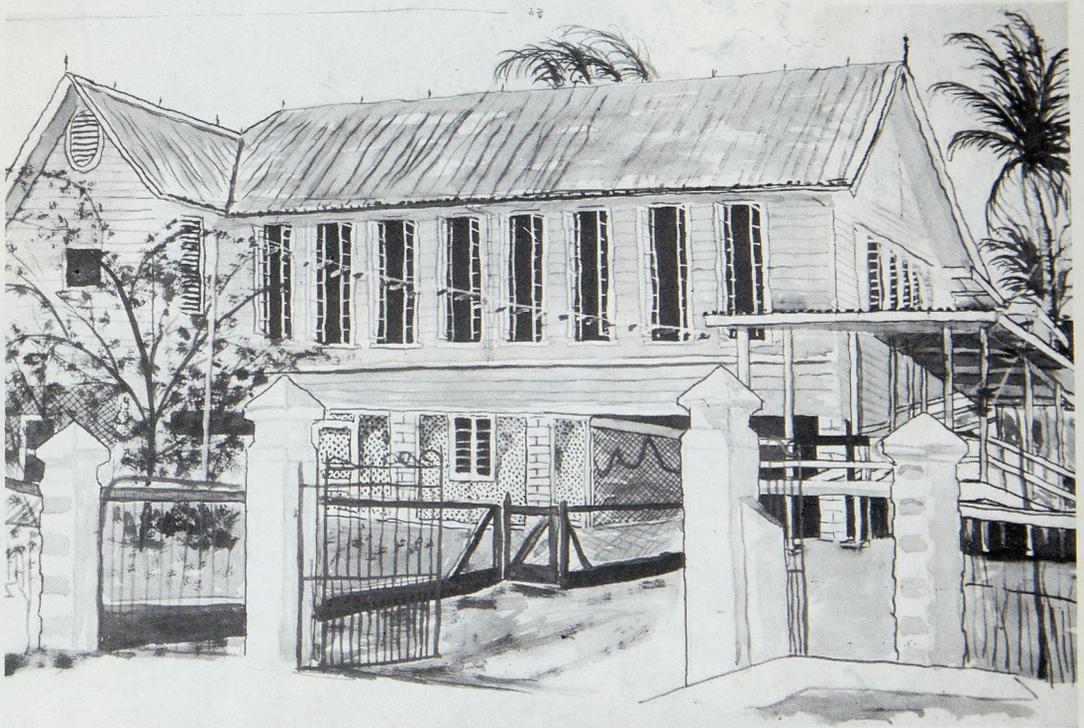


Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Cheshire Homes Price 10p

Summer 1979



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Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Homes

Vol. 22 No. 13 Spring 1979

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Please note, final date for contributions to the Autumn issue 29th September 1979.

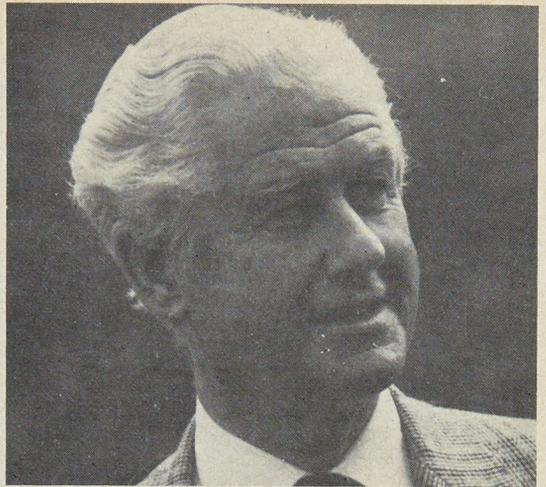
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The Chairman's Page

For some people, summer is described as the "silly season", when there is so little of importance going on that the newspapers have to scratch around to find something to fill their pages. This certainly does not apply to the Cheshire Homes, where the summer is perhaps our most active season with all sorts of galas, fetes, open days, family days and so on; with holidays to be arranged and enjoyed; and with a general feeling of making hay while the sun shines (as, miraculously, it seems to be doing quite a lot as I write in July).

There has been a parallel degree of activity among the trustees and at Market Mews. For some while it has been becoming more and more apparent that the central organization arrangements of the United Kingdom Foundation have been increasingly creaking under the strain of expansion both in the quantity and variety of our work. Up to a point this is something we can all be glad and proud about since it indicates how great has been the success and development of the Foundation over recent years. But for several reasons it also gave us cause for concern; the staff were more and more overworked; we were finding it more and more difficult to provide prompt and expert service in reply to all the queries and requests we received; and the Trustees Committee, growing inexorably greater as the number of Homes increased, was becoming too large to handle everyday business and at the same time to ensure the maintenance of the liaison with the Homes which is so essential to the maintenance of the Cheshire spirit.

So we arranged for some experts to come and take a professional look at us. They turned out to be most sympathetic and understanding; and as a result of their report there will be a slightly larger and considerably more expert staff under a Director at the Central Office (and *please* don't let's have any talk about "bureaucratic monsters"! The central staff will still only number twenty-one or twenty-two, which is far lower than comparable charities; and the same can be said of administrative costs). The day to day work of the Trustees Committee will be taken on by a much smaller Executive Committee, so that the Trustees as a whole will meet less often, to discuss major matters. The functional committees, eg Homes Planning, Mental Health, etc, will operate much as before.



As far as Homes are concerned there will be no basic change in their responsibilities and their relationships to the Foundation. They will continue to depend largely on the voluntary local structures which have always been their true strength. But it is intended to give them a clearer and effective voice by putting on a more formal basis the grouping of Homes in geographical areas, which in many cases already operates in practice; this will not involve regional staffs or any other major additional administrative expenses. These groups, it is proposed, would have regular discussion meetings involving representation of all *their* people; and would have a committee of Homes' Chairmen (on which the Trustees concerned would be represented) through which the views of Homes could be put with a stronger and more convincing weight than can come from any individual Homes.

That is the outline. You would not want me to go into further detail here. But we have decided to allot the whole afternoon of the Annual Conference to discussion of these new arrangements. Additionally of course we would welcome as always any other subject of general interest anyone would like to raise, so please let's hear from you. You will also be interested and pleased to hear that our main morning speaker will be Mr Reg Prentice, the new Minister for the Disabled, whom we all look forward to meeting.

Sincerely

Christopher Farley

Chairman

VIEWPOINT

First of all let me apologise for the Spring issue of *The Smile* not arriving before the beginning of July, high Summer in fact!! The delay was entirely out of our hands but we are endeavouring to make amends by getting this Summer issue to you before Christmas at the latest!

Even so, it is somewhat reassuring to realise that our efforts in publishing as much as possible of what is submitted are read with interest, and the response to the letter entitled 'There must be a Better Way' sent to us by Mr S. Smith of 'Oaklands' has as we expected caused quite a furore in the camp, and we are pleased to publish the replies from residents (and some non-residents) on both sides of the questions and points raised. It would seem that the whole matter of resident participation should lead to much discussion and debate at the Conference on 13th October, time and opportunity permitting.

It was only this very day, during the course of drafting this article, that a resident at 'Greenacres' asked me, as a former Chairman and as a member of the Management Committee here, if he 'would be allowed' to do a certain thing (to produce a play in the Home), and I was able to assure him that we do not like to think of residents being 'allowed' to do this, that or the other, because this is their home; and they themselves, as it were, should work out their own salvation (not necessarily with fear and trembling!) but taking into consideration the wishes and views of other residents, staff, voluntary helpers and indeed our immediate neighbours and people in the vicinity of the Home.

This surely, is what we are all called upon to do, wheresoever we live, whatever our calling, and however we find ourselves placed in the community.

Perhaps the poem, recited to me by that dear 86 year old lady, Mrs Hilda Henn while she was in hospital entitled 'The Two Bears' was more apt and significant to our last issue than it appeared to be when we decided to include it. It may be worth reading again (see page 15 of the last issue).

How much are we so dependent on each other. No-one could possibly deny the debt we owe our Founder, Group Captain Leonard himself for his selfless devotion to the worldwide cause of suffering humanity in whatever form it should take. The Foundation with its 80 homes in the U.K. and the rapidly growing number, now well in excess of 100 overseas can only serve the very tip of an iceberg of

need. But in tackling that tip, it is making some impact and setting an example. It is growing daily and more and more people are not only coming to realise the extent of suffering there is in this world, which ideally should be one of peace and joy, but are doing more and more to supply that need.

We as individuals, can play but a very small and perhaps almost insignificant part in bringing relief, but as Christ said 'inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it to me'.

Our Chairman, Sir Christopher, has referred on the opposite page to the changes taking place, as a result of the recommendations made, for Market Mews. All we can say is that we wish them well. It was more than obvious that some changes were necessary and some extra staff were needed to cope with the heavy burden and demand on their services, which (and one speaks from experience over many years) have always been given so willingly and ungrudgingly, whatever the question, and whatever the need or time of day. Our only hope is that those who are recruited to take up the additional duties will become as closely knit into the Cheshire family as those whose steps they follow. And here again one thinks of Maggie Toner, who was such a wonderful example, and gave herself so completely in the service of others, particularly those in the Homes overseas. As the Group Captain said 'she symbolised a life of service in the best sense', and we are proud to have been associated with her in the work.

R.E.L.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

With effect from 1st September the overseas work in London of the Cheshire Homes will be carried out under the title of

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL.

The office will remain at 3 Market Mews, London W1Y 8HP. Tel: 01-499 2267.

With effect from the same date RONALD TRAVERS has been appointed International Director.

Disability

Its Acceptance by the "Able-bodied"

Given at a Day Conference of the West Midlands Council for the Disabled at Solihull on 10.4.79 by Mrs. A. J. Simkins, Senior Consultant, Market Research Division, Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd.

On this occasion, I am the one who is handicapped.

I want to emphasise the fact that because some of us do not have obvious disabilities, it does not mean we don't have *any* — if only that we "don't listen". I have been at committee meetings where the only person who really "saw" what was going on was the one who was blind! We are talking about the attitudes of the "able-bodied" but even our Chairman, in introducing me, spoke of me as having "coped with" a disabled husband.

We didn't see it that way! In fact Geoff could justifiably have pointed out that *he* had to "cope with" both increasing disabilities *and* me! I was, however, reminded that my own mother once said "you might just as well not be married at all" I stopped in my tracks, appalled at the yawning gulf of her lack of comprehension: I could not understand how she could have failed to appreciate the richness of our marriage nor the fact that in everything apart from physical strength, Geoff was by far the stronger of the two of us

We are talking about "acceptance" — but the effects of *non*-acceptance are still with us. Let me tell you a story which I find very chilling

Not many months ago, I was with a group of people from very different parts of the world, working on the economics of rehabilitation. We were discussing the problems of reaching people with disabilities in time to achieve the optimum results. We talked about the tendency referred to earlier by Tim (another speaker) not to admit the existence of handicap — both on the part of the handicapped individual and the family. I asked those from societies in which the majority of women in any case live restricted lives if this did not present special difficulties for them. One representative told us about a woman discovered by a member of his own staff, who had been shut away for 29 years from any contact with the outside world, or any form of education — even that normally given to women in the household — because the family thought she was mentally defective and they were ashamed to admit to having produced such a person In fact, she had nothing more than a defect of the mechanism of

speech which was correctable. So far from being mentally handicapped was she that, after surgery and in the skilled care of the rehabilitationists, she was able to take a job in the outside world — and that after 29 years of social deprivation and imprisonment, with an almost total lack of any kind of mental stimulus.

Non-acceptance in our own society seldom reaches such an extreme form, but we are by no means free of the same factors which caused it — ignorance, fear, and feelings of guilt. The swimming club for all kinds of handicaps to which we used to go each week with Geoff was at one time temporarily displaced from its usual pool while some improvements were done. For a couple of sessions we shared a pool with a swimming cub from one of the banks. Then the bank club objected: they said they "didn't want their children to be frightened by seeing the handicapped swimmers". My experience is that *fear* is a reaction generated by adults. *Acceptance* comes more readily to children, unless they are misled. I only hope those parents never become the victims of MS, or a stroke, or a road accident, and experience from their over-sheltered children the rejection they have fostered.

My own young daughter has grown up among people on wheels, people who cannot speak, and people who are able to "take bits of themselves off". She usually found that her Daddy got a cheerful, if often inquisitive acceptance from her playmates at day nursery and school. The exception was one child who was terrified of him because she had been told "he must have done something very bad to be so punished" — cruel enough when applied to one of the most selfless young men you could meet, but how much worse for the youngster *born* with a disability. My daughter is 12. So is that child. So her parents are quite young and this sort of teaching is still being perpetuated.

A similar reaction is "acceptance" of quite the *wrong* kind. In Portugal, after the fighting in Angola, there were many disabled soldiers to be rehabilitated. The medical authorities, the army and the rehabilitation services trained these men in self-care and, where necessary, for new occupations. But in nearly every case, after a few months, they were to be found at home, sitting in the corner, smothered by the loving ignorance of families whose attitude was that their afflictions were a calamity, visited upon them by God, which must simply be accepted with resignation — and in the villages the family gained status according to the extent of its resigned "acceptance"

Although lacking the secretiveness and "shame" of the other case I began with, this is almost as bad for the person with the disability, since they are stifled, and robbed of any chance to make the best of remaining *ability*.

Surely the kind of "acceptance" we want to achieve in the community at large is the natural, matter-of-fact acceptance of a child who has not been misled by ignorance and fear. Such a child recognises the problems of an individual person with a handicap and goes ahead to offer help with a wheelchair, work out a system of eyelid communication, or career cheerfully downstairs on her tummy because her playmate has no legs. AND she will decide whether she likes or dislikes someone who is handicapped on exactly the same one-at-a-time basis she would use for assessing any other person. Such a child will not, perhaps, make all the allowances an older person might make for the special problems of handicapped people — but the basic attitude is far more healthy than that of adults who shrink from any contact with disabled people *or* those who smother the "poor things" with an excess of protectiveness just because they *are* disabled.

Now one of *my* disabilities is that I have no training in psychology — and I stand to be corrected — but I suspect that part of the trouble with adults who shy away from anyone with a disability is that they cannot cope with the *threat* it represents to their own security — the thought "that could be me".

