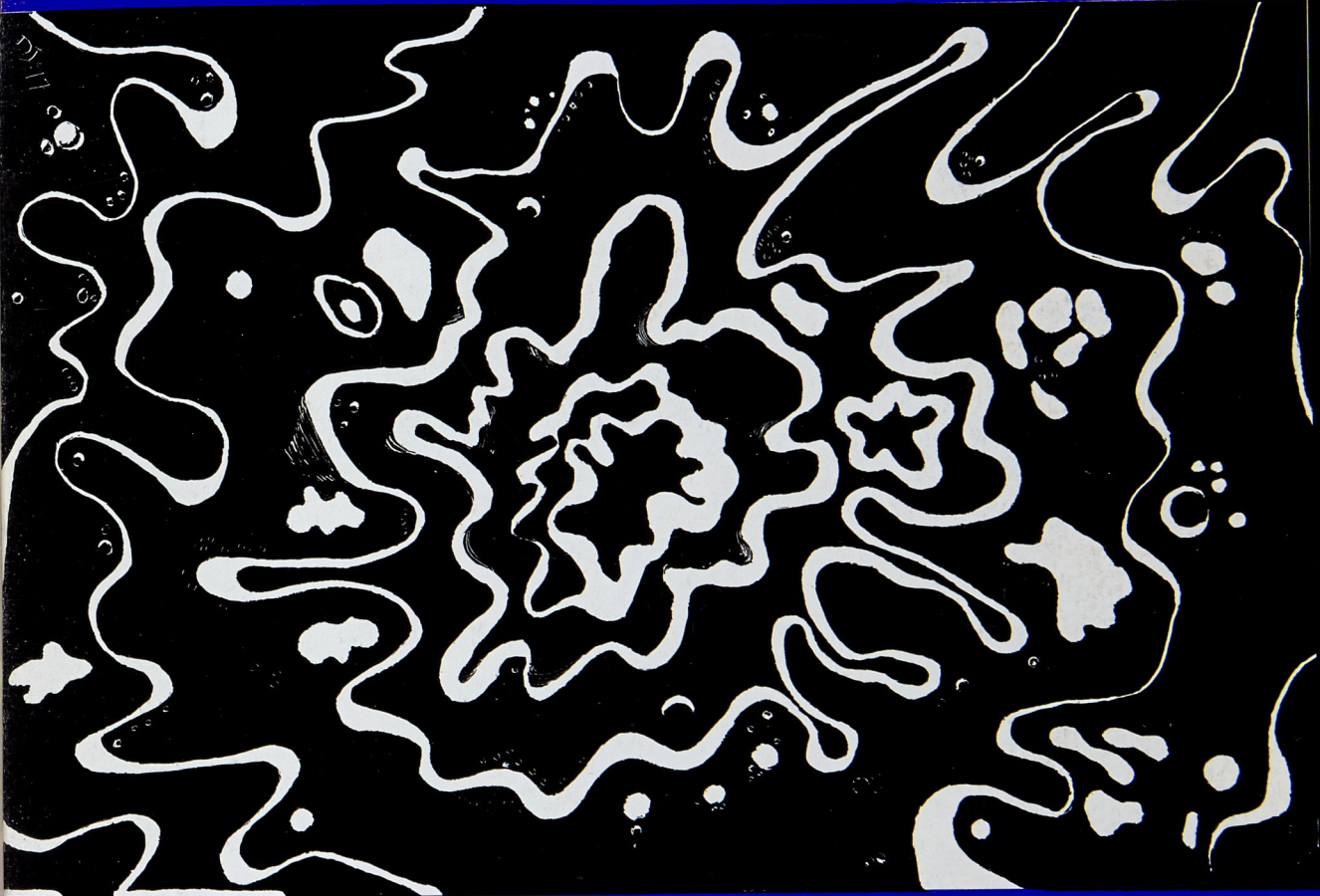


Cheshire Smile

Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation—Winter 1983/84 25p



- Where the heart is . . .
- Brother John
- On Safari
- Behind the Scenes
- Creative Activity Contest '83
- First Resident Trustee

Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

FOUNDED 1954 No. 2 (New Series) WINTER 1983/84

Cheshire Smile is edited and managed by disabled residents at Le Court. Contributions to the magazine are invited from all readers. Opinions put forward in individual articles do not necessarily represent the official view of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. It is the Editors' aim, however, to encourage free expression of ideas but they reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject, at their discretion, material received for publication.

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Editorial

People

A prize winning entry in a national essay writing contest for young people is amongst the articles we have to offer readers this issue. The essay was brought to our attention through a newspaper cutting service, it is an excellent piece of writing and has a good deal of relevance to those living in Cheshire Homes and such-like institutions for the physically disabled. The author, Sarah Kewley, a thirteen year old schoolgirl writes with outstanding insight and perception. Sarah gives a helping-hand at her local Cheshire Home each week and her essay is based on her observations and feelings of life within that home.

Everyday happenings are brought into sharp focus and rare glimpses of ourselves as we really are bring

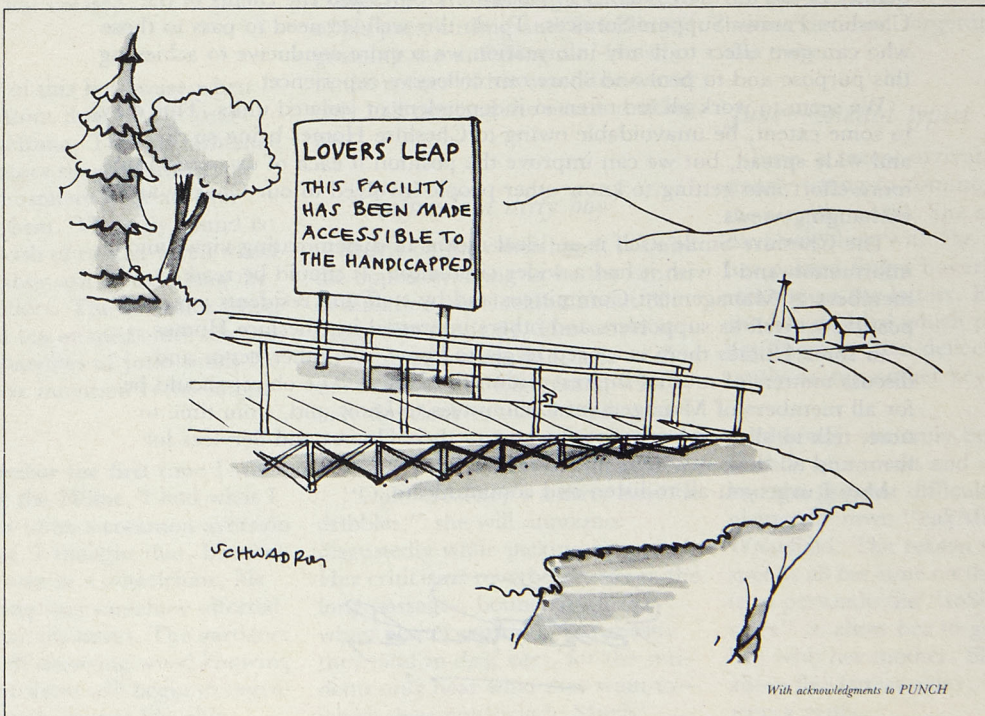
out the humour and pathos of people living in institutions. Sarah has quickly distinguished the correlation between the hot-house and its sheltered environment and that of caring for people in residential homes. It is through the education of young people that attitudes towards the handicapped will be changed and it is therefore very encouraging to note that the younger element of today shows such interest and concern.

Places

For a very long time, buildings designed for residential care have been traditionally cold, stark and more often barrack-looking, or have been adapted from the unwanted "too-expensive-to-maintain" stone

mansion set amidst acres of parkland in the rolling English countryside—miles away from civilisation and, appearing so much like the "institutions" they profess not to be. From reading some of the correspondence that comes into the Cheshire Smile office, it is disheartening to learn that there is still the tendency for planners of future homes to want to "build big".

In "Plan Chest" we read that new developments in planning are for bungalow-type-grouping or cluster lay-outs and that this will be the "homes" of the future; so enabling residents to preserve and pursue a more independent existence. Can it be hoped that the trustees of the Foundation will make it plain that their policy for the future is to build what the "customer" wants, and not what others think he wants?



With acknowledgments to PUNCH



the Chairman says

A number of things recently have indicated that there is a need to improve communication between all of us who are involved in the Cheshire Homes and Services.

We all share a common purpose of providing care and the best available quality of life for the residents in Cheshire Homes and the clients of the Cheshire Family Support Services. To do this well we need to pass to those who can give effect to it any information we acquire conducive to achieving this purpose and to pool and share our collective experience.

We seem to work all too often in independent or isolated units. This may, to some extent, be unavoidable owing to Cheshire Homes being so diverse and wide spread, but we can improve the position if each of us were to put more effort into getting to know other people involved in our Charity and exchanging views.

The Cheshire Smile itself is an ideal means of disseminating views and information and I wish it had a wider circulation. It should be read by all members of Management Committees and by staff and residents wherever possible as well as supporters and others interested in Cheshire Homes.

In some Homes there is a need to get to know each other better and discuss matters of mutual interest within the Home. The object should be for all members of Management Committees to know and, from time to time, talk to all members of staff who run their Homes and Services for them and all their residents and Clients.

May I urge you all to listen and communicate.

John Rawley

Where the heart is . .

Sarah Kewley

There is an isolated glass-house at the bottom of the local park. It has always been there, remote and shining with sun-absorbing glass. Inside is a little world as far remote from the elm trees that line the boundaries of the park as the tropical jungle is from West Yorkshire. The hot-house atmosphere surrounds and envelops everything so that the outside world becomes non-existent. Neither sound nor reality is allowed to penetrate this kingdom which the gardener has created.

I think of this hot-house when I open the front door of the local Cheshire Home. The old fashioned iron radiators silently suffuse the whole atmosphere with an overpowering heat. The only sound is the soft swish of rubber-tyred wheelchairs as they are thrust along the tiled corridors. The orderlies wheel trolleys of tea or medicines instead of wheel-barrows of John Innes No. 3, but their intention is the same.

I remember the first time I went to help at the Home. I had what I now know to be a common aversion to cripples. I thought that, because a person was in a wheelchair, his whole being was somehow affected and not just his limbs. The gardener can snip off decaying wood knowing that a new shoot will begin to regenerate. People are not like this.

—*a little walnut in his wheelchair*

Roberts sits like a little walnut in his wheelchair, docilely surveying the scene. He looks as if he ought to have been a sailor, with his weather-beaten skin and eyes that still see a distant shore, but for all his stillness his hands live a life of their own. When he's not drawing his memories on a sketch pad or hauling his chair wheels up the ramps they are working like an echo of his past, curling and unfolding, grasping the unfeeling air. He sits in the corner of his own little world only half noticing the others drifting by.

.. *'Geoffrey's a dirty boy'*

Mavis on the other hand, is quite the opposite, liking to be the centre of attention and looking about 80, she insists she is 64. Her world is all noise and confusion, it is as if she finds silence frightening with only the clock to tick her life away.

"Ooh! Geoffrey's a dirty boy: he dribbles," she will announce disgustedly while picking her nose! Her criticisms reverberate down the long passages, bouncing off the white plaster cornices, but mostly they land in deaf ears, for the residents only hear what they want to— which does not include Mavis!

(Sarah Kewley won a special prize for outstanding work in a national Young Writers' Competition. She received a certificate plus a cheque to be spent on education, travel or books. Her essay was among 33,000 entries in the 25th annual Young Writers' Competition sponsored by W.H. Smith. This story and all the winning entries in the 1983 competition will be published by Heinemann Educational Books in an illustrated paperback anthology in the spring of 1984, and will be available in W.H. Smith shops and elsewhere.)

On my early visits I had found washing up infinitely preferable to face-to-face confrontation with the residents. Normally I detest washing up and would go to great lengths to avoid it, but I was so apprehensive of their reaction to me that even washing up seemed less hazardous. It was not that I was frightened of what their reaction to me might be. Would they resent an intruder? Would they not understand what I was saying? Would they ignore me? Great Heavens! They are not Venus Fly Traps, nor was I a fly! Where did these incredible misgivings come from?

I can only think that, because so little is seen or heard about handicapped people, we have imposed our own vetos on their lives, not simply by transplanting them from the garden to green-house but, having done so, forgetting that they are there.

June—wizard typist

June, a recent arrival, is constantly trying to communicate with the outside world. She spends her days wrestling with the typewriter, her palsied finger hovering uncertainly over the letters. Even when she has decided which one to press, her finger is often deflected inadvertently on to another key.

Although she truly believes her work is quite neat and correct, I had the greatest difficulty in recognising the town "eakAfield" as Wakefield. The reason that she spends all her time on the typewriter is to persuade the "soShal seR-vices" to allow her to go back to live with her mother. She writes about five letters a day. I have never seen a reply.

While June has only been in the home for a few months, Ivy has lived there a long time—longer even than I have been alive. She is the oldest and the sweetest, and I think, my favourite. I shall never be able to smell Yardley's Roses talcum powder without feeling the soft waft of air from the wheelchair, and seeing her determined arms rolling the chair along. Ivy likes to use the travelling library, which specialises in books for old eyes with extra large print. She hates to be a nuisance to anybody so when she lost her library book she suffered long nights of torment wondering where she could have put it. At last, after long, strenuous searches it was found—propping up one corner of June's typewriter!

Ivy—parlez Français!

Ivy has a curiosity not only in the outside world (she devours the "Daily Mirror" every day) but also in the people around her. Once when chatting to her about nothing in particular I mentioned that I still had my homework to do when I got home. She asked me what subjects I had, and I mentioned mathematics, Latin, French . . ."

"Ooh!" she interrupted eagerly, ". . . I can speak French; un, deux, trois . . ." she counted beaming. Then later as I helped an orderly hand around the tea, Ivy's voice rose triumphantly above all the chatter . . . "Mercy, mercy, Sarah!"

Just this tiny spark of re-kindled knowledge from Ivy's youth had inflamed her whole body. She was alive with the pleasure of communicating in a "secret code"!

My own problems always seem to fade after visiting the home. I walk in with tomorrow's mathematics test looming large in my mind, but always walk out thinking "Oh, well, it's not so important."

The residents have so many problems which they have either overcome or at least come to terms with—paralysed limbs, unusable muscles or impaired nervous systems. Yet all these major problems are ignored as much as possible. Minor worries replace insoluble major ones.

Ivy is flowing with helpfulness

Ivy worries incessantly about her weaving. Some of the residents weave seats of stools which are then sold in a little handicraft shop. Ivy is flowing with helpfulness and desperately wants to contribute by making a usable stool. Every afternoon she intertwines the nylon cord around the frame, and every evening a tolerant staff untwist and reweave her day's efforts. Often there is too little time for them to reweave it all, so Ivy is left the next day with the toil of Sisyphus, having to get back where she thought she was the previous day.

"They"—the unknown powers

The world's problems are solved comparatively quickly. "They"—the unknown powers behind the scenes—should make sure that unnecessary wars are stopped, that everyone is given a job, and that criminals are caught. Once the world's problems are solved during the six o'clock news, then important ones are tackled.

There is little sense of false modesty in the home. Bodily functions happen, so why pretend they don't?

Mavis frowns as she examines the bag strapped to June's chair. Flinging aside the skirt, and baring the lower half of June's body, she calls out that the bag isn't connected properly, there is a trickle running down the tube onto June's leg. There is something of Eve's naked innocence in her lack of emotion. The paralysed limbs were June's yet they were not June's. Her nakedness was hers yet not hers. Paradoxically, everyone has a body, yet is jointly a custodian of everybody else's bodies. The little world inside the home sometimes becomes the real world and all outside shrinks into nothingness. Like Dorothy, in the Land of Oz, I am part of that different—but no less real—world.

