustington Townswomen's Guild performed a play and in February entertainment was provided by some young people from Arundel and Littlehampton. February was a full month as a trip was also made to the Conservative Hall where tea and entertainment was provided by 'The Chandlers'.

In March a couple of outings were arranged to The Connaught Theatre and also to *My Fair Lady* at the Pier Pavilion. Early in April tea and a concert was given by The Girls Brigade who also gave each resident an Easter egg.

Two residents have died during this early part of the year and are missed very much.

As the year moves into summer, there's much to look forward to and The Family send greetings to all *Smile* readers.

J. Webb

## The Residents of The Grange

I wonder if you ever think of all the odd things which give us pleasure?

Not only in the sense of sight – the beautiful things outdoors, but in the sense of touch and hearing and taste and smell.

Handling things – lovely materials, satins and velvets we want to stroke and smooth them; a new diary with nothing written in – and not only new things, but old too – leather which has worn soft and smooth with use, wood with a glorious polish and feel – old things from years ago – painted doorknobs – old and delicate glass you can really 'ring' with a finger nail, and many other things you can think of I am sure. The first bite into an apple – the glorious smell of bacon cooking; washing which has dried outside in the sun and the air – smells lovely – and a pile of freshly ironed things.

I could go on and on, but I am sure we all have a different list of these kind of things, but it makes us realise how wonderfully we are made, and what a handicap not to have joy in these so 'simple' things.

The cheery and friendly atmosphere which is so obvious to all who visit the Grange Cheshire Home, and the courage of all the residents, inspired 'Jim' to write this poem.

### FRIENDS

When I think the world's not treating me so good,  
With common cold, and backache, and the rising  
price of food.

I often take a little ride to see some friends so fine,  
Who's humble lot in this poor world, is so much  
worse than mine.

Complaints do not come from their lips, to some  
life's not been kind.

So now when I am feeling low, I say it's in my  
mind.

In terms of money, I'm not rich, I make enough  
to live,

But to the gents and ladies there, my hand of  
friendship gives.

## Champion House

An Auction Sale was held at our Home which is quite a new idea for raising money. The event was organised by a local man who wrote to over 200 people all over the country, Cabinet Ministers, sportsmen and television stars. In response he received loads of ties and autographs including one from the Prime Minister and Opposition Leaders, autographed photos from the actors of 'Emmerdale Farm' television series. Photographs of Leeds United football team sold well. A local experienced auctioneer conducted the sale.

Other goods ranged from *A Book of Poems* written by Mary Wilson (the P.M.'s wife), rose trees, and an autographed cricket bat from Len Hutton.

The dining room was full of customers, and the sum of over £200 was raised which included some donations.

Perhaps this report will give other Cheshire Homes an idea for raising money.

Good wishes to everybody from all at Champion House.

We have started another session of Bingo evenings to raise money for our bus fund. They are organised once a month, the residents and staff and general public come along and the evenings are quite enjoyable and well attended.

### Correction

It was Miss Ashwell, the daughter of our House Management Chairman, Mr David Ashwell, whose marriage was reported in the last issue.

## Greathouse Residents In Treorci

(Reprinted from Chippenham News)

There was a warm welcome in the hillside when residents of the Greathouse Cheshire Home, Kington Langley, visited the Glyncoli School rehearsal room of the Treorci Male Voice Choir on Sunday, with Mr and Mrs Reg Coates of Chippenham branch of Toc H.

After being welcomed by choir secretary Donna Griffiths, the residents heard the choir practising for their many forthcoming concerts, including those in Ferndale and St. Peter's Church, Pentre, the latter with Pentre's Cory Band with whom the choir recently made an L.P. to be released in June.

Afterwards, the choir, under conductor John Cynan Jones, sang request items. Sam Griffiths, whose fine baritone voice has earned him many fans in Chippenham as soloist with the choir, was presented with a certificate conferring life membership of the choir.

Before the residents of Greathouse left Treorci to visit the newly planted forest areas nearby, the choir provided them with tea.

Mr Sam Griffiths, baritone soloist of the Treorci Male Voice Choir, shows Greathouse resident Margaret Lampard his newly presented certificate of life membership of the Choir during a visit to the Glyncoli School Rehearsal Room organised by Chippenham Branch of Toc H.

Photograph by Reginald Coates.



John Cynan Jones (Conductor of Treorci Male Voice Choir), and his wife Mary, share a joke with Greathouse residents Margaret Lampard and John Smith during a visit to the Glyncoli School Rehearsal Rooms organised by Chippenham Toc H.

Photograph by Reginald Coates.



## St. Teresa's

St. Teresa's is about three miles outside of Penzance, which is the nearest town, we can go there to spend our pennies or should I say decimal bronze. Then the village of Marazion is along the road to the left of us about one-and-a-half miles. I suppose also along the road to the right for about one mile, I think, there is the little village of Long Rock. The Home itself is situated only a few yards away from the beach, overlooking Mount's Bay which is simply lovely to look at in the summer when the yachts are out and about with their sails of red, green, blue and white. The white ones look as if they are silver sometimes when the summer sun is shining brightly. I assure you it is a very beautiful sight – is it small wonder that the travel brochures say, 'Come to the Cornish Riviera for your summer holiday'? Slightly over on our right hand side we have the headlands of Mousehole and Newlyn, then over on the left we have the famous St. Michael's Mount where Lord and Lady St. Levan live and they call in to see us quite often.

