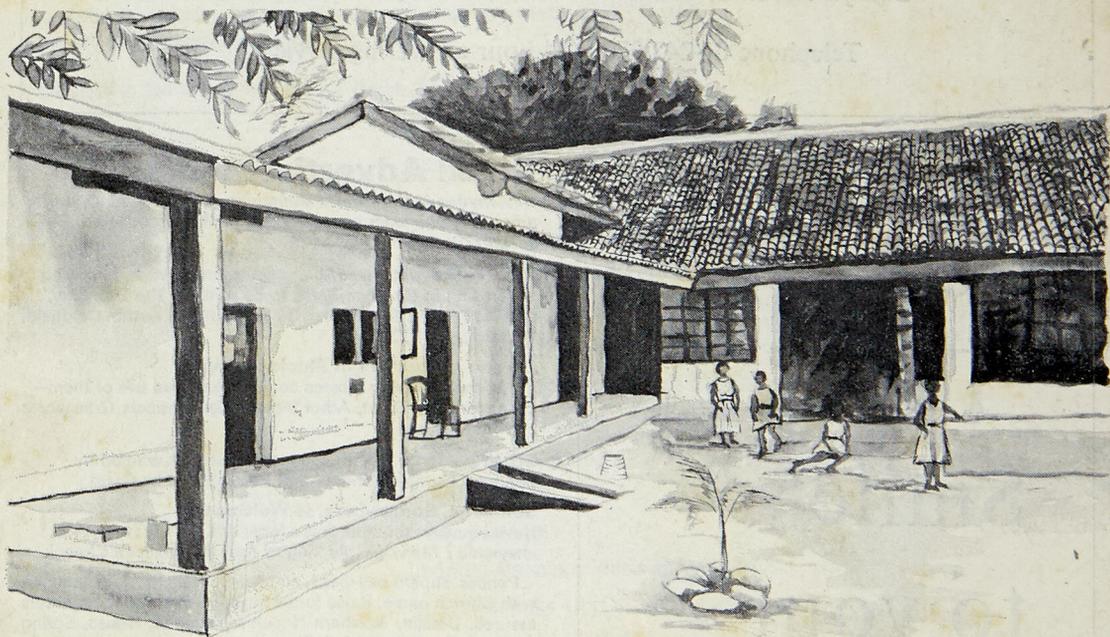


# Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes Price 10p

Autumn 1976



The Sir James and Lady Peiris Home,  
Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka.

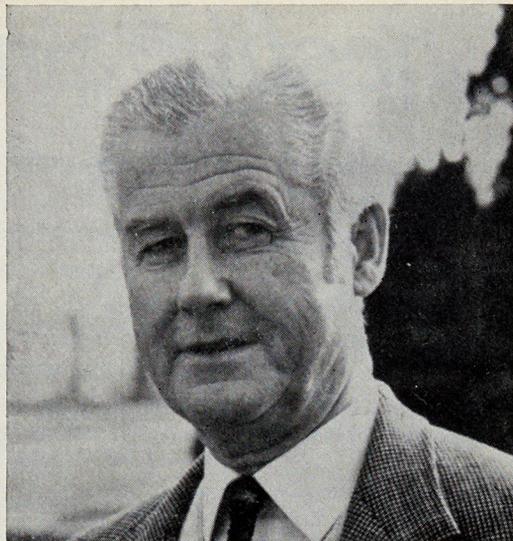
# The Chairman's Page

Our Annual Conference has once again come and gone, and we have time to settle back and consider its pros. and cons. To my mind on this occasion the pros considerably outweighed the cons – but, if you disagree, let's hear from you!

In spite of some administrative inconvenience, the revival after 10 years of the idea of holding the conference outside London seems to have been a general success. We plan to meet in London again next year; but would welcome suggestions for a venue for 1978. At York 56 out of the 67 Homes were represented; indeed we had to put out the "House Full" signs when we reached 250 bookings. The attendance included a good proportion from each of our main bodies, residents, staff, Management Committees and Support Groups; and much enthusiasm and active interest was shown by everyone – although, as happens too often, we ran out of time before everybody could say their say. Furthermore, I don't think we have ever been better served by our set piece speakers, who covered a wide spectrum of subjects which are of interest to us all; not least, of course, we were much pleased and encouraged by the fact that David Ennals, the Secretary of State for the Department of Health and Social Security, paid us a special visit; spoke to us for 50 minutes; and answered a number of searching and pertinent questions. His interest in our activities and problems is obviously sincere and informed; we can all only hope that his plans for the future will not be thwarted by changes of governmental policy or priority, or by a complete collapse of our national economy.

David Ennals shares with us a real concern with the Development and improvement of domiciliary care for the handicapped. All of us, from Leonard Cheshire downward, are determined that the Foundation, and the Homes that comprise it, should play a part in this valuable work; and indeed some Homes have already taken the initiative in their own localities, with pilot schemes of various scope. It is too early to forecast the scale and timing of such programmes and of our part in them; I will let you all know how things progress in due course.

At this stage, however, I would just like to make two things clear in this context – because,



from one or two things said to me at the Conference, I suspect there may be some misunderstandings, resulting in some apprehension. Firstly, domiciliary care programmes and the Foundation's part in them will not be a substitute for the Homes as we know them and as many of you enjoy them; rather they will be a supplement to the Homes (at least for very many years to come) so that, for those who need residential care, it will still be available; for those who need domiciliary care, better provision will be made than there is today. Secondly, the part played in such programmes by staff and supporters from the Homes will in no way reduce or dilute the service and care they now give to our residents. If our load of responsibility increases, we shall just have to find more people and resources to help us meet it – somehow!

Sincerely

Christopher Fairbrother

Chairman.

# VIEWPOINT

Much of this Autumn issue of the *Smile* has been taken up by reports of the various talks and papers read at the Annual Conference at York, and for this we make no apology.

The Conference gave opportunity for discussions to take place and ideas to be aired, although unfortunately time was limited and much that could and might have been said was left unsaid.

However, we shall be pleased if readers will use the columns of the *Smile* to continue the discussions and debates, and to bring out points of special significance.

One point that came over clearly at the Conference was the need for a much closer co-operation and understanding between Homes and the Social Services Departments of the Local Authorities. While 'lip service' is often paid to Homes for the work being done, practical expressions of appreciation, e.g. the acceptance of financial responsibility for residents, the prompt payment of accounts, and the implementation of the memoranda issued by the Association of Municipal Corporations and such bodies, are not practised. Many Homes are hundreds of pounds out of pocket owing to such attitudes, and it was heartening to hear David Ennals views, and that he will deal with any matters directed to his attention through our local M.P.s.

Domiciliary Care came in for serious discussion, and the papers given by Mary Hopcraft and Pat Osborne on the Crossroads Scheme are worth studying. At the same time the residents in all the homes under the Foundation must be given the assurance that their future is secure, and we would most strongly resist any approach from a Local Authority to put any pressure on any resident to move either into a single dwelling with the promise of domiciliary help or into a Home provided by the Local Authority itself.

David Ennals himself said the handicapped person must be given the right to choose the way of life he wished to live, and we should all as workers together exercise our rights, and act as 'watchdogs' to see that such rights remain sacred.

## The Annual Report

The Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1975 have just been received, and we hope to comment on these in our next issue.

However there is a point worthy of special mention which has been brought to our notice by Mr Peter Rowley, the Honorary Treasurer of the Foundation which is of particular importance which we feel cannot be too strongly emphasised and brought to the attention of our supporters at this, the earliest opportunity.

He says, "The Foundation's policy of keeping administrative costs to an absolute minimum is a major factor in attracting donations and bequests both to individual Homes and to the Central Funds which are used for the improvements and rebuilding of existing Homes and new charitable services".

It is therefore a matter of great interest and satisfaction to gather from the Abstract from the Accounts for the Homes in the U.K. that our administrative costs are far lower than those of most other Charities.

These show that

1. only 2.14% of the total income of the Foundation was spent on running the Charity itself, including central publicity;
2. only 6.3% was spent on running the Homes themselves;
3. 91.56% (representing the balance) was or will be spent directly for the benefit of the residents.

Commenting further on these figures, Mr Rowley says that although these are extremely good, the percentage spent on running the Homes is probably overstated.

In these days, particularly when so many people are quite rightly and understandably taking a 'second look' before making donations or bequests to Charities, it is well that we all should seize every opportunity of publicising this aspect of our work.

R.R.

# THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Held at York University,  
Saturday, 18th September 1976

The day dawned fine but a little chilly and a cool breeze blowing through the corridors of the University. There was a good assemblage of Trustees, residents (many of whom were in wheelchairs), Heads of Care, Matrons, members of Management Committees, together with several members of the Foundation Home and Overseas staff from Market Mews, and other voluntary helpers and representatives of associated organisations, altogether numbering well over 200.

In his opening remarks the Chairman, Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, paid tribute to the Honorary Treasurer Peter Rowley and his committee for the sound financial position in which the Foundation is placed; and he invited Homes to submit application for loans for specific projects. He spoke of the need for training of staff, and to concentrate on the advancement of schemes to keep pace with those being brought in by the Government and Local Authorities.

It had been emphasised time and again, he said, that the work being done under the Foundation for the disabled requires more and more expert and properly trained people.

The talk given by Pat Osborne on the Crossroads Scheme, and that by Mary Hopcraft on the whole subject of Domiciliary Care appear on other pages and are worthy of a close study.

Mr George Neilson, Director of the C.C.D. gave an enlightening talk on the vexed question of the 'phasing out' of the invalid tricycles, and assured us that although no further trikes would be issued, the D.H.S.S. had given an undertaking to present users that replacements and spares would be available for the next five years, and considerable thought was being put into the question of the Mobility Allowance payments (now payable to people up to pensionable age).

Various schemes were discussed, and the number of questions asked indicated the concern felt by present users. The point came over very clearly that a 'lump sum' payment for the initial purchase would prove the biggest obstacle, and with present interest rates, loans from 'Finance Houses' would be completely ruled out.

Some discussion took place as to the use to which the Mobility Allowance should be put, and the general concensus seemed to be that it could be used in whatever way the receiver of it chose.

Mr Brian J. Tanner, F.R.I.B.A., then followed with a talk on the use of the Government's Job Creation Programme which had been running for nearly a year, and which made a total of £75 million available towards labour costs in Social Services projects which would be of benefit to the community. All Homes were urged to look into their future needs, and take advantage of such a wonderful opportunity of saving money and in so doing reducing the level of unemployment in the building industry where some 200,000 are seeking jobs. He put forward many suggestions as to how and where improvements could be made and these included external repairs, repainting, conversions, provision of single bedrooms, greenhouses, workshops, kitchens, etc.

Details of the programme are available from the Manpower Services Commission. The maximum grant is limited to £50,000 for any scheme.

We were strongly reminded that as standards are constantly being raised, it is necessary for all the Homes to be continually re-appraising their own in an endeavour to keep ahead of present day requirements.

General Verandrah Singh head of the Homes in India spoke briefly of the work of the Foundation in his country, and the problems with which they were faced. It was, he said, their aim to give a dignity to disabled people - we were all working with them with a common aim and purpose for the relief of suffering throughout the World. He conveyed to the Assembly the greetings from the 19 Homes in India.



Major-General Virendra Singh

The talk given by Lady June Onslow on the work of the Foundation in the field of Mental Health in England appears as a separate article in this issue.



David Ennals, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, spoke at some length in the afternoon session. He had, he said, admired the work of the Foundation since it commenced 28 years ago, and spoke not only of the 'quantitative' but also the 'qualitative' nature of the work, and the service given which is tailored to the needs of individuals in our Homes, rather than as 'battery hens' ! !

He paid tribute to the work done by the late Megan du Boisson and D.I.G. which she was instrumental in starting, and of the change that has taken place in public attitudes to the disabled particularly over the past five years. He spoke of the responsibility the whole community has for disabled people, and said how pleased he was to see more and more organisations *of* rather than *for* the disabled.

In mentioning the various benefits payable in the U.K. to the disabled, the Minister said one of his greatest concerns was that people were not claiming what was their due as of right. Benefits had increased in real terms by 33½% since 1969.

Mr Ennals strongly supported the view that disabled people should have the right to choose their way of life and to be as independent as their disabilities would allow, and said that the majority are living in their own homes thanks to the adaptations that had been made possible with the aid of Local Authority Grants.

The role of Voluntary Organisations in the community he said, was of enormous value. At the same time they had an enormous responsibility, and a great partnership role to play with the Local Authority.

Regarding residential care, Mr Ennals said he was firmly convinced that there would be a continuing need for such establishments as the Leonard Cheshire Homes for as far ahead as he could see. There are still too many younger disabled in hospitals, and he was afraid the demand for places in Homes would increase rather than diminish in the foreseeable future, and it was proposed that there should be a 60% increase in funds available to voluntary organisations. He closed his address by saying that there was nothing more needed in our society than sustained constancy in innovation; and where, as Sir Christopher, our Chairman, said in his vote of thanks to the Secretary of State, have we a greater 'touchstone' in this than in our Founder, Group Captain Leonard himself.

Summing up the Conference, G.C. Leonard Cheshire asked us all to bear in mind everything that had been said – particularly that money should always be put to best use – advising us to think wisely – "Necessity", he said, "makes it a compulsion to innovate". He hoped we would always be "innovaters". He called on us to look at the needs of today, and ask ourselves the question, are we meeting them in a contemporary setting?

The G.C. again put forward his idea of bringing youth more into the picture and of considering including some on to Management Committees. Finally, he asked us all to continue to work together towards the full integration of the disabled person into the whole of society.

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"The decision of the individual is governed by an attitude of mind".

"Our Homes should provide a place for independent living".

# THE CROSSROADS CARE AND ATTENDANT SCHEME

*Being a talk given at the Annual Conference  
by Pat Osborne, S.R.N.*

Before discussing the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme I think it is important to try to put it in perspective within the concept of "domiciliary care". "Domiciliary care" is a title which embraces the care of patients needing nursing at home and a severely disabled person comes within that category. Today's District Nursing Sister has a very complex task in organising the care of patients who suffer from many differing illnesses. She must take into account such priorities as family circumstances, distances, teaching students, working as part of a team which may consist of, as in my case, six doctors, two S.R.N.'s, one S.E.N. and two H.V.'s, a psychiatric social worker and a midwife.

So to begin the story of the Crossroads Scheme: Five years ago whilst on holiday in Wales, a young man called Noel Crane took a dive into the sea from some rocks. However the water was much shallower than he estimated and he broke his neck, spending the next 13 months in the



Pat Osborne with Noel Crane

Midlands Spinal Injuries Unit learning the true meaning of the word "tetraplegia". He had to re-learn how to feed himself, how to shave himself, and how to write again. Whilst in hospital his friends and colleagues had raised enough money to present him with a car, specially adapted for him, the Consultant at the hospital encouraged a "tetra" to learn to drive again and he now drives a two litre with much skill and confidence.

Noel was discharged home from hospital in June 1972, having learnt how to cope with a wheelchair in a hospital surrounding. He then had to discover how to pick up the threads again in a community he once knew when able bodied. He lived with his widowed mother, and she had to learn how to cope with a six foot, twelve stone, thirty-two year old son, once so capable, now so dependent on her. Fortunately, his company offered him another job; an engineer by profession, he is now an administrator in the Training Department of a large Coventry car factory.