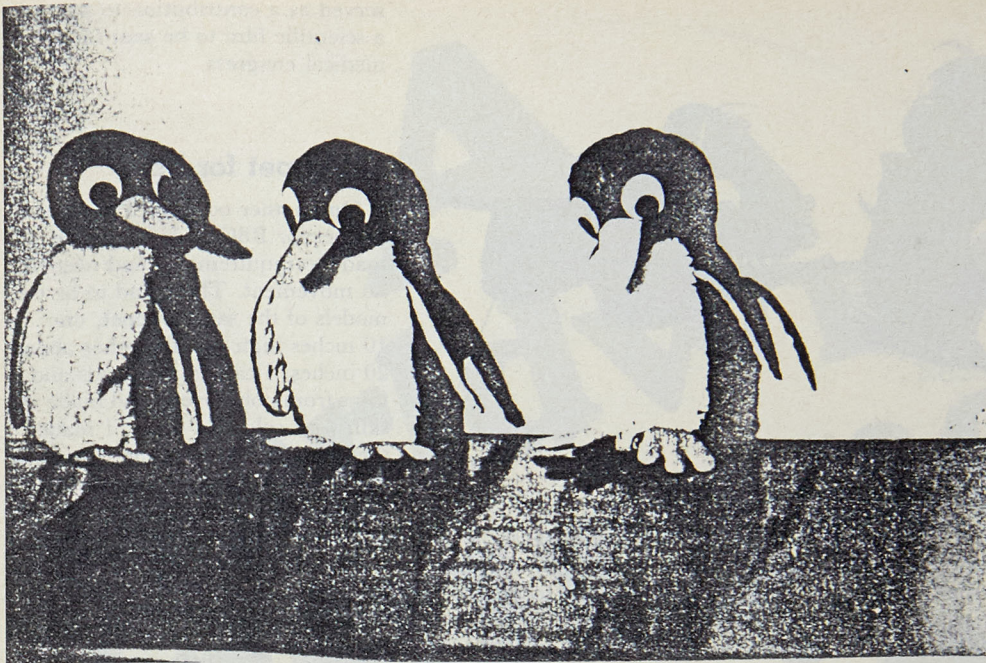
Nowhere do troubles really "melt like lemon drops." Nor is there any likelihood that this haven of warmth is any different from any other home. How many more worlds are there out there, where no-one can see? Which is the real world?

The Pusher

Have you ever tried pushing a wheelchair?
 One supplied by the N.H.S. Free.
 Whilst the rider sits cushioned in comfort.
 For the pusher it's sheer agony,
 Practice make kerbs seem quite simple,
 And corners are managed with ease.
 But what do you do? When in front of you
 Appear flights of stone steps.
 SHOUT HELP PLEASE?
 Or, if you're out shopping like most folks,
 You fancy a tea and a chat.
 The doorway's too narrow, the wheelchair's too wide,
 You go without, it's as simple as that.
 Some toilets are specially adapted.
 Wide doors and handrails they boast.
 But just where the hallway gets narrow,
 Some fool's fixed a blooming great post.
 Have you ever pushed a wheelchair uphill?
 We are told that the wheels will run free.
 Well, when you reach the top, you'll be ready to drop,
 Especially if you're tiny like me.
 What about carrying shopping,
 The wheelchair itself weighs a ton.
 With a bag on each arm, you're a picture of charm.
 And a wreck when the shopping is done.
 A wheelchair's a must if you're crippled
 And on somebody you must rely:
 To push to and fro, where you wish to go.
 If not life and the world pass you by.
 The aches and the strains are all worth it,
 For I know I am helping a friend.
 If I am not there, he is bound to his chair,
 And his need, becomes mine in the end.
 There must be a designer somewhere,
 And surely an oscar he'd win.
 For a wheelchair designed
 For the one who's behind,
 As well as the one who's within.

B. Woolley

With acknowledgements to "The Disabled Driver"



BEHIND THE SCENES

Milena Novak

Milena Novak has written the following account describing the interesting and specialised artwork in which she was engaged before she became disabled. There is a complete absence of self-pity throughout, and it is only in the last paragraph, that we can guess at the courage she has needed to continue her art work in new fields.

In Czechoslovakia, puppet and marionette theatre has a tradition going back many centuries. One of the earliest masters was Matthew Kopecky who composed his own plays and travelled with his theatre from town to town giving performances for adults and children. His puppets were usually two feet long, carved from wood and painted and dressed in period costume.

I inherited a love of marionettes from my parents who made a little theatre for us at home. Father made the proscenium with the scenery and puppets, and mother dressed them. I used to go whenever possible to the marionette theatre to see the fairy tales. Once I was given a lovely book called "Little Zu discovers the World", which was illustrated by a well-known painter named Jiri

Trnka. I adored his pictures and also the story, but little did I know that in ten years time I would be fortunate enough to work with this artist in his film studio.

Trnka's film studio

During the second world war I started work, at fifteen years of age, as an apprentice in film laboratories learning the technicalities of processing and preparing films. Then, when the war was over we moved to Prague where I was fortunate enough to be able to join Trnka's newly formed film studio as a costume maker and puppeteer. We were a group of about fourteen enthusiastic people devoted to his experimentations in this field.

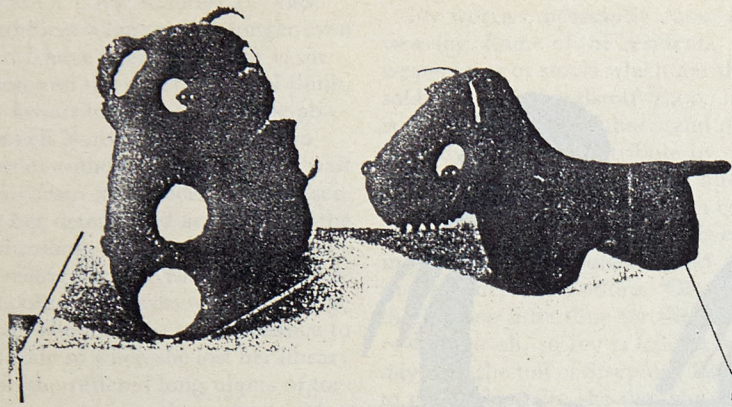
Trnka's first puppets were made very simply from wire and turned wood. He always painted the faces of the puppet himself so that he could get just the facial expression he wanted, and I would then finish them by filling the skeleton with porous foam with moulded their shape. I then dressed them in felt, cotton or whatever was needed for Trnka's design.

Gradually, I learned by experience how to use the materials; fab-

ric, leather, fur, plastic, modelling substances and so on, and the use of colour.

Cannes Film Festival

Once the puppets and scenery were made, the film was shot by four animators from our group. The background music was composed by V. Trojan who also wrote the music for Trnka's later famous films. The first series of short films was called "Czech Year" and was on a folklore theme from spring through to Christmas. In spite of primitive and naive movements of the puppets, the film won an international award at the Cannes Film Festival. From then on, the films reached ever higher standards both artistically and technically, and almost every year Trnka's film won awards in European Festivals. Amongst many highly acclaimed films we made in our studio under him were: H. C. Andersen's "The Emperor's Nightingale", "Bayaya", "Old Czech Legends", "Good Soldier Sveik", and Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream". These feature films and many short ones are proclaimed classics and are as well



known as Disney in the film world. Trnka was scriptwriter, designer, painter and director of all his films and many books were written about his genius and multiple talents. I was so fortunate to have had the privilege of working with him as part of the team.

Glove puppets

Later, I continued in my profession in London, working mainly in cartoon animation as production co-ordinator, I also continued designing and making puppets for various occasions. For instance, I made glove puppets from papier mashe. A model was first made in clay, then covered with Plaster of Paris which, when separated into two pieces, provided two moulds into which papier mashe was pressed. When the paper was quite dry the two halves were lifted from the moulds and glued together. The figure could then be built up. The colour of the face was made from coloured chalk mash, the facial features painted in and the hair fitted. The really difficult work came when a moveable mouth was required for talking or smoking a pipe!

'Stop frame' technique

Some years ago I made puppets from pipecleaners. Somehow they had to be animated under the camera. I used soft wire turning it twice round to form a strong skeleton. The feet and head were made from modelling substance. It is very important when constructing the feet of puppets to see that they can be nailed to the surface from the top

or screwed from underneath, for in this particular method of shooting called the "stop frame technique", the puppets must be animated in many small movements and the final result must look smooth and not jerky.

In the same way I designed and made a puppet for shooting with a 16 mm camera for the Limb Centre of Roehampton Hospital. I already had a metal skeleton and legs and the body and the head were made from egg shell hardened with papier mashe. The hair of the puppet was made from fur, and he wore a felt hat and trousers, cotton shirt and a leather waistcoat. The shoes required special attention because he had to walk like a human being. The whole film ran for 3 minutes and the result, with accompanying music, was very successful and

served as a contribution to part of a scientific film to be sent for a medical congress.

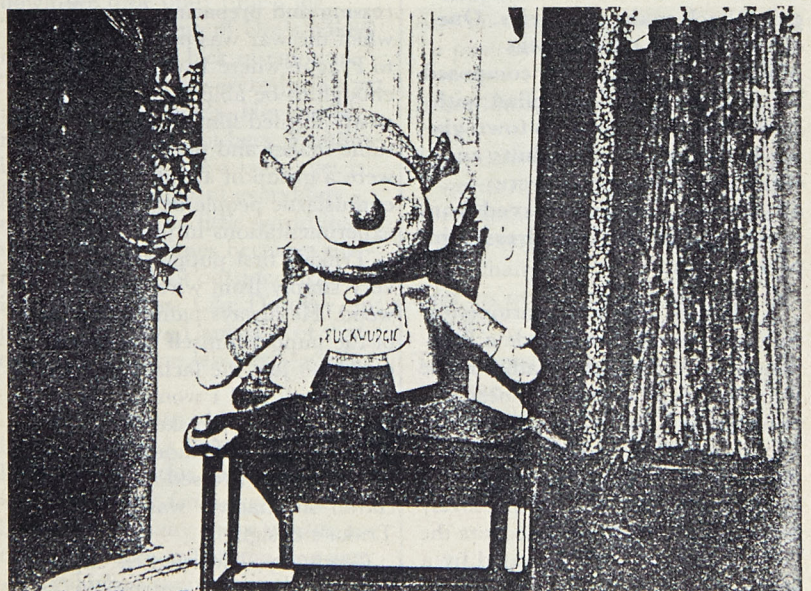
A puppet for BBC

On another occasion I made a puppet for BBC 1. It had to be made to requirements and needed no movement. There had to be two models of the same puppet, one 10 inches high and the other about 20 inches. I carved the heads and faces from polystyrene and made the skin with coloured mash. I made the body from foam, and dressed it in felt which had been soaked in heavy starch. I would like to mention that work on puppet animation is very much more laborious than for cartoon animation, and usually takes much longer than one expects.

New horizons

Since I became disabled I am unable to use my left arm and fingers for shooting purposes, but I have not given up and have learned other crafts such as tapestry, mosaic, copper plaques, relief figures etc. Recently I have been learning to paint with the Conquest group at Woking and have even tried to animate a little 8 mm film with my good hand.

(With acknowledgement to Spectrum the arts magazine for the physically handicapped published by Conquest.)





United Nations Corner

UNICEF

W.H.O.

"Health for all by the year 2000: The count-down has begun."

These arresting words are taken from the cover of "World Health", the popular magazine of the World Health Organisation in which one hundred and fifty eight countries co-operate in the field of health and have set for themselves this common goal.

W.H.O. became a U.N. Specialised Agency in 1946, an event which is commemorated annually on 7th April, World Health Day. Health for all by the year 2000 does not mean that by then disease and disability will no longer exist. It does mean, hopefully, that resources for health will be accessible to everyone. The key to attaining the goal of H/2000 is PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

This means tackling the enormous task at the grass roots—with mothers, babies, children—as close as possible to where people live and work. It means educating the whole community through individuals belonging to that community. "The days are over," writes Dr.

Halfdan Mahler, Director-General of the W.H.O.

"when action for health was the prerogative of all-knowing individuals holding their professional secrets to themselves and handing out doses of it to ignorant, passive, patients lining up for charity."

In the developing countries, for example in Ahmedabad in North West India, where Mahatma Gandhi lived for many years, it means the Sanitation Institute, established primarily to work on the conversion of bucket latrines to water-flushed ones. So far 150,000 have been converted in the State of Gujarat. In Bangladesh, where 8 out of 10 babies are malnourished from the misuse of milk powder, the battle is on to educate mothers and to encourage breast-feeding. Throughout the developing countries W.H.O. is co-operating with UNICEF and UNESCO in an all-out effort in basic health education.

"World Health" (Sw.fr 25 for one year's subscription) Can be ordered from "World Health", W.H.O., Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Elizabeth Greenwood

PAM PHILLIPS

looks at the flaws in

MOTABILITY

Although I suffer from cerebral palsy and am unemployable, I like to keep as physically and mentally active as possible. I endeavour to keep active by taking part in sports. Swimming, horse riding and sailing are my main sports but I have had a go at many others. A leading medical opinion states that taking part in sport does more for the physically disabled than any amount of physiotherapy or any other kind of therapy. You will be wondering what taking part in various sports has to do with mobility. I will tell you.

I find that the cost of taking part in these sports is minimal compared with the cost of getting to the venues where the sports take place. It is ironic that the only sporting venue I receive free transport to is my swimming club which is the nearest to me. When I grumble about the lack of free transport for the physically disabled someone will say, "You get Mobility Allowance, use it to pay for a taxi." What people do not realize is that one taxi fare to one riding lesson takes up nearly a week's mobility allowance so you are stuck in the house for the rest of the week. Other people tell me to exchange my mobility allowance for a car from motability. This would be wonderful, if the motability scheme covered the whole cost of the car which it does not.

I must applaud the London borough who, a few months ago, started a sponsored taxi fare scheme whereby the local authority subsidized the taxi fares of all the physically disabled people in their area, so enabling the disabled to stretch their mobility allowance a little further. I have heard people say that the mobility allowance (which goes up to £19.10 in November) is extremely generous. However, when one considers that the taxi fare from my home to the riding school where I ride is £13, it does not seem so generous. The voluntary organisations expect you to pay the cost of their petrol. This varies from organisation to organisation. Still, I find that it is best to have a volunteer driver then people cannot call you a snob, as they often do to me when I have a taxi. Little do they realise that you are giving up something else to afford a taxi. I do not smoke. I have heard of people who spend more on smoking than I do on taxis in a week.

Yes, I have often thought of learning to drive a car, but with driving lessons at £9 for half an hour's lesson—I have been told that I would need a hundred driving lessons before attempting a driving test—this would cost me £900. My mobility allowance would be used under the motability scheme for buying the car, so what would I use to pay for driving lessons? I am unemployable and have to live on a pension. The motability scheme as I understand it, does not cover insurances or repairs which surely are the two items that make motoring so costly.

The above is how I see my transport problem. I expect other physically disabled people are in the same predicament. I hope that someone somewhere will read this article and be in a position to do something about it.



The LONDON HOTEL for DISABLED PEOPLE

Hotel's Initiative

On the 14th October, 1983, invited guests and members of the board of The London Hotel for Disabled People assembled at the Scarsdale Suite, Kensington, for the official opening by the Duke of Westminster, of the 18 specially converted bedrooms for disabled guests at the Tara Hotel. The occasion was also attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea—Councillor Mrs. Iain Hanham, accompanied by Councillor Adrian Fitzgerald, Vice Chairman of the Borough's Social Services Committee, and Mr. Illyd Harrington, Deputy Leader of the GLC with special responsibility for social services.