One sees many different pictures of the Mount: for example when seen through the hazy mist it looks like something out of a fairy story – it just seems to be floating around in mid air. Then when it is seen through dark stormy weather it looks very bleak almost like a scene out of a mediaeval play. But when one sees it by moonlight or sunlight it is by far the best as it looks like an enchanted castle full of magic.

May God bless you all.

*Miss Maureen Rickard*

## St. Teresa's

It is 18 years ago since Len Harper became a resident in the Cheshire Home at St. Teresa's. He says 'I have never regretted the day I applied for admission into that Home and, in fact I think it was one of the wisest decisions I have ever made in a long life (I am now well over 72). Plymouth is my home town – that is why I went there. The Group Captain has visited us fairly frequently during my nine and a half years there, where I was always known as "Sparks", having been a Telegraphist in the R.N. – God bless you you all'.

## YOUR Minister

ONE OF THE FIRST Ministerial appointments to be announced by the Prime Minister shortly after February's Election was that of Mr Alfred Morris (who has served as Member for Wythenshawe since 1969) – now he also serves as the Minister for the Disabled.

Alfred Morris was brought up in the slums of Manchester, and is himself the son of a war-disabled ex-serviceman. So he has had first-hand experience of a few of the problems of day-to-day living which seem to be the invariable lot of the severely disabled person in twentieth-century Britain. Very soon after his first election five years ago, he enthusiastically set about tackling many of the problems which he had seen confront his parent; with little or no help from the Department of Health and Social Security of that time he produced the Bill which is often called the Magna Carta of the disabled – The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

But that, he says, was only the beginning. With his new and even-greater authority he feels that he has an even better opportunity of continuing his work on behalf of the disabled.

*Harold Morel*



Alfred Morris, the new Minister for the Disabled, (centre) receiving the first Harding award in 1971 for his services to the disabled. The award was presented by the speaker of the House of Commons.

## SPRING STANDING CONFERENCE

### Central Council for the Disabled

The Spring Standing Conference of Organisations for the Disabled was arranged by the CCD and took place in London on Tuesday, April 23.

The morning session topic was 'Rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled people within the Council of Europe'. The first speaker was Michael Lloyd, Information Officer of the European Economic Community, who outlined the progress made to date with particular reference to disabled people. So far most of the work had been geared to employment. It was proposed in 1970 that a community plan be worked out for the social and occupational integration of handicapped persons. In an interim report in 1972 the working party were charged to implement without delay a programme for the employment of handicapped persons on the open market economy. Mr Lloyd went on to describe the long term aims and the finances available to secure this.

Mr Lloyd was followed by Raymond Clarke, Secretary to the Personal Social Services Council. Mr Clarke asked the delegates to use the facilities available to them. Money was available for all sorts of new, exciting projects.

The afternoon session was addressed by Michael Thomas, Director of the Volunteer Centre, and supported by Michael Edis, the Training and Education Officer. After a short talk on the work of the Volunteer Centre the conference split into eight groups each to discuss the role of the volunteer within the context of the alterations taking place within local government.

#### Open University Course on Handicapped

A new course from the Open University for anyone who works with handicapped people will start next January.

It assumes that most students will be familiar with some of the problems of the handicapped, but expects that their knowledge may be limited by a particular professional approach or to one specific type of handicap. The course, which will call on students to examine their professional roles and will encourage an inter-professional approach to problems, aims to attract social workers, teachers, nurses, doctors and voluntary workers.

Called 'The Handicapped Person in the Community', it is part of the Open University's programme of post-experience courses for 1975.

Students work at home in their own time using

specially prepared correspondence texts linked to radio and television. Cost is £55 and applications open in May and close on October 25. Further details from: Post-experience Student Office, P.O. Box 76, Milton Keynes MK7 6AN.

#### Aids Exhibition moves off

In the charge of Miss B. Royle, MAOT, the CCD Travelling Exhibition of Aids has just taken to the road again. The itinerary is:

24 June	week	Durham County Council.
8 July	week	Walsall.
15 July	week	Oldham
22 July	week	Gateshead (Fountain View Day Centre).
29 July	week	Rochdale (Ronald Gorton Centre)
5 Aug.	week	Leeds (Kellett Hall, off Roundhay Road, Leeds)
19 Aug.	week	Herts. (Lonsdale School, Stevenage).
2 Sept.	week	Taunton.
9 Sept.	week	Yeovil.
30 Sept.	week	Luton.
7 Oct.	week	Caister (Caister Holiday Camp, Caister, Gt. Yarmouth).
14 Oct.	week	Harrogate (for Naidex '74).