About that time, the A.T.V. serial "Crossroads" had a character in it, called "Sandy", who was involved in a car accident which left him paralysed from his waist down. As Noel's hospital memories were very fresh in his mind, he noticed several points in the acting which he thought needed a little criticism, and contacted the producer of the programme. To his surprise, not only was the producer interested in what he had to say, but asked if he could visit Noel to see how he coped at home. Eventually, this led to a very firm friendship and gradually, over the weeks, Reg Watson, the producer, began to notice how very tired Noel's mother was, and to sense the stress and strain she was under. He could not help wondering what would happen to Noel if anything should happen to his mother, and began to realise that there must be hundreds of others in similar situations. He wrote a storyline into the script of "Crossroads" which involved a disabled boy whose mother collapsed under the strain of looking after him, and in the serial the problem was solved by getting a nurse to look after him at home whilst his mother had a two week break.

This caused a great deal of public interest and fortunately the Medical Adviser to the programme at the time, Dr. Richard Hudson-Evans, was very conversant with and well aware of the problems which exist in the home situation of a severely disabled person. Like many others, he had always dreamed of the scheme such as we now have, but finance was needed to set it up and so far this had eluded him! A.T.V. generously gave £10,000 to cover a two year period, for a project which was originally intended to cope only in emergency situations such as that illustrated in the storyline written into the script.

The pilot scheme hoped to prove the need on a national level and also hoped to prove that the need could be met by employing ladies, who we have called care attendants, who are not trained nurses, but who are willing to learn the basic skills normally undertaken by the caring relative. They are paid an hourly rate, now less than a home help.

Miss Irene Sankey, the District Nurse Tutor at the time, was entrusted with the initial setting up of the scheme, but shortly after its commencement unexpectedly had to leave, and I, unexpectedly, found £10,000 to play with. It was a challenge – and secretly, it frightened me silly.

The first point to be settled was whether to find the care attendants first or the families. A dilemma – if we trained the care attendants maybe they would not be acceptable to a disabled person in their own home – if we found the families and outlined what we proposed to do for them we may not be able to recruit the care attendants. After much thought, we decided to advertise for the care attendants and placed a very small advertisement in the local paper, asking, simply, "Are you interested in caring for disabled people in their own homes?" To our surprise we had over thirty applicants and out of those, chose five. We now have ten and have had no trouble in finding and recruiting the right type of person, although I must stress that we took a great deal of trouble and went to great lengths to ensure that they really were "the right type of person". They are all very different in their personalities, but they have many outside interests and bring a delightfully fresh approach into their work dealing with handicapped people. As a trained nurse myself, bound by loyalties to my profession and a hospital-type, "built-in" attitude to disabled people which I have found hard to shake off, I envy and admire the very open and honest way the friendships have developed. It has been a delight to me to encourage a sense of involvement – which has resulted in greater integration into the community and I have enjoyed encouraging the care attendants to do things spontaneously for the families, things such as taking in a bag of fish and chips to somebody who is housebound and sitting there at midnight having a feast. All sorts of things which would be wrong for me, whilst on duty, to be doing, but which for a care attendant looking after somebody who is not a patient and is not ill, can be so rewarding in sharing the ordinary things of life.

The original concept of the scheme coping in an emergency only was soon thought to be wrong and we realised that we should be aiming at prevention. Gradually, over the two year period, it became startlingly obvious that the greatest need was for the "unsocial hours" not covered by statutory services, and that our services would

have to be available at weekends, during Public Bank Holidays, late at night and very early in the morning. However, the original idea was not lost and we are there to cope in emergency situations, although another interesting fact is that over the two year period, emergencies have been very few and far between. We wonder whether this is just a coincidence or that whether, the continual, reliable, always-there-when-you-want-it type of help, in fact has prevented emergencies occurring.

What have we learned from and proved over a two year pilot scheme period?

1. That given the right amount and flexible type of help they need, a severely disabled person can be looked after successfully at home.
2. By giving the caring relative a short break on a regular basis, one can prevent emergency situations arising, such as break down in relative's health, break down in marriages.
3. Surprisingly, a maximum of approximately ten hours weekly has been shown to be the average amount most required and most beneficial. However (and a most important 'however'), is that the help given has to be when the disabled person requires it (usually this can be pre-estimated because of the set routine most disabled people have).
4. The help given has almost always been at a time which is not covered by the statutory services, and so has prevented a person being admitted to a Home or hospital, unnecessarily.
5. The cost of giving this type of help is minimal in comparison with residential care.
6. Relatives have felt more able to cope knowing that such help is available at a moment's notice and is there whenever they need it. They have also felt their burden lightened because they now have the knowledge that somebody else can share in the managing of the disabled person.

Age groups and range of diagnosis have been wide – tetraplegia, paraplegia, hemiplegia, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, Parkinsons' disease, arthritis, and help has been extended to parents of handicapped children, although this was not envisaged to be part of the scheme at the outset. In two years, we were able to give help, on a regular, reliable basis, to 28 families, and made a total of 3,000 visits (the term visit being anything from one hour to a period of twelve hours).

The amount of interest shown on a national and local level has been encouraging and hopefully, not without meaning for the future for other disabled people in other areas of the country.

Our £10,000 grant came to an end in March this year, but we raised £1,200 ourselves. To our surprise and delight the D.H.S.S. granted a further £5,000 to carry the scheme for another year, until March 1977.

We are a registered charity, and would dearly love to see the scheme extended to other areas. Our ideas were greeted with much apathy and scepticism at the outset, but happily, attitudes are beginning to change. We now have very valuable experience on which to draw and which we can share with others.

On a personal level, it has not been plain sailing by any means but the difficulties have only strengthened my conviction that this scheme has much to offer on a national basis. The publicity certainly has not been sought, in fact I have been criticised for not making the project known more widely, but I preferred to wait until the end of the pilot scheme period. Raising false hopes is one of the worst things one can do and I much prefer to tell you, now, after three years, what has been achieved. There is such an unmet need nationally, the scheme proved itself without any help from us. We have proved, over a period of time, that the need can indeed be met . . . how to convince the powers that be that in the long term view we would be saving money, I just do not know. But if one considers that the climate in the N.H.S. is now one of cutting back in hospital building programmes, not replacing staff who leave their jobs, third year student nurses who are told that if they pass their State finals their is no place for them, but if they fail their exam they may stay on for six months, one will see that the statutory services are stretched beyond their limits, and domiciliary care continues to be a long way down the list of priorities.

Having said that, I must go on to say that in order to enlarge to other areas, we need finance . . . and I have the sort of cockeyed optimism to believe that it will "come from somewhere". The part of me that is a trained nurse will continue to uphold the belief that sick people, being nursed at home, need trained, skilled nursing and I find the introduction of more and more auxiliaries as replacement for trained staff very disturbing.

However the part of me which sees the domiciliary care of disabled people recognises that, generally speaking, they are not ill, they do not wish to be regarded as patients, and I therefore truly believe that the type of worker we have introduced into the community is actually better for disabled people than trained nurses, provided they have the support and expertise of a trained person.

Being responsible for the grass root running of this new scheme has been rather like the

experience of swatting for an examination, then suddenly taking the exam and passing, and left wondering "What now?" I have been happy to have been "the spade" doing the digging, and would be happier still if others came along to build upon what has been started in Rugby, the scheme can be modified and improved upon in future years.

In such a gathering as this, I feel I can share with you some words which haunt me over and over again:—

"I wish I didn't know, Lord.

I wish it were not true.

I wish I could convince myself that I'm dreaming.

I wish someone could prove that I'm exaggerating.

I wish they'd show me that all these people are to blame,

That it is their fault they are so miserable.

I'd like to be reassured, Lord, but I can't.  
It's too late,

I've seen too much,

I've listened too much,

I've counted too much,

and Lord, these figures have robbed me forever of my innocent tranquility".

*Michel Quoist, "Prayers for Life".*

Mr Alfred Morris, discussing the scheme at the Sunningdale Conference earlier this year, said that it fully endorses the new philosophy of disablement, and enables disabled people to remain independent and members of the community.

My favourite description of the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme — and there have been many descriptions! — is that given by Dr Barry Francis-Jones, Consultant at the Midlands Spinal Injuries Unit, Oswestry:

"The Crossroads Scheme shines in a naughty world and it must not be allowed to snuff out".



## The Question of Domiciliary Care

*Talk given by Mary Hopcraft, Head of the Service Corps at the Annual Conference.*

Whether or not the Foundation becomes further involved with domiciliary services will surely depend on three factors:

1. The Home must want to be involved.
2. Need in the area must be established.
3. There has to be a willingness to prepare relative substitutes for the job in hand and for someone to accept responsibility for placing them. This is unlikely to be a major task at the outset, because one would be working in a prescribed area.

I am sure many of you will think we have enough to do to raise and maintain our own standards of residential care without embarking upon something new BUT the Foundation have already entered the field of domiciliary care by giving support to residents living at home at Palace Road flats in Tulse Hill. The Grange at Parkstone are busily engaged with plans to house and support people who will live in a mixed community at Bournemouth. We all know about the bungalows at Seven Springs and Heatherley which were the first of their kind when they were built.

At Taylor House in Oxford, I always forget I am visiting part of the Foundation because the atmosphere is so much part of the community that one can be forgiven for thinking it is a house where a few people live who happen to be handicapped. The Service Corps there have been 'relative substitutes' in the fullest sense, undertaking every chore from cooking to gardening, collecting and delivering stock for the shop and generally making a homelike situation a reality.

Chiltern Home staff are encouraged and helped to give support to handicapped members of their neighbouring community, who otherwise might find themselves in residential care. The minimum support they are able to give is sufficient to enable the people to remain at home. These people in Gerrards Cross get the help when they need it, on the days they need it and the client pays for the service.

Last week I heard that plans are afoot to bring domiciliary support to handicapped people living near to our Home at Timsbury and now for the first time a local authority has entered the field. West Sussex Social Services committee have allocated £100,000 during this current financial year, to be used for people living seriously at risk who would otherwise be unsupported in the community. The Home Care or 'relative substitute' service provide for two different types of situation:

- (1) the elderly, who receive help for two or three hours weekly, so making their lives a little more comfortable, and
- (2) a small but significant minority who receive special category facilities because without these services they could not survive outside a residential setting. The authorities are expecting these special category clients to increase in numbers as the ages rise in what is already a retirement area.

The West Sussex Service is very similar to Crossroads in intent and is being very carefully monitored. The Director of Social Services responsible for the scheme said he would welcome any co-operation the Foundation could give, particularly with short stay accommodation for people urgently in need of help. The Social Service department where the scheme was innovated and from where it operates have the full support of the health authorities in the area. They are all geared to try and make the scheme a success.

*So what role could the Foundation have in a similar scheme?*

Crossroads used the Midland Spinal Injuries

Unit as a resource centre for learning about the more complicated and intricate aids to daily living and I would suggest our own Homes could also serve as resource centres so demonstrating the best in day to day practises in the care of handicapped people, having more experience than most people in this field.

The very words, "relative substitute", conjure up in one's mind the closeness between the relative and the substitute who operates on their behalf, so that continuity of practise flows more easily when the substitutes take their cue from the relatives who are the front line supporters for the home based handicapped. As in most situations in life we can learn new skills if we are alert enough to observe and take time to practise them; so that the marrying of the residential to the domiciliary sector will surely enrich people serving both groups.

How each Home sees itself making a contribution to such a service must of course remain the prerogative of that Home, they may like the idea of having one or two people willing to go on standby or they may not wish to become involved at all.

#### *How should preparation of personnel take place?*

A fairly large part of my job is taken up preparing support staff for work with handicapped people. I cannot and do not confine the programme to physical handicap alone because we are preparing for work with people and that means the whole man, not just his damaged limbs. In offering these opportunities for a deeper understanding of human relationships, I believe the training we offer equips the sensitive practitioner with an awareness of a dependent person's needs. These skills can be employed whether the person is supported at home, living alone or with relatives or indeed with a community of adults as in our case.

We have facilities for preparing only 30 *new* people each year in the Service Corps, so if our Homes are keen to enter the domiciliary field other areas and homes will clearly be necessary whereby staff can be prepared for work in the community. Residential and community personnel have a lot to exchange in the way of up-to-date information as we have learned by sharing with the district nurses and social workers in Hampshire.

Anyone may think they could help support the family, but if the Crossroads scheme's high standards are to be upheld and the good name of the Foundation is to be associated with the scheme, then correct preparation for the jobs in hand will be a necessary task before moving into the domiciliary sector.

In areas of the country where Foundation Homes are situated there are people struggling to support relatives who have had strokes, old ladies suffering with rheumatoid arthritis and so on. A little help for them at times the statutory services do not operate would take the Foundation among the populace, so extending our work to all handicapped people. All categories of handicapped need support; from children to the elderly. I can think of no-one needing that support more than the mother of a hyperactive mentally handicapped child. The alternatives for them when they cannot cope any longer are not as good as for relatives of the physically handicapped. All too often it is the big mental hospital that receives them. The desperation of parents with adult mentally handicapped sons and daughters living at home is only really known to them alone. They soon learn from enquiring and searching around that centres such as the Foundation Homes do not exist for the adult mentally handicapped. There are already six times as many mentally handicapped people as there are physically handicapped living in hospitals and Local Authority Homes. Obviously the relative substitute service would go a long way in meeting this need for support and relief. Our two Dorset Homes and the Home at Christleton in Cheshire have much experience with the younger multiple handicapped group and may consider passing some of this expertise onto the communities.

So coming back to the physically handicapped, with so many of them over 65 years of age it is obvious that these services are going to be sought more and more. The young will certainly require such services to enable them to return to work, Pat Osborne has said.

#### *What might be the cost of such an exercise?*

With nearly three years experience behind them Crossroads tell us that to relieve family stress and keep a person out of care and at home with his family the cost is minimal in comparison with what it costs in residential care.

Service Corps personnel who have completed their training are only too willing to undertake this work but naturally they could only do so if the residents in our Homes were first of all receiving adequate and necessary care. As costs rise on all fronts, very careful consideration will have to be given before any person is financially sponsored into residential care by either the Health or the Social Service departments. The new consultative document which lists priorities for Health and Social Services in England, refers to the increasing number of citizens who could remain in the community given the right support.

So that unless more local authorities follow the West Sussex lead, it seems that the voluntary sector will have to come to the aid of the housebound during the hours they need help and cannot now obtain it. People will either be neglected at home, relatives will collapse under the strain or the handicapped person will be moved into residential care.

Government have publicly and privately approved of The Crossroads Scheme, and indeed financially assisted them. Where local authorities can not and do not pay for extended services it seems to me that central government should be approached and invited to assist those voluntary bodies willing to act as local authority agencies. This is what we are now doing in the residential sector and to extend to the community would certainly be in the national interest in terms of both care and cash.

Schemes like 'Crossroads' are operating in many of the developed countries of the West so surely it is only a matter of time before it comes more widespread here. Who is there better equipped to help Crossroads on its way than the Leonard Cheshire Foundation whose members have pioneered and are still pioneering in this field having done so for nearly 30 years.

## The Foundation's work in the Field of Mental Health

*Addressed to the Conference by  
Lady June Onslow*

When I was asked to speak on the work of the Foundation in Mental Health I did not know I should be sharing a platform with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Service. A man acknowledged by all to be very well versed in this particular field; not just as a politician but as one who has been actively engaged in voluntary work and is a past chairman of MIND – so I know I am talking to a friend.