The £50,000 to adapt the rooms was raised by the charity London Hotel for Disabled People Ltd., which involves several charitable organizations, whose aim is to establish a purpose-built hotel to provide low priced hotel rooms for people with disabilities. The Tara Hotel project was launched to bridge the gap until the new hotel is established.

The Duke, who is Patron of the London Hotel for Disabled People,

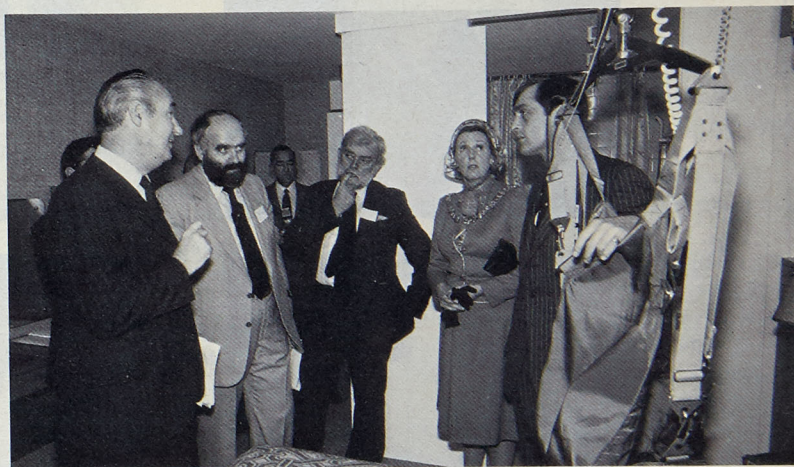
congratulated the hotel on being the first in the capital to offer such special facilities at a reasonable price as well as those involved, for it was not often a group of charities joined together to combine expertise, he stated. He had been immensely impressed with what he had seen and hoped that the rooms would be well used. His interest in various organizations for the disabled had led him to believe that society would have to accept that disabled people must take their rightful place in life and the way we live.

Cheques were presented to Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman of the London Hotel for Disabled People

Ltd., by Mr. Harrington (GLC) and Mr. Tom East (English Tourist Board) to help further the project, after which followed a session of questions and answers between the members of the Board, the architect and the invited guests, many of whom were disabled and had stayed at the hotel.

Refreshments and conducted visits to the adapted rooms at the Tara Hotel were given.

For further information, please contact the London Hotel for Disabled People Ltd., Juxon House, 94 St. Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8EH.



Acknowledgement: John Creasey



The Winged Fellowship Trust

The Winged Fellowship Trust recognising the difficulties that deprive handicapped people of a holiday and deny their relatives that rest, often so desperately needed, have established three purpose-built centres in Surrey, Essex and Nottinghamshire, open from March to December and accommodating 2,000 severely physically disabled people for fortnightly holidays each year.

Each centre has its own manager and small resident staff of young men and women, supported by volunteers—also mainly young, who in return for free board and lodging work with them, giving their time and their strength to care for the disabled guests and creating, in so doing, a relaxed holiday atmosphere. Each year some 3,000 volunteers are involved, coming from all parts of the world. It is no easy job,

many of them have never faced severe disability before, let alone been asked to look after a chair-bound person in a very personal capacity; yet there are few failures and their contribution is a heartening reflection upon young people of today. For further information, contact Emma Parkinson, Winged Fellowship Trust, 2nd Floor, 64-66 Oxford Street, London, W1N 0AL. Tel: 01-636-5575/5886.

Sound the Trumpet

by RAYMOND J. G. WELLS

In the far-off South East Asian kingdom of Thailand—a country made famous in the West through the film and stage play “The King and I”, the elephant has a unique place. In this staunchly Buddhist country every year there is an elephant round-up in Surin . . . even during the festive Rattanakosin season it is the most important event on the tour calendar. Local Thais descend on Surin by every conceivable means of transport—cycle, motor-cycle, rickshaw, buffalo—there’s no limit to the forms of transport. Thais come from as far as the other end of the kingdom while foreign visitors pour in in bus and train loads. They all come to see just what Asia’s largest animal—the elephant—can do.

Superstitions galore!

The Thai people hold the giant, grey elephant in great esteem—the Asian elephant is slightly smaller than the African species—and they even believe that the shape of their attractive country resembles the head of the elephant. The Thai elephant, in contrast to those in Africa, is fairly easily domesticated for within a matter of weeks a good elephant trainer can have a life-long and obedient friend. In the forests that abound in Thailand you can watch elephants at work hauling great timber logs. A lot of superstitions surround the country’s most revered animals. Tradition decrees that women should observe a number of strict rules when their menfolk are out on an elephant hunt . . . no guest can stay overnight, mothers should not scold their children or cut their hair, and the house must not be swept.

Annual Surin Festival

The North East’s most popular festival is the annual elephant round-up at Surin. This is always held, come what may, on the third Saturday of November. In this extremely well patronised tribute to Thailand’s best loved animal, over

two hundred of the giant beasts are assembled to entertain the huge crowd. Few are disappointed. The elephants perform a range of tasks well beyond the ability of many smaller domesticated animals. Last year the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) organised an overnight trip to Surin for the festival—it was a great success. For only \$100, the tourist was given a first-class train ride (including sleeper), entrance to the elephant show, a trip to a silk-weaving village, folk dance demonstrations and all meals were provided. Because of the success of this venture TAT is repeating this, and it is likely to become a permanent excursion.

The Surin elephants play soccer!

At Surin the festival takes place over two days. There are elephant races, demonstrations of old-style elephant hunts as well as numerous displays of the strength and versatility of the elephant and their endearing gentleness. The Surin festival recreates battle scenes of yesterday and there is a tug-of-war between an elephant and 70 members of the Royal Thai Army. There are elephant races in which the swiftness of the animal is well demonstrated—in short sprints they can reach speeds of up to 35 kilometres an hour. The Surin elephants play soccer, pick up matchboxes with their trunks, and obey different commands; they also take part in a battle parade.

‘an agile animal’

In spite of their great bulk the elephant is an exceptionally agile animal. This was amply demonstrated at last years festival in Surin when some fifty elephants formed the initials of Surin province, firstly in Thai and secondly, in English. No one, rich or poor, young or old, Thai or foreigner, who visits the Surin festival is not somehow moved by the events—the time when Thailand’s elephants have their very own day at the elephant round-up.

Aliens

If I ever saw one, I wouldn’t stop
or stare
I’d just walk by, my gaze ahead,
pretend he wasn’t there
I mean, I know they’re human, just
like you and me,

But, well, it’s hard to realise that,
seeing what you see.
You know, the stunted ones, the
crippled ones, with wasted limbs
astrew,
the dribbly ones and dopey ones
who haven’t got a clue.
I mean, they’re all so — alien, so
unlike me and you.

They make such funny noises,
you’d hardly call it talk
They wriggle and they jerk about,
and have you seen them walk?
I shouldn’t like my little girl to meet
one, she might scream
Such creatures should be locked
away, unheard, unfelt, unseen.

Oh God, I’ve had an accident, I’m
paralysed for life
I’ve lost my job, my home, my car,
my children and my wife
I’ve also lost the power of speech
and can’t control my head
I suffer fits and lose my wits and
wish that I was dead.

My friends no longer visit
My children only write
(Their mother says she doesn’t want
to cause them any fright)
Acquaintances I sometimes meet
while drifting around the town
But all they do is look away, or up,
or out, or down.

So if you ever see me, please do
stop and stare,
Don’t walk on by, your gaze ahead,
as if I wasn’t there.
For having heard my story, let it be
your guide,
Remember, it could come to you,
We’re all the same inside.

Pat Reeves

*With acknowledgement to Wessex SIA
Newsletter.*

. . . his most important task is to get the Cheshire Home at Dodoma off the ground. .



A charming and totally unexpected trouble-shooter is due to hit Africa soon. He is Brother John, a teaching monk of the Marist Order, who has brought a fresh breeze of Geordie air to Maunsel Street, where in recent weeks he has been preparing for a three part mission. Totally belying his 55 years, this former paratrooper and SAS soldier keeps physically fit by jogging and aerobics these days. He will need his robust health almost as much as his missionary spirit for working journeys stretching from Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania to Katumba near Lake Tanganyika some 1,000 miles away.

From a Foundation point of view probably his most important task is to get the Cheshire Home at Dodoma off the ground. This home has been a project for ten years and he has to get the buildings finished, staff recruited and organised and future residents—all mentally handicapped—assessed and installed. For this he is specially qualified as a B.Ed. of Hull University (he is also a BA of London), where he specialised in mental handicap and has several years of practical experience teaching in Scotland. Incidentally, he was the oldest member of the Hull University Rugby side playing scrum half at 45! The Dodoma task was given to him by Leonard Cheshire, after they met each other in Lusaka in April. Plans were worked out with Father Doheny our Liaison Officer in Africa.

Brother John

by *BILL SIMPSON*

While in Dodoma, Brother John will help with the development of the Cheshire Home at Mpapwa, which was initiated by its Head of Home, an Italian missionary priest, Father Simonetti, and is for physically handicapped children. He will use the land rover, which British Leyland and the Foundation helped him to acquire, to carry supplies of new leg calipers, crutches, artificial hands and other surgical aids, mostly provided by our Cheshire Home, Carnsalloch in Scotland where Brother John stayed for a week and was "adopted" by staff and residents while he became familiar with Foundation efforts. However, probably of even greater dimension is the work he has undertaken to do for the Ryder Cheshire Mission, where at Katumba some 105,000 refugees—2,000 of whom are disabled—are near starvation, innocent victims of drought and man's inhumanity to man. Since Katumba is in far western Tanzania, 1000 miles from the United Nations relief and rehabilitation base, a mammoth task of logistics awaits Brother John. At the wheel of the land rover or astride the Honda XL25DR, a trials motor

bike adapted for all terrain ("it can even climb trees") he will no doubt face the task with verve.

Obviously all these activities involve a good deal of expense and Brother John is no laggard at raising funds with the memory of the starving children he has seen so often before in Africa as a missionary for his order—he has been a Marist since his teens—and in his army service. While in Scotland recently he found the Scottish bishops melting to his pleas, and apart from other generous help from organised charitable sources he even picked up £1,000 from an old friend in Hull. He is still wide open to all offers—from inside our Foundation as at Carnsalloch where the residents spontaneously dipped into their pockets or from anyone who cares. Writing about Brother John is easy to begin and difficult to end. He says that he is still organising funds and equipment sufficient to keep him going for two years and intends to fill up the landrover before leaving for Africa at the end of October. Many friends here will wish him Godspeed—and he promises to be in touch with the Cheshire Smile from time to time.



(Acknowledgements to North Herts Gazette).

PRIZE SNAPPER

Prize winning cameraman Chris Woodcock has found that being in a wheelchair sometimes gives him an advantage over other photographers. He is often able to catch more natural shots because people don't find his camera so conspicuous. "When people look at you their first image is of someone in a wheelchair and not someone with a camera," explained Chris, a resident in the Herts Cheshire Home in St. John's Road, Hitchin. "This can help to keep you in the background a bit and mean a more candid picture in the end."

Chris 36, won first and third prize in a nationwide photographic competition organised by the Cheshire Homes. Despite regularly winning prizes with the Stevenage Camera Club, Chris regards this as his highest achievement yet.

The judge was the director of the Photographic Gallery in London. "Nice things were said about my work, and when they're said by someone who really knows about photography it makes you feel quite proud," he said.

Photography was once no more than a passing interest for Chris, prompted by his father's passion for it. But then Chris was in a car smash 11 years ago which left him paralysed from the chest down with only limited muscular control in his hands, and it became much more important.

He said: "After something like that happens to you, you eventually think you are learning to cope. You can listen to music and read, but you suddenly realise that's not

enough. "You need to progress and really achieve something. I found one of my father's old cameras, shot off a few rolls and was quite pleased with the result.

My interest developed from there, and that's not meant to be a pun," said Chris, who works as a civil engineer for the French Kier Construction company in Sandy during the day while he devotes his evenings and weekends to his hobby. He has found his professional skills invaluable in his hobby, and has designed a frame to steady the camera on his wheelchair.

Chris's portfolio includes everything from surrealist self-portraits to landscapes. "Obviously it's a bit frustrating when you can't get to a particularly good vantage point but patience overcomes most problems," he said. His prizewinning photograph was taken on a sheep farm in Wales. He has already held one successful exhibition at the Hitchin Museum and hopes to hold another soon.

Tongue tied

Wheeled into a space,
A vacant corner
That feels like oblivion,
Out of contact
Unable to move or call for help.
Yearn for the loo
What am I to do?
Wish I could walk there
C'mon somebody
Where is that care?
Where is that thought?
Put to bed
Got up
Fed at the appointed time
But in between —
Is man a non thinking island
Confined to his chair
unable to move,
Often unable to speak?
Deprived of rational, human contact
Unclean, unclean, you know what
I mean
Is it beyond comprehension
That a mind may still be active
Eager and willing to help.
However we are the sick
Psychologically unfit.
Paranoics carefully conditioned
Not to mention confused
by time spent in immobility,
waiting for what —
Stripped of independence
often self respect.
Pavlov may have part of the answer
Clinical study the rest
But we are not supposed to comprehend
Not meant to notice
The intonation of voices
Not meant to understand the Philosophies
Of gestures or words
And therein lies the rub
Simple responsibility helps,
Even a begrudging, condescendant thanks
Dehumanising like water dripping
Even a stone shows wear.
But some people are made only to resist;
Defiant but never rude in return.
Why stick out your tongue
When your neck will do?

With acknowledgements to the Heatherley Newsletter, Spring 1983.

N INTERNATIONAL W S

SCDIFA

The Annual Conference of the South African Homes was held in Durban in September, 1983. The new SCDIFA Cheshire Home for mentally and physically handicapped Indian children is a delightfully converted former police station (!) with a flag pole still attached—arrangements are being made for a flag to be sent out with the home's name on it. (The Matron, Mrs. Winnie Yende, is the lady in a white uniform in the middle of the picture).



RANGSIT

The Rangsit Cheshire Home held a simple luncheon party to celebrate Founder's Day on 7th September 1983. Herbert Link, a committee member gave the assembled company a short address in which he thanked everyone concerned with the home for their valued help, both in cash and kind and then went on to tell of the plans for the future. At the present time there are three Cheshire homes in Thailand with a fourth in the planning stages. It is hoped to build the new home in Ban Cha-am on land donated some years ago by Mom Svoe Svasti. Prof. Krisda Arunvongs and his CASA CO. Ltd. are very kindly designing this two-storey seaside home to accommodate permanent residents—up to 12 to begin with—and visiting residents for holidays from Bang Ping, Rangsit and Chiang Mai. To raise the one million Baht needed, they are trying to sell some of the land they own. At the moment they have little over Bt.450,000, so further fund raising will have to be done. Hopefully by this time next year the 4th home will be a reality.



SINGAPORE

—SITE BLESSING



The Holy Men Arrive: Left to right—Ven. Seck Hong Choon, Rev. J. R. de Rozario, Swami Rajeshwarananda

There was great excitement at the home in Changi on the morning of Saturday, 9th July when all who could attend were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the hired bus which was to take them to the multi-religious ceremony of blessing the site of the new premises being built for the home in Serangoon Gardens, a residential suburb of Singapore.