Any further enquiries concerning the exhibition should be addressed to: CCD, 34 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PE.

#### Seminar on Ergonomics as applied to the problems of Physical Disability

*Bois-Larris, near Lamorlaye, France.  
October 1-6, 1974.*

All meeting facilities, including simultaneous interpretation in French and English will be provided at Bois-Larris and the participants will be housed at the school or in nearby towns. An overall fee of approximately U.S. \$180-00 (subject to some fluctuation with the general currency situation) will cover all expenses of participation, including housing and meals.

The programme and other plans for the seminar are being prepared at this time. Further information from: M Eric Viel, Directeur des Etudes, Ecole de Cadres de Kinesitherapie Bois-Larris, 60 Lamorlaye, France.

#### Alf Morris says . . .

. . . Issues of behind-the-ear hearing aids are to be expected to begin in November 1974. In the twelve months after that date some 60,000 should be issued to priority groups.

. . . A national income for registered disabled was being considered in the context of the review of social security provision for chronically sick and disabled persons.

## **Pleas to Social Services Secretary**

Mr Marcus Fox, M.P., is to ask Mrs Castle to exempt from prescription charges people suffering from wasting diseases like multiple sclerosis and who cannot work.

## **VAT Removed?**

Mr Denis Healey announced in his first Budget that disabled people will no longer be charged VAT on essential equipment and aids, such as wheelchairs and kidney machines. He will 'zero rate' these goods as soon as possible.

## **Scottish Grant to Study the Disabled**

The Department of Social Administration and Social Work at Glasgow University have received a grant of £8,300 to study social effects of physical disability and chronic sickness.

It is hoped that the result of the two year study will provide information for social work and health authorities in staffing and planning their services to the disabled.

## **Parliamentary Report**

Discussions in both Houses of Parliament during the three weeks before Easter were dominated by the publication of Lady Sharp's Report on Mobility of the Physically Disabled on March 25. A statement made by Mrs Castle in the House of Commons led to a number of questions and, just before Easter, a debate in the House of Lords. The Sharp Report proved controversial in its recommendations that the 3-wheeler should be entirely phased out, that disabled passengers who meet the necessary criteria should have the same right to cars as disabled drivers, and that this extension of eligibility for 4-wheeled cars should be balanced by confining provision of cars to disabled people who need them to get to work or to full time training or to run a household. The effect of this recommendation would be that in the long run some 13,500 people who are now eligible for a vehicle would no longer be eligible, although it is not proposed to remove a vehicle from anyone who has one.

On the day following publication questions were asked in the House of Commons, and Mr Luce and Mr Carter-Jones in particular stressed that social isolation was as serious a problem for many disabled people as the need to support a family, or take up a job, and there was naturally grave disquiet that a social need should be replaced by an economic need.

The debate in the House of Lords on April 10 was opened by Lady Phillips who welcomed the proposal to scrap the 3-wheeler and whose speech made considerable reference to the safety

limitations of the tricycle. Lord Aberdare, on the other hand, expressed concern that a number of people who are at present eligible for vehicles might, in future, no longer receive them. He was also concerned about the cost of the proposed policy and as to whether it would be possible to provide 40,000 cars within a reasonable time scale. Lord Snowdon, who referred sympathetically to general problems of disabled people, was extremely critical of the 3-wheeler, especially from the safety angle and asked for speedy implementation of a decision for changeover.

Lady Marsham took up a number of points and spoke particularly about wheelchairs and needs for more outside chairs and quicker repairs to indoor power chairs. Lord Crawshaw, who was critical of the 3-wheelers, took up a number of points including the need for more expenditure in the fields of research from which many people might benefit. Lady Summerskill referred particularly to the needs of people with arthritis who were frequently elderly and might be excluded from eligibility for a vehicle if the Sharp recommendations were followed.

The Countess of Loudoun referred to need for housing adaptations and put in a plea that the invalid tricycle should not be abolished since this would preclude people who could not drive adapted cars and the young disabled people allowed to drive a tricycle at 16, the year 16/17 being a time when young people need a degree of independence. Lord Wells-Pestell, who spoke at considerable length, suggested that the accident danger of 3-wheelers had been over emphasised and that there were many people who would miss this functional vehicle very badly. Other speakers in the debate were Lord Airedale, Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Lady Sharp, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and Lord Ingleby.

Other subjects raised in the House of Commons have been the attendance allowance. Mr Janner asked if the scope of the attendance allowance could be extended to include a child born with one limb and Dr Winstanley asked that people with terminal illnesses did qualify for the allowance without waiting for six months. On the second point it was stated that the allowance was to alleviate the burden of long term care of a severely disabled person, and six months was considered to be a reasonable test of what constituted long term care.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P. for Hampstead, secured an adjournment debate on difficulty of access by disabled people to polling stations. He had been disturbed by this problem during the General Election and pointed out that the fact that disabled people can have postal votes was not an argument, since disabled people did not want to opt out of normal procedures for the population as a whole.