But perhaps the biggest invisible handicap of people classed as "able bodied" is what, in the parlance used to describe other handicaps, might be called "malfunctioning of the imaginative faculty" They simply fail to grasp what handicap is: like Tim's medical students. They have no idea what it means in terms of loss of choice. Those who choose to withdraw their children from contact with handicapped people never begin to imagine what it is like to grow to the age of 30 without once being able to *choose* what time you will eat a meal. Even, in some cases, without being able to choose which mouthful you will eat next from your plate. (Think about it, when you eat your lunch.)

It is all too easy to "accept" deprivations — if they are somebody else's! Not so long ago, I was discussing with senior officers of the DHSS the injustices of withdrawing mobility provisions at retirement when one young man said flatly "when you are retired, you must *expect* loss of mobility". Notice I said he was *young*. So every one of us should "expect" to retire to slippers and a corner chair — with an occasional outing from Social

Services — when we reach 65 — or 60 as the case may be? On the radio I recently heard someone expressing disapproval of the idea that so many people should be "afraid" of growing old: If he wants to know *why* they are afraid, perhaps he should listen more closely to those who control the incomes the majority of them will have!

The same is true of the younger disabled — all the emotional and physical deprivations of being handicapped are compounded by the biggest disability of all — the basically ANTI-independence attitude of so many of those they have to deal with. It is not only that, like Tim's medical students, people with disabilities have extra problems in a world where design, controls and signposting are all for those on 4 wheels and an engine, or legs ...

In the schools, people whose concern is with handicapped school leavers are worried because, in the present state of the employment market it is increasingly being assumed that youngsters with disabilities will have no chance of getting a job. All the emphasis is being put on developing their interest in some sort of pastime with which they can while away their days such as gardening. So the development of non-remunerative occupations — in itself a good and healthy thing — is being used as an excuse for lowering the expectations of these youngsters, undermining both their equipment and their motivation for future independence. By all means don't let's give them a false picture of how easy it will be to get a job, but surely the solution is to equip them *better* than the average in order in some measure to redress the balance on which they compete, not teach them to give up before they have begun.

In the course of some work I have been doing on independent living it has emerged very clearly that the person who becomes handicapped after leaving school, or at least after the foundations of their education have been laid, has a vastly better chance of achieving independence than the one whose *education* has also been handicapped. Among the latter, those who were educated in special schools where academic expectations were low or non-existent, have had a much harder row to hoe than others, in some cases equally handicapped, who were lucky enough to receive an integrated education. (The attitude of the family is also important — *the most successfully independent are those who had able-bodied brothers and sisters and whose parents expected them to pull their weight in the household.*) The anti-independence attitude also affects personal care services. The very services which are suspended to help maintain independence are often

administered in a way which is organised for the efficiency and convenience of the services, not of the families they serve. Too often it is assumed, that if you are disabled, not only you but the entire household have nothing else to do but sit at home and await the pleasure of Home Help or nursing services. Make no mistake, I fully appreciate the problems of organising the nurse or Home Help's timetable, but *they* do not appear to appreciate that there are problems in organising a handicapped person's household. I am sure that one of the main reasons why the Crossroads Care Attendant schemes are so immensely popular is that they *are* geared to the needs of the disabled person and his household.

Again, in our increasingly materialistic and grasping society people do not willingly identify with the *non-earner* — whom they see as the *non-worker*. Yet the benefits system makes it well-nigh impossible for the disabled person, especially the one with diminishing or intermittent earning power, to work at all — because as soon as he tries, all the extra help his continuing handicap needs is withdrawn. Surely no-one should fail to appreciate the absolutely central importance of *employment* to the self-image, as well as the independence, of someone who is handicapped. Not every disabled person has the guts to keep going through *seven Years* of effort and disappointments between leaving school and getting a job!

For some "able-bodied" people, acceptance comes when they find that a disabled person is working A question has been raised about the value of what the Americans call peer counselling — counselling by people who themselves have first-hand knowledge of the problems of a particular handicap. Some of you may know that for four years, Action for Research into Multiple Sclerosis has run such a counselling service. Like the Samaritans, it operates around the clock, but it is manned by trained counsellors who either themselves have MS or have it in the household. For the whole of that time, the service has been managed by a young mother who herself has MS. A fully-trained social worker, she was "on the scrap heap" as far as the employment market was concerned before the counselling service began. Yet she has maintained this service, keeping the rota going, overseeing the training of counsellors, the paperwork connected with a massive telephone operation, doing radio and TV programmes and sometimes travelling long distances to talk about the service, for the whole of that time but she is not paid.

From the United States I recently heard a comment on acceptance which, although from a

different context, has echoes in the world of handicapped people. A respected negro politician said "in the South they don't mind how close you get to them, so long as you don't expect to be *equal* to them: here they don't mind you being "equal" so long as you don't get near them" ...

Not that the fault is all on one side: acceptance or otherwise is partly related to the handicapped person's own success in coming to terms with the handicap. Tim referred to the surprise expressed at his continued interest in mountains One of the handicapped people to whom I have been talking about independent living said "I don't like the company of disabled people because they won't talk about anything that ordinary people talk about. Just because you can't *play* football doesn't mean you can't be interested, and politics or films or pop music aren't reserved for conversation for the able bodied."

My own husband had many happy exchanges with people in Portugal, in a mixture of fractured French, broken English and scrambled Portuguese — chiefly because he did not mind being asked personal questions — some of them *very* personal! — by people who were genuine and open in their interest in him. I can endorse all that has been said about the enormous social barrier that speech handicaps can be, since for the last four years of his life, Geoff could not make himself understood to people who did not know him. Yet shortly before his death we made a broadcast, in the planning and production of which he took so lively a part that the producer, who met him only on that occasion, wrote afterwards of his "vibrant personality" and we have today had a rare opportunity to encounter another such personality. By contrast, some disabled people withdraw and will themselves not believe in, or court, "acceptance" by others, while some become very aggressive. That very aggressiveness is sometimes, however, born of the way the disabled person is treated: of the necessity to *fight* for all the things to which they are supposedly "entitled", and which others take for granted.

like the right to try something *and fail*;

the right to a sexual aspect to their lives, however expressed;

the right *not* to spend the rest of their lives in second-hand clothes, on second-hand furniture and a second-hand experience of the outside world only through radio and TV.

Where true "acceptance" is achieved by both the person with disabilities and those around them, all kinds of new uses, sometimes of unsuspected *abilities*, may be stimulated. In the course of my research for the independent living study, I spoke

to one, admittedly unusually enlightened, employer who, when a short-term, humdrum job came up, rang his local employment office and asked if they would like to offer him, from their books, someone who had been unemployed for a long time and would appreciate at least a few weeks break. After consulting their records they said they didn't have anyone like that. "Oh come on, you *must* have" he said. At last, hesitating, they admitted that, well, they did have an autistic West Indian girl (autism and colour prejudice — how's *that* for a double handicap in a tough employment market!). To their amazement he said "send her along then". Not only did she do the short term job — but she is now on the permanent staff, operating their *computer terminal* — just because someone cared enough to find out what she *could* do! Don't let's pitch our expectations *too low* ...

I may be misquoting slightly, but there is a prayer that all of us, including those of us with less easily-defined disabilities, might with advantage make our own "*Lord grant me the determination to change the things that ought to be changed, the patience to endure those that cannot be changed — but the wisdom to know the difference.*"

THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

In England alone there were 17,015 children aged under 16 registered on the 'General Classes Register' as physically handicapped on 31st March, 1977.

In England alone 4,750 children aged under 16 were registered as deaf or hard of hearing on 31st March, 1977.

In March 1977 there were 2,314 children under 15 in England and Wales registered as blind, and a further 2,740 registered as partially sighted.

In England alone at the end of 1976 there were 1,047 children under 18 in mental illness hospitals, and 6,157 in mental handicap hospitals.

(Extracted from statistics issued by the UK Association for the International Year of the Child 1979.)

ONE WORLD WEEK

The theme for One World Week this year is 'Just the Job', an exploration of the ways our work links us with the world-wide human family. The week will be 21-28 October, 1979, which has been chosen to allow the week to be observed in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for World Peace, the Vigii for Racial Harmony and UN Day. Further details can be obtained from One World Week, PO Box 1, London SW9 8BH.

SPOD

Praised over Help for the Disabled

Sexual and Personal Relations Being Overcome

"You have declared on behalf of all disabled people the right to a warm and loving relationships which the able bodied have always taken for granted," Mrs Lynda Chalker, Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, told the Committee on Sexual and Personal Relationship Problems of the Disabled (SPOD) when she opened the International Conference in Brighton, telling the delegates that the work of SPOD gave great encouragement to the disabled. "It is specifically a help to them in refusing to accept that the joy of sexual fulfilment is a book forever closed following an accident or illness, or for those handicapped from birth a forbidden book which may never be opened," she said.

Mrs Chalker stated that the Government was backing its recognition of SPOD's activities with a cash grant.

There had been a number of initiatives in recent years aimed at overcoming the barriers to integration of disabled people in which SPOD had played an important part she said.

"What these have shown clearly is that if anything, the social and attitudinal hurdles are greater and more wounding than the physical barriers the disabled face in getting about or gaining greater physical access to facilities. Nowhere are these social and attitudinal barriers more daunting than in the areas of sexual and personal relationships.

"The view still lingers that these are matters which it is not quite nice to talk about. People are surprised that disabled people should be concerned about love and sex. Unquestionably in the past the sexual needs of the disabled have been ignored or suppressed, partly because of lack of knowledge, and partly because of the inhibitions of some members of the caring professions. There is still much more to be done, but now most carers will acknowledge the existence, as a real problem, of a sexual or emotional difficulty, even though the remedy may not be easy to identify or to put into practice."

Marguerite Mary (MAGGIE) Toner

Tribute by Group Capt. Leonard Cheshire,

VC, DSO, DFC at Memorial Service

held on 19th July 1979

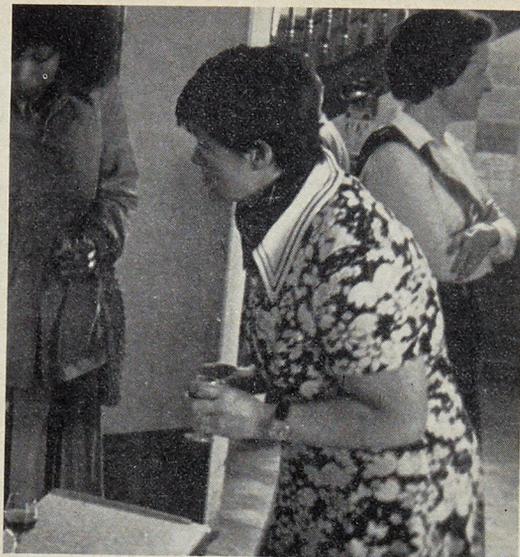
A special service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Maggie Toner who died on 20th June, and was the International Secretary of the Foundation for so many years, was held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, London W1 on Thursday, 19th July.

The service was conducted by the Revered Father Peter Blake, SJ, OBE, KHS, and some 150 or more friends, Trustees of the Foundation and members of the staff at Market Mews were present.

The first Reading of the Lesson taken from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans ch.8 vv.31-35 and 37-39 was read by the Vice-Chairman of the Foundation, Sir Henry Marking, KCVO, CBE, MC, and the second Lesson, Psalm 121 was read by the Chairman, Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, GCB, DSO. The Address in the form of a tribute to Maggie, was given by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, DSO, DFC, himself, who said:

I feel very honoured indeed to have been the person invited to give our public tribute to the memory of Marguerite Mary Toner. But in doing so, I realise only too well that sadly, however much I try, I won't really do justice to her life, because fundamentally to me there was a poetry to Marguerite – Maggie as we so fondly knew her in the Foundation – and I unfortunately do not have the gift of poetry. I hope that at least through my words, you will feel something of my deep desire to pay Maggie a tribute that she deserved and earned.

I remember very clearly the day that I first met her. To be more accurate, I do not really remember the details of it, but I have the very vivid impression burned on my memory of that half-hour or so that we spent together at Le Court, when she came to see me about the possibility of taking on this job. Somehow the door just suddenly opened and she was there. She made no effort – as many of us do in such circumstances – to sell herself, to explain how she thought she could do the job. She just, as it were, sat there in front of me and said "This is me and if you think that I could help, I would like to try." And the more we spoke, the more I felt that Maggie would bring to the Foundation new life. She had the gift of uplifting, of making you feel that everything was going to be all right. And I think that I knew in my heart that a new chapter was going to be written in the small history of our Foundation. And then suddenly the door was closed and Maggie was no longer in the room. It is indeed true, as we all know, that a new chapter had been written for the



This photograph of Maggie Toner typifies her intense personal interest in whatever it was in which she was involved 'such was her humanity that everyone was much better for having known her'.

Foundation from the day she came to take up the job at Market Mews.

But what I did not know at that time – and what I think it has taken my a long time to appreciate – was the success with which she had carried on a job before then in the fairly hard and competitive world of buying and selling television, and I now know that had she stayed there she would have gone from success to success and made a very great impact on it. But she chose to forego that success, which would have brought her wealth and many other material blessings, in order to help those in need. And she symbolises in my mind the great many people the world over who in their own way and under different circumstances do something like that – they give up materially successful positions in order to serve other people in a different way.

Maggie brought with her all the skills that she had acquired in her previous job, added to her great humanity – a humanity that was quite remarkable for its depth and its breadth. Everybody who came into the office was made welcome to claim part of her time. Even those who never saw her but only knew of her from a distance in a distant land by letter or reputation felt that they all knew her.

One cannot think of Maggie without thinking of her small motor bike, and all my life I will remember Maggie putting on her weather-proof clothing and going out in all weathers undeterred, uncomplaining – just taking it for granted – indeed, up to the very day she left us for the last time to go to hospital.

And in that too I saw a symbol of her life: the way she was always cheerful. If ever any of us said something critical of someone, it was clear that Maggie did not like it – she always balanced it by saying something good about them. To me that is a very great gift and a very high quality in man.