The ground at the site was a sea of mud after heavy rain during the week and early in the morning of the big day. A large awning had been erected to provide shelter for those attending the ceremony while a vast tarpaulin had been spread underfoot to give protection from the quagmire. The sun shone from a clear sky and a gentle, persistent breeze made the morning delightfully cool.

Upon arrival, the residents were helped from their transport and taken to their places by volunteers from the Air Engineering Training Institute at Changi, committee members and staff. Then came the priests and representatives of the major religions in Singapore who were to conduct the ceremony. They were greeted by a member of the



Council of Governors, Tuan Haji Mohamed Khan, who himself represented Islam at the ceremony. The other religious leaders were Erwed Behram R. Vakil, High Priest of the Zoroastrian faith, Gyani Bikar Singh (Sikh religion), Rev. J. R. de Rozario (Christianity), Swami Rajeshwarananda (Hinduism) and another member of the Council of Governors, the Venerable Seck Hong Choon, Abbot of the Phor Kark See Temple, representing the

In a twenty-five minute ceremony the venerable gentlemen, all of whom were members of the Inter-Religious Organization of Singapore, each in turn offered prayers and blessed the site. It was a deeply moving occasion, made especially so by the common spirit and purpose of the participants and their easy co-operation and friendliness.

The new premises should be completed in August 1984. They will



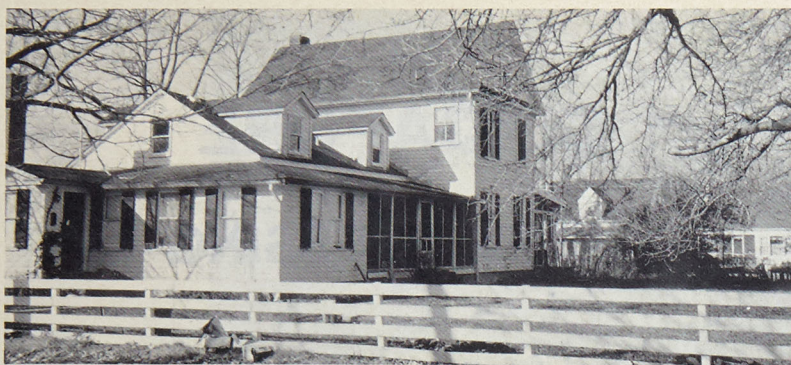
The Site-blessing Ceremony. Left to right: Erwed Behram R. Vakil, Zoroastrian; Gyani Bikar Singh, Sikh; Swami Rajeshwarananda, Hindu; Rev. J. R. de Rozario, Christian; Venerable Seck Hong Choon, Buddhist; Tuan Haji Mohamed Khan, Muslim;

Buddhist religion. (Unfortunately the Jewish Rabbi could not attend as Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath).

The Gathering was essentially a simple "family" group of those directly connected with the home, i.e. some residents, staff, volunteers and committee members and their friends. There were no official guests.

The Venerable Seck Hong Choon says a special "thanks-giving" prayer. Mrs. Maisie Ko, Chairman of the Management Committee, is on the left.

provide a more permanent home for our residents many of whom still remember their original, lovely home by the sea at Telok Paku—now buried beneath the runway of the spectacular new Singapore International Airport. Some of them will undoubtedly miss living by the sea, but Serangoon Gardens is an attractive "village" and there will be the stimulating amenity of a large new Community Centre immediately next door. This will open up new channels of interest for the residents, enable them to join and help in the Centre's activities, make new friends and to develop a sense of identity with the Serangoon Gardens community.



POLLY MORRISON HOME USA

The Western Region Conference was held at the Xavier Centre, Florham Park, New Jersey from 9-11th September, 1983, and was attended by representatives from many of the homes. Unfortunately no-one from the homes in South America was able to attend. It was announced that a home in Philadelphia had been purchased for the grand sum of \$14,501. A second home has been rented in Reno, and funds are being raised to establish a full-scale home.

In Arlington, Virginia, the second home—the Cleveland Cheshire Home—has just opened with the first eleven residents moving in during September. A request for Cheshire T-shirts from Arlington for a fair at the British Embassy in Washington was in danger of not being met owing to the roof of the shirt factory collapsing. A week before the event and after a rush job they were ready, and magically Debbie from our travel agents was going to the U.S. the day before they were required, and they had a V.I.P. flight over on Concorde.



O'DWYER CHESHIRE HOME RATHFREDAGH

Group Captain Cheshire visited Ireland in 1983, attending the annual Fete and Gymkhana at Rathfredagh in Newcastle West and officially opened the new extension at the home. The extension cost £40,000—all of which was subscribed or collected by support groups and individual friends. The home receives no money from the Department of Health. A new extension was also opened by Group

Captain Cheshire at O'Dwyer Cheshire Home in Bohola, where fund-raising is on a large scale—they raise £30,000 annually at the ball held in Dublin. This home, also, receives no current grant from the Department of Health.

G.C. also visited the St. Laurence Home in Co. Cork, and met the Steering Committee of the proposed home in Galway.

OTTAWA

Mrs. Pamela Farrell, Trustee, visited two Cheshire Homes in Ottawa in September, after attending the Western Regional Conference.

Group Homes in Canada are limited to a maximum of nine residents. Above this they become nursing homes with much stricter regulations. Both Telci and C.O.R.D.I. are attractive ground-floor houses with basements, modern and excellently furnished and equipped. Both are staffed in a similar manner, with one person on duty all the time—but only one—and maximum use is made of resident participation. Both cater for younger residents, and many are able to go out to work, or study, making full use of the superb special door-to-door transportation service available to all disabled people in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa and Carleton.

The residents in Telci must be very badly sight-impaired, as well as physically disabled.

QUEBEC

Mrs. Farrell also visited Quebec to open officially the first Cheshire Home there. During her stay she linked up with the Montreal Rehabilitation Centre who wanted to set up a group home and apartments for integrated living in the French quarter of Montreal. The Director of Social Services offered to bring these two projects under the Cheshire Foundation umbrella.

KUMASI

Denise Tabernacle, who is in Ghana investigating the possibilities of a Cheshire Home in Kumasi, frequently writes to us while sitting in a petrol queue, and a six-hour wait in a queue for a bus is not unusual. If patience is a virtue, Denise is storing up a good supply. Denise made brief visits to Liberia and The Gambia to see what the needs for Cheshire Homes in these countries are.

N INTERNATIONAL W S

TORONTO

The Toronto "Homes" are more Independent Living facilities than residential Homes as we know them though they vary quite a bit in the way they are organised. Each "facility" is run by the equivalent of a local Committee, though in some cases the Committee consists solely of the disabled residents.

The facility in each instance consists of a series of apartments in an apartment block, not necessarily contiguous. The tenants live independently to organise their own lives, but they are able to call upon whatever home help or other services they need through a director. The director has an office in the apartment block, and there is usually an assistant. Thus, a tenant may say that she wants somebody to help her get out of bed at 8 o'clock and to cook her a meal at 1 o'clock. Public transport for disabled people is readily available, but if this is not practical the director will make other arrangements.

The tenants do not own the leases, the organisation does, and most of the property is leased from government.

Extract from Group Captain Cheshire's report on his visit to Toronto in September.

GLAD

For some time this organisation has been producing information sheets on topics of particular interest to disabled people.

These sheets will be circulated through Borough Associations and Glad Clubs, but disabled individuals will be able to receive them free of charge by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the information department.

Copies of the sheet are available at a cost of 50p each or £2.50 for 50, plus packing and posting, for organisations, from GLAD, 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL.

PLAN CHEST

Keith Cook

I have had a basinful . . .

. . . often means that after much trying, we still have not got a basinful! There are so many problems which occur around the wash-basin when it is to be used by someone in a wheelchair and we are all quite sure it should be higher or lower, closer or more shallow with the taps at the side or back. It seems impossible to arrive at one standard solution, but a generally acceptable starting-point is needed.

At Centre Office I am questioned so often on the design principles that Mr. Wycliffe Noble has prepared a detail sheet, suggesting some answers. I would not normally recommend the use of expensive hydraulic lifting and lowering frames for basins in bedrooms, as they are used so rarely and are far from attractive. Any adjustment means that a gap has to be left between the work-top and the wall and to prevent the annoyance of vanishing talc and after-shave, this should be as small as possible. A simple three-position bolted fixing, capable of being moved by a handyman, works well and, if flexible connections to taps and waste are used, this should cause little delay. The choice of basin and the elimination, if possible, of a front rail help in obtaining clearance underneath without making a work-top unacceptably high.

Projects Update

We have discussed in this column how Groups throughout the country are looking into new aspects of independent living and the influences of this study are very evident in the patterns of design now being employed in the new buildings. Various forms of group, family or cluster lay-outs are planned, and I hope to be able to reproduce some of these in later editions of the "Smile".

The replacement of Springwood House on a new site in Liverpool will, hopefully, soon commence, and this will be a "design build" contract by a Systems Building Contractor, based on the architect's lay-out drawings, with a Performance Specification for the structure. This is the first time a complete Cheshire Home has adopted this method, and I will be monitoring

the contract throughout and will be pleased to discuss the advantages and implications with anyone who is interested in its use.

Glamis House, the new Fifeshire Cheshire Home, is now roofed in and weathertight, and progress is good toward an occupation in June. The accommodation is for sixteen residents in two groups, and the site is sufficient for a further development of independent housing. The area is predominantly residential and the local shopping centre is easily accessible by wheelchair through a pedestrianised area, with the cars in this instance being restricted.

Broadmark Place, which will be the new Rustington site for St. Bridget's, also nestles amongst mixed housing, and work is expected to start in the spring on construction. Six clusters of 4 to 6 bedrooms, will each form a bungalow-type grouping, well suited to the surrounding development.

Staunton Harold in Leicestershire will hopefully commence their new building at Netherseal in February and the lay-out will be interconnected clusters of bedrooms and lounges around a courtyard. The site is slightly above the main street in a village setting and has a fine selection of trees and shrubs.

Two completely new Homes are at preliminary planning stage on sites which have been acquired at Brampton, new Cambridge, and Chigwell in Essex. Again, new principles of grouping are being incorporated, and it is hoped that both these sites will have independent housing as a second phase development.

1984 already looks exciting with the work in hand, and I would appreciate your news and observations at any time.

It is Foundation policy that all residents of Cheshire Homes be afforded the protection of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Disabled Persons. Broadly speaking, it means that we have the same rights as do all equivalent able-bodied members of our free society except for the unavoidable restrictions placed on us by our disability.



We should suffer no other restrictions that are not a direct result of our disability. These rights are laid down in the compact and very readable Handbook of Care for Residential Homes for the Physically Handicapped, published by the Foundation and hopefully, readily available for you to read. It could well be an eye-opener for a lot of people.



Every Home has a Constitution, approved by the Foundation Trustees, laying down the objectives, principles and broad method of operation by which the Home should be run. That this Constitution is adhered to is the prime responsibility of the Management Committee for that Home, each member of which is approved by the Trustees. A Trustee, the "Link Trustee", is appointed to guide and keep an eye on the activities of the Management Committee. He is the "long-stop", a person with ultimate power and veto over the Management Committee should they go astray. For the day to day running of the Home the Management Committee, with resident participation, appoint a Head of Home and often a separate person as Head of Care.



They're the people with whom we are mostly in contact, finally ensuring that our rights are respected and the Home is run along the lines laid down in the Handbook of Care. So the principles of care are backed by a well established and successful structure—the Foundation Trustees with all their advisory bodies in London, then the Link Trustee, the Management Committee, Heads of Home and Care and our own elected residents on the various committees of the Home.

INTERFERENCE



by John Lambert

A Cheshire Home is therefore NOT autonomous, although some Management Committees are under the impression that their Home is, and think they can have the Home run in disregard of a constitution that includes the principles of care.



All our Homes are different and so, unfortunately, are the standards of care. To be blunt, there are good Homes, acceptable Homes and downright bad Homes. If the Handbook of Care was followed they would all be good. I suggest that it is due mostly to interference and partly lack of interference that this situation exists.



At grass root level there are we residents living as normal a life as possible often having our rights of freedom, choice and self-determination interfered with by Home staff, no matter how well meaning it might be. The solution here, ultimately and via the proper channels, is for the Management Committee to put things right.



Next comes too much interference by the Management Committee in the activities of the Head of Home/Care in their running of the Home. If appointed carefully, Heads of Home/Care should be left alone to the day to day running of the Home. Certainly members of the Management Committee should be acquainted with how the Home is run and it is admirable for them to partake in the day to day chores, but not in the routine decision making. The Management Committee should be able to remain in the background concentrating on general policy, and only very rarely be required to interfere with the Home's day to day operation.

It is my opinion that a major cause of a Home not being up to standard is because the Management Committee is not up to standard, or is misinterpreting their role. This is when the Link Trustee should start interfering in the most diplomatic of ways to redirect the Committee on to the right course. Nobody is going to pretend that all members of all Management Committees undertake the task with the highest quality of motivation. They are ordinary fallible people, and although carefully selected it is inevitable that wrongly motivated people slip through on to the Committees—they may even become Chairman. What a sensitive task the Link Trustee has then to undertake. Bad publicity has to be avoided at all costs but nevertheless, action has to be taken. Perhaps a little more interference at this level would improve a lot of Homes.



I have just read a paper written by the Trustees in which they state they would like to see more discussion of care related issues at Management Committee level. Hopefully, all residents in all Homes have had access to this paper. Most of the proposals are laudable—general discussion of care issues can lead to improvements in care standards and clarify and extend the knowledge and awareness of Committee members in relation to care matters. But one of the stated objectives of such discussions is "To extend knowledge and awareness (of care matters) in order to facilitate decision making about the needs of individuals when necessary". This is in direct contravention of a statement in the Handbook of Care which, to quote part of it says, "On the very rare occasions when a strictly personal matter concerning a resident has to be discussed"



Pictured at a party to thank the staff and supporters of The Green Cheshire Home for Mentally Handicapped Children at Christleton, Chester, which has now closed are: left to right Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, Mrs. Jean Cox (Matron), Mr. Vere Arnold (Chairman of the steering committee), and Mrs. Arnold, Viscount Leverhulme, and Mr. G. K. Stratton (Chairman of the Management Committee). With Mrs. Jean Cox is Mandy, one of the last children who were awaiting alternative accommodation.

Interference— cont.

Our personal care is a strictly personal matter between ourselves, the care staff, Head of Care and GP, to be discussed only on very rare occasions by the Management Committee, not, as is being proposed, on a regular basis. Preferably, in my opinion, it should not be discussed by them at all. It is none of their business, and to my mind is gross interference by lay people into my personal life, and also into the duties of a trained and experienced Head of Care. Such regular nosiness could really attract the wrong sort of person on to our Management Committees.

However, one aspect of the proposals could be useful. It suggests that the Link Trustee and Care Advisers be present during the early stages of these discussions. Could they not then also be used to direct wayward Management Committees on to the right path? Tactful interference?

To finish on a different note, the Handbook of Care states in regard to staff, "Hospital uniforms, badges and identification labels should be avoided." It is rare indeed to open this magazine and not see a photograph of a smiling matron and staff in uniform.

FAREWELL PARTY

At a farewell party for supporters of The Green Cheshire Home for Mentally Handicapped Children in Christleton, Chester in October, the Group Captain personally expressed his thanks to the staff and hundreds of local volunteers who had supported the home in the twenty years of its existence.

In March 1983 it was announced that plans were in hand to close The Green due to changing patterns of care and a steadily falling demand for places. A total of 350 children have passed through the home but at present only five are resident, still awaiting suitable placement. When they have been settled the home will close down, and will be sold, the proceeds going to the work of The Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Written off

My medico's prescription
Elicited some giggles,
Consisting as it did
Of spider tracts and squiggles.
I took it to the chemist;
He held it to his nose
And said "I'm very sorry,
We've run right out of those."
I hurried to another,
Who said "God bless my soul!