Dr Shirley Summerskill replied to the debate, and agreed to take careful note of the proposals, but thought that adaptation of all polling stations would be a major undertaking. Mr Finsberg followed up the debate by oral questions to the Prime Minister on the same point.

Other questions raised in the House of Commons elicited factual statements, including a table of figures on provision of (a) telephones and attachments, (b) other personal aids and (c) adaptations to property in each of the London Boroughs; also the information that there are 66,802 registered disabled women in England of whom 6,613 were known to be unemployed in the month of March. It was also stated that in March 1973 – the latest date for information available – the total number of handicapped persons registered with local authorities in England was 577,571.

The subject of mobility, particularly with reference to vehicles, again dominated Parliamentary debates and questions about disablement. On May 1, 1974, Sir Geoffrey Howe (Surrey East) initiated a debate on the Sharp Report, which lasted for three hours. Sir Geoffrey said that the object of the debate was to seek as much information as possible about the preference of disabled people themselves, about safety, eligibility and cost and to give the House an opportunity of influencing the Government's thinking on the whole subject.

Mr Alfred Morris said that the Government were in consultation with a wide range of organisations representing disabled people, and with the local authority associations. The Government was consulting them on the issues by the Report, both specifically, and in the context of the wider question of priority to be assigned to the various needs of the disabled, of which mobility was one. He referred to fears of some drivers of three-wheelers that because of criticism of this vehicle they might be left without any means of transport and said, 'I would not agree to any solution which involved withdrawing the vehicles from any of those already entitled to them'.

Mr Neil Martin (Banbury) said that it was clear that the three-wheeler was on its way out for those who did not want it, and the main question was whether the Government should provide a car or cash on a capital grant system. His preference was for a cash grant. He wanted not just a fair deal for the disabled but a good deal for the disabled. Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles) stressed the importance of mobility in enabling severely disabled people to be independent and earn a living, and also stressed the need for producing a powered safe wheelchair for use on pavements. Mr Tuck and Mr Rogers spoke particularly of the realities of life for severely disabled people, and Mrs Kellett-Bowman and Mrs Chalker spoke

particularly about the need for mobility inside the house. Mrs Chalker suggested that more attention might be given to provision of a mini elevator on the stairs, which might work out more cheaply and more satisfactorily than a ground floor conversion. Mr Raison referred particularly to the supply of wheelchairs.

A number of questions have also been asked about vehicles, with particular reference to cost of petrol, orange badges and vehicle tax.

Mr Fred Evans asked if the DHSS would initiate a study into the requirements of disabled people for driving and mounting vehicles and of the mechanics of loading and unloading disabled persons from vehicles. Mr Morris replied that there was already a range of control adaptations including over 50 different configurations for use in the invalid three-wheeler, as well as devices and facilities for entry into and exit from vehicles.



## BOOK REVIEWS

# Coping with Disablement

*A Consumer Publication*

Disablement can come in many forms – through sickness, age or accident. Whether we suffer from a handicap ourselves, or have to care for someone who does, few of us get through life without experiencing its difficulties.

A new Consumers' Association publication *Coping with Disablement* describes in detail the ways in which a handicapped person can be helped to live a more normal life.

It is intended as much for the person who is handicapped as for people around them. Written in a practical down to earth manner it brings

between two covers a mass of information otherwise only to be found by searching in a variety of different sources. *Coping with Disablement* deals with disablement across the board and aims to help everyone with a handicap take practical steps towards an easier life; from the person confined to a wheelchair to the elderly man or woman who can't get round the way he or she used to.

Despite the existence of the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, and the recent appointment of Mr Alfred Morris as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with special responsibility for the disabled, the amount of help offered to handicapped people varies from area to area.

'It is unsatisfactory that disabled and elderly people receive help not so much according to their needs but according to where they live', says the book. It points out three main sources of help for the disabled and elderly: the local authority Social Services department; the national health service; and various voluntary organisations. The book sets out to explain what aids are available to overcome practical difficulties and tells the reader where to look for help and what to ask for.

Most problems of everyday living are not unique, the same situations occur again and again. The book covers common areas of difficulty, such as bathing, using the lavatory, dressing, eating, moving about, and offers step by step instructions to make life easier, including alternative ways of doing things. For instance it suggests that someone who is unable to walk up stairs may manage to sit up them instead; and under the section on floor coverings, it makes the point that a carpet with too thick a pile can be immobilising for someone who shuffles and will create resistance for a wheelchair user – a feature many families may not have thought about.

The book does not attempt to offer solutions to the emotional and psychological aspects of becoming disabled, nor does it deal with the special problems of mother and child, or with employment.

It does have a valuable list of addresses of where to get help – useful for everyone in contact with handicapped people. It makes the point that no one is entirely removed from this situation – the problems of a disabled person are really our own problems writ large.

*Coping with Disablement* calls for planning authorities to take a wider view of integrating handicapped people into local life.