There are so many things one could say about Maggie, but one just has to concentrate on one or two points. We can say without any doubt that during the time that she ran our Overseas Office we have seen immense progress and we have all been brought closer together. Maggie had such a habit of wanting to do things for you, of going out of her way to do them for you, whether they were big or small and whether she was free to do them or not. I have a feeling I myself and others took her too much for granted.

And to sum up that spirit of wanting to serve, something rather extraordinary happened just towards the end of her time with us. For a long time we had badly needed a publication of notes to help people who go to a distant country to start up a Home for disabled people and we never succeeded in getting it. I once asked one of our committees to produce it, but somehow it was never produced. But one day there appeared in an envelope a rather nicely bound, stencilled set of notes. Maggie had done this with the help of Denise Tabernacle without saying a single word to anybody. She just produced it, much in the same way – as she presented herself that day at Le Court: "If this is any use, do use it," she said. Then in fact, it was so good that I do not think more than three words in the whole volume had to be changed. And that was Maggie's last gift to us in the Foundation; and it will continue, I know, for many many years and only need to be updated as conditions change. She was

just so modest and human – in all truth she symbolised a life of service in the best sense. Such was her humanity that everyone was much better for having known her. And then – as with our interview down at Le Court – suddenly, so to speak, the door closed and she was no longer with us.

As Father Peter said before he began this service, what I have talked about is only one part of Maggie's life – the past. We all know that our co-responsibility as members of the one human family is to build up that human family, indeed to build up the whole creation of Almighty God, into what the church calls the Mystical Body of Christ and, if you like, into the new heaven and the new earth. We each continue on a higher plane with the work we have done in this world. I know that as we stand here at this moment to offer our thanksgiving for Maggie Toner's life and to pay, as best we can, our small tribute to the example she set, and all that she did, she is close to us and continuing on a much higher plane the work that she began here on earth. As I say, it is a great privilege for me to try to pay tribute to her on your behalf and to offer our deep and sincere sympathy to her family in the great loss that they have to bear."

Following the celebration of Holy Mass, the closing hymn 'O Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end' was sung.

Of all people, in her life and in her work with, in and for The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, this is what Maggie did, and in doing so set a wonderful example to us all.

May we endeavour to follow in her footsteps.

R.E.L.

Maggie standing at the right hand side of the coach with the Founder, other Trustees and residents. 'She had the gift of uplifting' . . .



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the 'letter to the editor' "There Must be a Better Way" and, for the first time, prompted to react.

I agree with much of what Mr Smith had to say in his letter, although I wouldn't say we're normal people, because it isn't normal to be disabled, and to have to depend on other people for your very existence. Able bodied people can very well live without disabled people; galling as it is, disabled people, until the day of Robots, cannot live without able bodied people. Personally, I look forward to the day when I can wake up to find my Robot, programmed to my personal requirements, standing in the corner of my room, just waiting for the press of a button, instead of wondering who will be coming in this morning – will it be someone who has to be humoured, or someone new, to whom every blessed thing has to be explained, or, joy of joys, a good old regular who knows the routine.

But if we're not normal in one sense, most of us have normal brains, and would certainly be as capable (or incapable, as is often the case) of running our own Home. Why shouldn't we make our own mistakes?

Mr Smith criticises the Cheshire Foundation for their way of running Homes, but a lot of Homes are not run according to the Foundation's aims. Perhaps the Foundation should rather be criticised for seemingly not being able to step in more, and insist that Management Committees run the Homes according to their aims.

You, the editor, remark that the way a Home is run depends a lot on the attitude of the residents and that the Foundation has always encouraged Management Committees to include residents as full participating members on those committees. But residents cannot force their way on to Management Committees, and if the Management Committees choose to ignore the Foundation's 'encouragements', and the Foundation are unable to insist, what's the answer? There is no hope that attitudes might change because new Committee members are always very carefully selected by the existing members – a clique in fact.

Local Councils have committee members from all walks of life, yet, in my experience, local Cheshire Homes have committee members from only one strata. Residents have no say in the electing of any new member – if elect is the right word – it is more probably that someone says, 'I know a chap, thoroughly decent fellow, he'll make a first rate committee member', and there he is – at least he'll vote the right way.

I don't believe, as you hint, that the difficulty in many Homes is to find residents who are willing and able to take part. There are always one or two, both willing and able – trouble makers the Management Committee would say! But anyway, why shouldn't Management Committee meetings be open meetings, for all residents who are interested to attend? It is, after all, supposed to be our Home, and it is certainly our way of life which is being discussed. Often, we are presented with plans as a 'fait accompli'. How can you then say it is our Home? It is the Management Committee's Home – their doll's house.

I am what someone in another article calls an 'opted-out' resident. Not because of passive disinterest, but because of active dislike of the way the Home is run, and the inability to change it. So, rather than end up mentally as well as physically disabled, I opted out. Apart from the intimidation, which thankfully has now stopped, it was quite easy for me to opt out as I am happily married to another resident, have a nice room and plenty of interests.

I must say, I find it very curious that although we are allowed no say in the real decisions of the Home, a very dim view is taken of residents who opt out! It can only be for the sake of appearances.

Mrs J. Sparrow,
Athol House

Appledore,
Sunnyside Close,
Lancaster.
25th July, 1979.

Dear Editor,

You did well to reprint the Singapore Declaration after Mr. Stephen Smith's letter in the Spring issue. Members of Management Committees and Staff and all voluntary workers who have the welfare of their residents at heart should keep it continually in mind.

Mr. Smith overstates his case and his criticisms of "the system" could hurt our feelings, but there is something in what he says if we consider it in very general terms. Society, from driving "cripples" out into the streets to beg for a living, has gone to the other extreme in developed countries and is now over-protective. If Mr. Smith would go to Calcutta he would find many thousands of handicapped people living in a way which gives them total responsibility for their own lives. Is this what he wants?

No, he wants the best of both worlds, ----- excellent nursing care combined with "resident control". A well-run Cheshire Home (and I submit that Oaklands is pretty good) provides the first and as much of the second as the residents wish for. In practice, a very small proportion of residents are anxious to take responsibility. This may be partly because of conditioning by hospitals, relatives and others who have found it easier and quicker to do things FOR the person rather than encouraging him to do it for himself, but is also most certainly because of lowering of vitality, mental deterioration, speech difficulties, etc.

No-one HAS to come into a Cheshire Home but we are still very much over-subscribed. Anyone who does not like it can leave, but very few do. I believe we are fulfilling a great need and satisfying most of our "customers".

If there are half-a-dozen physically handicapped people of the same mind as Mr. Smith, I see no reason why they should not form their own Steering Committee, recruit voluntary workers (in wheelchairs preferably), and start fund-raising for the very first Resident-controlled Cheshire Home. They will need a variety of skills, a knowledge of committee procedure, a great understanding of human nature, amongst other things, to be successful. I believe they would have the backing of the Foundation. Perhaps this correspondence column will reveal that there are such people, and, if so, I hope we shall see it happen. Nothing would do more for the status of the physically handicapped.

Meanwhile, Management Committees up and down the country will continue to try to provide the background in which those of lesser ambition can fulfil their potential in smaller ways, being understanding of their disadvantages and lending willing ears when their complaints are voiced. We are full of "hopeful endeavour and not passive disinterest."

Yours sincerely,

C. M. Ridley (Mrs.)
Chairman of Admissions Committee, Oaklands.

Athol House,
138 College Road,
London SE19
19th July 1979

Dear Sir,

I have read the article by S. Smith "There Must Be a Better Way" in the Spring 1979 Cheshire Smile. I do not agree with all that S. Smith says, but he has certainly hit a lot of nails on the head!

I do agree with him about residents having more say in the running of their home. We, the residents, live in the home twenty-four hours a day, who better to know what is in the best interest for all concerned but the residents themselves? I know there are residents who cannot and do not want to take an active part in the running of their home, but there are also those who would be only too willing to take an active part in the real day to day running of the home, and to be a part of the decisions that affect us all one way or another; not to be told what has been decided on our behalf. I believe that "passive disinterest" is self-protection knowing the frustration that you have no *real* say in the running of your home, and that you have as much or little freedom as the case may be, as you are allowed by the "powers that be".

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Hall

Dear Sir,

I read the article in our latest Cheshire Smile that you think there is no need for a Matron or Warden and I think it is most uncalled for to suggest that these people are not needed. I myself being a resident here have not always looked at things in the proper light and have been at fault. I had to go into hospital with a bad side and was ordered to walk by the surgeon and thought our Matron most unkind when I had to walk. But she also knew best and has had to take me to hospital at night when she has not been well herself. I can do most for myself.

Do we stop to think about Matron and many others in the same positions who must have miles to go to meetings always trying to find some new way of helping us if it is possible. I am sure our Dear Group Captain would wish this care and I am sure many Cheshire Homes will share my view. The staff here are most kind and I can only thank everybody concerned as I would not have been able to fix anything for myself.

Merca Shelton,
"Greenacres", Cheshire Home,
Sutton Coldfield

Dear Sir,

"There must be a better way"

Change can be a good thing, so also can criticism. The Cheshire Foundation has been setting up Homes for about 40 years. The Foundation is always ready to listen to criticism and suggestions and will introduce suggestions which will be beneficial to the majority of the Residents. Mr. Smith criticises the System – having anyone in authority i.e. Matron or Warden, other than the Residents themselves. If such a set-up was possible, has Mr. Smith considered: (a) who would provide the Community Home, (b) given the right to choose, who nurses them, who cooks for them, who cleans the Home? (c) would each resident have the same right of choice or would they be chosen by Mr. Smith – if so, he would be assuming a position of authority, if choice is left to each resident, I shudder to think how many staff would be required. Would each resident be responsible for preparing the necessary duty rotas.

Mr. Smith declares that to deprive residents of these rights is a blatant infringement of human rights – I do not think Mr. Smith will get much support from his fellow residents or staff members for his point of view.

Mr. Smith proceeds to suggest a new system of running a Cheshire Home – may I say with respect that Mr. Smith because of his handicap, has no experience of running a home or a Community Home. His immaturity and his self pity prevent him from appreciating the magnitude of his suggested system. The Utopia he envisages is the dream of most young men reaching manhood, but like Mr. Smith they are frustrated and at times kick against the system – no one is going to present them with a purpose built home – maintain it, staff it etc. The able-bodied young man has to work and save to acquire a home and for the rest of his days continue to work to pay for it. He cannot usually afford cooks or cleaners or if his home requires decorating it is not just when he feels it requires decoration – but when he can afford to do it.

May I remind Mr. Smith that the Matron of Oaklands and the Management Committee (of which I am a Member) have over the years done everything possible to involve the Residents as full participating members of the Management and other Committees, getting *no co-operation* from Mr. Smith. May I suggest that Mr. Smith pioneers his "Utopian Home" and when he has made a success of this he will be in a better position to ask the Cheshire Foundation and indeed the Government to change their way of running so very many successful Homes.

Monica M. Doyle
"Inisfail", 59 Queen's Road,
Accrington BB5 6AR

Dear Sir,

On a first reading the letter from S. Smith of Oaklands seemed so totally unrepresentative as to merit no reply, but later I returned to it to try to understand the writer's sense of frustration.

The ideals of the Leonard Cheshire Homes have always been high and Social Workers (of whom I was one before I became a resident here) are delighted to obtain a vacancy for one of their clients in one of the Foundation's Homes.

The Matron/Warden is the pivot around which all else revolves. If he/she sets a high standard of service, with consideration for each individual resident, we shall be on the right lines, especially if the Matron/Warden inculcates this spirit of service and individual concern in the staff.

To suggest that the average Cheshire Home could be run by the residents is ludicrous from many aspects, eg, 50% of the residents of "Green Gables" have difficulties in communication to greater or lesser degree. This does not mean, however, that those residents who are capable of handling some of their own affairs should be prevented from doing so. I do so agree that this is very important indeed.

The system is not *designed* to be of benefit primarily to the people who run the Home, but it can work out that way if the motivating force of members of staff is that of power and self-interest and not of caring and service.

There is in fact no cast-iron system. The system is what Matron and staff make it. There may well be room for greater resident participation in many Homes.

Members of Management Committees are dedicated to working for our comfort and happiness in every respect. Why else should they devote their time to the work? Some Homes now have residents on the Management Committee who are there as full participating members, not as observers only and this is an excellent step forward in resident responsibility.

The Leonard Cheshire Homes are on sound foundations and long may they continue to evolve.

Yours very sincerely
Elizabeth Greenwood
(Green Gables)

Knob View, Hulland Ward,
Derby DE6 3EN
14th July 1979

Dear Sir,

You ask for reactions to the letter from Mr S. Smith of Garstang. Well, I've never seen a Cheshire Home and I don't know in what way Mr Smith is handicapped.

Something that has induced intense frustration. But Mr Smith should be told that he is not a normal person.

"Normal" people need no special care, and if Mr Smith dislikes the way the Home is run, he should go and live by himself; a thing which any "normal" person could do. He seems to be the nastiest type of socialist, averse to all forms of discipline, and I should think a first class upsetter of the harmony of his Home.

As I have said, I don't know the circumstances, but that's what the letter suggests.

My views on religion are Asian – and I believe in the Law of Karma, which teaches that we pay for our sins in our present life by misfortunes in a subsequent life. (This was in fact inferred by Jesus and remained Orthodox Church doctrine until declared heresy by the Emperor Justinian at the Council of Constantinople in 553 AD.) In point of fact Justinian did as he was told by his frightful Empress Theodora, very possibly a reincarnation of Jezebel!

But I think it unlikely that the Karma or the other residents at Garstang will have included Mr Smith! Perhaps he could be told to buy and cook his own food to suit his own tastes although I doubt whether the Home will have facilities to enable each resident to have independent meals.

Well, them's my reactions, and you did ask for them, however.

Sonym Selemat (Keep Smiling)

Guy Langdon

The Cheshire Home,
Alne Hall, Alne,
York YO6 2JA

Dear Sir,

My husband and I were very interested in the letter under the heading "There Must be a Better Way."

We are both residents of this Home, and we dare not start to think what our lives would be like without a Matron, or someone in charge.

Just think. Some of fellow residents can't move, let alone help to run their Home.