It must of course be Sanskrit —
Perhaps a Dead Sea Scroll."
To yet a third dispenser
My problem I submitted:
He said in his opinion
It would look better knitted.
Then home I went, despairing —
To find I'd lost my pain.
The exercise had cured me
And now I'm right as rain.

E.S. (Alne Hall newsletter.)

Wonderful examples of the artistry and skills of residents from Cheshire Homes in England and Wales and Homes overseas were displayed at The Creative Activity Contest 1983, held in The Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre, Victoria, London, SW1 on Wednesday, 21st September.

The judges were as follows: **Paintings, Sir Roy Strong, (a leading figure in London's art world); Literature (Poetry and Prose) Lady Wilson a judge of the famous Booker Literary Prize; Photography, Mr. Mark Gerson; distinguished portrait photographer; Handicrafts Mrs. B. Luetchford, Miss B. Collins and Mrs. B. Petherbridge, all Senior Tutors of The Hand Craft Advisory Association for the Disabled.**

Prize winners and runners up were as follows:

U.K. Paintings. 1st Phyllis Pocock, (Coomb); 2nd Dorothy Davies (Coomb); 3rd Len Hellier (Douglas House). Highly Commended Certificates of Merit, Janie Snape (Oaklands); Joyce Brashaw (St. Michael's); Philip Read (Hutchings House).

U.K. Handicrafts Section A. 1st Peggy Marriott (Hovenden House); 2nd Phyllis Young (Le Court); 3rd Doris Birch (Llanhennock); Highly Commended Certificates of Merit, Rosa Krepa (St. Anthony's); Edna Herbert (Holme Lodge); Phyllis Pocock (Coomb).

U.K. Handicrafts Section B. 1st Lionel Hehir (Coomb); 2nd Megan Williams (Coomb); 3rd Gordon Hayes (Eithinog); Highly Commended Certificates of Merit Gary Eastley (Chipstead Lake); and Alan Brett (Chipstead Lake).

U.K. Handicrafts Section C. 1st Margaret Peirce (Douglas House); 2nd Hazel Hanson (Hydon Hill); 3rd Vivienne Matthews (St. Cecilia's); Highly Commended Certificates of Merit Maureen Downes (St. Cecilia's); Joan Hoult (Holme Lodge); and Jack de Wild (Holehird).

U.K. Photography. 1st David Johnson (Douglas House); 2nd Brenda Stewart (Hovenden House); 3rd Joseph Eyre (Hovenden House); Highly Commended Certificates of Merit Gary Eastley (Chipstead Lake); Harold Morel (John Masefield); Christine Simpson (Chipstead Lake); Joe Parks (Holehird)—tying marks.

U.K. Literature. (Prose Section). 1st Josephine Wagstaff (Douglas House); 2nd David Johnson (Douglas House); 3rd Mary Stiling (Douglas House). Highly Commended Certificates of Merit Christopher Kenworthy (Douglas House); Eileen Waters (Hovenden House), Timothy Downs (Chipstead Lake).

U.K. Literature. (Poetry Section). 1st Phyllis Young (Le Court); 2nd Earl Pinder (Mickley Hall); 3rd Dorothy Sorrell (Holehird), Highly Commended Certificates of Merit John Parsons (Coomb); Maureen Cogswell (Douglas House), Anthony Brown (Eithinog).

Overseas Prizes:

Paintings. 1st Amado Dulnvan (Sinag Tala Cheshire Home, Philippines); 2nd N. Krishnan Kutty (Trivandrum Cheshire Home, India); 3rd Linda Rif (Cheshire Homes of Regina, Canada); Highly Commended Certificates of Merit Rogelio Estigoy (Pangarap Cheshire Home, Philippines); Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan (Singapore Cheshire Home); Suwan Rasa (Bangping Cheshire Home, Thailand).

Photography. 1st Wong Tin Choi (Penang Cheshire Home, Malaysia), 2nd Wong Tin Choi (Penang Cheshire Home, Malaysia), 3rd Kumlar Noikaew (Chiang Mai Cheshire Home, Thailand).

Handicrafts. 1st Jee Tanoi (Chiang Mai Cheshire Home, Thailand); 2nd Francisca Matons (Hogar Bonanova Cheshire Home, Spain); 3rd Gabriela Roito (Ranchi Cheshire Home, India). Highly Commended Certificate of Merit: Prachuab Chairerk (Rangsit Cheshire Home, Thailand); Stephen Law (Sarawak Cheshire Home, Malaysia); Lily Looi Pak Lee (Penang Cheshire Home, Malaysia); Arb Graitong (Bangping Cheshire Home, Thailand), Krednatee Pramma (Bangping Cheshire Home, Thailand), Tong sai Noisri (Bangping Cheshire Home, Thailand) tying marks.

The Gwyn Gwilym Homes Cup for the U.K. Home achieving the greatest number of points in all sections was Hovenden House, Fleet, Near Spalding, Lincs, and The Gwyn Gwilym Overseas Cup for the Overseas Home gaining the greatest number of overall points was Rustomji P. Patel Home in Bihar, India.

Mr. Gwyn Gwilym, International Sales Development Director of Mars, who personally sponsored the contest for the second time, presented the Gwyn Gwilym Cups.

Sir Henry Marking, Deputy Chairman of the Foundation, standing in for Mr. Rowley, who was unwell, spoke of the great personal generosity of Mr. Gwyn Gwilym in making the contest possible and mentioned the enormous help and support he gave, not only in the U.K. but also to The Koutoubia Cheshire Home in Marrakech, despite a very demanding job which took him all over the world.

Responding, Mr. Gwilym said what an enormous pleasure it was to him and members of his family and colleagues to come to the Contest and how deeply impressed he was with the very high standard of the exhibits. There was great applause when he said he would be very pleased to sponsor the contest again in 1984.

Each judge then spoke briefly about their impressions of the work in their section and of what a difficult task it was to choose from so much work of such very high standard. They urged all competitors not to be disappointed if they had not gained an award. Often prizes were missed by only one mark. Winning was not the important thing. It was the joy and challenge of participation.

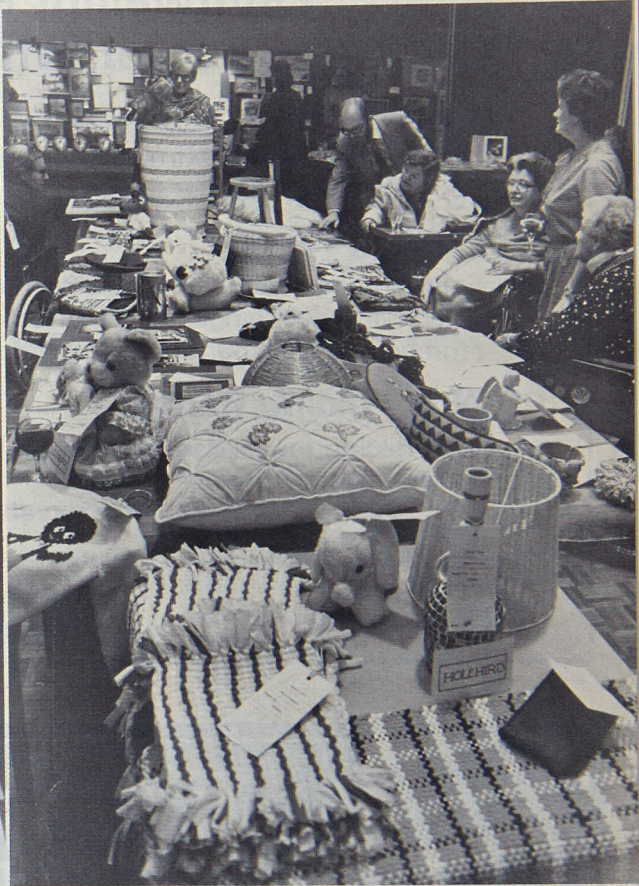
A sad note: Douglas House, winner of a number of prizes, broke down in their ambulance a few miles out of Brixham and were unable to attend.

Top left: Phyllis Pocock of Coomb with her winning painting.

Top right: A view of the exhibits.

Bottom: Sir Henry Marking, Mrs. Peter Rowley, Lady Wilson and Mr. Gwyn Gwilym viewing the winning paintings.

Creative Activity Contest



COUNTRYWIDE WORKSHOP is a new and unique marketing agency, established by Mrs. Valerie Wood-Gaiger, whose aim it is to sell products made by blind and disabled people through its colourful catalogue for which she has been appointed the agent.

The producers fall into three categories, self-employed disabled individuals; charitable organizations and local authority-supported workshops all three being spread throughout the country.

It will be noted that, unlike many other mail order catalogues, Countrywide's is not free, but costs £1.50. The reason for this is that Countrywide relies almost solely for its working funds, on the goods bought from the catalogue. This, incidentally, costs £1.48 a copy to produce and, if posted, an additional 36p must be added to this, of which 3p is the cost of the envelope.

For further information please contact Countrywide Workshops, 17c Earls Court Square, London, SW5. Tel: 01-373-9943.

PUBLICATIONS

The 1984 edition of **MUSEUMS & GALLERIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**, published by ABC Historic Publications, is a beautifully compiled book on whose pages are shown some of the treasures of our heritage. In nearly every area of Great Britain and Ireland there is an art gallery or museum waiting to be visited by interested individuals or groups—the list is endless. Sadly, for the disabled person, there is no indication of accessibility to any of these. Perhaps we can look forward to such information in a future edition.

Museums & Galleries is published annually in October and is available from leading booksellers (price £1.75) or direct from ABC Historic Publications, World Timetable Centre, Church Street, Dunstable, LU5 4HB. (price £2.50 post paid).

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION have recently published the second in a new series of Directories of charitable needs, "Directory of Sports Organisations for the Disabled".

The Directory gives full details of over 200 sports organisations, together with addresses of the major governing bodies of sport and major disability charities. This publication will be invaluable to all those wishing to find out more about voluntary organisations in this field, both potential donors and those wishing to participate.

There exists a very wide variety of sports organisations for disabled people covering many sporting activities, ranging from small local groups to organisations involved in international competitions.

Obtainable from Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent. TN9 2JD. Price £3.00 plus p & p.

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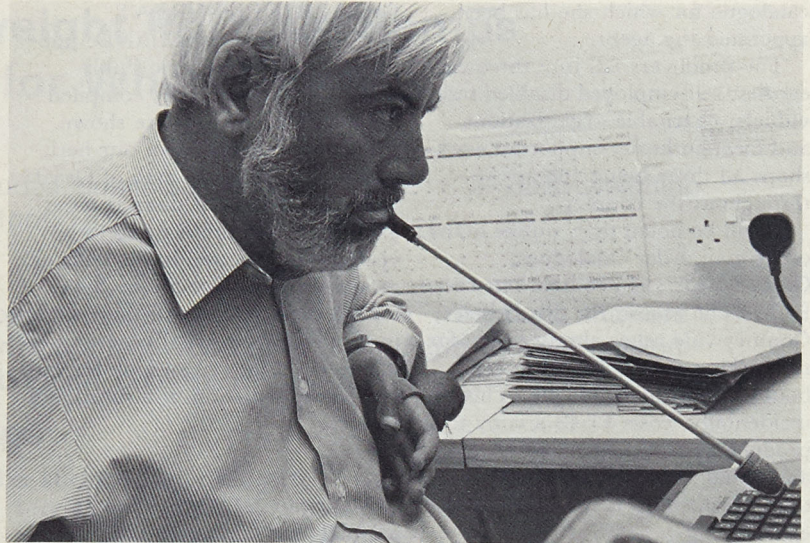
COMPUTER AID at

James is 22, wheelchair bound and severely physically handicapped. He has very poor sight and hearing, and both of these are deteriorating. Though very intelligent, he had reached the point where his only communication was by means of touch. He was increasingly cut off from everything that makes normal life meaningful. Now a computer has changed all that. Friends can sit down at a keyboard and type a conversation to James who receives it in high-powered Morse code through earphones. Now he discusses his gardening and football interests and when last seen was talking to a personable girl of his own age. The conversation went something like this "How are you, James?" His reply: "Oh, none the better for seeing the likes of you!" Communication.

James is a resident at Seven Springs Cheshire Home, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and he is not the only one to benefit from the computer systems installed in the Home. At least fifteen of the thirty three residents are enthusiastic users and are benefiting in innumerable ways, not least in increasingly high morale and a growing awareness that they can be more and more in control of their own lives, despite their disabilities

It all began twelve months ago when the Home was worried about Tom, a newly arrived, severely handicapped rebellious young resident who was having difficulties in settling down. They divined that his problem was that he was highly intelligent but thoroughly frustrated because he had virtually no speech. When speech therapy proved inadequate they decided to try a computer. Now he is learning to communicate on it. His apathy, depression and anti social behaviour is diminishing, and he has asked to be taught maths and music.

The general enthusiasm of the residents, once they began to realise



A resident of Seven Springs at work on the computer with the aid of a mouth stick.

the potential of the computer, was such that it rapidly became clear that more machines were needed. The Home obtained a grant of £10,000 through the DHSS and with this they were able to finance the purchase of another computer, to fund a Tutor computer-teaching programme 10 hours weekly, and to pay £2 a day plus expenses to five high calibre unemployed volunteer-trainees obtained through the local Job Centre. These trainees have been successfully initiated and in turn are teaching severely disabled residents.

Application has also been made through Manpower Service Commission for a further grant of £50,000 to continue, expand and monitor the work.

The Home now has four computers in their "Operations Centre", expertly presided over by Mr. Stuart McKears, the Tutor, and Mr. Robin Nixon, an ex-care assistant who is now a full time Adviser on Computer Aids. Work on the machines goes on all day and often for much of the evening. In fact, demand from the residents has been so great that a rota system has been devised to enable everyone to have their fair share of time on the machines.

Mrs. Lorna Ridgway, Chairman of the Home's Management Committee comments: "Speech impairment, the inability to express thoughts and needs, causes so much severe frustration and unhappiness. Now we can do something about it and thus lessen the effect of other disabilities and traumas. In addition, we believe that the computer will also help to release creative ideas at present dammed up."

"A further benefit is the help given to relatives and care staff whose patience and tolerance can sometimes be taxed to the limit trying to cope with communications difficulties, often without the help of voluntary workers who feel defeated. The scheme is still in its early days, but we are learning fast".

"At the moment we are using the computers mainly for writing and communication, for electronic games and for design and constructional drawing. However, we can already foresee many other applications. For example, we intend to provide study opportunities and improvement programs for under-developed literacy and numeracy skills."

SEVEN SPRINGS

The Home is also passing on its knowledge and the experience gained over a year to other Cheshire Homes interested in developing the use of computers for residents with communication difficulties.

Early enthusiasm is maintained because of the obvious benefits residents are already enjoying.

Take Pauline, for example. She has poor hand control, double vision, partial paralysis and poor speech following a road accident. She is now able to write long and interesting letters to friends and relatives. "Before, it was hopeless and so frustrating. It took me so long and my writing wasn't legible and if I made mistakes it seemed to be not worth while to go on. The alternative was to dictate to someone which was tedious. Now it is so easy to correct mistakes and I find it thoroughly enjoyable."

Norman has Friedrich's Ataxia but a keen brain. He is an avid chess player who before had few opportunities of a game with other players. Now, he plays continuously against the computer and finds it stimulating and rewarding.

Anthony, a sub-editor, has very limited use of his hands. This makes work very difficult. He was so delighted by the possibilities that a computer offers him that he immediately bought one of his own.