*Coping with Disablement* (230pp, illustrated) is a Consumer Publication available from the Consumers' Association at £1.25 and selling at £1.50 in bookshops (the book is distributed to the retail trade by Fine Books Ltd.). The series is edited by Edith Rudinger.

## SWITCH ON

by Pamela Phillips

I am a gregarious soul. People say I talk too much and my mother says I am like a gramophone. Unfortunately she cannot switch me off. In the South East where we reside, we find that people expect or want us to talk to them but have little or nothing to say themselves. One friend tells me that I am good for her because I talk a lot. When I am quiet she thinks I am ill. It is difficult to find subjects to discuss with people who either reply in the negative or the affirmative to most questions.

North country and Welsh people are quite different. One leading question is all that is needed to bring forth their whole life story and the life stories of their ancestors. Three years ago I met a Geordie family on holiday and although I have only spent three weeks with them and corresponded by letter, I feel I know them better than others who I have known for a number of years. This year I have met a Hungarian woman. She cannot understand the southerners' personalities who believe that visitors should be received at a certain time on a certain day. In Hungary, as in Wales and the North, people call at any time and are made welcome. On goes the kettle for a cup of tea. Usually this ends up with a table laden with food. I have lived in England the greater part of my life but I still do not understand the people who live in the South.

Although conversation or the lack of it is my bone of contention. There are many people whose company I enjoy and find relaxing. One particular friend is the complete opposite to me in politics, religion and literature. We argue amiably and when we are together the outsiders would presume that I was having a hilarious party in my living room. Another acquaintance whose company I enjoy is an elderly lady who regales me with anecdotes of the past. In spite of her age she is a passionate Barbara Cartland addict and has converted me into one also. Sometimes when I am with her I wish I had my tape recorder with me. Her experiences could fill a book.

Yet another talker I include as my friend is a lady at my swimming club. When we are supposed to be learning the breast stroke we converse earnestly about her daughters' love affairs, the difficult paying guests and the problems of what to have for meals. Not very uplifting I must admit, but from it I feel she is a kindred spirit, not only willing to impart her problems to me, but also willing to listen to what I have to say. Surely this is what friendship is all about.

# Riding for the Disabled Association

It surprises many people that Riding for the Disabled is over 20 years of age. There were 80 Groups in existence when the form was changed to an Association in 1969 and currently there are 230 Groups throughout the U.K. including Northern and Southern Ireland. As each Group consists of an organiser, secretary, riding instructor, usually a physiotherapist and some 30 helpers and a strict code of conduct has to be adhered to, this is no mean feat.

The very speed of expansion demands care that the Riding for the Disabled Association's high standards are uniformly maintained.

This is effected by a regional system thus all Groups will be found to operate in the same way, very careful supervision being the watchword. A light-hearted atmosphere is always the rule with a certain amount of instruction, mounted games and so on. The horses or ponies are chosen for reliability and up to three helpers are provided for each, one to lead and one on each side to steady the rider. No one ever rides without parental consent – in the case of children – or medical approval. This high level of supervision means that very seriously disabled people who are often unable to take part in any other sport can enjoy riding; if you can sit down you can ride a quiet horse, with help!

So much for the 'nuts and bolts'. What are the benefits? These are broadly mental and physical in that order; all riders get a mental fillip, only some can expect physical improvement. This is not to say that there are not many startling 'before and after' cases, like the small boy who took his first ever unaided steps towards the pony he was about to ride, and another who had never spoken before

was heard talking to his mount. But the R.D.A. plays the physical side down in order not to raise false hopes.

What all get is an important boost in morale. This comes about from the change of scene and faces, contact with a large friendly animal, the fact that they are the centre of several people's interest, and last but not least a sense of achievement. Miss Hilda Lumsden, M.C.S.P., Head of the Cerebral Palsy Unit at St. Thomas's Hospital, whose charges ride with a London Group put it like this:

'... a sense of achievement in a physical activity, which is rare in their experience. To acquire some skill as a rider which enables him to exercise control over a large animal is very satisfactory to someone whose control over his own body is limited. This incentive results in a degree of skill which constantly surprises the instructors. A subsidiary point is that while on horseback they look like any other riders, and this means that for the period of the ride they are free from the tag 'disabled'. One might also mention that it is nice to be looking down on someone for a change!'

Basically the riding is free but where schools are concerned, and individuals can afford it, subscriptions are welcomed. More and more doctors and surgeons are becoming convinced of the value of riding for the disabled. At a recent conference, eight spoke strongly in favour, at least two of whom had originally been sceptical. Liaison with the medical profession is a cornerstone of R.D.A. policy and many medical people are on the Council and committees. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists has backed the movement from the start and has its own special interest group of physios attached to the R.D.A.

The Secretary National Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwicks. CV8 2LR will be happy to provide further details including the location of all existing Groups.



Crabtree Park Group, Crawley, Sussex. Out for a stroll round the countryside.

## NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

### Cheshire Homes (Hastings-Prince Edward)

On March 1st, 1974 another Cheshire Home was opened for ten handicapped young adults in Canada.