The mental health services nationally have not been given the priority they deserve. In an absolute sense national standards have risen and there has been an enormous change in the methods of treatment – but the proportion of NHS resources which have been devoted to services for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped has sadly declined in recent years.

Giving priority to one need in the NHS denies another in today's economic climate, and the cry for resources to save life or limb tend to get answered before the cry for those to prevent the mentally ill or handicapped from entering hospital, or improve the quality of their lives when there.



Lady June Onslow

Taking the mentally ill field first – modern treatment will enable many patients to leave hospital and attend Day Clinics or continue under the care of their G.P.s – but where do they go from hospital? Some may return home; many will have no home to go to; then there are those who have lived most of their lives in hospital, who may find it beyond their capabilities to start trying to struggle in our complex environment without a great deal of permanent support.

We hear today much of Community Care, and the idea is very attractive and statistically works out to be cheaper; but I am anxious to know that it will also be better – and better primarily for the ex-patient.

The responsibility for providing accommodation and supporting staff lies with the Local Authorities, but however willing they are – and as yet only a token number have managed to achieve any provision. Voluntary organisations have become more and more vital in providing facilities in many areas, so that now the joint venture like that of this Foundation where we provide the housing and the State maintains the resident works well; but even this arrangement is under stress with some Local Authorities saying that they cannot underwrite new residents.

Within our Foundation it was Leonard who recognised the need for shelter and support for the ex-psychiatric patients trying to re-build their lives. In 1957 he found people in Wimbledon who share his desire to try and do something about it, and the result was the first house in today's complex. An ordinary house in an ordinary street, set up as a re-habilitative hostel with 14 residents. Within a short time the Management Committee's experience underlined the needs: (1) for short term: from a few months to a year; (2) longer-term care; (3) Group home as a permanent way of life.

Today each of these needs is met and the total number of residents is 37, and they are all at work which says much for the help and understanding of employers in the area and for the help of the D.R.O.

Success is won in varying degrees: some residents have to be re-admitted to hospital and this can be a problem. Personality problems happen and staff turn-over is understandably high: it is an immensely demanding field of endeavour, needing constant leadership and compassion.

To share the dark moments of depression and the brightness of joy with those who have suffered mental illness and are struggling to regain self-responsibility, as well as holding down a job in our complex environment today, we must try to share their heights and depths and self-doubts using our own glimpses and experience of frustration, despair and sudden ecstatic joy. I do not need to underline the importance of training in this work.

The re-habilitative work at Wimbledon is a daily living, re-orientation – as confidence is gained in self-care, residents may move to another house where they cater for themselves. The warden lives in a flat and as he passes through keeps an unobtrusive eye on how things are going.

In the group home a social worker calls to collect the rent each week and perhaps have a chat. The Management Committee keeps well in the background – its function being to keep the property in repair as landlord.

Nicholas House in Bethnal Green is a joint venture with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association in the sense that the Foundation provided the building, and P.R.A. provide the expertise and are well represented on the Management Committee. The house was not built for the job it now does, and has great problems with today's fire regulations. It was set up in 1964 to cater for 23 people, accepting both men and women.

Great emphasis is laid on providing re-habilitation or help within the same cultural background as that in which the residents lived and worked before entering hospital.

Nicholas House also has five small hostels – small ordinary houses with about six residents. Local residents were told in advance what was intended and given a telephone number they could ring in the event of anxiety. There has been complete co-operation.

The need for small group homes is enormous, both to reduce numbers in, and prevent people unnecessarily having to enter, hospital. The resources of the D.H.S.S. and Local Authorities are fully stretched and have no prospects of meeting the need within the lifetime of any middle aged person today. Voluntary organisations have a great contribution to make.

I want to turn now to the needs of the Mentally handicapped – and in particular those of children.

It is widely quoted that 80% of these children live at home. The balance of 20% is numerically large. Of this group some are so handicapped that hospital care is desirable, but there are others for whom hospital care is unnecessary and undesirable but who are in there, or may have to be admitted because of lack of alternative accommodation.

This may come about through a variety of reasons: rejection at birth by parents; difficulties in parental control with the growing teenager, or problems with other children in the family; housing conditions, and others.

Once again in a small way as a Foundation we have tried to help: Hawthorne Lodge started in 1958, and The Green at Chrisleton in 1964. Today they cater for some 50 children – most on a permanent basis, but some on holiday placements – between the ages of a few months to 11 years.

Fairfield House in Lyme Regis opened in 1972, this Home caters for 24 older children aged 11-16. The newest development is also at Lyme Regis, Buckfield, which is run by the same Management Committee and has 21 children.

The constant aim in caring for these children is to get them to stretch out and develop their ability. It is often impossible to judge accurately the potential of a small mentally handicapped child – some may develop with delightful speed, others may take years; some may sadly reveal their handicap is too severe and beyond improvement. But where do the children go when the time comes for them to leave?

The Social Services find this one of their most difficult tasks. The Management Committee doesn't want to see the breaking up of friendships made over a period of years in the home, which is the closest thing to family life that most of these children are likely to experience. It is their intention to develop small group homes for four or five with an 'Auntie' figure. With the numbers we now have it seems probable we shall need one new Group home every four or five years.

It is sometimes said, "Why expand in these fields when you have very little experience or expertise in them, compared with your work with the physically handicapped?"

We have always endeavoured to meet the needs of the day. If we had waited for expertise and knowledge in the field of the physically handicapped, there would have been no Leonard Cheshire Foundation. Leonard himself refused to heed those who sought to discourage him for dabbling in a field about which he knew nothing. Today's needs are enormous, and I look forward to our response to them.

## Singing through the Showers

I love to hear the birds of April  
Singing through the showers  
When raindrops patter on the path,  
And all the gay spring flowers  
Are dancing in the wind as if they  
Could hear the notes  
Ripping such sweet rhythm  
From those throbbing throats  
Fate can be a freak,  
Like the sun on April days.

Fickle, unreliable, with strange uncertain ways  
The golden glow of fortune beams upon us  
for a while,  
Then clouds of sorrow threaten and  
Black out the sun's bright smile,  
When the skies are overcast and  
Raindrops start to fall,  
It's hard for us to realize, it's just  
A shower, that's all.

The birds have greater faith than we,  
If the world is warm and light,  
Or if it's cold and grey,  
Come shine or showers, they'll come  
Together all along the way,  
Life with all its tears and joys,  
It's like an April day,  
Cloud and shadow changing with  
The ever-changing hours.  
Oh for a faith with which to go,  
A singing through the showers.

LOUISA GWILLIAM

*The Cotswold Home.*

## Towards a Housing Policy for Disabled People

The Central Council for the Disabled recently published the final report of its working party on Housing, "Towards a Housing Policy for Disabled People". The report is the result of two years research by the working party under the chairmanship of Professor John Greve, and expands on the issues discussed in its Interim Report.

Broadly speaking, the topics covered are:  
Provision for disabled people by local authorities, new towns, housing associations, and within the private sector;  
The type of housing needed: mobility and wheelchair housing and adaptations;  
Provision for the severely disabled;  
Assessment of need and provision;  
Management of housing for disabled people.

One of the most important points made in the report is the lack of information available on which to base a housing policy for disabled people. This inadequacy is hampering progress and there is a need for improved information to facilitate the development of long term strategies. On a local level, increased knowledge as to the identity of disabled people in housing need would facilitate the management of specially designed and adapted property. Housing authorities should review their waiting list and allocation procedures, which in many cases fail to show if applicants suffer from physical disability, and do not give sufficient priority to the needs imposed by disability.

It is clear, that provision for disabled people is inadequate. The report stresses that all those involved in public sector housing should do more to acquaint themselves with the needs of disabled people, and to cater for those needs. It points out that new towns and housing associations could play an important role, because both have a far greater degree of flexibility than local authorities. Although certain associations and new towns are providing a proportion of mobility and wheelchair units, much more could and should be done.

Another area in which lack of information is hampering progress is provision for severely disabled people. At present a large gap exists between the degree of care available in sheltered schemes, and the situation of total care in residential homes. There is a pressing need to provide a real choice for the severely disabled.

In order to do this the extent of demand for new residential accommodation as opposed to non-institutional provision, and also what forms of domiciliary care are needed and how best these needs can be met must be established. For there to be a real choice for the severely disabled there must be joint planning and joint financing, so that housing provision is co-ordinated with the various services and benefits necessary.

While the report of the working party is only 'final' in that it represents the conclusions of its members on the situation to date. The work will be continued by a permanent sub-committee which will press to implement the recommendations of this report, and thus to improve the housing situation of disabled people.

"Towards a Housing Policy for Disabled People" is available at a charge of £1 per copy (inclusive) from Victoria Stark, Housing Officer, Central Council for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London



## Management '76—A New Look

Cheshire Homes 1976 looks like What-to-do-About-The-Management-Committee Year. The subject is widely, if politely, discussed and the voice of the Expert is heard in the land.

Two recent issues of *Cheshire Smile* had interesting articles – by Sheila Llewellyn (Autumn '75) and G. Reid Herrick (Winter '75/76). Others have tip-toed, more or less, around the point.

Mrs Llewellyn is hampered by a breezy psycho-socio-what's-it approach with phrases like "total partnership situation", and neat little "charts" that don't seem to take us as far as plain words would have done. But her heart is in the right place.

Mr Reid Herrick sounds sensible and both writers want more participation and involvement in the life of a home from residents and management. Mrs Llewellyn wants residents (and

staff) on management committees. The same would follow from Mr Reid Herrick's statement that residents have the same human, legal and civic rights "as you or I".

Also worth a round of applause is Mrs Llewellyn's plea for management "with doors wide open", no secrets, public discussion.

What then is to be done about the management committee? What *can* be done?

We agree there is a need for residents to be more involved in what's going on. Management often disagree. They say the typical resident doesn't want to be involved and seems apathetic. We say such apathy is caused by lack of real opportunity. So we should try to create the opportunity.

Apathy and lack of interest may be found among Management as well as Residents, perhaps because a Management Committee may be far too big, say 30. The residents on it, say two, inexperienced and out of their depth, don't have much impact. And on all committees there is a hard core of concerned and active people who really sway most of the decisions.

So let us have a much smaller executive body meeting often to run the home. It would discuss and advise on all matters affecting residents and atify all decisions. They would have the last word and report to residents and management committees.

Residents and management would be represented equally on the executive, with perhaps some staff. They would be elected, management by the management committee (who would continue as friends, philosophers, fund-raisers, helpers, and so on). Residents would elect residents. Or residents and management together would elect the whole executive. But this executive has to be *small* in number, perhaps ten altogether, perhaps less, to be effective.

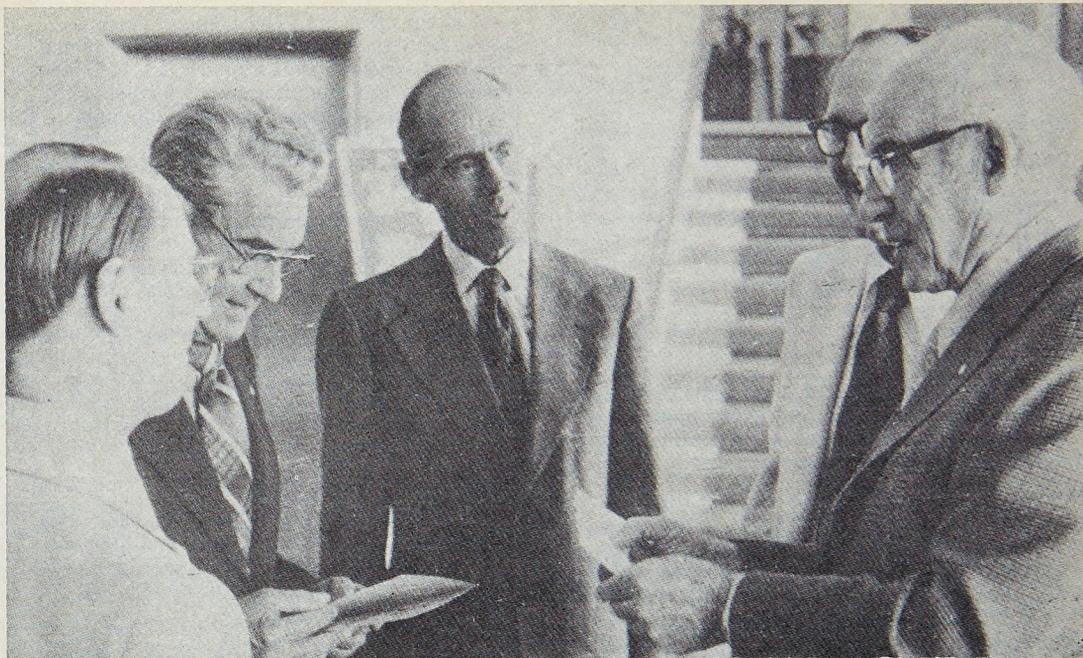
We say this, or something like it, could be tried out as an experiment subject to modification.

Again, why not have regular meetings between the chairman of management, chairman of residents, and head of home (or matron) to discuss or decide day-to-day matters reporting to the committee?

Anyway, we must do something. If, as Mr Reid Herrick says, we all have the same human, legal and civic rights we must start using them. And now is the time.

*Geoff Bell and David Cartwright*

*By courtesy The Dolywern Digest.*



Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C., and a former Commanding Officer of the famous "Dam Busters" Squadron during World War Two, was a recent visitor to this city. The Group Captain was here to take part in the official opening of Cheshire Homes of Saskatoon, located at 2901 Louise. The man who founded the Cheshire Homes concept, shortly after the end of the war, is shown, centre, with other dignitaries, who were on hand for the opening. Included in the photo are Dr John Owen, Chairman of the Board for Cheshire Homes, Saskatoon; Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable George Porteous, M.B.E., C.M.; the Honourable Herman Rolles, Saskatchewan Minister of Social Services; and His Worship Bert Sears, Mayor of Saskatoon.

## The G.C.'s Report on his visit to Saskatoon, Canada, 25-26 June 1976

In some ways (G.C. writes) this turned out to be the busiest of the visits during my tour, with some six Press, Radio and T.V. interviews in the morning, a talk to the Kiwanis Club at lunchtime, followed by the official opening of the Saskatoon Home. The reason for all this was that Kiwanis are contemplating giving yet a further substantial grant, as the Committee are already planning a second unit for their Home. To my mind this ranks among the most notable achievements within the Foundation, for all the buildings were "purpose-built".

One would normally look upon Saskatoon as being a somewhat remote City, but this is deceptive, and a visitor will be surprised by the dynamism and community spirit as well as by the high cultural and educational standard that exists.

The object was to plan a five-unit Home, each unit having eight residents looked after by two Houseparents, and to do this in stages. The first unit alone, cost in the order of \$200,000 and is built and designed to a very high standard, every resident having a single room.

There is no doubt that the Home is well-known throughout Saskatoon and that support will continue and develop and that ultimately the five units will be completed. The appeal for the money with which to build the second unit has already started, and it is expected that a larger grant from Government will be received. The problem at the beginning was to persuade the various agencies and support groups that they would really succeed in building a Home. Now that it is in being and highly thought of, the next stage should be considerably easier. I must stress that we have Dr Owen entirely to thank for all this.

# Around the Homes

'Around the Homes' we regard as one of the essential features of the *Smile* and we endeavour to include in a succession of issues contributions from as many Homes as space permits.