"I look upon it as a kind of magic and I want to be one of the wizards".

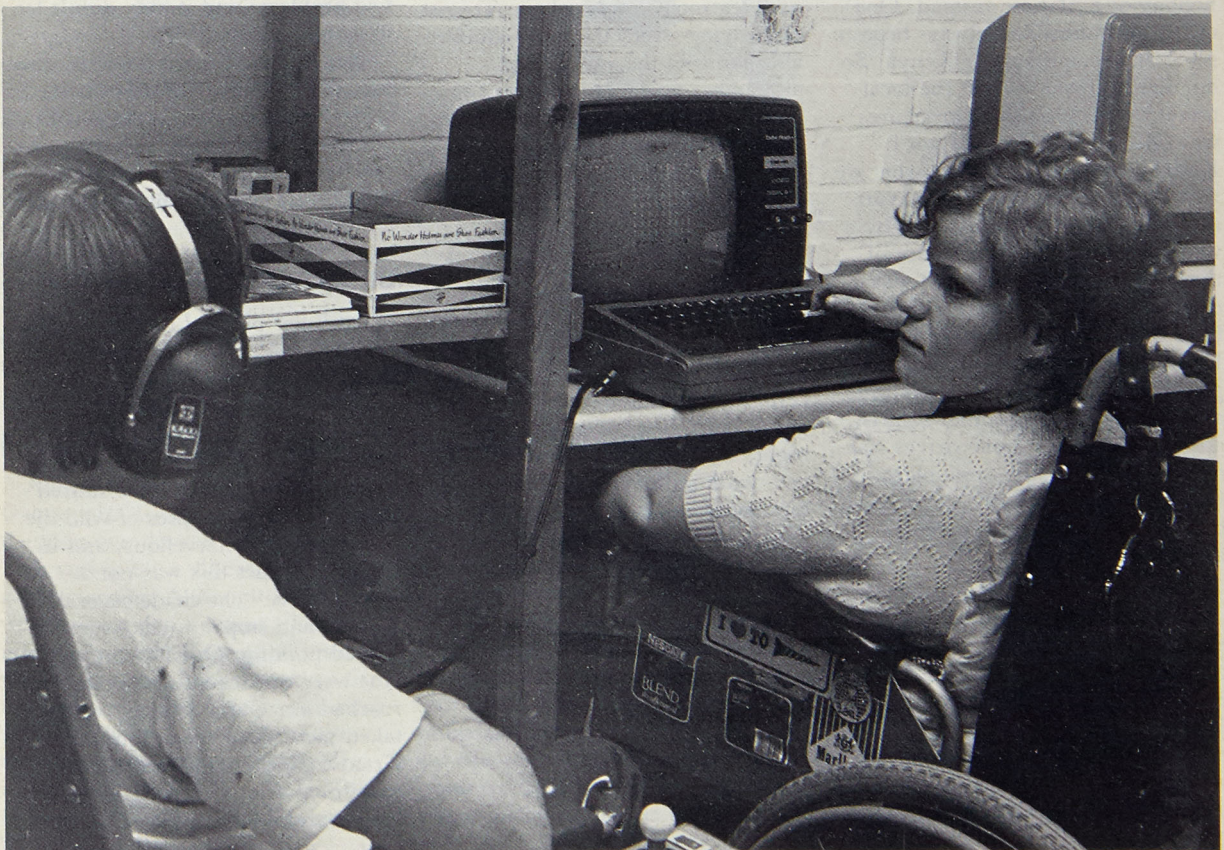
Philip, who broke his neck and is paraplegic does all the Home's accounts, staff pay rolls and staff rotas on the computer using a mouth stick. What's more he is teaching a day attender who suffers from multiple sclerosis. She is learning rapidly and will probably do similar work from her own home.

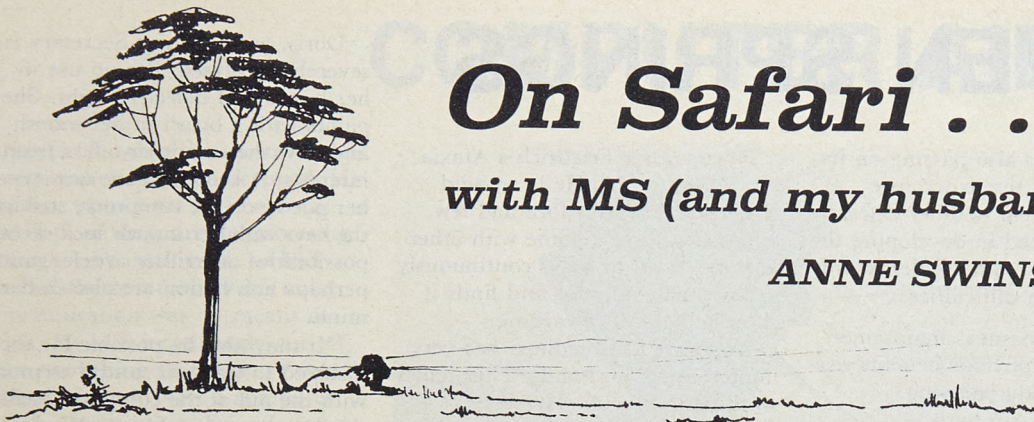
Doris, an ex-Senior Secretary is severely paralysed, has no use in her hands and defective sight. She paints with a brush in her mouth and now the computer offers fresh interests. A keen poet she now types her poetry on the computer, striking the keys with her mouth stick. Fresh possibilities of writing articles and perhaps non fiction are also in her mind.

"It may also be possible for the disabled to learn to control tremors with the aid of the computer facilities for instant feed-back. We hope later to have miniaturised speech-substitute and word-processing computers capable of being mounted on wheelchairs which will allow residents to use them during the course of daily living. We are also compiling a computer programming library of specific interest to people coping with disabilities and differing problems".

Seven Springs is in close consultation with the National Institute for Medical Research who are taking a keen interest in the work.

Two young residents of Seven Springs enjoy a conversation with the help of a computer.





On Safari . . .

with MS (and my husband!)

ANNE SWINSCOM

We settled for the “Rhino” Safari

How do you celebrate your Silver Wedding? Most people have a party of friends and relations, give each other bits of silver, or jewellery they have happily managed for twenty-five years without, and that's that!

Our friends and relations are scattered from Scotland to Switzerland, and silver has a habit of needing cleaning, so we decided to be unconventional and treat ourselves to the holiday of a lifetime instead. One of my ambitions had always been to go to Africa, preferably Kenya. So our first job was to visit the local travel agent. Of all the brochures we collected, the one put out by Kuoni seemed to have just what we were looking for. It offered a variation of safaris, each followed by a week in Mombasa. After a lot of thought, we settled on what was called the “Rhino” Safari, followed by a week at the Mombasa Beach Hotel. The reasoning behind our planning being, that the daily mileage was less than on other safaris, and several of the game drives started and ended at the same place. So if I was having an “off” day I could be lazy without inconveniencing anyone else.

Also our safari route actually ended at Mombasa, so no extra travel was involved, and the Mombasa Beach Hotel offered full-board for the same price as most of the other half-board hotels, so, finance was a definite consideration, that decided us and we booked up for November.

The first thing, apart from finding the money, was a formidable number of inoculations. Yellow Fever, Polio, Typhoid, Paratyphoid and Tetanus. I won't pretend these were fun, but when we had them, and collected our anti-malaria tablets, we were ready for anything!

Long distance travel is not particularly easy for MS patients, even for someone relatively steady on their pins as I am. So one precaution I did take, was to get a Doctor's letter, requesting that I should have a front seat, i.e. one with leg room, in the plane. Tourist class flying is not the most comfortable thing in the world, and although I was quite prepared to put up with an uncomfortable night, I was determined to be able to walk off the plane in the morning under my own steam.

The worst part of the journey out was the walk to the Jumbo Jet. It seemed endless, we walked miles along closed corridors, but eventually we got ourselves into the plane, and the rest was luxury. Jumbos are certainly the way to travel. I never got to sleep, but had an entertaining night, starting with an excellent dinner, working my way through a film-show, several taped programmes of music, long chats with my nextdoor neighbour — another non sleeper from South Africa — (doctor's letters apply only to MS patients, not husbands!) When my legs got cramp, or pins and needles, I took a walk up and down the aisles, passing my sleeping husband on the way, and stopping for soft drinks and chats with the charming hostess before returning to my seat for the next tape of music.

—all I wanted was Bed— with a capital ‘B’

After breakfast, we landed in Nairobi, and rejecting the offer of a wheelchair, we sorted ourselves and luggage into the right bus for our first-night stop. When we got to the hotel all I wanted was Bed, with a capital “B”. No chance, we had to report for a briefing at 11.30! I suppose I could have let Godfrey, my husband, listen in for both of us, but I was determined that for all I knew anyone else may have had problems and if they didn't let it show, nor would I.

It turned out that there were only four of us booked for the “Rhino” safari that week, and next morning we were introduced to Sammy, our native driver and our two fellow safariests, Dave and Brian, then off we went.

Sammy was marvellous

I will not pretend that 100 miles in a Mini-bus, over un-made-up roads, is quite my idea of bliss. But the excitement quite outweighed the discomfort. Soon after we left the metalled road, and started our long bump over sand tracks we started to see our first glimpses of wild-life.

Sammy was marvellous, and in spite of the fact this was not a “game drive”, he made several detours and stops to make sure we missed nothing. Quickly our cameras were unpacked, and before we reached our Game Lodge, we had taken pictures of zebra, gnu, Grant's gazelle and Thompson's gazelle, giraffe, rather far away hippos and one very lonely rather irate elephant.

Our first game lodge was built in the style of a very grand Masai village. The lounge, bar and dining-room were open on two sides, and the bedrooms were rows of round huts, each with their own bathroom. The first thing we noticed in our room was a large sign warning you not to put your shoes outside your door to be cleaned, as they would probably be taken by hyenas!

Being so near the equator, the hours of daylight and darkness hardly varied all the year. It got light at 6.30 and dark at 6.30. So our game drives were planned for 6 am and 4 pm to give us the best chance to see the animals when they were at their most active. It was early to bed and early to rise, and after my morning dose of pills, coffee and a biscuit, we were off at first light.

—enchancing animals

The drives were fantastic. One never knew what one was going to see round the next corner, behind the next tree or over the next bump. Sometimes the animals would obligingly wait and be photographed, sometimes they left with a dignified hustle, but always they were enchanting. Lions lay in soporific splendour, twelve feet from the open-topped bus, giraffe looked loftily down from the safety of a thorn thicket, while herds of gnu or buffalo stampeded over the plain, raising clouds of red sand as they went. Sometimes we saw nothing for quite a while, then Sammy, whose eyes were much sharper than ours, would point ahead and there would be a family of ostrich, a tiny dik-dik or perhaps a secretary bird, stalking through the grass ahead.

grass—five feet high

After two days in the Amboseli Game park, we drove on to spend the next two days at Tsavo West. This was quite a different sort of game viewing. Although we still went out for game drives, there was not much to see. Instead of open plains, the grass here was about five feet high, so except for those animals tall enough to see over, or those obliging enough to cross the track in front of us, wild life was difficult to spot. The real game viewing began after dark.

the water holes were lighted

The hotel, or game lodge, was normal enough from the front, with its walled gardens, an entrance lobby in the centre, and its bedrooms curving out in a long wing on either side. But when we went in, we found that each of the bedrooms had a balcony, and directly below each balcony, the African plain came right up to the wall. About 100 yards away were three water-holes, and at strategic points round them were lights, cleverly disguised as part of a tree or a pile of rocks.

By dinner time it was dark — then the fun really began! Bones were put out on a pile of rocks just below the dining-room wall, and the first visitor was a Genet cat, not really cat-like at all, but a most attractive little spotted creature, who climbed the pile of rocks, and started to enjoy his supper. When the edge was off his appetite he decided to remove his meal from the spotlights and the public gaze, and dragged a chunk of meaty bone off the rocks and down to the dimmer light on the ground below, but this was not a good idea. No sooner had he got his meat to the ground, than the next actor, who had obvi-



Animals' dinner time

The dining-room was open all down its longest side, also facing over the open plain. Every meal time was an enchantment, spotted swallows flew in and out of their nests in the thatch above our heads, canary coloured finches and electric blue starlings hopped about the table looking for crumbs. Hornbills sat on the wall, hoping for titbits, and every now and then a mongoose or a tree-hyrax would pluck up courage to scale the wall and join the birds.

ously been waiting out of the lights in the "wings" appeared, and his meal was picked up by a hyena and carried across the stage to be eaten in peace in the darkness of the bushes at the side.

We had not long to wait before the next actor appeared, and a porcupine ambled slowly from stage right to stage left and disappeared into the gloom. All this was only a warm up though, for while we had been watching the fore-ground, the main act was silently entering the background, and in fact twenty-two elephants, a few zebra and a herd

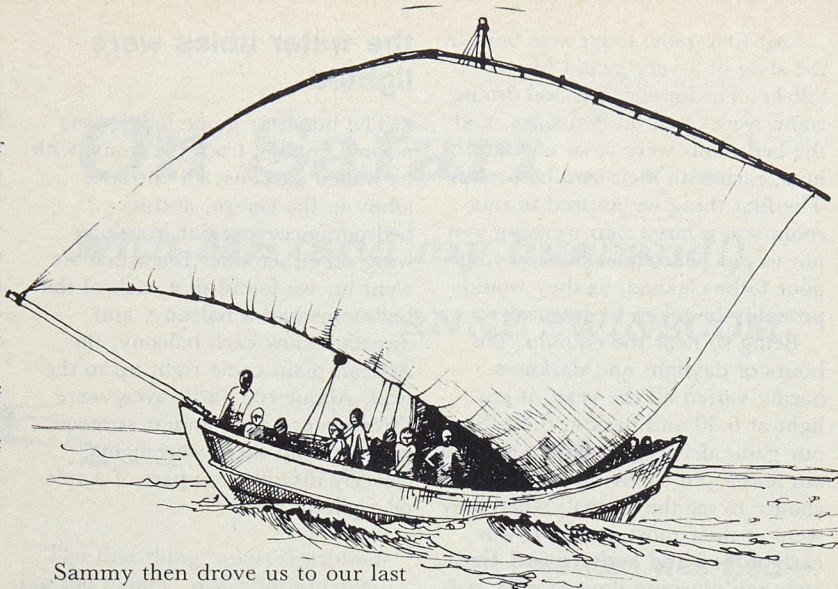
of water-buck had gathered round the water holes.

The entertainment continued off and on till we could hardly keep our eyes open and so retired to bed. Even then I was able to lie in bed and watch as the elephants drank and bathed by the water-hole. But when we woke in the morning the water-holes were deserted, and the animals might have been a dream.

After two days in Tsavo West, we were to cross to Tsavo East. We had a longish drive through fantastic volcanic scenery, till we came to a wide, fast-flowing, muddy brown river. Here we were to leave Sammy and our mini-bus to spend the night in a "tented-camp". Our transport across the river was a fragile looking rubber dinghy, rowed by an equally fragile looking native who spoke little English. When I put my hand in the water to feel how cold it was, I was scolded with a flood of Swahili, of which the only word I understood was "Crocodillo"! It was quite a relief to reach the opposite shore, and be greeted with the words "Afternoon tea will be served at four o'clock."

The brochure was correct, it was a "tented" camp, but we were hardly roughing it. Each tent was equipped with two real beds, mosquito proof windows, and surprise, surprise, a brick built bathroom in the back. The bar was well stocked, the food delicious, and, as the camp had no barrier between it and the forest behind, we were "guarded" at night by a bare-footed native with torch in one hand and a spear in the other. The most troublesome wildlife was an eight inch millipede which insisted on being friendly in spite of repeatedly being removed with a broom!