At the time, three of the ten residents, Cheryl Sullivan of Belleville, Peter Ramsey of Madoc, and myself Jeff York of Picton, Ontario, moved into the home.

When the first three of us took up residence, the home was not completed. The elevator, second staircase, and the entire top floor of the house were still under construction.

There are two completed bedrooms downstairs, a large living room containing one of the four television sets and a fireplace which will be used when the house is completed. In addition there is another large bathroom, an office for our Director and fearless leader. There is a dining room furnished in colonial style furniture where we at

times were in the process of eating and watching the painter put up the wallpaper. Last but not least is the kitchen and laundry room combined.

In the back garden we have a large stone-built barbeque and a triple garage which we hope to turn into a workshop at some later date.

This is a new concept in co-operative living, the residents sharing the chores, doing the shopping, balancing the budget, going to school and hopefully, eventually gaining employment in the local community.

A van was donated by the Belleville Yardsmen Benefit Fund (i.e. Railway Men). The van has a special elevator for the wheelchairs and can be driven by anyone in a wheelchair (as long as they have a licence) without leaving the comfort of their chair. Once in place the driver simply pushes a button and the wheelchair is locked in position.

The residents of Cheshire Home, Belleville, would greatly appreciate receiving letters from any other Cheshire Home accompanied by a group photo of the residents. We are looking forward to your letters. Don't forget to SMILE!

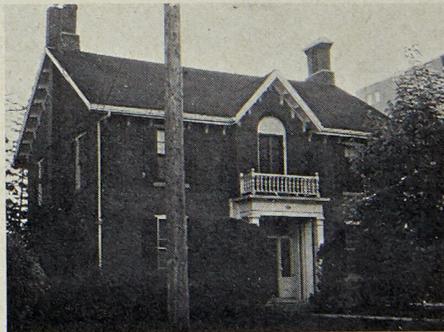


### Cheshire Homes (Hastings-Prince Edward)

In the photograph from left to right you see myself, Jeff York (now sporting a beard), Peter Ramsey (the ice-hockey enthusiast), our Director Irene Sansom (who originally came from Yorkshire, England) and Cheryl Sullivan, who is currently laid up in bed with a skin breakdown, and I wish she could be back in the kitchen, I'm starving.

The Home which is a Victorian house, downtown Belleville is within easy reach of library, hockey stadium and stores.

*Jeff York*



# MADURAI

by Prem Kak

Another dream of the G.C. Leonard Cheshire has come true. The new building for the Madurai Home for which the foundation stone was laid by the Founder himself two years ago has at last been completed and was opened at an imposing function on Tuesday, 12th February by His Excellency Shri K. K. Shah, the Governor of Tamil Nadu. The function was attended by two Honourable Ministers of Tamil Nadu who also spoke on that occasion and by many well-wishers of the Home. Mr R. A. Seetharam Das, I.A.S., the present District Collector has been a great source of strength to the Committee.

Dr Balakrishnan the Chairman of the Home who had accommodated temporarily the residents in his own building from its inception deserves gratitude from all for such a noble gesture. Alas ! Dr Balakrishnan is no more with us. He passed away suddenly on the 8th of May. We mourn his loss.

This was one of the great days for the Secretary of the Home, Mr S. Chidambaranathan, who undertook the building of this Home, especially during the present days of scarcity of materials and paucity of funds. This reminds us of Mr Belliappa, I.A.S., then District Collector of Madurai and one of our Trustees now, who endeavoured to get this ten acre plot of land on which this wonderful building has been built.

Accommodation is now available for 30 residents. We are most fortunate to have the Sisters of St. Joseph the Torbes to look after this Home with such devotion and dedication.

*Ron Travers writes*

'This is a brand new Home. I walked all over the foundations which were just being established when I was there in 1971. As you will see the land was given by the Local Authority, mostly achieved by the District Collector at Madurai who is one of our Trustees in India. I think this allocation of land by Local Authorities is certainly something that we could learn in this country. If we are to go on purpose-building in the future, instead of adapting, then it is the land we are going to find expensive, and this is where Local Authorities could help to fill the gap.'

His Excellency Shri K. K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu standing next to the plaque and to his left are the two Hon. Ministers. Mr Chidambaranathan, Secretary of the Home is on the extreme right.



# GOOD NEWS

Just to hand is 'The Friends of the Cheshire Home in New Jersey' News Letter announcing their hopes to build a Home there, where the problems and needs are the same as have been encountered whenever a Cheshire Home has been established, as will be seen from the following extracts:—

## The Reason

Many handicapped young adults of normal intelligence are presently housed in such places as geriatric wards because no space has been designated for their specific needs. Other handicapped young people are cared for at home where often they have little contact with peers who 'are in the same boat' — where opportunities for acquiring interests or careers may be limited, and where these young people may be painfully aware of causing a steady drain on their family's resources.