As we now have 67 Homes in Great Britain and 81 Overseas it is inevitable that some material is held over for later issues and some cannot be utilised since the steeply increased printing costs dictate that we strictly confine the Magazine to its present size.

It may be helpful if we indicate the priorities we are compelled to adopt. These are that material must be concise and confined as far as is practicable to matters of special – rather than domestic – interest. Appropriate photographs are always appreciated.

At the same time the Editors must reserve the right to 'edit' any copy submitted but will always do so hoping not to interfere with the general subject matter.

With the co-operation of Homes we can maintain and improve this section of the *Smile* with fair shares for all.

In view of recent 'final dates' for copy having been passed before the magazine has been received at some Homes, please submit copy as and when it becomes available. As far as possible it will then be included in the next issue to be published.

## Dutch Choir at Palace Road Flats

The Pange Lingua Children's Choir from Breda, Holland came to London in July to sing at an international festival in Westminster Cathedral. Whilst here they asked the G.C. if they could sing a Gregorian Mass at a Cheshire Home, and this took place on Sunday, 18th July, in the Hall at the Cheshire Estate, Palace Road, London SW2.

Residents came from The Chiltern Cheshire Home, from Seven Springs and Mote House and joined with some tenants from the G.L.C. flats for disabled families. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Michael Beattie, who was known to many of those present as he is Chaplain to the Raphael Pilgrimage which takes disabled people to Lourdes each year.

It was a lovely afternoon, and Mrs Clift the nursing administrator at the Cheshire Estate provided tea and cool drinks. The children from Holland were pleased to receive copies of the book about Group Captain Cheshire, "A Pilot Who Changed Course", as they all learn English at School.

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## First Wedding at Greenacres

Saturday, 21st August, 1976, was a happy day at Greenacres, when Brian Burden and Kathleen Flint were married at the United Reformed Church, Sutton Coldfield. Kathy was attended by two pretty little bridesmaids.



Four residents of the Home were taken in our mini-bus to the picturesque old church. Then we returned to Greenacres for the reception with many guests, speeches, toasts and popping of champagne bottles. Afterwards the bride and groom were assisted into the second of our mini-buses, to be taken to the Red Cross Holiday Home in Harrogate for their honeymoon, all festooned in blue and white ribbon, toilet paper, and painted on the rear door of the vehicle in red lipstick were the words: JUST MARRIED.

H. Y. E. Larnar

# Happy Holidays at Holehird

"Holehird, the home with world-wide ambitions", this was the headline in the County newspaper for their feature concerning our "holiday fund" project. The article went on to say and I quote, "that everyone needs a holiday, even if they live in a house overlooking Windermere". And in that sentence they quoted us – the residents of Holehird.

Three years ago, it was this thought that sparked off the idea of the "holiday fund" and we at Holehird feel very proud that our now successful holiday fund is the first of its kind in any Cheshire Home. For this achievement we owe an enormous debt of gratitude not only to the many wonderful friends that help to support the Home, but to our Matron, Mr King, his staff, and the committees who administer Holehird, and who share our enthusiasm and encourage our ideas.

In the beginning we ran a census as to the type of holidays residents would like if funds and escorts were available. The most revealing thing to emerge from this, was, that the majority of residents desperately felt the need to leave the "institutional" way of life behind them, and, even if only for one week, be integrated into normal society.

This as one can appreciate posed many problems – perhaps the greatest being that ordinary hotels do not have the necessary requirements needed for the disabled person. However, when only one, or at the most two, disabled persons are involved, hotel management and staff are more than co-operative in helping to overcome the problems, and, I hasten to add, with the minimum of fuss. This way also proves to be the most effective means of integrating into a normal society.

We must always remember that the majority of people are basically kind and helpful, but too many wheelchairs prove daunting even to the most well intentioned.

In the three years that our Holiday Fund Committee has been functioning I myself realised a lifetime ambition by going to Greece. Chairbound, and with only one escort, my excitement was tinged with not a little apprehension. My fears, however, were groundless. People couldn't have

been more helpful. I stayed at an ordinary hotel in Athens, and went on all the normal sight-seeing trips. Even going to a "Son Et Lumière", on the Parthenon posed no problems, as there were plenty of willing Greek helpers to lift and manouvre my chair.

Another resident, Audrey Whittaker, also chairbound and with one escort, flew to Jersey, and stayed in an ordinary hotel. Audrey loved every minute of it, and can't wait to go again. Two more residents toured Scotland – even visiting the Outer Hebrides; one has been to Harrogate; one to Blackpool, and there are plans well under way to send two more to Berwick-on-Tweed, and another to Rome.

It cannot be stressed enough that residents go to the place of their own choice. However, the subsidy which helps them to do this cannot exceed more than £70 per person.

With a target figure of a £1,000 a year, it has taken us three years to give every resident in the home a holiday. Most of this sum has been raised by the residents themselves with "Christmas Bazaars", and a "holiday fund" stall at the annual Summer Fair. The remainder has been given by Support Groups and other friends.

In addition to sending people away, we have what is known as "Holiday Week" in the home itself.

Everyone enjoys holiday week – staff and residents alike! But primarily, it is aimed for the bedridden and the lesser able-bodied who live amongst us, and who because of their disability, cannot leave the home for more than a day.

This is a week when a holiday atmosphere prevails throughout the house. Staff abandon uniforms; routine is exploded, and all the friends and supporters of Holehird, join forces in a concerted effort to make the week, both a happy and a memorable one.

Windermere Support Group set the ball rolling this year, when, in magnificent style, they put on a superb supper, followed with a Bingo evening which also included wine and refreshments.

On Sunday our own bus took a party for a picnic in the Ribble valley. Later in the evening we all enjoyed a Domino Drive and a splendid supper given by Langdale S.G.

Monday's outing was a trip to the beautiful Duddon Valley with tea at a farmhouse. Residents were taken here in private cars and the Mountain Goat Mini-bus.

"Sport" was the theme for Tuesday's activities. Competitions were held on the lawns of

Holebird – the highlight of which was the wheelchair “bowling” championship. This was won by Mr Alan Kidd. Later in the day saw the arrival of the Grange Support Group, complete with bookies, jockeys and Ascot hats, for a full scale “horse race meeting”. Betting was fast and furious ! ! !

Wednesday’s highlight was when a party went out to meet representatives from the Ulverston Support Group, for a bar lunch and a shopping trip to Blackburn. For those left at home, members of the Management Committee organised a “treasure hunt” and provided a superb evening meal. During the evening the staff and residents put on a variety show.

Thursday was Quiz day, with picture puzzles and sherry (just to confuse the issues) provided by the Kirby Lonsdale Support Group. A quiz in the evening between staff and residents, resulted, I’m pleased to say, in a win to the residents.

Sunshine heralded the most ambitious project of the week, which was Friday’s canal trip from Lancaster. Many hands made light work of loading our wheelchairs on and off the barge. This venture was a new experience, and one which was enjoyed by everyone. On our return to Holebird we found the Carlisle Support Group waiting for us with refreshments and a Folk Group. On this relaxing note we ended our day.

On Saturday evening for our grand finale, Grange Operatic Society helped us to stage an “Olde England” night. An open invitation to this event was extended to everyone who had helped to make the week such a happy and memorable one.

We sang all the old songs with liquid nourishment from the bar helping to sustain our efforts, which were then rewarded by a fried chicken supper.

This then was Holebird holiday week.

It is a week that not only brings a sense of well-being, but more important still, a sense of unity, which in an insular community such as ours is all too often missing.

And for the latter fact alone its value is measureless.

*Dorothy Sorrell (Resident)*

## **New Wing at St. Teresa’s Cheshire Home, Penzance. (13 Men, 16 Women)**

The new wing of St. Teresa’s, named after Mary Munley (who recently retired after 16 years as Matron,) was opened on Saturday, 21st August.

Carmel Short, the General Secretary represented the Foundation on this occasion, it being her first visit to St. Teresas.

*Her report says:*

“What a lovely seaside Home it is ; it has a quiet seaside holiday atmosphere. The staff and Residents were very welcoming and were all very pleased with the new rooms in the wing as well as the extra space they would have for a work room. A tea bar is also planned.

The new single (or double) rooms are all occupied by the ladies, and the men in the remaining Ward are beginning to come round to the idea of rooms which they previously rejected.

“About 100 people gathered at 3 p.m. for the Opening, including the local press, and I was glad to meet Lady St. Levan again looking very well indeed. Her husband, and son Lord St. Aubyn, also attended the Opening. In his speech, the new Chairman, Mr Clemo thanked the St. Levans for the extra land they had made available for the new wing.

“Unfortunately at the last minute Mr Trahair was unable to come, but Roy Billington of the Counselling Service was there too and took lots of photographs. I met many of the Committee and their wives, and support group members, many of whom had been helpers since the first Home at Predannack was started by the Group Captain in 1951.

“The garden around the new wing is to be landscaped by the Young Farmers who have raised the necessary money for the flowers, etc., but they cannot do the work until we get some rain. The swimming pool too is a great attraction and is being used by other disabled people in the area.

“Cornwall can be justly proud of their Leonard Cheshire Home which they have been supporting for the last 25 years making sure the facilities for the residents have kept pace with standards we all accept”.



Messrs. Harold Monel and Stuart Sinclair residents and 'Annabella' the donkey.

## Donkey Day at Burcot Brook

The Driving Section of the Donkey Breed Society visited Burcot Brook in July bringing with them two donkeys and a specially constructed 'trap' (donated by the Royal Army Academy, Sandhurst) which enabled residents in wheelchairs to go into the 'trap' and take the reins. This was tremendously enjoyable both for the 'drivers' and the spectators. It was an occasion to remember as will be seen by the photograph of some of the residents 'driving' and of 'Annabella' the donkey.

We look forward to future visits by the ladies of the Driving Section, and their donkeys and hope that by next year we will have our own trap.

*Ralph Newton*

## An International Evening at Spofforth Hall

The other evening the Chairman of the Council for International Contact (Mr Potter) came along

with Mrs Sue Garrett who brought 10 pretty young girls from Granby High School and provided the residents with some very unusual and enjoyable entertainment by way of an International Costume Show.

Each girl gave a demonstration of the traditional dancing of the particular costume she was wearing and it was all done so gracefully and each girl fitted the part so well, e.g. a blonde for the Dutch girl and a black haired one complete with fringe and very dark eyes for Japan, in fact, everyone was just made for the part so to speak. To complete it all, our faithful friend Ray Jarman, O.B.E., who had arranged it all for us (and a very wonderful show it was too) put the final touch to it, as he had recorded the various youth bands from all over the world on their visits to Harrogate earlier in the year, so enabling the girls to dance to the correct music. Our thanks were sincerely expressed to all the kind friends who were responsible for the splendid evening that we spent.

*Wyn Reeder*

## Midsummer Outings at Mayfield

Greetings to fellow residents from all at Mayfield House. Time is the enemy and already past midsummer and the days are getting shorter. We have had an active summer and on 24th June we set out in our bus for the Highland Show. When we arrived it was just as the Clydesdale horses, resplendent in their regalia, were being judged, and we certainly had a good view of them. The Show is a township in itself. There is everything to be seen in the agricultural field from wrought iron gates to the latest in farming equipment and livestock of every description. We also saw some of the personalities of the show-jumping world.

On Monday, 28th June, we were the guests of the Royal Navy at Rosyth where we were duly met and escorted to the paddle steamer and ably assisted aboard. It was a perfect day, the water sparkled in the sun and it was as calm as a millpond. Our sail took us under the Forth road bridge and the rail bridge to the B.P. oil terminal and back again. A good number of residents have had summer holidays and we have been pleased to have so many guests staying with us.

I always thought the sun shone on the righteous! The heavens just opened when we decided to go to Pittencrieff Glen in Dunfermline. The bus was going beautifully until we took a turn for Alloa and there a horrible noise! We limped along to the nearest Alexanders' bus depot where it was found we only required new fan belts. These were duly fitted free and gratis and we emerged into dry weather. Taking no more chances with fate, we made straight for Dunfermline where we all partook of a most enjoyable meal and then home again.

*I. Christie*

## First Year Events at Freshfields

The Freshfields residents gave their first anniversary party in the lounge, on 1st September. A number of relatives and friends of the Home also attended and the evening was a great success.

The annual Garden Fete, held in the grounds on 3rd July, raised £1,025. There were many stalls and side shows and everyone worked very hard to make the fete such a success.

On the 6th June some of the residents and staff went to the Harry Seacombe Show at the New Theatre, Southport. After the show, much to our delight, arrangements were made for us to meet him for a few minutes.

The Management Committee kindly arranged a wonderful outing for us on 14th August when we were given a delicious lunch at a country inn before proceeding to the beauty spot known as the Trough of Bowland, and then on to Morecambe where we spent a pleasant hour and had a welcome cup of tea.

During the past year a good deal of progress has been made with the work on the Home. Four more double bedrooms are in use and another six are being built. The shop is not yet ready for occupation, but we hope the work will be completed very soon. We now have 13 permanent residents and a married couple have taken up residence in one of the self-contained flatlets and are very happy.

The Day Care Centre, which caters for 14 day residents at the moment, will be moved to new quarters in the near future.



## The Value of a Smile

It costs nothing, but creates much.

It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash, and the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever.

None are so rich they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business, and is the countersign of friends.

It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anyone until it is given away.

And if in the course of the day some of your friends should be too tired to give you a smile, why don't you give them one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give!

## You don't know what you can do until you try

From Moira Jackson, Mote House

Twelve people from Mote House left on Saturday, 11th September, to join our neighbouring Homes, Seven Springs and Heatherley for what was termed a "Family Day". The idea was that of our former Trustee Mrs Pamela Farrell, and Heatherley were to be our Hosts. It was too an experiment to socialise and to compete with our fellow residents and staff in some games. Though, we had heard something about what was to take place from Mrs Farrell, we really did not know what to expect. We, therefore went with open minds, determined to do our best and enjoy the Day.

During a really grand lunch provided at Heatherley, we were informed about the competitions open to us, with some time to practise, which was badly needed in our case! The programme sounded quite gripping and unusual, this was good, and determination from all at Mote House to do their best grew. Dennis Gregg, our new Trustee was present, and he was both encouraging and helpful.

The afternoon began meeting and talking with new people and looking round everything that had been mentioned. "Why not have a go on the Rifle Range?" someone said. We, who had never held a rifle, could not see anything coming of this. However, we tried and found it both fascinating and absorbing, furthermore, our names were put forward for the competition. This episode repeated itself, showing us that we did not know what we could do until we had tried. We saw a formation wheelchair Dance Team perform from Seven Springs. It was very well done and to us, something new and interesting to watch.

After a happy day which ended all too soon, the prizes were presented to the winners by Sir Christopher Foxley Norris. We managed to win one prize! Never mind, perhaps we will do better next time. Moreover, "What does it matter?" The Family Day had been both satisfying and successful. "Well done Seven Springs", who won the cup. Our thanks to all who took part in arranging it, to Heatherley for their great hospitality, and we look forward to next year for a further enjoyable Family Day.

## Garden Fete at Le Court



Brian Line, with two helpers, draws the lucky ticket for a gallon of Scotch at the Le Court Fete last June when over £3,300 was raised.

## THE G.C. VISITS CARA

Well, first things first. We had the G.C. and Ron Travers here on 26th August. We had been expecting the G.C. for a good while – he was coming to Ireland to open O'Dwyer Cheshire Home in Mayo (and is there anyone more natural than the G.C.?). Then Ron Travers dropped out of the sky! That is surely next door to a miracle, to have that particular twain under the same roof, when they are so rarely in the same hemisphere! Then Mayor O'Dwyer of Boston (donor of the seventh Irish Home) popped in. and we all – guests and hosts – enjoyed a few hours together.