In the morning we had a game drive. As there were no roads this side of the river, we went in a Land Rover which had openings in the roof so that one could stand up and take photographs. We were able to add geronuk, lesser kudu and crocodiles to the list of animals we had already seen. After lunch we were rowed across the river again, this time with my hands WELL inside the boat, and we rejoined Sammy and our mini-bus on the opposite bank.



Sammy then drove us to our last game-lodge, the Hilton owned Salt Lick, built in the style of Treetops, on stilts above a natural water hole and salt-lick, where the animals would come each night to drink and lick the salt. As luck would have it, it had rained hard in the area that afternoon, so the animals just weren't thirsty, and as darkness fell and the floodlights came on, the area remained deserted. But we really couldn't grumble after all we had seen that week, and it was a beautiful place to end our safari. We did have one small triumph early in the morning though, when a civet cat walked along below our room, and settled in the long grass below, only the dark spots on his ears betraying his hiding place. We were probably the only people to have seen him, as only a fool (or someone with MS) would have been looking out the window at 5 am.

After all this, our week in Mombasa might have seemed an anticlimax, but we found it most enjoyable. The weather was hot, but by lunch-time every day there was a welcome breeze. The hotel ran a mini-bus into Mombasa town each morning, but one shopping trip was enough, our other mornings were spent in and around the pool, which was just the right temperature and never seemed crowded.

The beach was just below the hotel, and we enjoyed our one swim in the Indian Ocean. But then we heard that one of the hotel guests had had the misfortune to sit down on a sea-snake, which meant she had to spend the rest of her holiday in hospital, lying on her stomach. After that we stuck to the pool!

We go Dhow sailing

There were many other diversions on the beach. Windsurfing, I decided reluctantly, was beyond my limit, but at low tide the coral reef, half a mile off shore, was uncovered, and after a short haggle with the Dhow owners we could hire a Dhow to sail us out there. We then spent a fascinating hour or so splashing through tepid rock pools, each one filled with a multitude of brightly coloured fish, hermit crabs, sea slugs or star-fish. By the time our Dhow came back to fetch us, we were sunburned, salty and ready for tea.

Although our week was inactive, and in fact so too was our Safari week, we always managed to do justice to the delicious meals. The dining-rooms were always cool and airy. Many of the meals were self-service, with a vast choice of cold meats, salads, fruits and sweets, and a selection of hot dishes should one want them, followed of course by cups of delicious Kenya coffee.

At the end of our fortnight I felt well and strong, better than I had for years in fact, and my eyes had improved so much that I was able to read for quite long periods at a time, and to use the glasses I had given up as not strong enough a year before. Even now, after three months and a bout of bronchitis, I am still steadier on my legs than I have been for a couple of years.

I will not pretend it was a cheap holiday, but it certainly was value for money, and well worth saving up for. Also though Safari sounds adventurous, nothing athletic was involved. We had been warned to take strong walking shoes, which somewhat alarmed me, "strong walking" not being one of my specialities. But I need not have worried, one is not allowed out of the mini-buses in the game parks, on pain of a £30 fine, and in fact there were only three times that we

were allowed to get out and look at things. So provided you are capable of getting in and out of a mini-bus and up a few stairs in your own time, it is a holiday anyone could tackle. The Kenyans are a charming people, and there was never a feeling of being rushed or holding the party up. In fact if ERNIE comes up with my premium bonds — I would book up again tomorrow!

With acknowledgement to MS News, Summer 1982.



Drawings by JOAN MULLINS

PROJECT PHOENIX TRUST

Overseas Study Tours for the Disabled

Programme 1984

Note: ST = special transport available. Unless otherwise stated prices include transport, full board, twin-shared rooms, museum entrance fees, excursions and insurance.

1. LENINGRAD. Early May, by air, No ST, excursion, 2 theatre visits, Group 20. Theme—art and general. Cost approx. £440—7 days.
2. SWEDEN. August 17-24th, by air/overland to be decided. ST. Excursions, Theme—general interest. 10 days. Price to be advised. Group 20.
3. ATHENS & GREECE. September/October, based in Athens. O/L ST available throughout 15 days (4 o/night hotels on journey out and back. 7 days in Athens). Group 24. Theme—Classical Studies. Cost to be advised.

If you would like further information, or an application form for any of the future visits planned, please write enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Secretary, Project Phoenix Trust, 68 Rochfords, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5DJ.

NATIONAL BUS COMPANY

have 15 specially converted buses and coaches for "YOUR NEXT MOVE"

A new leaflet, "Your Next Move" has been produced by National Bus Company describing 15 specially converted buses and coaches that are available for hire by disabled people.

National Bus Company runs bus and coach services in England and Wales through some 40 subsidiary companies, and several of them have vehicles specially converted for disabled people by fitting access lifts or ramps, wheelchair floor clamps, extra hand rails and in some cases, toilets and in-coach entertainment such as stereo radios.

The vehicles described in the leaflet have been converted under stringent safety guidelines and local companies are able to offer advice

with arranging tours, itineraries and accommodation suited to disabled groups, including overseas.

The area in which each vehicle is available for hire is listed together with a brief description of the vehicle and details of hire arrangements.

The leaflet was produced by NBC's Advisory Group on Disability which meets regularly to discuss ways of improving facilities for disabled people when travelling on NBC bus and coach services.

For further information contact: Group Manager, Public Affairs, National Bus Company, 172 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9TN. Tel: 01-730-3453.

18 Sparrow
17 Robin
16 Penguin
15 Blackbird
14 A yellow hammer
13 Coot
12 Swift
11 Thrush
10 Lark

9 Peacock
8 Starling
7 Hawk
6 Kingfisher
5 Crow
4 Duck
3 Wren
2 Partridge
1 Swallow

Answers to Quiz on page 35

FIRST RESIDENT TRUSTEE



Graham Thomas of Le Court has been made the first resident to hold the position of a Trustee within the Cheshire Foundation, thus fulfilling a recommendation for resident participation at this level, put forward at the 1983 Annual Conference.

Graham left home in the late fifties and lived for 9 years at St. Teresa's Cheshire Home, Cornwall. A new era began for him when the chance to return home to Somerset was offered. He lived in his own bungalow with help from family, friends and the statutory services. From there Graham developed and established a telephone answering service, his clients being mainly doctors, and became manager of two driving schools. He then moved into the field of computers and took a course at the Queen Elizabeth Training College, Leatherhead, where upon completion he joined the Somerset County Council as a computer programmer, studying for a B.A. degree in General Science during his spare time.

A few years later he stopped work due to an illness which resulted in a need for extra care. Because of the difficulty in obtaining this, his quality of life became poor and so began the search for a place in residential care, the only option at that time. He became a resident at Le Court in 1981 and serves on many of the decision-making committees. Through Project 81, of which he is a member, Graham plans to live in Southampton from where he will continue to function as a Trustee and to pursue his varied interests. He is also a Trustee of The Options Trust which runs the Hampshire Centre for Independent Living, and is a keen amateur radio enthusiast.

We wish him every success in this new found responsibility.



Less than two years since its formation, the national registered charity "Creative Young People Together" (CRYPT) has purchased its first house to allow up to five young disabled artists and writers to live and work independently. Its purchase was made possible by a lot of hard work to raise funds, a generous grant from the Sir John Eastwood Foundation and a loan from an anonymous benefactor.

The scheme is to include a programme of classes and tutorials (master classes) at present being arranged by Chichester College of Technology Adult Education Department and the Earnley Concourse through artist Yvonne Hudson (Vice-Chairman of Crypt) and full-time Student Co-ordinator Pam Shearman, a trained teacher and accomplished musician.

As much or as little care as is needed will be provided by four young Crypt Community Volunteers — youngsters with some knowledge of the handicapped, creatively talented themselves and working with the charity for a year before going to college. "Housekeeping" will be worked out together with the student co-ordinator helping out as needed.

Although the initial project is based in W. Sussex it is planned to set up further units in different parts of the country. When disabled people leave institutional care at 18 there is often little for them to do and they return home to their parents, leaving behind any independence they may have felt at school.

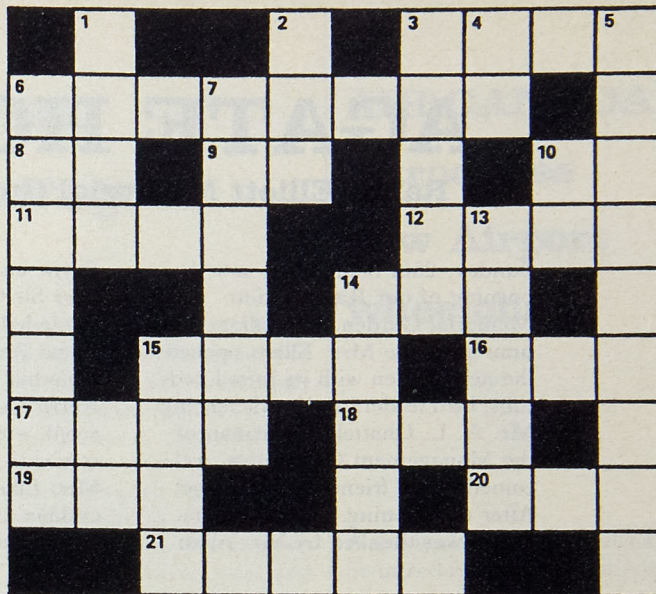
The average length of stay at the residential art workshops will be between one and three years. A fluid population is designed to prevent stagnation and its own type of institutionalisation.

CAN YOU GUESS THESE BIRDS?

QUESTIONS

- 1 An action of eating
- 2 Portion and raised area
- 3 English architect
- 4 To dodge
- 5 To boast
- 6 Monarch and toiler of the sea
- 7 To sell goods
- 8 Something bright and
- 9 Vegetable and male bird
- 10 Schoolboy frolic
- 11 Infection of the mouth
- 12 Very quick
- 13 As bald as a
- 14 A golden tool
- 15 Work girl
- 16 Chocolate biscuit
- 17 Swindle
- 18 Fight in line

ANSWERS on Page 33



ACROSS

- 3) Signal.
- 6) Hardly a domestic pet.
- 8) A green light.
- 9) Yorkshire affirmative.
- 10) Same as 10 down.
- 11) A late night bird.
- 12) In medical terms — a harbinger of things to come.
- 14) A low area.
- 15) A small clearing.
- 16) A kind of carp.
- 17) These can be golden.
- 18) If you do this it could be because you had too much of it.
- 19) Old buddy.
- 20) Measure much loved by scrabble players.
- 21) More than enough.

DOWN

- 1) Particularly applies to the River Afton.
- 2) This stall at the fair would embarrass you.
- 3) To trap.
- 4) The old fashioned word for charm.
- 5) The home of country music.
- 6) A fantasy journey makes you unpopular with your friends.
- 7) Material used by artists.
- 10) A positive assertion.
- 13) A much admired supporter.
- 14) Another sort of talent.
- 15) Usually a long queue.

SOLUTION in next issue of *Cheshire Smile* (March 1984)

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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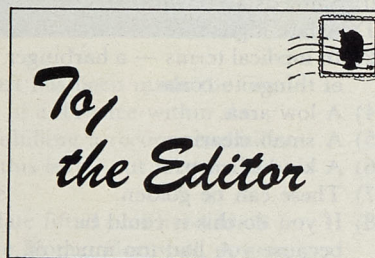
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AGATE HOUSE

Ralph Elliott Memorial Garden opened

Sunday, 25th September, saw the opening of our Ralph Elliott Memorial Garden. In brilliant Autumn sunshine Mrs. Elliott opened the new garden with its raised beds, tubs, bird feeders and rustic fencing. Mr. A. L. Chattell, Chairman of the Management Committee, welcomed many friends of the home. After the opening ceremony Mrs. Elliott was thanked by Mr. Allan

Payne on behalf of the home, and later Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris reminded everyone what a valuable friend Ralph Elliott was to the Ampthill home. Lady Foxley-Norris's dogs seemed to enjoy the event, much to the pleasure of the residents. Pauline Lurton presented Mrs. Elliott with a hand worked cushion and thanked her on behalf of the residents.



Dear Sir,

I have been a resident here at St. Anthony's for the past 22 years. For the first 15 years I enjoyed life with my friends both outside and inside the home. Unfortunately I was then struck down with some unknown illness and admitted to hospital where I was extremely ill for three weeks. During this time our Head of Home, Mrs. Sparrow, visited me and suggested I return to St. Anthony's as the hospital could do no more for me. She enquired as to whether I thought they could nurse me as well at St. Anthony's as they had done in hospital. I was sure they could—apart from anything else the hospital authorities were

proposing to place me in a psychogeriatric ward. I protested—one thing I was not, nor had ever been was a psycho-geriatric patient. The doctor then signed the forms and I went back to St. Anthony's knowing that the hospital authorities had said I had only seven days to live.

After much careful caring by all the staff I am better than I have been for years; in fact I am hoping to have some holidays abroad next year.

This is just a letter about my life at St. Anthony's, and the love and caring that has been given to me over the past 22 years.

Marion Haywood, St. Anthony's

Princess Mary House Holiday Home—Harrogate

Princess Mary House situated in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, is a modern purpose-built house designed primarily as a holiday home for the disabled and the elderly, but also equipped to take pre and post convalescent patients and to provide family relief.

Opened in 1972 by Her Majesty The Queen Mother as the British Red Cross memorial to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who had been a member of the Society for nearly 50 years, Princess Mary House is situated in the spa town of Harrogate and is within level walking distance of the shops.

The main building is on one level comprising 24 single and 3 double rooms, with central heating throughout. Built around 2 garden courts the rooms are pleasantly furnished, each with its own access door to the garden and all units easily accessible to the chairbound.

The house is designed to offer as much independence as possible, wide corridors with handrails leading to open plan sitting room, dining room and quiet areas. There are call bells in every room; trained nursing staff on duty day and night; and a doctor on call for emergencies. Diets are catered for on doctor's recommendation; and there is colour television.

Application forms and current charges (the weekly tariff for example for January and February 1984 is £80) may be obtained by telephoning Harrogate 61402.

A considerably reduced tariff applies during the winter months so that a winter break at Princess Mary House is particularly attractive. The charges are inclusive, not only of the room and nursing care, but also of meals (morning tea and breakfast served in the bedroom, morning coffee, three course lunch, afternoon tea, a substantial evening meal and a hot drink before retiring). Also included are evening entertainment and tours in a coach (specially designed and built to cater for the particular needs of guests at Princess Mary House) into the Yorkshire Dales every afternoon—a feature of these tours are visits to locations seen in the television series "All Creatures Great and Small".

Princess Mary House is open throughout the year and guests are accepted from all parts of the United Kingdom; there is a minimum age however of 18.

In the case of handicapped guests, their able-bodied relatives and friends may stay at Princess Mary House, subject to vacancies.

Should travelling be a problem for handicapped guests, their local British Red Cross branch may be able to help by providing a vehicle or escorts. Guests may have visitors any day from 11.00 a.m. but meals cannot be provided. The success of Princess Mary House may be gauged by the number of guests who return year after year.

Guests who cannot meet the full fees should contact their Local Authority Social Services Department, or their local branch of the British Red Cross Society for advice.

AIR CANADA introduces new Airport wheelchair

A newly developed wheelchair is to be introduced by Air Canada which allows disabled passengers to move from airport arrival to aircraft seat in one vehicle and with greater autonomy.