## The Need

Think of what happens to a severely disabled person when his family can no longer look after him. He may have to go into a hospital — perhaps confined to a geriatric ward, for life. Unless . . . We can combine our thoughts, energy and devotion and work towards the establishment of a Cheshire Home here in our state, the State of New Jersey. We need to house our physically handicapped brothers and sisters in a facility (home life environment) that will provide for the rehabilitation and advancement that they so deserve.

## The Plan

Some of us who have formed the 'Friends of the Cheshire Homes' work with congenitally handicapped people — those stricken with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, severe Arthritis and other such crippling conditions, and we like to feel that we are doing everything possible to help these less fortunate people function normally. Within the heart of this publication we hope to stimulate your compassion and devotion.

## And with combined efforts . . .

We hope to establish a New Jersey Cheshire Home, a permanent home for physically handicapped young adults of normal intelligence. Here they would live, work and play in a congenial, family-like environment for the remainder of their lives.

The aim is to give them the greatest possible measure of freedom in order to enable them to live within the limits of their disabilities and to the hilt of their capabilities. A place to call home!

There are already three Cheshire Homes in North America! Two in Ontario, and one in Saskatchewan, and all with waiting lists!

# The Oldest Craft

*from Katherine Harper, Asst. Secretary  
at Market Mews*

The Hand Crafts Advisory Association recently held their A.G.M. and after the meeting we heard a fascinating talk on basketry and saw a demonstration on how to make a simple basket. Although this has never been a craft which particularly interested me, by the end of the talk I was eager to rush off and start collecting from the garden or hedgerow in order to make a start.

Basketry is the oldest craft in the world, and is the one from which all the others stem. The most ancient piece ever discovered is a granary liner dating from 8-10 thousand B.C. The techniques used today are exactly the same as those that have been used over the centuries although the designs have changed. Strength for weight there is nothing that modern science can produce which can equal it. Over the centuries it has been used to build bridges, as foundations for weirs and dams, the Saxons used it for the walls of their houses which were then daubed with clay. It has been used for boats in many countries and is the only thing that has ever been successful for aerial balloons. Victorian ladies had a basketry hoop and frame under their crinolines and today the soldiers who guard Buckingham Palace have a light frame of it under the fur of their busbys.

Four different kinds of materials are used. Rush which is for soft work. Cane which comes from S.E. Asia and grows to lengths of 3-4 hundred feet and willow which comes in three main colours and grows mainly in Somerset. The cost of all these have risen recently steeply but there is also hedgerow basketry which is free. Many English trees and shrubs can be used such as the elm, dogwood, clematis, Lombardy poplar and lime. Pick the hedgerow any time during the winter when the sap has ceased to run and before it starts to rise again in the spring. Leave it outside, on the lawn for example, for about three weeks and it is then ready to use and does not even need soaking. Consult a book such as *Basket Making from the Start* and you will be on your way to making your first basket.

We saw a wonderful display of baskets, mats and containers made with cane, willow and wonderful different coloured hedgerow. A doll's cradle on rockers was particularly attractive and there was even a small pony and trap and a miniature charm bracelet complete with charms.



Children of the Asmara Clinic being shown the Vulcan plane during the visit R.A.F. Cyprus paid to Asmara. This coincided with G.C.'s visit for the laying of the foundation stone for the residential wing.

Squadron/Ldr. Bill Downs of R.A.F. Cyprus and children of the Asmara Clinic.

*(Photographs taken by Command Public Relations, Nr. East Air Force).*



## Group Captain's Visit

During the Group Captain's recent visit to Asmara, Ethiopia to lay the foundation stone for the new residential wing adjacent to the existing Clinic, No. 9 Squadron, R.A.F. Cyprus flew a Vulcan over for the occasion. The bomb bay of the aircraft was full of toys and gifts for the children and a cheque for £500 which the Squadron had collected.

The Squadron have been keen supporters of the Cheshire Clinic, Asmara raising funds and support for many years.

## In Gratitude

The years roll on as ever – with changes on the way,  
To some of us the days are short, our lives are  
bright and gay ;

But all too many find life tough, with days so  
long and drear,  
They may be badly crippled or burdened with  
some fear :

This sorry state could bring them grief and take  
away all hope,

They sit or lie around all day and don't know  
how to cope.

I could have been like one of these – I am  
disabled too –

But one day, several years ago, I found out  
what to do :

I'd heard about a place for people just like me –  
so I wrote

And was admitted to that Home down by the sea.  
My colleagues in that Cheshire Home had learned  
to joke and laugh,

Not least because well cared for, by Matron and  
her Staff.

But it's not just there in Cornwall you'll find  
contentment, joy and peace

In other Cheshire Homes it lives – and may it  
never cease.

Yes, we're happy and are grateful to the man  
we call 'G.C.'

Where would we have been without him? –  
folks like you and me? *L.H., Cann House*

## In Memoriam

Miss MARGARET LOVETT died in March of this year. For her many friends, and in particular for the residents of the Chilern Cheshire Home at Gerrards Cross, her death will be a very sad loss. Miss Lovett's strong character and great sense of humour endeared her to all the people fortunate enough to come in contact with her.