We agree every handicapped person needs to have a certain amount of independence but the Home would be in an uproar without a Matron, or someone in charge, and this would take away the friendly and homely feeling which I am sure we could not do without.

Having spent four years in a Home where we were treated as a number instead of one of a family I was delighted to come here, where Matron and her staff welcomed me into her family. It was a wonderful feeling. This applied too, when I returned after spending two holidays at Cheshire Homes where they didn't have a Matron.

David my husband, is the residents' representative on both Committees and it is with interest of the welfare of our fellow residents and those of other Homes that we are sending this reply.

We both feel that the letter written by S. Smith of Oaklands is a cry of need. We hope that whatever this may be, it will be found, but we still feel the great thing is to keep a Matron and staff. In this way it will be home from home.

Yours faithfully,
J. & D. W. Dunn

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to Mr. S. Smith of Garstang for his letter entitled "There Must Be a Better Way". I particularly admire Mr. Smith for having the courage of his convictions in expressing his very strong criticism of the Foundation and it's methods of conducting the Homes, particularly as he happens to be a resident in one of them!

I feel that he is quite right in saying that the Foundation are in a position to bring about change and setting the example to others by introducing a new system of managing a Home.

It seems to me that our colleague, Mr. Smith, has probably had some awful times during his stay in care, to want to shock us with his very radical views. I have to disagree with most of what he proposes for effective change, believing it to be quite impossible to achieve a solution by exchanging Matrons and Wardens for Residents. I think that the better way to bring about some of these changes would be for Management Committees to adopt a policy of positive help for those residents willing and able to take on some responsibilities for running their Home. It is no use just telling residents that they *may* be elected on to Management Committees without giving them the means to do so, even the most capable amongst us would be rather reluctant to accept responsibilities when we knew that we had no previous experience in these matters.

If the Foundation really wants to encourage resident participation to the fullest extent, it must be prepared to offer help and instruction to those willing to accept. I believe that this would be a big step forward in the realms of residential care.

Thanks to Mr. S. Smith for giving us all something to argue about. It's a long time since we had such a controversial letter printed in the Smile.

Yours sincerely,
Dennis Jarrett,
"Le Court"
Greatham, Liss, Hants. GU33 6HL

Spofforth Hall,
Cheshire Home,
Harrogate
23rd July 1979

Dear Sir,

I have just read in your Spring edition of *The Smile* an article headed "There Must be a Better Way". The one point I most strongly disagree with is that the Cheshire Foundation's way of running a home differs very little from that of a government institution. May I suggest to the person who wrote an article like this that they get their facts right. Residents are encouraged to form their own committee and they get a chance to get one or two residents on the house committee. At the present time we haven't a resident on the Management Committee but I hope that this will soon be rectified. What I would suggest also to the writer of the article is that he can make the things he wants to come into existence by continually attending meetings and talking to residents and the Matron or the Warden of the Home. This person must realise that you have to have someone in charge of the everyday problems that might turn up.

I agree that residents should have a bigger say in the running of their home but if you have a Committee of residents who won't say anything, then what are the Management Committee supposed to do. Sit and do nothing until one resident makes a decision? It is about time the residents made up their minds who runs the Home, them or the Management Committee.

Paul O'Callaghan

Dear Sir,

Mr. Smith's letter in the last issue of *Cheshire Smile* is his own idea and not the view of the majority of residents at Oaklands, in fact there are only one or two who always go along with him. We are happy as things are, we have had two representatives on the management committee for seven years and now have two representatives on the house committee, and two who liaise with the admissions committee to give that committee our views on potential residents who come for assessment.

We are able to choose our own colour schemes for our own rooms and have just chosen new curtains for the dining room.

We have our own committee and can go out whenever we like to arrange it.

We would not choose to have the responsibility of running the Home ourselves, and do not wish to engage the staff.

We have a good Matron and staff, who are cheerful and understanding. We are not made to feel this is an institution or that we are mentally handicapped. We could not keep going without the help of the management committee or support groups.

Come on, Mr. Smith, get the chip off your shoulder and continue to enjoy your life as you do.

Yours sincerely,
Residents of Oaklands
"Oaklands"
Dimples Lane, Garstang,
Nr. Preston, Lancs.

Lantern Cottage,
Bronygarth, Oswestry,
Salop SY10 7ND
7th July 1979

Dear Sir,

In this the International Year of the Child, it has occurred to me to wonder about the 'lot' of children in Cheshire Homes abroad. Some years ago a member of management from Dolywern visited the then Cheshire Home in Bethlehem, and as a result of her visit the residents of Dolywern undertook the educational expenses of one girl. This was of great interest, as I recall, receiving news of the girl's progress.

I do know that many Homes are supporting foreign Cheshire Homes and indeed have done so for many years. But if the residents of each Home not already involved could undertake the support of just one child, I feel that this would be a wonderful gesture for this particular year and a source of much interest and satisfaction to the residents.

I am sure the Foundation would be happy to supply a list of Homes where money is most urgently needed.

Mollie Smithson,
ex-Dolywern staff

St. Patrick's Cheshire Home,
Tullow, Co. Carlow,
Eire
11th July 1979

Dear Friends,

A short while ago I began work at this particular Cheshire Home; and soon after that I found two old copies of your journal. I read them from cover to cover; and the more I read the more I felt that its editor and production staff deserved to be congratulated on the very good work they are doing in producing such an informative, interesting, stimulating, encouraging, and highly presentable magazine. So it is with great pleasure that I now can send you my opinions of your work on behalf of handicapped people.

With every best wish for the continued success of your excellent journal.

Sincerely yours,
Michael Tobin

Residents' Committees Their Uses and Purposes

T. M. GAIR
Matten Hall

Residents' Welfare Committees are an essential part of the make-up of any Cheshire Home, irrespective of whether the residents are represented directly on Management Committees or not, for their purpose falls into a different category to any other committee in the Home.

They should be responsible for anything concerning the welfare of the residents, no matter how remote the connection. Things like arranging and co-ordinating outings, indoor entertainment, studies and this sort of thing must be so obvious to everyone I do not think I need dwell on them at all. But their duties should include working in close liaison with the senior staff; trying to prevent or stop friction between residents and staff, or resident and resident; allaying of fear by residents of members of the staff (it does happen!); the showing around the Home of visitors, if that is encouraged, etc. These are all things which should be left to the Residents' Committees to see to, without any pressure from the Head of Home or other senior staff.

First of all, a general meeting of all residents should decide the number of representatives they wish to have on their committee, then there should be a *secret* ballot with all residents being given the chance to vote, and I stress the word "secret" because if it is done by a show of hand, the more timid voter may be afraid to vote against a strong-willed or overpowering candidate. Those who cannot mark a ballot-paper themselves should be assisted by a neutral and generally trusted person, who should also be asked to arrange for the counting of the votes. The election should be done this way to forestall any attempts to accuse anyone of rigging the result.

Once elected, the committee should quickly sort out their officers and see the names are posted on the notice-board and generally made known to all. The election of officers within a committee can be done in various ways, but many people feel the best way is for residents to elect 'X' number of committee members, then let them choose their own officers. In this way, the committee have as chairman, secretary and treasurer the person best suited for the job. Some people suggest that the person with most votes should be chairman, the next highest secretary, etc., but this does not always work out – the one top of the poll may find difficulty in speaking, or the one with the votes to make them secretary could quite easily be someone unable to write or type! So, once the residents have made known who they wish to have represent them, it is usually best to let them sort out amongst themselves the most effective way of doing it.

Ideally, there should be no friction, arguments, fights or even squabbles between residents in a Cheshire Home, but, alas, I know of no such Home! Wherever there are 20 or 30 people living together, there will be clashes of personality and if they are allowed to carry on unabated, they can quickly upset the smooth running of the Home. In most cases, these frictions can be spotted by their fellow-residents long before they reach the notice of the staff, and it is at this stage that their committee should step in and try to sort things out, either by having a diplomatic word with each of the parties separately, or getting them together to argue it out properly. This can often prevent an explosive situation at a later date.

Some Homes, as a public relations exercise, encourage the public to come in groups to see what is done with the money they donate, by looking around the place. This is best done by a resident, so the public can chat to, or ask questions of, someone living in the place, and know they are hearing the answers of a resident without being prompted by what they might think of as 'officialdom'. These guides, of course, need not be committee members, but the committee should be prepared to see that a rota is made and someone is always ready to meet the visitors with a pleasant welcome. First impressions are often very important in this kind of situation.

Another thing the Residents' Committee should do is to make sure all residents know about the Cheshire Foundation Counselling Service. This is a small band of people whose job is to make themselves available to anyone in a Home; Management Committees, staff and residents who feel they have a problem which would probably be easier helped by a person outside the Home. This is not a 'Grouser's Service', though there are times when the Residents' Committee has done everything in its power without success, or when the individual resident feels he has something on his mind he does not want discussed inside the Home.

This, then is the kind of situation for which the Counselling Service was formed, and the Counsellors will be only too pleased to give help or guidance wherever they can. One thing I must emphasise, the Counsellors are *not* snoopers sent round to spy on anyone, residents, staff or Management. They are there in an advisory capacity only, and they are willing to help anyone with a problem, no matter who they are, and it goes without saying everything discussed will be in the strictest confidence.

If the residents in any Home do not know about this Counselling Service, then it is a fundamental right they should be told about it fully, and it is important that Management Committees, Head of Home, etc. *should see this information is made known.*

I should say here that all meetings must be minuted, so everybody can know exactly what was decided at any time.

Once the Residents' Committee has been so formed, it is essential it is recognised by both the Head of Home and the Management Committee, and they *must* have easy and co-operative access to them. This should work both ways, so the committee can discuss with the Head of Home anything it feels needs sorting out and vice versa. These discussions, to be fully effective, should take place in as relaxed and informal a manner as possible. As a matter of courtesy, no matter should be taken to the Management Committee without having been discussed with the Head of Home, as they have the responsibility of the day-to-day running of the Home.

It happens sometimes that timid residents have things they would like to say to the senior – and sometimes junior – staff, but dare not do it because they are afraid of being victimised (this can be done in so many ways without giving the victim any concrete evidence for complaint!). This is not nearly as fantastic as it may sound, and Residents' Committees must be in a position to do something about it.

I can quote an actual case as an example. The chairman of the Residents' Committee of one Home realised that a resident, a spastic, was tensing-up whenever a certain member of the staff was in the room, and when they had a quiet word together, he discovered that the spastic was terrified of this member of the staff, because he handled him very roughly, and he did not complain in case of reprisals. After reassuring the resident as best he could, the chairman went to the office and, without naming the resident, he told the Matron, as she was then, this member of the staff was throwing his weight about too much, with the result that he was called into the office quietly and told to treat residents with less roughness. So the fears of at least one resident were allayed by the tact used by a man chosen by the residents to look after their interests, and recognised by the Matron as such.

At the present time there are three Counsellors, one who covers the Homes in the North, one for the South West and one for the South East of England and they can be reached by contacting Cheshire Foundation Headquarters at 7 Market Mews, London W1Y 8HP or by phoning 01-499 2665. The Counsellors names and place of contact should be posted on notice boards where everyone can see them.

I feel it would be beneficial to all if each Home could get their Counsellor to pay them frequent visits, no matter how short, for surely this is the best way for everyone to get to know each other!

I think I have covered the field of residents welfare reasonably fully, but I would welcome any comments – for or against!

Residents at Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Six residents from the Foundation's Homes in the U.K. were invited to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 17th July, and it was decided that the places should be allocated by ballot. The Lord Chamberlain then very graciously gave permission for each resident attending to be accompanied by a helper, and the following is a list of those who were so fortunate as to have been chosen.

Gordon Taplin from the Chiltern Home who was accompanied by Roger Pusey; Katie Inglis from Forches House together with Mrs J. Medley-Smith; Joseph Wilson of Beechwood with Mrs K. Crombie; Norman Scragg from Freshfields with Brian Fearn; Elizabeth Greenwood from Green Gables with Mrs P Blowers, and Mrs Barbara Webster from the Hart's Leap Children's Home. Several of the residents had lunch at Market Mews on their way to the Palace, and it must have been indeed a most wonderful and memorable occasion, not only for the guests and helpers, all of whom were dressed up in their finest 'finery' but for the staff at Market Mews who had great fun joining in all the excitement of such an occasion.



Norman Scragg with Brian Fearn.

Most of the residents were introduced to the Queen herself, but Norman Scragg a blind resident from Freshfields particularly asked to meet the Queen Mother, who talked to him about his service in the R.A.F., and his voluntary service. Norman said the Queen Mother consoled him about his disabilities, especially his rheumatism, which, she said, she could speak personally about. He in turn was able to tell her something about Freshfields, of which he is Resident Committee's Chairman.

Katie Inglis, the 19 year old resident from Forches House was introduced to the Queen, and for her it must have been the greatest day of her life as will be seen by the following account taken from the Western Times & Gazette.

Katie curtsies to the Queen

A young girl from Barnstaple wasn't short of words when she met the Queen last month – spina bifida victim with a Duke of Edinburgh bronze award under her belt, and representing the smallest Cheshire home in the world, it was small wonder.

Katie Inglis, 19, lives at Forches House, Victoria Road, Barnstaple, one of the Cheshire Foundation's 80 homes in this country, and the smallest anywhere, with just eight residents.

She was picked to be one of only six Cheshire home people to attend a Buckingham Palace garden party.

She was thrilled, and wasn't at all petrified when the Queen spoke to her. 'I tried to speak up', she said.

She was able to tell the Queen that she is aiming to get a gold Duke of Edinburgh award by the end of next year, and is well on the way with her silver.

Although she has been in a wheelchair since she was two, she is helping at the Bideford Day Centre for the handicapped twice a week and will be writing a project on it. She is learning to type, and is planning a holiday for two to Croyme when she will entertain the head of the home, Mrs Joan Medley-Smith, for a weekend.

These tasks are all part of her bid for independence – along with her regular summer visit to Croyme to help in the rock and gem museum there, and her weekly outings to British Legion dances.

Last year she went to Ilkley, Yorkshire, on a course designed to encourage self-reliance . . . and got snowed in there.

Katie is cramming all she can into her life these days. But for an experimental operation carried out by Prof. Lorber, she would not have been expected to live even as long as she has – she is one of the oldest spina bifida cases in the country.