Developed in Japan, the new chair is narrower than standard versions in order to fit aircraft aisles. In addition, two sets of wheels allow it to perform double duties. Two large sidewheels permit passengers to move independently and freely within the airport area, right up to the aircraft door. There, the large wheels are removed by flight attendants who direct the chair, using its four small underwheels, to passengers' seats. A swing-up armrest on the new chair is matched by a similar mechanism on certain aircraft types allowing passengers to slip directly into the aircraft seat, without being lifted.

A number of the new chairs are already in use at Toronto airport and others will be phased in at Air Canada's 60 stations worldwide, including London (Heathrow) over the next two to three years.

The introduction of the all-purpose vehicle gives passengers the ability to check their chairs together with their baggage, without forfeiting freedom of movement. In addition, the new chair reduces the need for a disabled person to change from one seat or chair to another.

Good Samaritan

“Peace means
tranquility of order”

—ST. AUGUSTINE

“Peace means tranquility of order”, according to the great St. Augustine, the first African Saint. This peace is reflected in nature between birds and animals, in political life between harmonious nations, in Churches through a genuine and authentic spirit of ecumenism. Peace is another name for development. There is no development without peace, no peace without development.

We read a lot about tribal and sectarian killings. In fact every newspaper in the world carries columns of articles on violence, hatred, corruption and rape. Zambia, sadly, is no exception.

In Belfast two members of the outlawed I.R.A. were detailed to

kill a Protestant man in revenge for the loss of an I.R.A. gunman. They did not want to do it; like so many others before them they had no alternative. So they went, hoping the proposed victim would not be at home.

On the way through the streets of Belfast they saw a car accident. They stopped to give assistance and offered to take the wounded man to hospital for treatment. On the way to hospital they recognised the man as their target for murder. This gave them the excuse they longed and prayed for. Having delivered the wounded man to hospital, they went straight to his house and reported the accident to the family, asking his wife to go to see her husband,

and in fact offering to take her. The man recovered and is still alive. The men went back to report the fact that the proposed victim was out and no one could say when he would return. A potential inflammatory situation was turned into peace and the tranquility of order restored.

This story, told to me by a Belfast resident, reminded me of the Good Samaritan picking up the man on the road from Jerusalem to Jerico. It clearly illustrates the goodness in man and restores hope in human nature. Why do we not publish such beautiful stories instead of murder, rape and violence?

Father Kevin Doheny, C.S.Sp.,
Liaison Officer, Central Region

PRINT-OUT

I'm just getting into computers,
I know there is software and hard,
And then I hear talk of the menu
But it's not Table D'Hote on a
card;
Mention is made of a Ram and
a Rom,
A programme, loop, bank and
such things;
My floppy disc's in
My file's taken out,
They'll be telling me next that it
sings.
And so I am writing a poem,
My mouth stick is pressing the
keys
This doggerel really is finished
So switch on the print-out now
please.

Doris Manning Seven Springs



Don't be pushed around!



Illustrated above is the well-known Ashley Mobility Single Lever Brake & Throttle Hand Control Conversion for disabled drivers. The Control operates in the same 'plane' and shown above is an upward movement for accelerating. For braking, the Control is moved downwards.

Luckily, for many physically handicapped people, a Midland Company, Ashley Mobility of Birmingham, has, over the past decade, been very much alive in recognising and proving that "mobility regardless of disability" need be no mere slogan but, can be a real fact!

As a part of the Company's overall involvement with disabled aids they have been converting cars for disabled people to drive for over 15 years, their controls being approved by Austin Rover, Ford, Vauxhall and other leading car manufacturers

Apart from handling many conversions for private individuals often through Motability (the charitable organisation backed by the Government and available to recipients of the Mobility Allowance), Ashley's are also Approved Hand Control Contractors to the DHSS for cars on issue to War Pensioners and other eligible disabled people. Thus, throughout the UK there are many cars on issue by the DHSS with Hand Controls installed by Ashley Mobility.

The main proportion of their work is now a single lever brake and throttle conversion for cars with an automatic gearbox which, without doubt, presents the utmost simplicity in driving available to a disabled person.

It is true to say that the advent of the automatic gearbox in the popular car market together with increased sophistication in Hand Control conversion technique have brought about a situation where disabled people now enjoy the freedom of driving themselves, something that would never have been dreamed of a few years ago.

Don't be pushed around!

To bring home even further to disabled people the reality of "mobility regardless of disability", Ashley's have also concentrated on distributing a range of Power Wheelchairs which, with their wide scope can bring the delight of independent mobility to most handicapped people. The battery operated wheelchairs can be controlled by a hand joystick, a chin control, by movement of the head alone or even by breath! Powerchairs are available in the normal upright chair position or as semi recliners or full recliners. For people suffering from fatigue problems and limited walking ability there is the option of a three wheeled Scoota and a small battery operated car which requires no tax or insurance, can be driven on roads or pavements and can be fitted with an all weather protection hood. All the models distributed are available on Mobility Hire Purchase to recipients of the Mobility Allowance.

OBITUARIES

Catherine Croisdale passed away on August 11th following a long, frustrating and lonely illness. Her friend, with whom she had shared a home for many years, had died fairly suddenly in June 1980 leaving Catherine no alternative to a geriatric home, being too disabled to continue living in her own house.

Catherine had no close relatives and was dependent on visits by previous neighbours and distant friends. Many people will remember Catherine as Administrator of the Service Corps from January 1967 to July 1973, the years of struggle when the Corps was trying to establish its name as a worthwhile training scheme.

During these years recruitment of students of the right calibre was fraught with difficulties and money available for equipment and expenses limited. The last two years were complicated by the fact that Catherine was suffering from the early symptoms of the condition which eventually caused complete disability.

Catherine will be remembered by many as a caring, energetic pioneer.

Bob Hughes

It is sad to report the sudden death of Bob Hughes on the 24th August, 1983. Bob had been a well-known resident of the Cotswold Cheshire Home for 22 years.

During this time he had been actively engaged in many of the functions of the home as well as selling and promoting Cheshire Smile, to which he frequently sent contributions of news.

Bob took an interest in "outside" affairs, particularly the church. His friends miss the happy atmosphere he created.

The service, held in Christ Church, Cheltenham, was attended not only by Bob's family, many of them from Wales, but a great number of his friends, residents and staff of the home.

Miss Marjorie Olive Wrist

Our Marjorie died peacefully among friends here at Athol House on Monday, 22nd August 1983.

Marjorie was Charity in block letters. She gave and accepted with a courtesy as gracious as she was. Most of us who knew Marjorie admired her cheerful forthright attitude. She could be adamant in her opinions, yet dismissed a set-back by putting it behind her. Throughout her life she came to terms with her disability, as she also did with her final illness, by facing up to them with indomitable courage.

In February Marjorie would have been a resident of Athol House for 20 years. Her initials, M.O.W. she jokingly referred to as Ministry of Works, which she was in every sense of the words. She organized "Bring & Buy" sales, and participated in all the numerous fetes. She had as many friends as there are petals on a chrysanthemum and supported the local church where she sang in the choir.

The loss will soften with time, yet the memory will remain.

Go with God, Marjorie — The Residents and Friends of Athol House.

Dr. Dudley B. Wallis

It is with deep regret that the Oswestry Family Support Service have to announce the death on November 10th of their ex-chairman, Dr. Dudley Wallis, after a short illness.

Dr. Wallis, a retired general practitioner from the Wirral, had lived for eight years within a few miles of Dolywern Cheshire Home, and took a personal interest in several of the residents. When the Support Service was formed he seemed an obvious choice for chairman of the steering committee in January 1982, then as chairman of the management committee formed in May 1982. He performed both offices with energy and enthusiasm, but had to resign about two months ago for reasons of health.

He was a man of many interests, and will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends and his ex-colleagues.



OWEN STANLEY—A Tribute

On the 28th July 1983, we lost one of our personalities, Owen Stanley, aged 61. Owen was one of the first residents to enter the John Masefield home, coming as he did from a psychiatric unit. He soon established himself as a "character". Having had a very sad background, the John Masefield Cheshire Home gave him opportunities that were denied him hitherto. One of the great highlights of his life was a trip to Canada to visit his sister. This had been arranged by the former Head of Home, Ralph Newton, and there soon followed another organised by Mary Copsy.

A tribute was paid to him at a Management Committee meeting by the Chairman, Mr. John Llewellyn. The Chairman of the Residents' Committee, Mrs. Joan Jones, has said "We in the John Masefield will miss him for his 'outward' look on life, and for his active interest in anything mechanical - cars and the like." He will also be missed by members of the local branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Society who frequently met at the home, and of which he was an active member; together with his many C.B. radio friends, "Speedy Duck" will be remembered.

From an early unhappy life, we like to feel the John Masefield gave him security and happiness until the end, which came suddenly and peacefully, as he would have wished.

At the request of his sister, his ashes were flown to Canada and interned by the side of his mother.

Dudley Kitching

John Cunningham, Transport Co-ordinator at the Bedfordshire Cheshire Home, died suddenly in August. John was a quiet but efficient organiser and will be missed very much.

Charles Edward Hawke, resident of Cann House, died on the 9th August, aged 58.

Sydney Judge died on the 12th July, aged 65. A resident and friend to many at Mote House for twenty years, he will be sadly missed.

Archie Morrison, much loved resident of Mayfield House, died on the 20th June. He will be long remembered with affection.

OBITUARIES

Christabel Ann Pearce died on the 21st October, aged 73. Anne came to live at Mote House 20 years ago. The gap she has left is very noticeable.

Ralph Jasper Seckleman aged 55 passed away on the 25th September. During his 7 years at Mote House, he will be remembered for his polite, cheerful and uncompaining nature.

Mrs. Hazel May Shortland, nee Dann, resident at Cann House, died suddenly on the 4th October, aged 65 years.

Kenneth Royston Smith, resident at the Timsbury Cheshire Home, died on the 11th October. He will be missed by all residents and staff.

Frank Tamplin, resident of the Bedfordshire Cheshire Home, died in September. He will be sadly missed.

Arthur Netherton Terry, resident of Cann House, died on the 9th September, aged 63.

Joyce Florence Wimble, aged 51, passed away on the 23rd August, 1983. A resident at Mote House for 14 years, she will be sadly missed.



Lost Friend: We have received a request from a disabled man called Len Rockall, asking if we can help him to trace his friend, a Mr. Ian Botham, whom he believes is a resident in a Cheshire Home. If you know a resident of that name please let Mrs. Kay Christiansen, Public Relations Officer, Leonard Cheshire Foundation H.Q. know. Please, also, ascertain if Mr. Botham wishes to be put in touch.

DIRECTORY 1984

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

registered as a Charity Number 218186

Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Maunsel Street, London SW1P 2QN. Tel. 01-828-1822

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Founder: Group Capt. Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC

Past Chairmen: The Rt. Hon. Lord Denning, PC
Professor Geoffrey Cheshire
The Rt. Hon. Lord Edmund-Davies, PC

Chairman Emeritus: Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, GCB, DSO, OBE, MA

Chairman: Mr. Peter Rowley, MC, MA

Hon. Treasurer: Dennis Greig, Esq.

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Leonard Cheshire Homes care for the severely and permanently handicapped. 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 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.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Family Support Services aim to provide personal care and help for physically and mentally handicapped people living in their own homes. It thereby helps to prevent or alleviate stress in families with handicapped member(s) and enables disabled people, whether living alone or with their families, to continue living at home for as long as possible. It is probable that family support services for disabled people (including services under the umbrellas of other organisations) will be greatly expanded as they meet the needs and wishes of so many people.

Family Support Services Officer:

Mrs. Margot Hawker, Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Maunsel Street, London, SW1P 2QN. Tel: 01-828-1822 (Queries to Christine King).

SPECIAL SERVICES

Flats for couples, one of whom is disabled:
Robin House, St. John's Road, Hitchin, Herts.

Disabled Students accommodation:
Taylor House, 16 Osler Road, Headington, Oxford. Oxford 68620.

CARE ADVICE SERVICE

Office: Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Maunsel Street, London, SW1P 2QN.

Care Advisers: Hugh Bryant, Esq. (SW); Robert Hopkinson, Esq. (N); Harry Lowden, Esq. (Midlands); John Timms, Esq. (NE); Mrs. Alma Wise (SE)

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mr. L. P. Mecklenburgh, Suite 1, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2ST. Tel: 01-278-6630.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation Housing Association deals with requests from groups and individuals, or committees acting on behalf of physically and/or mentally handicapped people. To acquire property or land, apply for funding through the Housing Corporation or Local Authority, and arrange for the conversion or building of suitably adapted accommodation. The accommodation may range from hostels, group homes, sheltered housing or independent houses in the community.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

Chairman International Committee: Sir Henry Marking, KCVO, CBE, MC

International Director: Mr. Michael Palmer
International Secretary: Miss Toni Morgan, Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Maunsel Street, London, SW1P 2QN. Tel: 01-828-1822

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation International comprises some 147 homes in 45 countries throughout the world.

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE MISSION (for the Relief of Suffering)

Registered as a Charity Number 235988

Founders: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE, and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC, in association with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

President: Mrs. Lakshmi Pandit.

Chairman: The Hon. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, GCMG, GCVO.

Administrator: Michael Humfrey, Esq.

The Mission was founded by Lady 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 not quite fall within the scope of their respective Foundations. Five such projects are:—

Raphael, the Ryder-Cheshire International Centre, P.O. Box 157 Dehra Dun, U.P., India which cares for some 300 people of all age groups who are in need.

Raphael comprises a colony for burnt out leprosy sufferers, 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 assumed by the several separate and autonomous Ryder-Cheshire Foundations which exist in Australia and New Zealand.

The administration is in the hands of a General Council and the Director is Major-General Ranbir Bakshi MC (Retd).

Gabriel, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manappakkam, Madras 600-089, India

Gabriel is a training unit for leprosy and other patients who are living on their own in Madras but who are incapable of obtaining work because they lack a trade.

The Unit is financed mainly from Indian sources, but some help is given by the Ryder-Cheshire Mission.

The Chairman of the General Council is Mr. N. E. S. Raghavachari, ICS, (Retd.).

The Ryder-Cheshire Home, Jorpati, Kathmandu, Nepal

This home for 30 disabled young people is intended to complement the work of the existing Nepal Disabled and Blind Association which donated the land to the Mission. The home will concentrate on the rehabilitation of its residents and will share its training facilities with the N.D.B.A.

The home will be administered by a Governing Committee and a Local Administrator has already been appointed.

Because it is not possible to raise locally any of the funds needed to run the home, all the money required has to be found by the Mission within the United Kingdom.

Ryder-Cheshire Films Unit, Cavendish, Suffolk

This Unit produces films and video-tape programmes about the work of the Founders and their respective Foundations. Details of these productions are available on request.

Raphael Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage to Lourdes is arranged annually for chronically ill and permanently handicapped people who might not be accepted on other pilgrimages. Willing helpers are welcomed on these pilgrimages.

The Leader of Pilgrimages is Gilbert Thompson, 23 Whitley Wood Road, Reading, Berks.

SUE RYDER FOUNDATION

Registered as a Charity Number 222291

Sue Ryder Home, Cavendish, Suffolk, CO10 8AY.

Founder: Lady Sue Ryder, CMG, OBE

Chairman: H. N. Sporborg, Esq., CMG

Honorary Councillors: Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC; Miss E. B. Clarke, CVO, MA Blitt (Oxford), JP; A. J. A. Green, Esq.; W. L. Morris, Esq.; J. Priest, Esq.; A. Powditch, Esq., MC; Lady Ryder of Warsaw CMG, OBE; Mrs. M. Smith, JP, John L. Stevenson, Esq., FCS, ACIS, FTIL.

The Sue Ryder Foundation was established by Lady 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.