Our committee had a brainwave that we'd like Art classes and it certainly was! While you have a pencil and the back of an envelope, you can never be "fed-up" – that universal curse of idle hands. Even if your wobbly line is never going to shake the world, you'll certainly learn to look at things and feel a new compassion for those who can't.

Rosemary Shevlin

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## INSTANT PICTURES—An Appreciation

Having read Brian Line's article in the Summer issue of this magazine, I would be glad of the opportunity to comment in order to distinguish clearly between what our Founder is doing in the Video field and all the other uses referred to by Mr Line.

It could, of course, be marvellous fun for Homes to start making their own Video programmes but the cost would be astronomical as some sort of studio and editing facilities would be required in addition to the £3,000 cost quoted in the article. The Group Captain is certainly not envisaging an enterprise involving the Homes in any such level of expense. His aim is to provide the Homes with programmes which will widen knowledge of the Foundation and increase support for local Homes at a minimal cost which compares very favourably with the film alternative.

Elsewhere in this issue I have described the concrete results already achieved after six months' work, both in fund raising and in generating wider interest. However, "with my feet firmly on the ground" I would like to say here that results so far have exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

ANN SPARKES

Market Mews, W1Y 8HP.



Sir,

A really interesting issue – and the *new* title – "Leonard Cheshire Foundation" – it's a *very* definite focus on the real and genuine idea. May I, an honoured, privileged friend say that it's appropriate.

All good wishes and no obstructions, please.

Yours sincerely,  
DOUGLAS HARRISON

69 Lansdowne Road, London W11 2LG.

## Radio 'Ham' Equipment

The following letter was received from Mr Lear R. Warner who is a resident at McLeod House, and is a radio 'ham'. G.C. met him on his recent trip to the U.S. He is hoping to establish contacts with other radio 'hams' in the U.K. or in other countries. No doubt the detailed description will be understood by other radio 'hams'.

"About my 'ham' radio equipment, I must admit that it is a pleasure to get the chance to extol it's virtues, so to speak. It is one of the most recent pieces of equipment from the Yaesu Munsen Co. of Japan. The Yaesu FT101-E is a 260 watt rig, 95% transistorised, and it has it's own built-in speech processor among its many other futuristic features. The accessories include the SP101PB speaker/phone-patch in a matching cabinet, the YO100 monitor scope in a matching cabinet, a Drake MN4 antenna matching network and a Shure 444 mike. Outside I have a Hi-gain TH6DXX 6 element-tri band beam on a self-supporting tower at 70 ft. Also I have trap dipole, Hi-gain 2BDQ, and a vertical ground-plane at 64 ft. The beam is turned by a CDR Ham M rotor for which I built an adjustable brake time-delay.

"I hope I have not bored you with this in-depth description of my equipment. As you say I can communicate with the world and I would be very pleased to get in touch with operators in Homes in other countries. My call in Canada is VE3CDA, in Barbados 8P6FH. I operate mostly on 20m, the best time for England now is 6.00 my time which is 2200 GMT.

"Unfortunately I was not able to get hold of Jamaica for the G.C., in fact I've not heard one for several months now.

"I have already stated how happy and honoured we all were having him with us and we hope to see him again.

"Do not expect to hear from me too often as all of my family live overseas and as you can imagine writing to them is a full-time business. I always owe someone a letter, but I certainly will try my best.

"With best regards from myself and McLeod House.

Signed : Lear R. WARNER, VE3CDA/8P6FH

To the Editor, *Smile*.

It occurs to me that there may be other readers of *Smile*, besides myself, who have difficulty (through disablement) in putting on socks in the usual way, being unable to get two hands to the operation. The modern sock is usually woven to a narrow and slightly elastic top which is extremely difficult to hold open with one hand.

I have solved this problem by making a ring of ordinary soft galvanized iron wire (the sort that is easily pliable, but will keep its shape when bent), about 5 inches in diameter. The overlapping ends are easily secured by winding round them a length of adhesive tape or binding.

This ring is then inserted into the mouth of the sock so that the sock-edge grips it evenly and firmly all round. The ring and sock can then easily be manipulated by one hand and slipped on to the foot and drawn up over the ankle. The ring then slipped out of the sock-mouth and taken off over the ankle.

Yours truly,  
J. E. ANDERSON

*Kingsfold, 4 Chepbourne Road, Bexhill-on-Sea,  
Sussex.*



## LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS

The following letter has been received in response to the Chairman's recent request for "twinning".

*Enugu Cheshire Home,  
1 Adelabu Street,  
Uwani,  
Enugu, Anambra,  
Nigeria.*

14th June, 1976

I am sure that "Twinning" will help to foster better understanding and relationship amongst Cheshire Homes in the different parts of the world.

I should be grateful if you would arrange "Twinning" between the Enugu Cheshire Home in Nigeria and a Cheshire Home in England.

Mrs J. O. AGWUEBO,  
Hon. Secretary.

## Enugu Cheshire Home

The Home was founded in 1962 but during the hostilities was closed. Immediately after, however, the Committee resumed and the Home is now flourishing. There are 14 residents. Four men, two women and eight boys. The boys attend school and are making good progress. Two of the men are studying, one goes to work and the other mends shoes – he cannot move from his bed. The women also work. There are four staff headed by Miss Gladys Nwobodo who spent six months in the U.K. on a special course with the Service Corps.



*Cheshire St. Vincent Home,  
P.O. Box 325,  
Limuru, Kenya.*

Dear the People of Cheshire Foundation,

I am very glad when I write this letter to you. How are you all? I hope fine. I am fine here and still getting on well. I must say I was so pleased when I was in England and also how kind you are to everybody there. Thank you so much to all who arranged about my stay and also thank you for my new wheelchair. I may not be able to name anybody but I do remember you in my heart.

Here we have a new Matron, Sister Jane, and we all love her. We do make shoes for Bata to keep time going. We shall have visitors on 28th May. We do enjoy whenever they come. They gave us a guitar and do help this home in all ways they can, especially at Christmas.

There will be a jumble sale and some of our girls will be taken there. Some of us are doing practice in shot putt, javelin and discus, and they will be going to Olympic Games in Canada.

I wish you all the best of luck.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,  
JANE MWAURA

# OVERSEAS

## The Sir James and Lady Peiris Cheshire Home, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka

Extracts from the 10th Anniversary Annual Report 1975/76

*Group Captain Leonard Cheshire's Message*

On the very special occasion of Mount Lavinia's 10th Anniversary it is both my pleasure and my privilege to say Happy Birthday to all those who in whatever way are connected with the Home. Each time that I have had the opportunity of visiting it, I have been struck by the warmth of its family atmosphere and the quality of life that the residents are able to enjoy. Each time, too, I have found many improvements and increased public support and interest. That this should have been achieved from such humble beginnings and with virtually no outside help at all stands as its own tribute to the generosity and self-sacrifice of all those who have participated over these 10 years. To all who have done so, not least the residents both young and old whose example of how misfortune can be turned to good account I find so inspiring, I offer my very warmest wishes and congratulations, asking God's special blessing and guidance on the Home and all those who form part of it.

The Sir James and Lady Peiris Cheshire Home is situated at No. 17, Siripala Road, Mount Lavinia. The building is the property of the Sir James and Lady Peiris Trust and has been leased free to the Cheshire Homes Foundation, Ceylon, for a period of twenty years with the option of an extension. The Home was formally declared open on 19th March, 1966, by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. There are both young and old Residents, male and female. Some are crippled, some are mentally retarded, one is blind and others suffering from incurable ailments. Presently, there are 20 Residents. The Government provides an annual grant but this is inadequate for its needs and the Home also depends on its many friends and well-wishers for support and encouragement.

## Commentary

*By Mrs Dagmar Samarakkody, Hon Joint Secretary*

When a painting is in embryo, the artist perhaps may lay aside his brush and palette, step back for a while and view the canvas to visualise how best he could fill in the details and add depth, reality and meaning to his painting. Similarly with the approach of the Tenth Anniversary of the Home, the Board of Management felt that it was appropriate to pause awhile and consider what infusion was necessary to make the oncoming milestone a significant event. We have often repeated that tending the chronically sick and homeless is a rich and rewarding experience. How best could we translate this experience at a time when the very future of the Home was uncertain due to the prevailing difficulties? That was the challenge.

The first step was to prepare an Evaluation Report and this is now being fully implemented and the Re-organisational Exercise vigorously activated.

To begin with, we are now working on an approved Budget. Also, Handicrafts, Agriculture, Art and Music Groups have been further motivated. It is hoped to hold an exhibition of the efforts of the groups in due course. Plans are afoot to provide outings, film shows, religious observances more frequently for the Residents and to introduce a scheme for the Residents to earn some pocket money. Another feature is the introduction of an annual Programme of Service with special objectives for each month drawn up in consultation with the School of Social Work. A Residents' Committee gives those, who are capable of participation, a part to play in the running of the Home, thus also ensuring that their views are duly taken into consideration. The situation of each Resident is being reviewed from a social case work angle and comprehensive case files are being documented particularly to help those Residents, who are capable of using their residual capabilities, take their place in society eventually. The standard of health of the Residents has been favourably commented upon by Medical Officers. Honorary Visitors are performing an invaluable service.

In the area of Business Management, the management control of purchases, issues and consumption have been introduced and a daily menu sheet has been formulated with the advice of expert Nutritionists.

## THE RESIDENTS

Nita is the oldest resident and the spokesman for the others. Jane, a gracious personality, always spruce and well attired. Robert is very shy and retiring. He helps in the kitchen. Leelawathie and Saveri are very active, helpful with the household chores. Gunasiri and Mary attend school. This has been a memorable year for Gunasiri. He attended the International Family Day celebration in London as representative of the Sri Lanka Cheshire Homes and spent an exciting three weeks in England. He has also just passed his O Levels and came first in his school.

Mary, partially disabled, has completed her Grade 8 quite successfully. Shelton lives in a world of his own. Phuspharani, who is the favourite of the Inner Wheel Club of Colombo, is undergoing a course of treatment in hospital. Anthony and Christopher are two imps, always active and naturally mischievous. Winnie, very cheerful in spite of her blindness; she is a radio fan.

Viyagulamary is also anxious to help with the housework in spite of her disability. Chandrapala has now got quite a collection of his drawings. He is in hospital receiving special treatment. Dissanayake is always smiling but liable to be wayward.

Rani and Abeyesiri try to make themselves understood in their own language and by signs. Cuckoo is greatly improved and in good humour these days. Osmund is of a cheerful disposition. Siripala, the latest recruit and the youngest of them all, is very talkative and has a hearty appetite.



## Old Warrior

*By the Matron*

Nestling in a quiet lane where the constant murmur of the sea could be heard is a weather-beaten old house that stands up courageously. An old warrior that has faced many a monsoon. But still stands and shelters an interesting family of different races and creeds. It was my pleasure and privilege to have joined this family a short while ago.

It struck me that there are various ways in which our supporters could make the lives of their not-so-fortunate brethren brighter and happier. Shramadana is a noble endeavour and, offers to colour-wash and repair the weather-beaten Old Warrior and cultivate the vegetable garden are very much appreciated. Residents will also participate in these operations, if possible.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Home (on 19th March, 1976) was a very important day in the calendar for all of us – the Residents, the Staff, and the Board of Management. The Ven. Kotugoda Dhammavansa and the Revd. Father Noel Perera helped us to make it a Day of Thanksgiving with meditation and prayer. We invited our friends to join us in the evening and the President of the Inner Wheel Club of Colombo laid the foundation stone for the New Room for the Male Residents at Nita's request. It was a very happy day and it seemed as if the Old Warrior was looking on benignly, sure in the knowledge that his little army was safely ensconced in the fold.

## IN CONCLUSION

The Report says we invite our friends and well-wishers to contribute their share in making the lives of our Residents pleasanter, more comfortable and meaningful. Collaboration is a fruitful exercise and the means by which our Institution can be nurtured and sustained these days. And it is such collaboration that has enabled the Home to mark its Tenth Anniversary with a record of progressive development.

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## When did you last have a holiday?

LULWORTH COURT, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA ESSEX is a small friendly holiday home on the seafront at Westcliff providing specialised equipment; full nursing care; provision for incontinence and everything necessary to enable severely paralysed men and women to spend a fortnight's holiday without an escort.

We are particularly anxious that those who have not had a holiday for some years should contact us. If, therefore, you have not had a holiday recently please write to our Holiday Organiser giving as many details about yourself as possible and we will do all we can to help you: Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 0BN

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Sunshine coach sponsored by Variety Clubs International presented to the Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home, Jamshedpur being handed over by International Executive Board Chairman Sir James Carreras and International Executive Board Member Leslie Macdonnell, Chairman of the Sunshine Coach Programme both British and International, to the Founder of Cheshire Homes, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C. The trio are pictured at the informal handover with Leonard Cheshire (right) being given the keys by Sir James.

## HOMES IN INDIA

### **The Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home—A Community effort Sundernagar, Bihar, India.**

*By Lt. Col. P. N. Kak*

The Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home is unique in India, because it has always since its inception been sustained by the community within which it lives. The huge house and 35 acres of land in which it is situated was a donation from a well known philanthropist of Jamshedpur. The family continues to take an interest in the Home, and its present Hon. Secretary, Mr Homi Patel is a grandson of the founder.

In its early days the Home survived because of the efforts of many well wishers in the industrial

community and many others, too numerous to mention individually here, who put in dedicated efforts.

Today, the Home's large acreage is under cultivation, and you can see a Massey Ferguson tractor – gift obtained by me from community Aid Abroad, Australia – hard at work on most mornings. Most of the food for the inmates is grown here. Sister Rose and other nuns from St. Vincent d'Paul not only provided devoted service to the children in the early days, but also did yeoman service, developing and cultivating the land, deepening water ponds and organising food for volunteers who participated in work programmes.

The Home has 51 inmates who come from all parts of our country and it is so impressive to visit this Home to find the inmates happy, well cared for and in the best of health and spirits.

I have pleasure of being associated with this Home from 1958, when Mr S. Moolgoakar, to whom the Home owes a deep debt of gratitude, and it was he who asked me if I could take some interest in the Home, and that was a lucky day for me.

After a small beginning in the early years, this Home now is one of the best Cheshire Homes. It has a dynamic Committee under the leadership of its Chairman Mr R. H. Broacha, ably assisted by Mr P. J. Kuruvilla, who has been its Hon. Secretary for over a decade. This is again the one Home in the country where every member of the Managing Committee and their families are actively participating in the various activities of the Home. Dr. (Mrs) Erin Broacha's able services have been co-opted by Mr Broacha and her unstinted help and support are always at the service of the children.

Recently the visit of Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, Chairman of U.K. Cheshire Homes and Lady Foxley-Norris was a happy occasion and a source of inspiration. A brochure is being brought out to commemorate their visit to this and all other Homes in our country.

### **In a letter to the G.C. Mr. Kuruvilla writes:**

The time for my retirement is nearing. I expect to hand over the Secretaryship of the Home to Mr B. T. Mody who is a very influential and dedicated person. The financial position of the Home is good. Sister Beatriz, the dear lady who has been in charge for the last few years is also being replaced by Sister Rose who is a very capable person and I can assure you that Jamshedpur is in safe hands.