## Obituary

*Airey:* on 14th February, 1974, Mrs MARGARET (MADGE) AIREY, at the age of 57. Resident at Holme Lodge since 1973.

*Friend:* on 9th March, 1974, Mr WILLIAM FRIEND, at the age of 63. Resident at Holme Lodge since 1966.

*Elston:* on 30th March, 1974, Mr PERCY ELSTON, at the age of 59. Resident at Holme Lodge since 1972.

*Murray:* on 28th March, 1974, Mrs R. MURRAY, St. Giles.

*Crossley:* on 19th January 1974, ANTHONY CROSSLEY, age 27, a resident at Mote House.

*Clancey:* on 21st May 1974, SARAH (known as Terry) CLANCEY, age 66, a resident at Mote House.

*Procter:* on 30th March 1974, JENNY PROCTER, age 64, a resident at Champion House since 1971.

*Irving:* on 9th January 1974, ROGER IRVING, age 47 (after a long illness), a resident at Champion House.

Our sympathies are extended to his delightful wife Brenda and sons Antony and Simon.

*Cummins:* on 21st April 1974, ROY CUMMINS, age 58, a resident at Teesside Cheshire Home since 1970.

*Bonnar:* on 23rd May 1974, ANNIE BONNAR, age 43, a resident at Carnsalloch House since 1965.

We deeply regret to report the sudden death on 10th February at her home in Brighthouse, of Mrs E. M. Burton, who for two years up to November 1973 had been Chairman of the White Windows House Committee.

*Tims:* on 19th February 1974, EDDIE TIMS, a resident at White Windows for 32 years.

We extend our sympathy to their respective families.

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what is not  
applicable*

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The Cheshire Homes care for the incurably sick or permanently disabled—those for whom hospitals can do nothing further. They are run as homes, and offer the affection and freedom of ordinary family life, the residents being encouraged to take whatever part they can in the day-to-day running of the house and to develop their remaining talents. Disabled people are admitted according to need, irrespective of race, creed or social status.

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Clifton Hampden 7324 (7130)

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Gerrard's Cross 86170 (84572)

### Carmarthenshire

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Eithinog, Old Highway, Upper Colwyn Bay, Colwyn Bay 2404 (30047)

### Derbyshire

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Parkstone 740188 (740272)

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### Durham

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Consett 4000 Office (2363)

### Edinburgh

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031-552 2037 (4157)

### Essex

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### Glamorganshire

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### Gloucestershire

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Cheltenham 52569.

### Hampshire

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Le Court, Liss, Blackmoor 364 (229)

### Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire CH, St John's Road, Hitchin SG4 9DD.

Hitchin 52460 (52458)

### Kent

Mote House, MotePark, Maidstone, Maidstone 37911 (38417)

St Cecilia's, Sundridge Avenue, Bromley BR1 2PZ.

01-460 8377 (7179)

Seven Springs, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells 31138 (20130)

### Lancashire

Honresfeld, Blackstone Edge Road, Littleborough.

Littleborough 78627 (78065)

Oaklands, Dimples Lane, Garstang, Preston PR3 1UA.

Garstang 2290 (3624)

Springwood House, Garston, Liverpool L25 7UW.

Garston 7345 (5400)

### Leicestershire

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Woodhouse Eaves 890250

Staunton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch LE6 5RT.

Melbourne (Derby) 2571 (2387)

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Holbeach 3037 (3241)

Stoncroft House, Barnetby ND38 6YD, Barnetby 344 (699)

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Caerleon 420045 (420676)

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St. Michael's, Axbridge, Somerset, Axbridge 358 (204)

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Womburn 3056 (2060)

### Surrey

Hart's Leap Children's Home, Hart's Leap Road, Sandhurst,  
Camberley, Crowthorne 2599

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Hascombe 383

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Copthorne 2232/3 (2735)

St Bridget's, The Street, East Preston, Littlehampton.  
Rustington 3988 (70755)

### Warwickshire

Greenacres, 39 Vesey Road, Sutton Coldfield,  
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### Westmorland

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(387)

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Kington Langley 235 (327)

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Bradford 612459 (613642)

Kenmore, Whitcliffe Road, Cleckheaton BD19 3DR.  
Cleckheaton 2904 (2724)

Marske Hall, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar TS11 6AA.  
Redcar 2672

Mickley Hall, Mickley Lane, Totley, Sheffield S17 4HE.  
Sheffield 367936 (365709)

Spofforth Hall, Harrogate HG3 1BX. Spofforth 284 (287)

White Windows, Sowerby Bridge. Halifax 31981 (32173)

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### London

Miraflores, 154 Worplesdon Road, Wimbledon SW 20.  
01-946 5058

Gaywood, 30 The Downs, Wimbledon SW 20. 01-946 9493

Nicholas House, 3 Old Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, E 2.  
01-739 5165 (9298)

*Residents' Telephone No. in brackets.*

## MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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### Dorset

Fairfield House, Lyme Regis. Lyme Regis 2487  
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Dorchester 3403

## Cheshire Homes Overseas

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