Kate Inglis 'all dressed up' to meet the Queen.

She says this year is the most exciting in her life – with all the loose ends coming together.

Earlier in the year, she went on a four-day canal boat trip at Loughborough, organised for her through the Bideford day centre, and was lucky enough to hit the good weather.

She has just been commissioned to crochet 50 knee rugs, so is busy with that. She even plays tennis when she can at the leisure centre.

Katie is set on dieting, too, and has lost 20 pounds this year, and aims to shed another stone in the next month or so.

Her visit to London was the trip of a lifetime. She has always wanted to see the Palace – 'my wish has come true'.

When I saw her, she was just off to buy her outfit for the garden party, and planning her train journey to London for the big day.

Katie had been practising her curtsy for the Queen, now that she can walk a little with the aid of sticks and calipers. 'It really was hilarious', she laughed.

by Caroline Hill
Ack. Western Times Gazette

Around the Homes

Green Gables Resident Receives V.I.P. Treatment

Bomb Hero's Bravery Still Remembered

Stefan Nowak kept his cool in an explosive situation. Bare-handed, he removed a blazing incendiary bomb from a wartime aircraft – and saved the lives of its crew.

That was nearly 40 years ago. But Stefan's bravery, which earned him a coveted award for courage, is still remembered.

It has led to a link being formed between his former RAF station and Alfreton's Cheshire Home. For 61-year-old Stefan, there was a hero's welcome when he returned to the scene of his act of bravery.

It was in 1940 that Polish-born Stefan saved the lives of the bomber crew. The plane was taxi-ing from RAF Swinderby in Lincolnshire on its way to a raid on the channel ports, when Stefan noticed that a bomb under the wing was on fire.

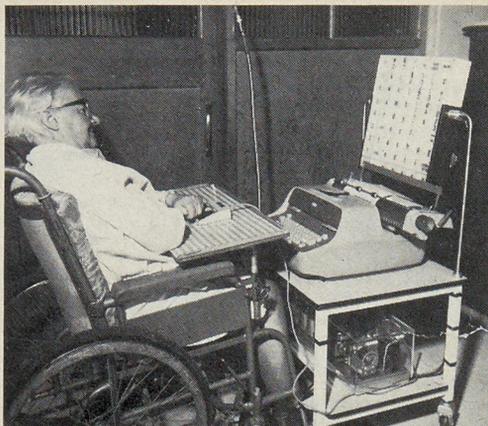
He ran out, signalled to the pilot to stop, and removed the bomb himself, badly injuring his hands. His bravery won him the Polish Cross of Valour.

Now it is hoped that the link with the home can be maintained and further fund-raising efforts are planned.

Nursing auxiliary Sandra Simpson, who accompanied him, was presented with a cheque for £300 for the Cheshire Home, which had been raised at the RAF Station.

Stefan is now a resident at the Mid-Derbyshire Cheshire Home at Alfreton, following a stroke. He received V.I.P. treatment when he was invited back to Swinderby as a guest at the passing-out parade.

Ack. The Derbyshire Times



Miss Winifred Reeder and Possum typewriter.

Wynn Reeder of Spofforth Hall

It is with regret that I have to write and tell readers of our great loss; Wynn Reeder, the former chairman of our Residents Committee and an avid writer to the Cheshire Smile has passed away in hospital. Wynn was a very cheerful person and always had a kind word to say to people who visited the Home; she was always trying to get people interested, to chat to the residents and to get them to organise events to raise money for the Home. She was one of the first persons to become a resident when the Home was opened nearly twenty years ago, and will be greatly missed by everyone at Spofforth Hall for her cheerfulness and understanding.

Paul O'Callaghan, Resident

Greenaces makes Merry

This year instead of our usual Garden Party, we held an Open Day. This was very successful, the weather being warm enough to draw the crowds but not hot enough to make them wilt. We were still able to have plenty of stalls inside and out and a total of £550 was raised. Due to the generosity of friends and local trades people we had lots of lovely prizes. In the evening we had a Disco in the new extension. This is a lovely room which amply held the large crowd who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This day was a new departure as Residents were asked to be in charge and make arrangements. As it is our home we should try to be more responsible, taking pride in "doing" instead of being "done for". The building is almost completed now but it still has to be paid for. Holiday Exchange visitors will enjoy the New Look and see a great difference. We do thank the Committee for their invaluable help with jobs we could not do ourselves and the rest of the Committee for giving us a home with a small 'h'.

Joan Atkinson

Wedding Bells at Alne Hall

I have been extremely fortunate to have married a Resident of our Home – Miss Jean King. The ceremony took place on 28th April at our Village Church, followed by a Reception at the Home. With respective families, Committee, Residents and Staff we numbered 150 – it was a wonderful occasion. Marriage seems to be in the air as a member of staff is shortly to be married from the Home and in the same Church.

We changed our venue for our Garden Fete this year and went into the middle of York to the Knaresmire with very successful results – in excess of £3,000.

June was a very busy month this year. The visit of the Group Captain coincided with the Dedication of our new Chapel by the Bishop of Selby, the Right Reverend Morris Maddocks. This was made possible by the adaptation of one of the rooms upstairs which previously had been a bedroom. It has been tastefully furnished by members of our local Thrift Shop.

David & Jean Dunn



Jean and David Dunn cutting the cake, at Alne Hall.

Murray House

News of the death of Kath Gibbon of Murray House, Durham Cheshire Home on 28th June has been particularly sad for residents, staff, Management Committee and many friends both inside and outside the Cheshire Foundations.

Kath was Fund Raising Chairman for the Home and an active member of the Management Committee. She worked unsparingly and with great imagination and intelligence. She helped to make the Home prosper and she will be sadly missed.

*Les Wilding,
Chairman Residents' Committee*

Changes at Arnold House

Mrs Doreen Taylor, who was one of our first night nurses, left to have a baby, but returned to us as a day nurse, left at the end of May. A present of a piece of Wedgewood was given to her by all the residents.

Our next member of the staff to leave was Alice, who was secretary to the Head of Home, Mr Terry. We were all sorry to see her retire as she was a good worker and a good friend to us all. She was presented with a money token.

Our next friend to leave us was a young girl named Alyson, who came to us as a voluntary worker and stayed about nine months. She was a very good worker and willing to help anyone to do small jobs which the staff haven't got time to help us with. She was also presented with a money token.

On 16th June two of us went to Staunton Harold Cheshire Home where we were pleased to see all our old friends, and were made very welcome to Sister Miller who is now Matron. We were given a nice lunch then afterwards we played bingo with the residents.

On our return home we were told that Morris, one of our residents, had just passed away. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. He had been very ill on several occasions.

The nine residents here are now looking forward to going into the new extension to be joined later with other residents to make a Home of 20 residents. Fourteen of these will have their own single rooms which will have their own toilet, patio and some a shower.

William Hood, Resident

PS. We were very sorry to learn that William Hood himself who had been resident at Arnold House since February 1976 died on 28th July. He was Chairman of the Residents' Committee as well as being a member of the Management Committee of the House. To his widow, Dorothy, who is also a resident there, we extend our deep sympathy.

Greenhill House, Oxford is Hectic and Active

We are all enjoying a very hectic and active life at Greenhill House. Needing an extra large sum of money to pay for our proposed extension well planned to provide twelve single rooms, a charging bay for electric chairs and extra bathrooms and toilets, we looked forward to a glorious day on the 5th May for our annual Garden Fete.

However, it was a cold afternoon when the Baroness Darcy de Knayth opened our Fete and we shivered around the stalls tended by the Ladies' Circle, Inner Wheel, Round Table, members of staff and friends, all so bravely. We watched excellent displays by the Morris Men and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Band. An extra violent shiver went through the crowd when pupils of Warriner School put on a brilliant gymnastic display in their scanty athletic dress. On a slightly warmer note many visitors invaded the cosy little tent of the internationally famous psychic and distance healer, Doris Collins, to be told some strange things about themselves. Car parking was kindly organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury. The afternoon came to a somewhat abrupt close when, to use the well known cricketers' phrase; 'rain stopped play', but not until we had raised the splendid sum of £1,300.

P. H. Reynolds



Gwilym Hughes receiving cheque for £230 from pupils of Colwyn House, Holyhead County Secondary School, on behalf of Eithinog Cheshire Home.

News from Eithinog, Colwyn Bay

Presentation of Cheque

Mr Gwilym Hughes, of Holyhead, was recently presented with a cheque for £230 for the Eithinog Cheshire Home.

The money was raised for the Home by the pupils of Colwyn House, of the Holyhead County Secondary School.

Mr Hughes, the brother of Robert Hughes, a resident of the Cotswold Cheshire Home, is himself a registered disabled person. Despite suffering brain damage and losing the sight of one eye at birth, Mr Hughes has not spared himself in the service of others.

He is a devoted helper of the Church in Holyhead, and for many years has been a tireless fund raiser for Eithinog, personally organising many events on their behalf.



Mrs. Bather with a few residents from Eithinog, before her retirement.

Matron Retires

Mrs Bather who was Matron of Eithinog since its Opening in 1968 retired on 30th March last.

Under her supervision the Home has grown considerably. An entirely new wing and new kitchen has been added with its consequent planning and re-organization.

In her honour we held a grand farewell party with many presentations of gifts from grateful residents, Staff, League of Friends, W.R.V.S. and Support Groups with our sincere hope that she enjoys a well-deserved retirement following all her hard work.

On April 23rd we welcomed our new Matron — Mrs Earp — and hope that she will be very happy with us.

Ada Williams

ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE, SHOREDITCH

Fire Precaution Work Completed

A recent reception at Nicholas House Residential Centre, Shoreditch, East London was held to mark the completion of lengthy and expensive fire precaution work in the house. The construction work and subsequent re-decorations had taken over two years to complete, involving the building of a steel escape staircase, with openings onto every floor, re-siting of a number of doors, partitioning of the house with fire-proof walls and doors, installation of smoke-detectors and an alarm system. It is due to the skill, tolerance and determination of all concerned – residents, staff and building contractors – that Nicholas House was able to remain open during this uncomfortable and, often dusty, period, and resident-numbers had, perforce, to be reduced. The work completed, and the interior of the house re-decorated, a small reception was held to show those who had helped us financially, and those who had been waiting to refer patients, the transformation that had been accomplished.

Among the guests were members of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation Mental Health Committee, The Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Foundation, psychiatrists from local hospitals, community nurses, and social workers from hospitals, and local authorities, a number of benefactors and others who have contributed to the work of the house.

Residents prepared cocktail delicacies, and showed guests round the house. An anonymous benefactor donated the wine, for the guests who numbered between 60 and 70.

Nicholas House was set up in 1964 as a rehabilitation hostel for psychiatric patients of East London with no homes of their own to return to on discharge from hospital, and has room for 25 residents, as well as "weekend" accommodation for in-hospital patients likely to benefit from a taste of life outside hospital.

Prior to opening the house, there was one local authority hostel for the London area – and that was in Putney. The L.C.C. (as it was in those days) saw no reason to provide funds for a hostel in a working-class part of London so long as the Putney house remained half-empty.

PRA (the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association) already working in East London, and seeing the urgent need for living accommodation for the 33% of homeless patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals, approached Wilfred Russell and Reg Emmett (Trustees and Treasurer of the Cheshire Foundation).



Three residents, together with a community nurse from St. Clement's Hospital, being offered food by a member of the Management Committee, at the reception at St. Nicholas House, Shoreditch.

The proposal to set up such a hostel in East London met with immediate sympathy, and Group-Captain Leonard Cheshire was quick to see that psychiatric illness can be as disabling as physical illness. And so the unique partnership between the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and PRA came into being.

The only hurdle now was: where would the money come from, and how would suitable property be found?

The answers to both these questions came within a week, like a miracle. An East London businessman (who remains anonymous) wanted to put something back into the community in which his business flourished, and, having seen a Cheshire Home in Tunisia, went to Market Mews and said he would like to help start a Home in East London, and put down a cheque for £10,000. How to find suitable premises? PRA had already been notified of the forthcoming sale of St. Hilda's East, a Settlement in Shoreditch, which was ideal for the purpose and at a price within the amount donated.

Thus, the first and, until recently, the only residential centre for psychiatric patients in East London came into being. Numerous people with a wide variety of skills and great concern for the mentally ill have contributed to the success of the project, and, with the completion of the fire precaution work and re-decoration, it is hoped that the work will develop even more significantly in the future.

The photograph shows a small group enjoying the reception, including three residents, a community nurse and a member of the Management Committee.

Gwynneth Ross
Secretary

(We are very happy to publish the above account of this comparatively new extension and development of the work of the Foundation, and wish it well, *Ed*)

Overseas

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S.A.

by Ronald Travers

In May of this year The Founder, Group Capt. Leonard Cheshire and Ronald Travers both went to America to visit the Cheshire projects there. The first stop for Leonard was Gulfport in Mississippi, where he officially opened the Home for the developmentally handicapped. Bonnie White, the inspiration behind the project has worked very hard since she met the G.C. at a meeting of White House Conference just two years ago.

The home is a temporary building made available by the parents of a handicapped boy and next door is a very large caravan with four bedrooms which houses the women residents. There is a wonderful warmth about the home with a delightful relationship between the staff and the residents. The present set up is only a beginning. Bonnie White together with the various committees concerned, has negotiated a fairly considerable loan from The Housing and Urban Development Department out of which they have purchased two acres of land, ideally situated, with enough money left over to build an entirely new home to house twelve residents. The Municipality has cut a new road through the woodland to give access to the Home and this has been officially named 'Cheshire Drive'. The plans have all been drawn up and they give a really generous amount of space especially in the recreational and activities rooms.

The Miss U.S.A. contest was in full swing at the time of the G.C.'s arrival and this was won by Marie Terese Friel of New York who very kindly agreed, as her first official function, to perform the actual ground breaking of the new Home, but the gold plated shovel that she was given was rather large so the ground was turned by a joint effort of Miss USA and the Founder himself. The Mayor of Gulfport then presented Leonard with the keys to the City which must indeed symbolise the way the people there have taken the Home to their hearts.