The period of almost two decades I was closely associated with Jamshedpur Home has been most rewarding to me and I will look back with deep sense of gratitude and satisfaction that I had the opportunity to contribute my mite to a worthy cause and make the life of the unfortunate children of the Home somewhat happier.

In a tribute to Mr Kuruvilla on his retirement, the G.C. writes:

He has been associated with one of the best run children's Homes we have anywhere. It is in 35 acres of land and was in fact started almost by accident. I was travelling with one of the Managing Trustees of the Eastern Region of India en route to Ranchi. The Trustee had to stop overnight in Jamshedpur where he had business. As I had time on my hands I thought I might as well go round and make some enquiries. I went to see the Jesuits who have a large College there and they said they had been left this property on condition that it was used for children. They were not in a position to use it themselves for this purpose and, after taking me round four or five

other properties – none or which were available or within our means – took me to this property. Dusk was falling but the potential was clear and the Jesuits more or less gave it to the Foundation there and then. This was a new departure for the Cheshire Homes as we had not up to that time had children's Homes either in England or India. However it was such a beautiful estate and there was obviously such a need for a Home for children that the only sensible thing to do was to accept it.

Jamshedpur is the great steel town of India which also has the Tin Plate Company, and although the beginnings of the Home were rather difficult, because nobody knew us really, gradually a strong Committee was formed. Spanish nuns were found to run the Home and it has virtually never been known to look back since then. The nuns are absolutely devoted and they take it in turns to sleep in a very small room off the ward where the most difficult children sleep and in addition they do a great deal to rehabilitate the children, all of whom are mentally retarded – some of them very retarded.

*Eileen Amiel, Secretary*



### **Message from an Old Friend**

*By Mr P. J. O'Leary*

My close association with the Jamshedpur Home really developed after the formation in the 1950's, of the Eastern Region Committee, which I had the privilege to Chair.

The need for development at Jamshedpur was urgent and, therefore, the Committee decided to direct its funds towards this end.

The Jamshedpur Committee in the meantime was also active and had several projects under way. There was at that time a very large German population resident in the TELCO township. The Jamshedpur Home had a huge sow; I well remember persuading the Irish Christian Brothers at Dum Dum into giving me an equally huge Australian boar and the job we had transferring that very wild boar the 300 odd miles to Jamshedpur by Landrover was quite something to remember. Eventually the boar and sow got together and the German population at Jamshedpur purchased a great deal of fresh pork and the Home benefitted.

I can recall quite clearly Prem Kak's special project – the Chicken Farm. It was his idea and he not only masterminded it, but supervised the project the whole way through. It was eventually one of the finest examples of successful battery hen laying in the country with a considerably high yield.

With the expansion of the Home and considerably increasing number of children, it was quickly realised that one of the subsequent major problems would be that of staffing. The Home was situated well out of town with bad communications, poor living conditions and a positive health hazard from mosquitos. It would be quite impossible to expect female nursing staff to remain there for any length of time.

I discussed the problem with a Spanish Priest friend and he put me in touch with a Spanish Order of Nuns specialised in nursing and the medical disciplines. They were the Daughters of Charity and were about to open a much needed Nursing Home in Calcutta. The late Archbishop of Calcutta, Archbishop Dyer, gave the whole project his blessing, and the day-to-day care of the children ceased to be the problem it had been for so long.

Col. Prem Kak did more physically for the Jamshedpur Home than one could possibly conceive, and at times when all odds were against him – and even when his tasks seemed quite thankless – he always succeeded.

During my time, the Jamshedpur Committee was well known for its hard work and tremendous hospitality. The three main companies in the Township were a great source of help – Tatas, Telco and The Tinplate Company, and these Companies can well be proud of the part they played and I am sure, are still playing.

The Home has a wonderful history of selfless devotion, not only by those mentioned, but many others too. Unfortunately, children in many Countries suffer, but as long as we who are able to alleviate their suffering, do so, then there surely must be hope. Many times I used to sit back and wonder where the money would come from – but come it did and we developed. It will come too for you. When you feel despondent, go and visit the Home, mix with the children and you will feel so very much better.

I send my greetings and warmest wishes for Good Fortune.



Sir Christopher and Lady Foxley-Norris planting a tree at the Home.

# Reflections in a Golden Eye

By Mr Harry Murphy

Those of you who know Leonard Cheshire, and the charisma with which he is blessed, will not be surprised to know that my relationship with the Cheshire Homes in India – and more particularly, the Jamshedpur Home – began with my undertaking to act as Hon. Treasurer for “just a very few days”, but those “few days” lasted for over a decade. He arrived in an old bus which was his travelling home, office and chapel. We met in my office in the Tinsplate Company of India, and I was immediately struck by his simple, soft spoken manner. His ready smile, in which his eyes (and indeed his whole face) lit up, was infectious and his impact permanent.

Within days (if not hours) of his arrival, Leonard had been offered the free gift of about 35 acres of land at Jamshedpur, by Mr Minoo Patel, a local business man hence the name Rustomji P. Patel Cheshire Home.

So we had the land – but not much else, for there were only a few fruit trees (mangoes mainly) a well, (which yielded water of doubtful appearance and quality), two natural water tanks and two buildings, both in a poor state of repair. There was no electricity, piped water or water borne sewage system.

Somehow or other Leonard produced an Australian girl (who must have weighed all of 45 kilos – most of which was made up of a very large heart and much grit and determination).

By this time we had bullied and persuaded several other people to join the committee and eventually we “acquired” our first two children (a boy and a girl) both of them terribly handicapped, although the young boy was very bright, he had been forced by his parents to beg on the streets of Calcutta. Unfortunately, after just enough time for us to form an attachment to him, his mother removed him from our care and he resumed his existence of begging.

It seemed a very long time before our next children arrived, but meanwhile work was going on to secure the means by which we could provide for the few mouths we had to feed. We also managed to install electricity, and later, to lay on piped water to the buildings. We had started with no money, we had no regular income but there were regular outgoings on food and other things which had to be bought for the children’s upkeep. Imprinted on my memory are my efforts to convince Leonard that my hard-headed businessman’s approach of “get the money first and then do” was the right one. *But Leonard was not to be moved from his view that all his work was based upon doing first in the certain faith that God would provide.* What faith – but how right he was – because how many times were we

penniless only to have a cheque, cash or food donation given at the eleventh hour.

At times it seemed that we were making little progress with staff coming and going with a seeming reluctance of people prepared to entrust their children to us. But gradually local people and businesses began to know us and the work we were trying to do. The names of those who helped us in those early days are too many to mention.

Support was increasing (helped by a donation from the Serampore Home), more children were coming forward, but we still had the serious staffing problem with which we had been plagued from the beginning. Sister Ana Maria of The Daughters of Charity, with two other Indian Nuns, eventually took over the day to day running of the Home.

How wrong I had been to think that such a move would adversely affect the support we were getting. On the contrary, the fact that it could be publicly seen that the children were in such loving and capable hands added to our support because we never really looked back from that date.

Improvements were made to the existing buildings, and new buildings were added.

A new well was dug, piping and pumps laid on. Fans were installed. A pig farm started and the water tanks deepened. A Land Rover was obtained.

An annual “Red Feather Day” was organised and substantial funds raised in this way.

Eventually the number of children seeking admission exceeded our capacity to accommodate them.

What pleasure it gave us to be able to “communicate” with children like Michael, simply by holding his hand and talking to him. He could not reply because in the minds of many people he was just a “vegetable” – but one could feel, sense the response which was flowing out from him. How much more Michael and all the others gave us in such similar ways than we gave him.

Prem Kak had energies far greater than ours and it was largely his initiative which started the Burnpur and Ranchi Homes. Few men could have equalled his enthusiasm for the establishment of Cheshire Homes in India and his success in doing so much have been very rewarding.

Muriel, my wife, and I had spent more than 16 years in India – possibly the happiest years of our lives – and it was a great wrench for us to leave to return to the U.K. But the biggest wrench of all was leaving behind 50 children who belonged to “our family”. Perhaps that broke our hearts a little and certainly we have never since found anything to match the joy and satisfaction we derived from the small help we gave in building up the Jamshedpur Cheshire Home. Our thoughts and prayers are often with those we loved and had to leave behind.



## Leonard Cheshire Video-tape Talks

### ON RELECTION SERIES

#### First Beginnings (14½ minutes)

Humorous description of how it all began and the first Residents at the Old Le Court. Leonard Cheshire coping alone with the self-help of the first dozen or so people in need and the lesson learnt from Arthur Dykes.

*Comment:* Excellent material for both use within Cheshire Homes, Support Groups, etc. Also very suitable for older school children, Social Service Trainees and equally for Wives Fellowship, Women's Institutes, etc.

#### The Foundation (15 minutes)

Definition of Cheshire Homes. Residents' opportunity to be creative and involved in the running. Essentially work for the layman and not highly skilled medical staff. Family atmosphere. Moving contribution the disabled make examining the extreme case of Hillary Pole. The privilege to be working in this field.

*Comment:* Most useful for those new to the subject of Cheshire Homes. Informative yet with the light touch. N.B. - Better not shown at the same time as 'First Beginnings' because of a slight overlap on the Arthur Dykes story and Old Le Court.

#### Filling the Gap (11 minutes)

Excellent material relative to all those interested in working in this field or wishing to support our Homes financially. Development of our Homes from Stately Homes to purpose built units. Relations with the State and the continued need for our type of Home. State Grants defined for individual residents. Flexibility essential to change with the need. Single Rooms, Married accommodation, bungalows and flats for families with one disabled member. The Homes themselves are our best publicity. The quality of life within them, our target.

*Comment:* Capable of wide distribution educationally in the large Social Welfare field and for those interested in working for us.

#### The Foundation Overseas (18 minutes)

Lucid description of the Regions within which the Homes overseas are grouped. Appealing shots of a variety of Homes. Leprosy in India. Disabled children in Africa, New Guinea Homes for Mental retardation. Self-help. Money raised locally. Opportunity for Homes here to help them. Lessons to be learnt from them.

*Comment:* Ideal for showing to U.K. Homes. Good to show after a talk concerning the U.K. Homes to broaden the interest.

#### To the Service Corps (10 minutes)

A welcoming talk to our future Heads of Homes. The needs of the disabled.

#### Communication (13 minutes)

A final talk to the Service Corps trainees outlining the legal responsibilities of Trustees and Autonomy of each Home and the need for flexibility.

#### Journey into India (18 minutes)

Earliest days in India 1955/56. Amusing calamity of the impounded vehicles which proved not to matter. Bethlehem House, Bombay. Buying the land, problems of no water. Success of the Pantomime to bring in funds and make friends. Pop, the first resident. Similarity between disabled people in India and England. Their dignity and the rapport. Dehra Dun the second Home, a gift of a Maharanoo. Early reluctance to make use of our Homes which was soon overcome. Support of Lions, Rotarians, etc. immediate. Concept of our Homes quickly grasped. The people's poverty and gentleness and the dignity of the human spirit profoundly moving. The challenge in India opened up opportunities all over the world.

*Comment:* Ideal to give information and gain support for Overseas Homes. Of great interest to all U.K. Homes. Suitable for school groups, etc.

**Staunton Harold** (13 minutes)

The personality of the early Stately Homes. The feeling they were needed. Evocative situation and history of Staunton. Local people's love of the place and wish to give it a future. Saved from demolition. Remarkable gift enabling the purchase to go through. Lady Ferrers' personal involvement. The response to the challenge and this display of human generosity gave Leonard Cheshire the courage to decide to go to India which led to overseas expansion.

*Comment:* A moving story of great encouragement to all those interested in starting any new venture for the Foundation.

**Predannack Moor** (12 minutes)

Early days at Le Court. Vignettes of the first residents. Development of a Committee leaving Leonard Cheshire free to take a job with Barnes Wallis in Cornwall. St. Teresa's – the second Home. Primitive but happy atmosphere. TB and Hospitalisation. The end of one era and the beginning of a new one.

*Comment:* Historically interesting, but not as an introduction.

**Pause for Thought** (13 minutes)

Midhurst Sanatorium 1952-1954. Marvellous Carnegie gift for the rebuilding of Le Court. Shattering proviso that Leonard Cheshire should relinquish his personal say in the running. Doubts. Acceptance. Crucial lesson learnt of necessity to delegate. Ultimate realisation of gain and not loss. Gifts in time of need. Resourcefulness bred from necessity. The conviction that providence played a part in putting him in this position to choose work in this field. The style set for expansion depending on local support and involvement. One Home leads to another. Success breeds success.

*Comment:* Enlightening early lessons for future expansion.

**TOMORROW'S WORLD SERIES**

**To Rebuild a Life** (19 minutes)

Leonard Cheshire addressing audiences in America on the Disabled. The work he discovered needed doing in this field after the devastating War. The size of the problem. Cheshire Homes and the opportunity they give. Excellent shots of young disabled. Their need for independence and to become creative with our help and make their contribution to society. Examples of those

responding to this encouragement. Our chance to help.

*Comment:* Excellent introduction into the work of the Cheshire Foundation all over the world with particularly good visuals.

**Challenge to Care** (21 minutes)

An introduction about Leonard Cheshire's war record followed by his own description of his marker-bombing with 617 Squadron and his later experience as an observer when the Atom Bomb was dropped. Victory and the prospect of Peace and how to plan and work for it. Fifty-five million dead. Problems of readjustment. Arthur Dykes and Le Court. The needs of the young disabled. Hilary Pole's story. Our opportunity to give the disabled the right environment to enable them to be independent. The disparity of poor and rich in the world. The size of the problem must not daunt us. No help is too little.

*Comment:* Specially made with school audiences in mind. It should be of great value in this wide sphere.

**RYDER CHESHIRE FILMS**

**Joint Venture** (18 minutes)

Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire together started RAPHAEL – this 30 acre site across the river from Dehra Dun in the foothills of the Himalayas is named after the Archangel of Healing. Began to give a Home to mentally retarded children and Leprosy patients. Moving pictures of the retarded children, the old Leper colony in a disused quarry. The development of Raphael. The Little White House – school for homeless children and children of the Lepers. Self-help and work done by the Lepers. Interesting information about the actual disease and the need for a protective environment to compensate for their lack of sensation in hands and feet. A community of nearly 400 souls. Financial support from Australia and New Zealand. Sponsors found for every member of Raphael. 100 dollars a year to "adopt" and pay for the care of each child or adult there.

*Comment:* A very moving programme. Not only useful in Australasia but for schools and social groups, Cheshire Homes, etc., in U.K.

All orders for any of the above Video-tapes should be sent to Ann Sparkes, at 7 Market Mews, London W1Y 8HP, who adds this message:

"When any large function is being held at a Home, please consider having a quiet room available for these programmes to be playing non-stop throughout the afternoon. We have both Sony and Philips cassettes and the players can always be hired locally for a day or a week. I would gladly add to my bookings for such occasions.

# IN RESIDENCE

*By a Non Resident Subscriber*

A few months ago I spent a Month assessment holiday at a Cheshire Home. I was not unfamiliar with the place as I had been visiting friends there for four years. On previous visits the Home had struck me as a quiet peaceful place. Too peaceful, I found on further investigation. While everyone was extremely kind and considerate, I observed that the majority appeared to prefer their own company. The only social contact they had was at meal times. After the meal they would disappear back to their own rooms.