Whilst all this was happening in Gulfport, Ronald Travers was visiting the project in Madison New Jersey. This has been on the books for a long time now and is reaching it's final stages before blastoff. The committee has worked relentlessly towards the exciting building for the thirty five residents which it will hold. Steve di Rochi the architect came to England to see several of the Homes here and took back many ideas to incorporate into his drawings. David Graybeal who must be the most tenacious



The House in Arlington, U.S.A. Left to right: Mary Browne, Chairman Arlington Steering Committee; Ronald Travers; Polly Morrison; Leonard Cheshire.

man in the United States (having been chairman of the Steering Committee since Ron Travers presganged him into doing it in 1971) says that when he started off he felt as though he was in charge of a rowing boat but now feels that he is at the helm of the Queen Mary. The project is to cost 1½ million dollars, half of this is being provided by a government loan, the interest of which will be amortised in the per capita fee agreed by Medicaid. The rest is coming from commercial and industrial sponsors and private individuals. Ron is very proud of the committee which has carried on in the face of much adversity at times, having also been responsible for pioneering the way with the State and Federal laws to have such a project in the United States. The land has been given by Exxon which is a most generous gift of three acres right in the community of Florham Park on the boundary with Madison. Construction will begin in the New Year and the home will open in 1981 which after ten years of hard work will coincide with the International Year of the Disabled Person.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation INC. has now been established in America and has it's head office in Washington D.C. The appointment of Virginia Pfaff as Executive Secretary working with Chairman Michael Teague and all the Board of Trustees has proved invaluable. She has done a great deal of research into the various aspects of facilities available for disabled people which has brought her into contact with so many Government and non Government agencies that the name Cheshire is now not exactly unknown in certain quarters!

The long arm of coincidence is often too coincidental. During the war Leonard was billeted for a time in a Hotel in P street Washington D.C., owned by a woman called Polly Morrison. Last year Leonard called in at the Hotel for old times sake and there she was as welcoming and as kind as ever. Now a year later she has given to the American Foundation a house which she owns in Arlington just outside the City. It's a wonderful old house having been used as a nursing home during the Civil War. The plan is to have seven ground floor single rooms and three small flatlets on the first floor for the staff. There is ample ground for further extension and now the committee in Arlington is working hard to get clearance of zoning laws and the project will go ahead.

Whilst in Washington Leonard went up to Penn University in Pennsylvania. Lady Bridges, whose husband is at the British Embassy set the contacts up before his arrival and they both spent a fascinating day discussing the setting up of a hostel for the students, for which Vice President of the University has given his personal approval. Applications for funding will be made as soon as a steering committee has been set up. As an existing building, which will have to be adapted, has already been offered it is hoped that it could be ready for the intake in the Autumn (or should one say Fall?) of 1980.

Leonard then came back to England to a pressing diary and Ron went on to Santa Cruz in California. Dorothy Nicholl the wife of Donald, a professor of Religious Studies at The University of California in Santa Cruz has been working towards a home for some three years now. Dorothy and Donald who are both English return to England next month and it was quite obvious that there was no way in which Dorothy was going to leave America without setting up a Cheshire Home. She has spearheaded this project from the beginning with the energies and tenacity few of us would find easy to emulate. Having been turned down for a grant from The Housing and Urban Development programme she persuaded the Board that it should go ahead and get started anyway.



Dorothy Nicholl and Ronald Travers at the opening of Dorothy Nicholl Cheshire Home, Santa Cruz, California, 1979.



Dorothy and Ron cutting the tape at Santa Cruz.

As Providence would have it they decided to rent a property, and the very next week in the newspaper was an advertisement for two houses to rent. These were within twenty yards of each other and had a communicating pathway, and ramps all round the garden, as they had been used for disabled people in the past.

So those people on the waiting list were quickly approached and although it meant that to find the rent and allow for food, they would all have to pool their resources from their Medicaid reimbursements, most of them would only have about \$17 (£9) per month left – not one hesitated so anxious were they to leave their present unsuitable environments.

The law in California states that not more than five people if disabled and unrelated may live together in the same house if it is not registered. Therefore there are five people in each of the houses making a community of ten. The residents are mostly young people who have already endeared themselves to the local community which is happy to share much of its life with them.

The official opening day was colourful and happy; there were many representatives from the Social Services, the Assemblyman and the Mayor, not forgetting a rather proud committee led by Richard Struck. There was a wonderful Cheese and Wine party in the garden for anyone who wished to come and have a drink and see over the two houses.

When Ron unveiled the plaque to officially open the Home it was to Dorothy's delight and utter surprise that it was revealed the name

THE DOROTHY NICOLL CHESHIRE HOME.



MARRAKECH HOME – MOROCCO

We send Greetings to all our friends in the Cheshire Family, and would like to present an introduction to our Home and some of *our* family news from Morocco.

Situated in the thriving Arab city of Marrakech, our house serves to rehabilitate and help orphans and the community's poor children, who come to us crippled and in need of education. Polio, birth defects, cerebral palsy and severe poverty are the main handicaps. The boys with families stay five days a week with us as they work in physiotherapy, school classes at the elementary level, and in occupational therapy. The children take full advantage of the programmes for advancement and are encouraged to participate in many of the jobs necessary to keep the house clean and orderly.

The size of our building complex encourages the enrolment of between 25 and 30 boys. The ages range from six years to twenty with a present increase in the percentage of children in their early and late teens. This situation is due to difficulties in placing older boys into jobs. Previously our need to improve the medical and classroom programmes held back the important area of occupational therapy and job counselling. Fortunately, at the present time we are maintaining good services in medicine and education and it allows the staff to do the necessary fund-raising and research for job placement. Hopefully we will soon be succeeding in this vital concern; so that we can take in new, younger children.

Our finances in Marrakech are supported by private donations. Free rent and some utilities are provided by the Moroccan Government as well as surplus food items and clothing. Community support for our work is very positive and most efforts at collecting funds are met with favourable results. The costly medical care for the children is also given to us free through the ministries of Social Services and Health. We sometimes have to wait long periods for



shipment of orthopaedic parts and braces; however, the situation improves for us each year.

Some new programmes have been introduced lately that improve the quality of our physical rehabilitation and class work. In 1978 the children who walk with braces were enrolled in outside government schools. This change increased the cost of education for us, but it gives the boys a better programme of studies as well as returning them to the community and their friends. The second notable addition was our new special physical education programme. This daily class was designed to stimulate the boys' interest in organized sport. They are given competitive activities that guide them through many of the same movements and exercises as they get in physiotherapy class. Success in this area has meant that more children are walking at an early age and their chances for succeeding in schools is increased. It also has proved to be a great outlet for their energies.

The management of the Home is handled by both Moroccan and foreign staff who combine their energies and skills most successfully in guiding the





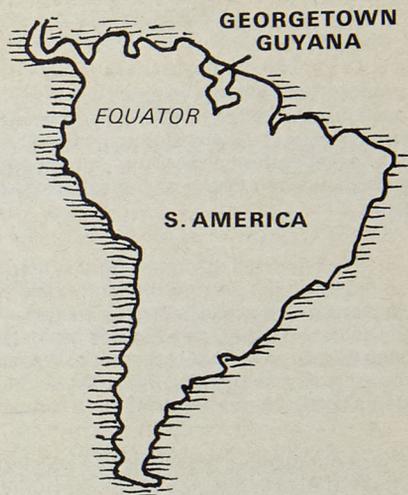
home. Both American and Canadian volunteers have helped in administration in recent years. The stability of the Home lies in the faithful Moroccan staff and the older children who have been working hard together since the very beginning to achieve the simple but important goals of the Home. The work load for all is heavy and we all benefit from a genuine family spirit that supports good hard work and clean living.

Our Home and family are proud to be one of many Cheshire Homes throughout the world. It is with much pleasure that we greet you and share news of our work with each one of you. We sincerely invite you to come and visit us if you are able and to write us whenever you can! To all our friends Goodbye for now, and Best of Luck!

*Staff and Children of the
Cheshire Home, Marrakech, Morocco*

Jo and Bryan Visit the Children's Home at Bo, Sierra Leone

Mrs J. Hanson, who with her husband Bryan used to take socks, toys and other goods to the Home in Marrakesh, Morocco, when on holiday, went to West Africa for a change this winter and visited the Cheshire Home at Bo, Sierra Leone. She says "The Home is set in pleasant agricultural surroundings on the outskirts of the small town (by British standards). Nineteen children were in residence, looked after by an African matron and several staff, and they watched wide-eyed as we looked around the spacious building and admired the native-made toys and the calipers and crutches supplied by a talented missionary. I was glad to get rid of the suitcase of clothes and books I had been carrying since Gambia! Unfortunately when the children leave the Home at 16, although many are able to walk by then in one fashion or another, they have to go and live with their parents since there is nothing else for them to do. However, I have just heard via the International office that a training scheme is to be started soon."



The Mahaica Children's Home, Guyana

The Mahaica Cheshire Home for handicapped children in Guyana and soon to be eight years old, nestles on the edge of a vast coconut plantation, overlooking the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, about twenty miles from Georgetown

The Home, which used to be the Old Village School, has a permanent atmosphere of family happiness and together with the many hours of tropical sunshine allows a fresh breeziness to penetrate throughout the spacious rooms.

There are eleven children ranging from six to eighteen years, all spastic, with mental retardation as well. They are looked after caringly by the Matron, Ena Edwards and three village helpers and the Home and its residents always look clean and bright.

The two eldest girls Patsy (17) and Felicity (18) are also second mothers to the younger ones, and together they have recently completed a set of hand woven blinds from local grasses for the newly equipped physiotherapy room housed in a separate, otherwise disused building. Patsy also crochets with great proliferation, and I am now attempting to show her the art of knitting - not too easy for me as she is left handed, but we're getting there with the help of a mirror!

Debbie, the youngest girl, is not too handicapped and so after plenty of patience, she is walking with the help of an aid. It is a lovely sight to see, and she'll make quite sure you don't miss it too!

So many of the friendly villagers call in on their way past, just for a chat, or to bring some basket of fresh fruit, they will usually stop to hear Wilbert (18) play his "never-to-be-parted-from" mouth organ, and with shouts of 'more' continues to his delighted audience.

A small but flourishing kitchen garden started by Matron greets all our visitors, presently filled with tomato plants, 'hot' wiri-wiri pepper bushes, and an unusual selection of herbs and spices for medicinal purposes as well as culinary seasoning. We can even boast a giant corn plant, but it has yet to provide us with corn-on-the-cob!

Perhaps our planned grapevine will be a little more fruitful! Also in the grounds of the Home we have mango and sapadino trees which make for exciting flavours to homemade ice cream.

With the help of our Sunshine Coach and driver Singh, we are able to visit the "drive-in" open air cinema further down the coast; go swimming on the nearby, deserted beach, see the Republic Day celebrations, as well as making a memorable trip to meet the President of Venezuela, when he made a tour of Guyana last October.

This is only the beginning of what will just be memories of my one year here, as physiotherapist to the Home.

What follows are the opening lines of a famous national song, belonging to the only English-speaking country in South America, and sung so often by the older children here, whilst sitting out on the verandah in the cool stillness of early evening; it is so obvious they are proud of their Home and country:-

"Oh beautiful Guyana,
Oh my lovely native land . . .
. . . I love thee, oh I love thee."

I too would love to hope this won't be my last visit to Mahaica, Guyana.

Rosemary Kunzel
March 1979

The National Listening Library

by Lord Cullen of Ashbourne

Talking Books for the Handicapped

Annual Report for 1978 shows continued expansion

I am pleased to be able to report that during the year we have continued to build on the modest beginnings of 1972, when we started financing a library of literature recorded on special long-playing cassettes. These cassettes are known as Talking Books and, played on our special machines, enable handicapped people to obtain the benefit that only a good book can give. Neither reading to the handicapped by friends and relatives nor listening to radio and television can be a substitute for this Library, which operates on the same lines as the British Talking Book Service for the Blind.

Over 1,800 people are now benefitting from the Library but this membership figure does not truly reflect the total number of those who use our service, since each year a number of members recover from temporary handicaps and no longer need Talking Books, while many of the cassette players are in hospitals and similar institutions where Talking Books are available for more than one handicapped person.

Due to the generosity of those who have helped us during the year we are now in a position to make a start at increasing our membership to at least 10,000. Another effect of our improved financial situation is our ability to provide the cassette-players to new members on free loan. This has always been one of the aims of the Charity. There is, therefore, no room for complacency, since there are many thousands of people in the Nation's three million disabled who could benefit from our service.

The ability to keep in touch with the world of literature is of inestimable value, both medically and psychologically, in helping people to come to terms with their disabilities and to speed the process of rehabilitation. There is a need for young handicapped children to be introduced to the service since they have no alternative method of reading. Talking Books are a great boon to these children in widening their experience and enabling them to develop their mental powers.

Although Directors of Social Services and other organisations meet the subscriptions of many members, the Library's needs to raise more funds will be greater than ever as membership increases. The present subscription of £15 covers only postage and a small part of the total cost of running the Library.



There's no substitute for a good book.

The people for whom we cater suffer from a variety of handicaps, including diseases of the central nervous system and of bones and organs, as well as dyslexia. There are also those who are temporarily unable to read books in the ordinary way, such as sufferers from the effects of illness and accidents, and elderly and mentally-handicapped people. Each Talking Book opens up new vistas and releases the mind from imprisonment.

Books Available

The Library's catalogue contains details of more than 800 books for all ages and tastes. Twelve copies of each title are available to provide a satisfactory service to members. The range of titles includes autobiography, biography, archaeology, country life, crime, history, natural history, religion, sport, adventure, detective stories, novels, historical fiction, humour, and science fiction. In the course of the year, 115 books were added through the generosity of our supporters.

The Library's books are narrated by many well-known personalities, including Michael Aspel, David Attenborough, Richard Baker, Peter Cushing, Barbara Jefford and Judith Whale. I thank them and all the other readers for their contribution to our work. I should also like to express again our

gratitude to authors and publishers who make special concessions on royalties, and to the staff of the British Talking Book Service for the Blind who work closely with us. I thank too the voluntary engineers who travel around the country servicing members' cassette-players to ensure that they get the best out of their Talking Books.

Most of the cassettes consist of books recorded by the Service for the Blind, with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement for copying master tapes. However, we also have our own sound recording studio where we record some books ourselves.

Education

We have held discussions with the Open University Students' Association and the National Bureau of Handicapped Students about the possibility of providing educational Talking Books for the handicapped students. The cost of recording one Open University Course alone would be in the region of £1,000 and we hope to include such books in the Library as soon as funds allow. We have been able to add a number of books which are required by students for both 'O' and 'A' level English examinations, as well as other educational books.

We intend to make our contribution to the International Year of the Child by recording more books for children in 1979.

Fund Raising and Publicity

The constant hard work of all associated with the Library has helped to obtain an income of £150,337 despite the increasing demands on people's goodwill and generosity.

The Future

More members, more books – more money! This is our plea for the coming year, since we are as determined as ever to improve our service to existing members and to extend it to many others in need.

I am hopeful that we shall make further progress in the coming year. We are working for the day when every eligible handicapped person who wants our Talking Books is a member of the Library. This will remain a high hope unless we raise more money from more sources. With the co-operation of the W.R.V.S., we are in a position to increase the Library membership but it is essential that we have the funds to meet the increased demands which will be made upon us.

Cullen of
Ashbourne
Chairman

HOLIDAY IN HOLLAND

James Grant

Carnsalloch

A party made up of two residents from Carnsalloch, Dumfries and two of our staff went on holiday to Holland early this year. The holiday was organised by the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association. Our party joined other members of the Association at Glasgow Airport and flew to Amsterdam from where we set off by motor-coach to the hotel where we were to stay and reached it about 9.30 p.m. Netherlands time. There we were made welcome, given a good meal and went to bed.

Next morning we had an opportunity to see our holiday home. The hotel was named the 'Groot Stockert', and had been specially built for use by disabled persons. It was a modern brown and black building and stood in wooded grounds, and attractive paths for walking had been laid down among the trees. There were facilities for playing tennis and miniature golf, while people in wheelchairs could play Ludo or Draughts on large boards which had been laid on the ground, although they needed help from able-bodied persons to move the pieces, which were like skittles. An ingenious feature of the game was that the large dice was made of sponge rubber so that they could be thrown about without fear of hurting anybody. There were also bungalows in the grounds which were occupied by Dutch people on holiday.

The interior of the hotel was as attractive as its exterior. Entering by means of electrically-operated doors one came to a foyer, the centre-piece of which was a pond in which goldfish of various sizes were swimming. Two turtles shared the pond with the fish and a little fountain sprayed at intervals.

One wall of the salon had a mural in stained-glass showing swans climbing towards the sun. One swan had a broken wing and was diving to seek help, symbolising the disabled seeking aid and being given help by the Netherlands Rheumatism Association. The colours in the glass were really beautiful. A lift was available to the second floor where there was a theatre for the presentation of live entertainment.

During our stay the weather was generally cold and showery, but this did not prevent us from

enjoying excursions in a motor coach owned by the Rheumatism Association, which had a power hoist at one side designed to lift the occupant straight up, then swing him into the coach.

We visited a former Dutch Royal Palace at Het Loo. Most of the buildings are now a museum, but some parts of the Palace still occupied by members of the Royal Family are closed to the public. We saw the stables for the horses used to draw the State Coaches on formal occasions, then we were taken to see an exhibition of old vehicles belonging to the Royal Family, which included coaches, sleighs and even a pair of vintage motor cars. Most interesting of all was a display of portraits, fine china and antique furniture which was really beautiful.

Our first full-day trip was to Arnhem, scene of the airborne landings in the Second World War. No doubt bringing back sad memories to some.

Arnhem itself is now a fine modern city with no trace of war damage to be seen. As we crossed a bridge over the river Rhine we could see in the distance the actual bridge where the battle was fought. On our way we passed through the village where the film 'A Bridge Too Far' was made, which has a bridge resembling that at Arnhem and the houses have not been changed with the passing of the years and still look like those at Arnhem in 1944.

After lunch we went to see a clog factory. We were fascinated to see how a small log was formed into the outer shape of the clog in one machine, then passed to another which hollowed out the interior for the foot. Finally it was sandpapered, painted and varnished. A few little clogs were being made for sale as curios, but the full size clogs we saw being made were meant to be worn. One often sees farm labourers wearing them in the fields, but I was told that they only last for about three months in use, which seems rather a short working life.

The following afternoon we had tea with a lady named Mrs Van Tien Hoven, who had a lovely home. The low ceiling of her living room was supported by heavy wooden beams, a log fire burned brightly in a huge blue and white tiled fireplace. Each tile had an individual picture on it, probably illustrating stories from the Bible. The walls, ceiling and carpet were all in neutral colours, enhancing the beauty of the portraits which hung on the walls and setting off the antique furniture, which was made in light coloured wood with red or rose pink upholstery.

Sunday was a rest day, but the following morning we set out on a day excursion to Amsterdam on the bus. Reaching the city we were taken down to the quayside where glass-topped boats waited to take tourists for trips along the canals. We boarded one of the boats which was equipped with a power operated hoist for loading wheelchairs and set off on our canal tour. A young lady guide informed us that the city was founded when a dam was built across the river Amstel and the site became known as 'the Amstel's Dam', or 'Amsteleren Dam'.

We began sailing down one of the larger canals, called the 'Gentlemen's Canal' because of the houses built by wealthy merchants on each bank in the 17th and 18th centuries. In those times a tax was levied on the area of land occupied by each house, so in order to use as little ground as possible the houses were narrow and four or five stories high. In consequence the staircases inside were not wide enough to allow furniture to be carried in easily. This problem was solved by fitting a beam under the roof gable of each house, which carried a hook for pulley blocks and tackle by which heavy loads could be raised and pushed in through the windows. These houses were mainly used as consulates and by commercial firms.

For less wealthy people houseboats moored on the canal banks offered cheaper accommodation but even this was too much for many of the occupants, who paid no rent and were, in fact, floating squatters!

We passed one gaily decorated boat in which, we were told, lived the self-styled 'King of the Hippies' with his four wives! Another boat was a refuge provided by the city council for stray cats. The moggies stared mournfully out of the portholes of their boat. Perhaps they did not appreciate their floating home, but considered it more of a prison.

In former times humans were imprisoned on the banks of the canals. As we passed under a bridge across one of the narrower canals our guide pointed out cells on either bank. We could see prisoners behind the barred windows, but they were only wax dummies.

We passed out into the estuary of the river and saw huge floating docks in which ocean-going ships were under repair and this marked the end of our tour.

Leaving Amsterdam we went on for lunch at Volendam, a pretty little town on the sea coast. The town had picturesque, narrow streets and was

obviously popular with tourists. There were souvenir shops everywhere but the prices of the articles on sale were sky-high.

On our journey home the bus took the road built on a long dyke across the IJselmeer, or Zuider Zee as it was formerly known, and we saw the 'polders', the land reclaimed from the sea and now intensively cultivated by the hard-working Dutch people.

Following another rest day, we went on our last excursion on the second Wednesday of our holiday. This outing was to the Kuikenhof Gardens, a park noted for the beautiful flowers grown there. Outside the park, fields with tulips just coming to full bloom could be seen. Inside there were beds with every conceivable kind of flower. It was a visual symphony of colour and the glorious sunshine enhanced the effect. There was a greenhouse in the centre of the park where exotic flowers like orchids were cultivated. A windmill in a fine state of preservation stood in another place, and from a gallery round it visitors could look out over the gardens. The park was crowded with tourists from many countries, and it was interesting to hear the variety of languages spoken as people walked by.

The following day was occupied to a large extent in preparations for our journey home. We had a farewell party in the hotel that evening and left next morning for Amsterdam airport where we broke up into our original groups and went our separate ways.

Here are some impressions of Holland; the neat, clean towns with no signs of litter, the flat countryside intersected by straight roads with evenly spaced trees ranked on either side like sentinels; the courtesy and friendliness of the Dutch people. When we were out in our wheelchairs we almost invariably were greeted with a polite, 'Good Day', even from young children.

We have to thank the staff of the hotel for their willing service and for the food which was excellently cooked and served. We were grateful to the two couriers, Mrs McCulloch and Mrs White of the British Rheumatism & Arthritic Association, and also to Sister McGill and Mrs Candlish, our two members of staff, for all that they did to make our holiday a success; and I have to thank Mrs Ferguson for typing a legible manuscript from my rough draft.

*James Grant,
'Carnsalloch'*

Babies could be saved from being born handicapped

by Kay Christiansen,
Information Officer, The Spastics Society

There are 33,000 severely handicapped children in the United Kingdom and a further 100,000 who are moderately severely handicapped. That is a tragedy for the children whose entire lives are blighted and a heartbreak for suffering parents. The situation is hard to bear even when it is thought to be inevitable. How much more terrible to realise, then, that many of these children could have been born healthy and normal.

For instance, research and medical information programmes now confirm quite confidently that if all current knowledge were fully applied, at least forty per cent of all cases of cerebral palsy (spasticity) could be prevented and instead healthy, normal babies could be born. This means that of the six spastic babies born daily, at least two – and possibly three – could have been born undamaged. There could be similar savings with some other handicaps.

This claim has been quite clearly demonstrated in Sweden where improved care during the perinatal period has resulted in a reduction of the prevalence of cerebral palsy during the fifteen years up to 1970 by over forty per cent and in the prevalence of spastic diplegia by over sixty per cent. Similarly, the French Government have introduced a programme which takes the sensible line that it is better to spend money helping women to have healthy babies than to spend much more later on caring for those stricken by handicapping conditions.

Even if humanitarian considerations were to be ignored, which they cannot be, a sound perinatal programme which emphasised prevention of handicap would make sound economic sense bearing in mind that caring for just one severely handicapped person from birth to the age of 65 can cost the community up to £ $\frac{1}{4}$ million.

That is why The Spastics Society has mounted a "Save a Baby from Being Born Spastic" campaign. It intends to press the Government to consider mounting a national campaign to prevent handicap on the grounds that measures taken in other European countries have already shown that it is possible in a comparatively short time to cut the number of handicapped babies that are born.

Let us look at the ways France tackled the problem of handicap and of infant mortality, with which handicap is inextricably involved.



Handicapped babies being cared for at the Spastics Society's Family Help Unit where short term care is provided as a lifeline to parents in times of family crisis.

First, they set down seven programmes for perinatal prevention:

1. They established 12 new Chairs of Obstetrics and 10 new Chairs in Neonatal Medicine, with appropriate staffing.
2. They organised a drive to achieve more comprehensive records and research. This involved the collection of data on all pregnancies and confinements and the introduction of a new maternity book. This book, which is the property of the mother, is given at the start of each pregnancy. It covers obstetric history, antenatal care, the delivery state of the new born infant and post-natal care undertaken. The book also contains a small amount of general advice to the mothers, but it is primarily aimed at the general practitioner and ante-natal clinics. From this book the mother-to-be can see what information and tests she is entitled to and can complain if they are not done.
3. All girls in France were inoculated against German measles by the age of 13 and, in addition, all women working with children who might be liable to catch the infection.
4. There was a drive to increase the number of ante-natal visits and the number of referral centres for women known to be at risk. The problem of getting women to attend clinics regularly was solved by a number of incentive payments which are conditional on pregnant women attending clinics regularly.
5. Staff and equipment in all obstetric departments of teaching and district hospitals was increased.
6. Minimum standards for resuscitation of the new born were enforced by law.
7. Twenty new major units in teaching hospitals to provide intensive care for new born babies seen to be at risk were established. Each intensive care unit is situated close to the maternity wing of the teaching hospital which supplies some of the patients, but the units will also fetch babies on request from satellite maternity units in the region using special ambulances equipped to



This handicapped child is given loving care at the Spastics Society Family Help Unit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

provide mechanical ventilation to maintain the baby's body temperature and to provide other care as required.

There is no doubt that the institution of a similar programme in Britain would reduce the risk of brain damage at birth and the number of mentally handicapped children born.

The Spastics Society also intends to press for an effective programme of public health education which would alert pregnant women to the necessity of regular examinations and to the dangers of heavy smoking during pregnancy. At the moment no such programme exists.

The Society is also concerned that much more research should be undertaken in the field of perinatal care. That is why it is trying to raise £2 million so that further vital work can be put in hand immediately.

There is every reason to suppose that an enlightened attitude could see the virtual elimination of the terrible affliction of cerebral palsy in the next decade. This can only happen if the public at large understands and supports efforts in this field.

What could be more worthwhile than the prevention of handicap by the establishment of efficient and thorough medical services?

Anyone requiring further information about The Spastics Society's "Save a Baby from Being Born Deformed" Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

A Student's Lonely Battle

Sam crawls to classes – but things are changing

The only way Sam Miller could attend lectures in McGill University's Jewish Studies building was by crawling up a flight of stairs on his hands and knees, which was a frustrating and humiliating experience.

Sam was born with cerebral palsy so his muscle co-ordination is poor and he needs sticks to get around. But sticks are useless on stairs, where he must rely on handrails for balance. Otherwise he has to crawl, and the wooden staircases in the old Peel St. building have no handrails.

But the 22-year-old-English major will be spared the chore as handrails are to be installed in the building before the start of next term.

Sam, who graduates from McGill this spring, says stoically he doesn't want his physical handicap to interfere with his education.

After graduation, he wants to launch a literary magazine with handicapped children as contributors. "The whole purpose is to better understand the handicapped realities," he says.

The magazine would encourage persons with disabilities, throughout the English-speaking world, to write for publication.

Persons interested are asked to write to: Mr S. Miller at 2495 Major Street, St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA H4M 1E5.

Ack. The Montreal Gazette

Proceedings in Parliament

Increased Pensions and
Allowances in November



In answer to Questions in the House of Commons, Mr Ennals said on 3rd April: "As the Prime Minister has indicated, the Government expect to raise the basic pension rate next November to about £22 for a single person and about £35 for a married couple – that is, an increase of about £2.50 for a single person and £4 for a married couple. As he made clear we shall not only raise pensions in line with the forecast movement of prices or earnings up to next November but will take account of the shortfall in last year's forecasts.