There were two ladies who extended their hospitality to me. One was like myself, so we had a lot in common. The men's quarters had their own sitting room and I was invited to watch T.V. with them frequently, much to the surprise of some of the residents. I felt honoured that I was the only woman to be asked to go to a social club at the nearby hospital, especially when I won £2 on bingo and a miniature bottle of brandy in one night.

The Home has a workshop which residents can attend if they wish. I tried to attend regularly, although I must say I was disappointed by the methods used. For two years I have attended an occupational therapy centre, and there, the emphasis is on trying to get the disabled to do as much as possible for themselves, however long it takes them. At the Home the difficult parts of basket work, stool making and other crafts are done by the Occupational Therapist and voluntary helpers. This attitude, while portraying extreme kindness does nothing to interest the residents in the occupational therapy department, or give them the sense of achievement which I feel is needed by people of all ages, whether disabled or not. For instance, I made three trays. I say made them, but I did not cut the cane, fit it into the holes of the base or plait the top. To me I had not made those trays. Admittedly I made two in a day, but would it not be better for me and others there to master the harder parts of basket work even if it did take a long time?

Anyone could go out whenever they felt like it. The only problem being transport, which is a poser for all disabled people. I was lucky being able to go swimming, riding and to my disabled club. Four other invitations came my way during my stay. On reflection it seems to me that the more varied the outside activities of individual residents, the more acceptable life in a Cheshire Home will become.

While I was there I realised how many friends I had locally. Nearly every week someone or other

popped in to see me. I also had letters and phone calls from all and sundry.

The above is only my own view. I hope my criticism may be constructive. Looking back I find that I settled down easier than I have at any other residential establishment.

Perhaps the above edited account sent in by a subscriber who did not ask to anonymous, might apply to your Home. It will in any case give us all an opportunity of having a closer look at ourselves whatever position we occupy in our own particular Home.

*Editor*



## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS *It Sneaks Up On You*

*By Dick Farr*

After graduating from college, my wife and I set out for California, the two of us and most of our worldly possessions crammed into a small sports car. We were heading for Stanford University where I was going to do my graduate studies. The world was our oyster.

After a year at Stanford, I got my MA and MS. The MA was a master's degree, the MS wasn't.

It sneaks up on you – the MS, that is. Mine started with two numb fingertips. After being checked all over by Medical Doctors, rubbed and pricked and scratched, they sent me to a "shrink" – a psychiatrist. I had a few visits with him and then a return visit to the neurologist elicited the diagnosis multiple sclerosis. As damning as that sounds, it was a relief! To finally know what my enemy was. I could stop seeing the shrink, anyway.

Doctors have different styles and when my first neurologist left town, his replacement told me I didn't have MS. He hated to lay that kind of a diagnosis on a patient without substantial proof. Back to the shrink! All the uncertainty and frustrations returned. A few months later the original diagnosis was reinstated. I stayed at Stanford for one more year and convinced my wife that she ought to return to school for her master's degree. It was one way of protecting us in the event that MS rendered me helpless.

Although she denies it, I distinctly remember her telling me, "All right, dammit, if I have to go back to school, I'm going someplace I've always wanted to go - Hawaii". Luckily, the University of Hawaii offered a masters degree in social work and I was fortunate enough to get a job as Promotion Manager for a radio/TV station there. It was a glorious two years; my wife got her MSW I enjoyed my job, my first son was born and the MS, though annoying, was not too dysfunctional.

After returning to the mainland, I resumed my pursuit of a PhD in Communications Research at Stanford. It was then that my MS really made its presence known. The nickel's worth of MS, which I'd been told I had, seemed like a fortune. I began to use a wheelchair for outdoor ambulation and a walker around the apartment. More important, perhaps, than my physical condition, however, was the deterioration of my self confidence and mental state of well being. In short, I became a "closet cripple". I stopped driving, let my license expire, rarely ventured outside, avoided doing any handwriting, and even drank virtually no liquids at all because of the nuisance of going to the bathroom and fear of socially embarrassing incontinence.

For about five years, I led the life of a semi-hermit. I got out only in the company of family or friends. My tolerance for dependency on others knew no bounds. I asked my wife to cut up my meat for me and in restaurants became very big on shish kebabs with their bitesized pieces. I bathed only with assistance. I wrote checks using a typewriter because I was unnecessarily self-conscious about my handwriting. In sum, I really hit a personal low point. Even the birth of two more sons did not buoy my spirits much.

Multiple sclerosis really puts a heavy strain on a person. Especially in the early stages when you're ripe for such stories, the month doesn't pass that you don't hear of a new cure for MS. I probably tried a half dozen of them myself. The spontaneous remissions help keep the false hopes for total recovery alive as well. Another thing are the "don'ts". They tell you: Don't get overtired! Don't get exposed to any germs! Don't get cold or wet! Don't get emotionally upset! Don't! Don't! Don't! You might as well stop living altogether.

Let me tell you about a few "Do's" that I've been doing in the scant two years since I came out of the closet. I'm working now as an Enabler at De Anza Community College helping to co-ordinate the programme for physically limited people. I do a weekly radio programme called "Synthesis" aimed at the handicapped sub-population. I am working on my PhD dissertation again, dealing with how people with disabilities get helpful information related to living

with a disability. I'm driving all over the place now and even take the three kids to do the weekly grocery shopping. I get "pooped". The older two bring every germ known to modern science home from school. On a ski trip with my students from De Anza last winter, I got both cold and wet. And in getting a new programme like the one at De Anza going, not to mention "Synthesis", getting emotionally upset is par for the course.

But you know what? I never felt better. I'm sure there are just as many cures and diets for MS as there ever were, but I don't have time for them. I also don't have time to worry about every new twitch or itch or attach any great significance to them. And, most importantly, my head has turned around. Instead of what *can't* I do, I think in terms of what I *can* do.

With MS, rarely does one go through a rehabilitation centre. So the patient remains ignorant of the many devices and tricks which make life as a "cripple" easier, even enjoyable at times, and certainly worth living. It is this ignorance which makes accepting multiple sclerosis so difficult.

It took a broken hip for me to do it and look how my whole life has turned around. I hope other people with MS can accept their disease more quickly and more easily than I did.

Stop searching for cures. Stop waiting for remissions. Live today to its fullest. You'd be surprised how many of your problems are of your own making and in your own head! Realising that will make many of them disappear.

*Reprinted by courtesy of the "Rehabilitation Gazette"*

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*Dick Farr has been disabled by multiple sclerosis since he was a graduate student at Stanford. After five years as a semi-hermit, a broken hip turned his whole life around. He is now working on his PhD dissertation, doing a weekly radio programme, and co-ordinating the disabled student programme at De Anza Community College. He is married and has three sons. Address: 3897 Corina Way, Palo Alto, California 94303.*

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## Receipt

The receipt of four books of Green Shield stamps from an anonymous donor is acknowledged with thanks.

# CONVERSATIONS WITH ADA

## Another Short Story

by John Bell

During the course of a lifetime we meet countless thousands of people. Some we just meet, with others we communicate and there are those with whom we communicate in depth.

Of course there are different levels of communication, and there are a few, a very precious few, with whom we have an instant rapport and with whom we fall into an easy passage of words, almost as though we have known them before. There may be something about their face, the set of the eyes, the shape of the mouth, the arch of the brows and countless fine etchings, which instantly our computer brain, well programmed over the years, by knowledge of innumerable personalities behind such signs, brings forth to our consciousness a revealed awareness of this new personality, of whom we have become quietly aware.

I suppose we learn something from them all. But apart from those who have an instant effect on us, there are others whom we hardly notice; they just arrive and only slowly do we become aware of them; they grow on us.

Such a one was Ada. Ada was small and slightly built, aged about fifty and unmarried. She had a birdlike, enquiring appearance and wore glasses through which she viewed the world with her inquisitive penetrating eyes. Nature had not endowed her with an overdose of physically obvious femininity, but she had a strong mothering instinct for the distressed and always formed an immediate alliance with the wrongly done; a fighter for the right in which she believed.

She was very independent and stood no nonsense, least of all from any man.

Apart from her independent spirit she was also of independent means; her father had seen to that, not that her means stretched as far as she had a mind to go, for Ada was a traveller, she was hooked on package tours and could hold forth on the merits and comparisons of most places of any consequence round the shores of the Mediterranean, which was her playground, and in order to indulge herself in this field, she had to take a job now and then, until she had amassed enough ready cash for the next tour, so she stayed not over long in any job.

Ada came to work as a laundress in the basement laundry, where, in the adjoining drying room, I had a work bench. There was access between the two rooms through a large opening in the connecting wall, where, when the washing machines were silent, she would stand and hold forth to me as I worked at my bench – for Ada was a great talker; she had a reputation for ‘batting your ear’, which she did at great length. I don’t think she could stand the silence when the washing machines were still; she just had to communicate, for her it was bad manners to remain silent for long in another’s presence.

She would open up a conversation with such remarks as, “Eh, yer know me, well —”, or, “Eh, yer know this mornin’ —”, once she had made these opening gambits, she would be away, non-stop, at the double.

Ada was well versed in the art of repartee – of getting the last word, one knew she had grown up in a hard school; she had bandied words with experts and knew all the answers. I remember the story she told me of how she handled an aggressive bus conductor.

“Eh”, she said, “yer know this mornin’, when I gorront’ bus, well, I’d only gorra pound note, and this missus as I were sittin’ wi’ sez, eh yer moant gi’im that luv, I gen ‘im one ant’ missus behind thee gen ‘im one, an’ ‘e weren’t aif mad an’ sez ‘ees not tekkin’ n’more. Well. I sez ‘ees gettin’ this ‘cos I’ve got nowt else. Anyway, when ‘e comes round, ‘e sez, nay not another one. What’s tha’ mean, I sez. Then ‘e glares at me an’ sez, not another bleedin’ pound note yer daft apeuth. Well tha can take it or leave it, I sez – anyway what’s tha want them – A fiver. Well after that ‘e didn’t say owt”.

I remember a particular long, one-sided dialogue I had with Ada. One afternoon, after dinner, she positioned herself in the opening between the two rooms and made her preliminary observation, which was, as always, “Eh”.

“Eh”, she said, “I didn’t think much on that Yorkshire puddin’ we ‘ad int’ canteen today – it were rubbish. Eh, when me father were alive, I allus used to make ‘im one on a Sunday an’ I never yet made a bad un’, except time that there woman came tut’ door, sellin’ them religious books, an’ tryin’ to save me from mesen”.

“Couldn’t you get rid of her, Ada?” I asked.

“Get rid on ‘er?” she said, “I ain’t got rid on ‘er yet, an’ that were years ago – she’s still tryin’ to save me from mesen, eh, she’s takken on summat wi’ me, she ‘as.”

“Eh, well, I didn’t tell thee what ‘appened, did a”.

“Well, it were this ‘ere Sunday, I’d just got me Yorkshire int’ oven, when there were a knock ont’ door. I asked me dad to go, but ‘e’d seen ‘er thru’ t’ winder, an’ ‘e knew ‘oo she were, so ‘e sez as I could get rid on ‘er better than ‘im”.

"Well, I opens door an' there she were wi' 'er magazines, 'an she sez, can I 'ave a word with yer. Aye, I sez but I can't stay long as I've got me Yorkshire int' oven. Anyway, she goes on about bible an' t' devil, an' ow't, world were comin' to an end, an' 'ow she reckons she knows when – an' 'ow I'd better get mesen saved".

"So I let's 'er 'ave 'er say for a bit, as I reckons I'd got 10 minutes to wait for me Yorkshire".

"Any'ow, she sez, would I come to a meetin' tomorra' neet. Nay, I sez, am goin' tut' pictures tomorra'. Well, she sez, if you go to one a' them places, devil will go with yer. So I sez, well 'e can come an' all if 'e wants".

"Then she tells me I'm not takin' it serious like, an' I ought to go to 'er meetin', an' get saved from mesen. So I told 'er I didn't think me vicar would like it, as 'e goes a bundle on savin' me 'issen".

"Anyway, I 'ears me Dad callin', an' I realized as me puddin' were owerdone. So I told 'er I'd got to go, an' she asks me if she can come again. Well' I sez, tha' can come if tha' likes – an' she's been comin' ever since".

"Mind you", said Ada, "she's not only one as 'as tried to save me".

"'Ave yer ever noticed", she said, "as there's allus someone around, tryin' to save thee, specially if they sees thee spending a bit an' enjoyin' thesen. I don't know why they allus picks on me though".

"Last time it were this 'ere man as were preachin' tut' queue down at ABC cinema. 'E were tellin' us all about comin' to Jesus, to be saved, an' as 'ow we'd all got to get converted. Anyway there were some on 'em int' queue as were takin' t' mickey out on 'im, an' bloke standin' next t'me sez to 'im, when did tha' get converted then, an' this fella sez, it were one Saturday neet, five year ago, down at bottom a' Snig 'ill, an' I've bin praisin' t' Lord ever since".

"Eh, 'e were a bit like Ken Dodd, 'e were, cos' 'e looks at me, an' sez, 'ave you been converted, Missus. Nay, I sez, I'm not a Missus, an' I leaves all that to me vicar".

Ada paused for a while at the sound of footsteps on the stairs; she listened intently for a moment to see if it was either friend or foe, for she knew everyone's footsteps, then she said, "Nay, it's all right luv', it's not 'er". 'Er, of course, being Matron.

Ada had not yet run out of steam, and being satisfied that the presence on the stairs was not a predator, she continued her monologue.

"Eh, I didn't tell thee what 'appened int' cinema, did I. Well, there were this 'ere bloke sittin' ont' row in front, who kept lookin' at me, then 'e kept movin' nearer to me, until 'e were sittin' next to me, an' when lights went up at interval, 'e sez, can I buy thee an ice cream luv'."

"Nay, I sez, I can buy me own ice cream".

"Can I take thee 'ome then, 'e sez".

"Nay tha' can't, I don't go out wi' first fella as talks to me, an' anyway 'ow do I know tha's not married".

"Tha' doesn't luv', 'e sez".

"Well are tha' married then?"

"Yes luv', 'e sez, but it's nice to 'ave a change".

"Then after a bit, 'e sez, eh tha's a spoil sport, not lettin' me tek' thee 'ome".

"I'll gie' thee spoil sport, I sez, tha's not gettin' any sport wi' me".

"Well", said Ada, "I never saw 'im again, but 'e weren't that bad, tha' knows".

I think that was the longest conversation I ever had with Ada, and the day I finally left my job there, she came to my work room, shook my hand and said, "I'm sorry yer goin' luv', I've enjoyed us conversations".

Funny thing about conversations with Ada – you couldn't get a word in edgeways. But I liked Ada.

## CRUCIFORM

I heard him speaking once  
At dinners in the House of Commons,  
His subject, Nagasaki,  
And we, the guests,  
Members of Federal Union and World  
Federalists.

Little I thought then of this Home,  
To be one in the great world-wide chain  
Sprung from the imagination  
Of this man's caring;  
Of one man's obedience to his vision.

Cruciform "Green Gables" stands  
Its head Southwards towards the sun  
And the embracing arms  
Outstretched East and Westwards  
To compass us in sleep.

In the downward beam  
Towards the base, firm planted,  
Are the feet of service;  
Those who watch and wait,  
Who manage, guide and care.

G.C. we salute you!  
We of your guests world-wide  
To whom you gave a Home  
Beautiful, secure  
And Cruciform.