"We shall of course uprate all the other long term benefits, including war pensions, widow's benefit and invalidity pensions on the same basis as the retirement pensions: and we shall increase the long term rate supplementary benefit by the same amount as these pensions.

"We shall also meet our statutory duty to protect short term benefits such as unemployment and sickness benefit, against the movement of prices. In doing so, we shall provide for increases which take account of the 1% shortfall in last year's forecast of prices movement.

"The November 1979 uprating will contain two new features: both earnings-related additional pensions, paid from this month under the New Pensions scheme and now worth up to £1.30 a week, and mobility allowance (now worth £10 a week) will be included in the general uprating for the first time"

P.S. It is understood that the present Government intends to implement the measures stated above.



Stephen Hawking – A Remarkable Scientist

Confined to a wheel-chair, unable to speak except in a slurred monotone, understandable only to his family and close friends, he can only lift his head with great difficulty.

At 36, suffering from a crippling disease of the nervous system, a type of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, life could not be said to offer him much.

Yet Stephen Hawking, who works at Cambridge University, is known to be one of the foremost scientific brains of the 20th century, said by some to be an equal of Einstein, and qualified for a Nobel Prize.

His work on theoretical physics has concentrated on black holes, the mysterious, invisible apertures in space, which are, in effect, cosmic drains through which matter is drawn and compressed into infinite nothingness.

In what the American magazine "TIME" has recently described as a brilliant mathematical tour de force, Hawking believes that some black holes are tiny, and leak energy back into the universe. Eventually, says Hawking, the mini-black hole will be unable to sustain the build-up of heat, and will explode with a force equal to that of millions of H-bombs.

Only a few can follow Hawking's intricate mathematical equations, remarkable because he cannot write them down. A colleague says this is the equivalent of Mozart composing an entire symphony in his head.

Although physically helpless, Hawking is the devoted father of two children, a son aged eleven and a daughter of seven.

His wife accompanies him to scientific conferences, where his keen sense of humour makes him many friends.

His life is a triumph over adversity, and an inspiration to all those who live and work in Cheshire Homes, familiar as we are to similar examples of courage and application.

William Gillett

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1979

Preliminary Arrangements

The 1979 Annual Conference will be held at the London Tara Hotel on Saturday 13th October 1979.

Location

The London Tara Hotel is in Wright's Lane, Kensington, London W8 5SR, near High Street Kensington Underground Station. There are car parking facilities at the Hotel and some spaces will be reserved for minibuses from Homes. If the Hotel car park becomes full, drivers should go to the car park at Chelsea New Town Hall.

The hotel has facilities for disabled and handicapped people. Anyone requiring overnight accommodation is advised to book as soon as possible; the telephone number is: 01-937 7211.

Programme for the Day

Coffee will be available from 9 a.m. and the programme will be as follows:

- 10 a.m. – Welcome from the Chairman.
- 10.15 a.m. – Address by the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, the Rt. Hon. Reg Prentice, M.P., J.P.
- 11.30 a.m. – Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
- 12.00 – Introduction to the Afternoon Discussion by the Chairman.
- 12.30 to 2 p.m. – Lunch.
- 2 p.m. – Address by the Chairman of the Eastern Region.
- 2.15 p.m. – Discussion of the new organisational arrangements for the Foundation and any other matters which anyone wishes to raise.
- 3.30 p.m. – Address by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire
- 4 p.m. – Tea and disperse.

Lunch and other Refreshments

There will be no charge for coffee, lunch and tea. A cash bar will be available at lunch time and a selection of wines will be available, for cash, during lunch.

The lunch menu will be:

Grapefruit and Orange Cocktail

Choice of:

Beef Bourignion
Chicken à la King
Veal Zurichoise

with

Pommes Puree Haricots Verts

Soufflé Alaska

Coffee

Delegates requiring a special diet and wishing separate arrangements to be made, should have their requirements indicated on the reply form sent to each Home.

Registration

The maximum number which the Hotel can accept is 350 people. The number of places therefore is limited to Four per Home. Homes are asked to please indicate on the reply form whether they intend to take up the full allocation, as any spare places will be allocated to people on the waiting list.

Name Tags

Name tags showing the name of the delegate and the name of the Home should be taken by each individual attending the Conference.

A. L. Bennett
Director



Red Feather Badges and Brooches

Eric Wild who is a staunch supporter of The Foundation and is responsible for the ordering and distribution of the Red Feather badges and brooches has written to tell us that he will be having a further 3000 for distribution at the end of August, but unfortunately he is having to increase the price to 40p each, but as this includes postage it is still remarkably good value. V.A.T. has of course been increased from 8% to 15% which represents an additional 6p for each badge.

We are indeed grateful to Eric for his interest and his enthusiasm. His home address is 2 Netherhouse Road, Shaw, OLDHAM, Lancs. OL2 7EX.

RADAR

NAIDEX 1979

This year, Naidex, which takes place at the Wembley Conference Centre from 21st-23rd November, again becomes a national Conference rather than the special interest international function of last year. The form of the Conference has also been changed as it was felt that a series of one day seminars on a whole range of topics would be of greater value and interest to a larger number of people.

The Conference will consist of eleven separate seminars. On Wednesday 21st November, there are seminars on 'The General Development of Aids', 'Technical Aids for the Speech Impaired', 'The International Year of the Child 1979' (organised in conjunction with the UK Association for the International Year of the Child 1979) and 'Educational Opportunities'.

On Thursday 22nd November, for the first time at a Naidex Conference, a seminar has been organised with the aim of attracting General Practitioners to the Conference. This is a half day seminar entitled 'The Primary Health Care Team and the Handicapped'. Other seminars taking place on the Thursday are 'Counselling the Disabled', 'The Elderly Disabled' and 'Community Health Councils in Rehabilitation'.

The final day of the Conference, Friday 23rd November, is devoted to seminars on 'Social Work and Disability', 'The Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist in the Community' and 'Volunteers in Rehabilitation'.

The Royal Association hopes that this Naidex, the seventh to be held in successive years, will be as successful as previous meetings and that it will again provide a forum and centre for discussion and argument on the needs of disabled people and the ways in which they can best be met.

For further information on the Conference Programme please contact: The Conference Officer, The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB. Tel: 01-637 5400.

Welcome Donation

The Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society held its Annual Dinner and Dance at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham on 25th January last, in celebration of the 220th Anniversary of the birthday of the Immortal Bard Robert Burns, at which the Lord Mayer and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham were present, and when R.E.L. as Editor of *The Smile* was presented with a cheque for £100 by The President of the Society, Mr. Robin Chalmers a former joint-editor of *The Smile* and husband of the late Rosalind Chalmers who edited the magazine for several years before her death at 'Greenacres' in 1973.

Deaths

OXFORDSHIRE CHESHIRE HOME

Wiltshire, Audrey, died on the 29th April, 1979, aged 53 after six years at Greenhill House.

Heath, Evelyn (Eva), died on the 21st April, 1979, aged 65 after six years at Greenhill House.

Mr. Kenneth Ian Stevens of Greenhill House Cheshire Home, Timsbury, passed away on June 8th 1979. He will be missed by all residents and staff.

GREEN GABLES

Onufryk, Myron, on the 18th of April aged 59. Admitted to 'Green Gables' April 1974.

Edwards, Leslie, on the 28th May aged 58. Admitted to 'Green Gables' October 1976.

West, Cynthia, on the 23rd June 1979 aged 49. Admitted to 'Green Cables' February 1978.

Parker, Pauline, on the 28th June 1979 aged 38. Admitted to 'Green Gables' January 1978.

Leonard Cheshire Home,
"Green Gables", Wingfield Road,
Alfreton, Derbyshire DE5 7AN
22 July 1979

ARNOLD HOUSE CHESHIRE HOME

Sive, Morris, died 16th June, 1979, a resident at Arnold House since 5th May, 1976.

1 The Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Registered as a Charity Number 218186

Leonard 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

Founder: Group Capt. Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C.

Patrons:

The Rt. Hon. Lord Edmund-Davies, P.C.
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Denning, P.C.

Chairman: Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, G.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A.

Trustees: Peter Allot, Esq./D. Andrewes, Esq./Group Capt. G. L. Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C./Lady Sue Ryder Cheshire, C.M.G., O.B.E./R. E. Elliott, Esq./Mrs P. K. Farrell, J.P./D. Greig, Esq./Dr Wendy Greengross/G. Reid Herrick Esq./J. H. Inskip, Esq., Q.C./B. R. Marsh, Esq./Sir Henry Marking, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C./Lady June Onslow/Mrs G. Pattie/D. M. Roe, Esq./Peter Rowley, M.C./Mrs P. Rowntree/N. R. Trahair, Esq./J. V. Tindall, Esq./Mrs E. Topliss/H. Turner, Esq./P. Wade, Esq./R. B. Weatherstone, Esq./B. Worthington, Esq.

General Secretary: Mr Arthur L. Bennett.

Hon. Medical Adviser: Dr Basil Kiernander, M.B., F.R.C.P.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Peter Rowley, M.C.

Ass. Treasurer: Mrs M. Burkmar

Homes Counselling Service

Office: 7 Market Mews, London, W1Y 8HP
Tel: 01-492 0162

Head of Counselling Service: Mr Ronald Travers.

Counsellors: Mrs Gillian Corney, Mrs Alma Wise, Mr Robert Hopkinson.

Administrator/Coordinator: Mr Wally Sullivan.

Overseas Secretary:

Personnel Adviser: Mr A. J. Keefe, F.I.P.M.

2 Sue Ryder Foundation

Registered as a Charity Number 222291

Sue Ryder Home, Cavendish, Suffolk CO10 8AY

Founder: Sue Ryder, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Chairman: Mr H. N. Sporborg, C.M.G.

Honorary Councillors: Dr J. Apley, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., J.P./Group Captain G. L. Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C./Miss E. B. Clarke, C.V.O., M.A., B.Litt.(Oxon), J.P./The Rev. Sister J. Faber/Mr John Priest, J.P./Sue Ryder, C.M.G., O.B.E./Mr J. W. Steed/Mr John L. Stevenson, F.C.S., A.C.I.S., F.T.I.I.

The Sue Ryder Foundation was established by Miss Ryder during the Post War Years, after she had been doing relief work on the Continent. Its purpose was—and still is—the relief of suffering on a wide scale by means of personal service, helping the needy, sick and disabled everywhere, irrespective of age, race or religion and thus serving as a Living Memorial to all who underwent persecution or died in defence of human values, especially during the two World Wars. Sue Ryder Homes care for the sick and needy of all ages, including children, and principally for the incurably sick and disabled, the homeless and those others for whom the general hospitals can do no more and who have no suitable place to go.

There are Sue Ryder Homes/Hospitals in Britain and overseas.

3 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.

Cheshire Homes in Britain

Residents telephone numbers in brackets.

ENGLAND**Avon**

Greenhill House, Timsbury, near Bath BA3 1ES.
Timsbury 70533 (70866).

Bedfordshire

Agate House Cheshire Home, Worbun Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Ampthill 403247 (404470).

Buckinghamshire

Chiltern Cheshire Home, 27 North Park, Gerrards Cross SL9 8JT. Gerrards Cross 86170 (84572).

Cheshire

The Hill, Newcastle Road, Sandbach CW11 0JB.
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 LA23 1NR. Windermere 2500 (387).

Derbyshire

Green Gables, Wingfield Road, Alfreton DE5 7AN.
Alfreton 3610.

Devon

Cann House, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth PL5 4LE.
Plymouth 771742 (772645).

Douglas House, Douglas Avenue, Brixham TQ5 9EL.
Brixham 6333/4.

Forches House Cheshire Home, Victoria Road, Barnstaple. Barnstaple 75202.

Dorset

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

James Burn House, Leonard Cheshire Home, Greenways Avenue, Bournemouth.
Bournemouth 523182 (515397).

Durham

Murray House, St. Cuthbert's Avenue, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Consett DH8 0LT. Consett 50400 (502363).

Essex

Seven Rivers, Great Bromley, Nr. Colchester CO7 7TT.
Colchester 230345 (230463).

Gloucestershire

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

Hampshire

Le Court, Greatham, Liss GU33 6HL.
Blackmoor 364 (229).

Hereford and Worcester

The Saltways Cheshire Home, Church Road, Webheath, Redditch B97 5PD. 0527-44462 (43208).

Hertfordshire

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

Isle of Wight

Appley Cliff, Popham Road, Shanklin PO37 6RG.
Shanklin 2193

Kent

Chipstead Lake Cheshire Home, Chevening Road, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2SD. 0732-59510 (51855).

Mote House, Mote Park, Maidstone ME15 8NG.
Maidstone 37911 (38417).

St. Cecilia's, 32 Sundridge Avenue, Bromley BR1 2PZ.
01-460 8377 (7179).

Seven Springs, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4NB. 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 SE19 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. 01-363 1660 (01-363 0750).

Norfolk

The Grove, East Carleton, Norwich NR14 8HP.
Mulbarton 70279.

Northumberland

Matfen Hall, Matfen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE20 0RH.
Stamfordham 212 (383).

Nottinghamshire

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

The Dukeries Cheshire Home, Hospital Road, Retford. Retford 705765.

Oxfordshire

Greenhill House, Twyford, Banbury OX17 3JB.
Banbury 810679 (810667).

John Masefield Cheshire Home, Burcot Brook, Burcot, Oxfordshire OX14 3DP. Oxford 340324 (340130).

Somerset

St. Michael's, Axbridge BS26 2DW. Axbridge 732358.

South Humberside

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

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).

West Midlands

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

St. Anthony's, Stourbridge Road, Wolverhampton WV4 5NQ. 0902-893056.

Wiltshire

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

Yorkshire

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

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

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

Kenmore, 100 Whitecliffe Road, Cleckheaton BD19 3DR. Cleckheaton 872904.

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, Kirkmahoe, Dumfries DG1 1SN. Dumfries 4924.

Edinburgh

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

WALES

Clwyd

Dolywern, Pontfadog, Llangollen LL20 7BR. Glyn Ceiriog 303.

Eithinog, Old Highway, Upper Colwyn Bay LL28 5YA. Colwyn Bay 2404 (30047).

Dyfed

Coomb, Llangynog, Carmarthen SA33 5HP. Llanstephan 292 (310).

Gwent

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