*Elizabeth F. Greenwood, Green Gables.*

# VIDEOTAPE PROGRAMMES

From Ann Sparkes, Market Mews, W1Y 8HP.

It is my privilege and pleasure to be helping in the distribution of these programmes. After six months I now feel it is time I used the excellent vehicle of the *Cheshire Smile* to give publicity to what has been accomplished at relatively low cost and as to how Homes can benefit without running themselves into enormous expense.

Perhaps I should explain here how these programmes came about. With the ever increasing number of Homes both in the U.K. and abroad, G.C. found more and more that he was unable to answer requests to be present at special functions to talk about his work and his plans for the future or to visit as often as he wished. Hence, after careful consideration of all the alternatives, he decided that Videotape programmes would be the most effective substitute on occasions when he was unable to be present in person.

For a Home to own a Player and set of cassettes with G.C.'s programmes will cost £500. Once bought, they should quickly recoup these overheads for the impact on new audiences is immense. Already marvellous funds have been raised by showing one or two of these talks to different potential supporters. Forches House used *First Beginnings* a number of times. One donation alone was for £75 after a Cheese and Wine evening. It is felt that events like this and coffee mornings gain impact when opened with such a talk. Another encouraging talk for Support Groups is *Staunton Harold*.

For those involved in the day to day running of a Home, *The Foundation*, *Filling the Gap* and the talks to the Service Corps are all giving an insight into Leonard Cheshire's way of thinking about the present and future, projected with clarity for all members of committees, staff and residents.

*Challenge to Care* has had spectacular success shown to Schools and provided a marvellous starting point for discussion. What better section of our society to reach and win over? Although I aim to place this programme in Education Authority Audio Visual Libraries – and have already done so – any Home able to show it to schools in their neighbourhood would benefit by the resulting local support.

*To Rebuild a Life* specially directed towards American audiences is a colourful introduction to the Foundation's activities all over the world and has been keenly enjoyed here too.

*Joint Ventures* covers the work at Raphael undertaken by Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder

with funds from the Mission for the Relief of Suffering. The description and visuals of the Leper colony and special schools for all the children of Raphael has particular appeal. *The Foundation Overseas* and *Journey into India* vividly describe what their titles indicate.

Whilst all these programmes are available on both Sony and Philips cassettes for Homes to hire at cost and Players can be hired commercially by the day, it should prove more useful and economic in the long run for a Home or group of Homes to purchase a machine for themselves.

The Lanarkshire Audio Visual Library probably leads the way amongst Education Authorities. This vast county has 70 Philips Videotape Players in 40 secondary schools averaging 1,500 pupils each. A delivery van serves every school weekly with audio visual aids. As a result of visiting the Education Authority, where six programmes I took were viewed with enthusiasm, the Library bought every one to slot into their very lively experimental programme. This was an encouraging start in the public sector and indicates, in my opinion, the ever increasing importance of videotape as a really effective means of reaching a wide variety of audiences.

I am convinced VIDEO is an excellent method of Fund Raising and good publicity. I will be glad to give further information on the subject so do please be in touch. My grateful thanks to the Editor for giving me precious space in his most readable magazine.

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## Deaths

*Wenham:* on 12th May, 1976, WILLIAM (BILL) WENHAM, resident at Mote House for 9 years.

*Clements:* on 13th July, 1976, VERA EILEEN CLEMENTS, age 50, a resident at Cann House since 10th November, 1965, and Vice-Chairman Residents Committee.

*Baillie:* on 4th April, 1976, JEAN BAILLIE died suddenly at Mayfield House. She was a resident for seven years, and her cheerful and pleasant personality is sadly missed.

*Chesney:* on 11th September, 1976, GLADYS CHESNEY, age 54, resident at Carnsalloch House for five years.

*Henwood:* on 1st September, 1976, GRAHAM HENWOOD, age 38, a resident at Cann House since 17th January, 1976.

*Lagan:* on 9th August, JOHNNIE LAGAN, age 62, resident at Carnsalloch since 1962, sadly missed.

# The Mission for the Relief of Suffering

Registered as a Charity Number 235988.

**Founders:** Sue Ryder, C.M.G., O.B.E., and Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C., in association with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

**President:** Mrs Lakshmi Pandit.

**Secretary:** Ronald Travers.

The Mission was founded by Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire for the principal purpose of pioneering new projects which, although fulfilling a clear need and in keeping with their general aims and objects, would probably not be undertaken by either of their respective organisations. Four such projects are:

**Raphael, The Ryder-Cheshire International Centre, P.O.Box 157 Dehra Dun, Up, India,** caring for a total of some 300 people in need.

Raphael comprises a colony for burnt out leprosy cases, a Home for severely mentally retarded children, the "Little White House" for destitute orphaned children and a small hospital with two separate wings, one for general nursing and the other for the treatment of TB. In addition, Raphael operates a Mobile TB and Leprosy Clinic in the Tehri, Garhwal area of the Himalayan foothills. There is a Cheshire Home in Dehra Dun itself, so Raphael is not able to appeal locally for funds. With effect from June 1976 responsibility for its financial upkeep has been taken over by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation of Australia and New Zealand. The administration is in the hands of a General Council under the Chairmanship of Lt./Gen. S. P. Bhatia, O.B.E. (Retd.).

## Gabriel, St. Thomas' Mount, Madras, South India

A training Unit for leprosy and non-leprosy patients who are living on their own in Madras but are incapable, through lack of a trade, of obtaining work. Financial responsibility is shared between India and Ryder-Cheshire Support Groups in the United Kingdom.

*Chairman of Governing Council:* L. Nazareth.

## Ryder-Cheshire Films, Cavendish, Suffolk

This Unit produces films and video-tape programmes about the work of the two Foundations.

Details of these productions available on request.

## Raphael Pilgrimages

A Pilgrimage to Lourdes is arranged annually for those chronically ill and permanently handicapped people, many of whom would not be accepted on other pilgrimages, and willing helpers.

*Leader of Pilgrimages:* Gilbert Thompson, 23, Whitley Wood Road, Reading, Berks.

# 1 The Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Registered as a Charity Number 218186

The Cheshire Homes care for the severely and permanently handicapped—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.

The Management of each Home is vested in a Committee as representative as possible of the local community. The Leonard Cheshire Foundation (a registered charity) is the Central Trust, and has ultimate responsibility for all the Homes. It owns all the property, and acts as guarantor to the public that the individual Homes are properly managed in conformity with the general aims of the Foundation. Similar charitable Trusts have been established to control the Homes overseas.

**7 Market Mews, London, W1Y 8HP**  
**Telegrams, Cheshome, London, W1**  
**Tel: 01-499 2665**

*Patrons:* Dr G. C. Cheshire, F.B.A., D.C.L.  
The Rt. Hon. Lord Edmund-Davies, P.C.  
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Denning, P.C.

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Timsbury 70533 (70866).

### Bedfordshire

Amphill Park House, Amphill MK45 2HH.  
Amphill 403247 (403173).

### Buckinghamshire

Chiltern Cheshire Home, 29 North Park, Gerrards Cross  
SL9 8JT. Gerrards Cross 86170 (84572).

### Cheshire

The Hill, Sandbach. Sandbach 2341 (2508).

### Cleveland

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

### Cornwall

St. Teresa's, Long Rock, Penzance. Marazion 710336  
(710365).

### Cumbria

Lake District Cheshire Home, Holehird, Windermere.  
Windermere 2500 (387).

### Derbyshire

Green Gables, Windfield Road, Alfreton DE5 7AN.  
Alfreton 2422.

### Devon

Cann House, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth. Plymouth 771742  
(772645).

Douglas House, Douglas Avenue, Brixham. Brixham 4787.  
Forches House Cheshire Home, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.  
Barnstaple 75202.

### Dorset

The Grange, 2 Mount Road, Parkstone, Poole.  
Parkstone 740188 (740272).

### Durham

Murray House, St. Cuthbert's Avenue, Blackhill, Consett  
DH8 0LT. Consett 504000 (502363).

### Essex

Seven Rivers, Great Bromley, Colchester. Colchester 230345  
(230463).

### Gloucester

Cotswold Cheshire Home, Overton Road, Cheltenham  
GL50 3BN. Cheltenham 52569.

### Hampshire

Appley Cliff, Popham Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight.  
Shanklin 2193.

Le Court, Greatham, Liss. Blackmoor 364 (229).

### Hereford and Worcester

The Saltways Cheshire Home, Church Road, Webheath,  
Redditch. 0527-62938 (60590).

### Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Cheshire Home, St. John's Road, Hitchin.  
S94 9DD. Hitchin 52460 (52458).

### Kent

Mote House, Mote Park, 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 and 33522 (20130).

### Lancashire

Honresfeld, Blackstone Edge Road, Littleborough.  
Littleborough 78627 (78065).

Oaklands, Dimples Lane, Barnacre-with-Bounds, near  
Garstang, Preston PR3 1UA. Garstang 2290 (3624).

### Leicestershire

Roecliffe Manor, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough  
LE12 8TN. Woodhouse Eaves 890250.

Staunton Harold, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, LE6 5RT.  
Melbourne Derby 2571 (2387).

### Lincolnshire

Hovenden House, Fleet, Spalding PE12 8LP.  
Holbeach 23037 (23241).

### London

Athol House, 138 College Road, London SE 19 1XE.  
01-670 3740 (6770).

### Merseyside

Freshfields Leonard Cheshire Home, College Avenue,  
Formby, Liverpool L37 1LE. Formby 70119.

Springwood House, Cheshire Home, Springwood Avenue,  
Liverpool L25 7UW. 051-427 7345 (5400).

### Middlesex

Arnold House, 66 The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex  
EN2 8JA.

### Norfolk

The Grove, East Carleton, Norwich NR14 8HR.  
Mulbarton 279.

### Northumberland

Matfen Hall, Matfen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Stamfordham  
212 (383).

### Nottingham

Holme Lodge, Julian Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham  
NG2 5AQ. Nottingham 869002.

### Oxfordshire

Greenhill House, Twyford, Banbury. Adderbury 679 (667).  
John Masfield Cheshire Home, Burcot Brook, Burcot,  
Oxfordshire OX14 3DP. Oxford 340324 (340130).

### Somerset

St. Michael's, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2DW.  
Axbridge 358 (204).

### South Humberside

Stonecroft House, Barnetby ND38 6YD. Barnetby 344 (699).

### Staffordshire

St. Anthony's, Stourbridge Road, Wolverhampton WV4 5NQ.  
Wombourn 3056 (2060).

### Surrey

Harts Leap Children's Home, Harts Leap Road, Sandhurst,  
near Camberley. Crowthorne 2599.

Hydon Hill, Clock Barn Lane, Hydon Heath, near Godalming.  
Hascombe 383.

### Sussex

Heatherley, Effingham Lane, Copthorne, Crawley RH10 3HS.  
Copthorne 712232 (712735).

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

### Warwickshire

Greenacres, 39 Vesey Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands,  
B73 5NR. 021-354 7753 (7960).

### Wiltshire

Greathouse, Kington Langley, Chippenham.  
Kington Langley 235 (327).

### Yorkshire

Alne Hall, Alne, York YO6 2JA. Tolterton 295.

Beechwood, Bryan Road, Edgerton, Huddersfield HD2 2AH.  
Huddersfield 29626 (22813).

Champion House, Clara Drive, Calverley, Pudsey LS28 5PQ.  
Bradford 612459 (613642).

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

## Yorkshire—continued

- Mickley Hall, Mickley Lane, Totley, Sheffield S17 4HE.  
Sheffield 367936 (365709).  
Spofforth Hall, Harrogate HG3 1BX. Spofforth 284 (287).  
White Windows, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax HX6 1BH.  
Halifax 31981 (32173).

## SCOTLAND

### Dumfries

Carnsalloch House, Dumfries. Dumfries 4924.

### Edinburgh

Mayfield House, East Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3PT.  
031-552 2037 (4157).

## WALES

### Clwyd

Dolywern, Pontfadog, Llangollen. Glynceiriog 303.  
Eithinog, Old Highway, Upper Colwyn Bay LL28 5YA.  
Colwyn Bay 2404 (30047).

### Dyfed

Coomb, Llangynog, Carmarthen. Llanstephan 292 (310).

### Gwent

Llanhenock Cheshire Home, Llanhenock, near Caerleon  
NP6 1LT. Caerleon 420045 (420676).

### South Glamorgan

Danybryn, Radyr, Cardiff CF4 8XA. 842237 (842335).

## IRELAND

- Ardeen, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow, Eire.  
Rathfredagh House Cheshire Home, Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick, Eire.  
St Laurence Cheshire Home, Lota Park, Cork, Eire.  
St Patricks Cheshire Home, Tullow, Co. Carlow, Eire.  
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Nicholas House, 3 Old Nichol Street, Bethnal Green E.2.  
01-739 5165 (9298).

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The Green, Christleton, near Chester. Chester 35503.

### Dorset

- Buckfield House, Lyme Regis.  
Fairfield House, Lyme Regis. Lyme Regis 2487.  
Hawthorn Lodge, Hawthorn Road, Dorchester.  
Dorchester 3403.

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Cheshire Estate, 30 Palace Road, Tulse Hill, London SW2.  
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Robin House, St. John's Road, Hitchin, Herts.  
Disabled Students accommodation:  
Taylor House, 16 Osler Road, Headington, Oxford.  
Training Centre:  
Cheshire Foundation Service Corps, Study Centre,  
Le Court, Liss, Hants. Tel: Blackmoor 421

## Cheshire Homes Overseas

Secretary, 5 Market Mews, London W1Y 8HP.  
Tel. 01-499 2267

### Argentina

Hogares Cheshire para Lisiados Casilla de Correo 896,  
BUENOS AIRES

### Brazil

The Cheshire Home, Rua 7 de Abril 252, 12, SAO PAULO

### Canada

- Belleville Cheshire Home, 246 John Street,  
BELLEVILLE, Ont.  
McLeod Home, 11 Lowther Avenue, TORONTO  
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The Durham Region Cheshire Homes, 829 Simcoe Street,  
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Cheshire Homes of Saskatchewan, 314 Lake Crescent,  
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Peel Cheshire Home, 361 Queen Street, Streetsville,  
Mississauga, Ontario.

### Chile

Hogares Fundacion Cheshire de la Esperanza, Casilla 3337,  
SANTIAGO  
Hogares Cheshire Home, Casilla 74, CONCEPCION

### Ethiopia

The Cheshire Home, PO Box 3427, ADDIS ABABA (C)  
The Cheshire Clinic, PO Box 1383, ASMARA (C)  
The Cheshire Home, PO Box 18, SHASHAMANE  
Makalle\*

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Foyer Cheshire de Fontaine-Francaise 21610.

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QUEZON CITY

Sinag-Tala for Women, Grant St. 74, G.S.I.A. Village,  
Project 8, QUEZON CITY

AN Children's Home, c/o Sr. V. Baerts, PO Box 2508,  
MANILA (C)

Bukang Liwayway, Anonas St. 68, Quirino Dist,  
QUEZON CITY

Kakayahan, Rd. 22, Urduja Village, Calooca Bdry,  
NOVALICHES

Pangarap Home, Paraiso St. No. 31, NOVALICHES

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Lares Cheshire em Portugal, Rua Joao da Silva No. 3.  
CARCAVELOS

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Singapore Cheshire Home, Singapore Council of Social  
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Hogar de la Amistad de Mosnou, Avda de Navarro 68,  
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7° B, Moratalaz, MADRID 30

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