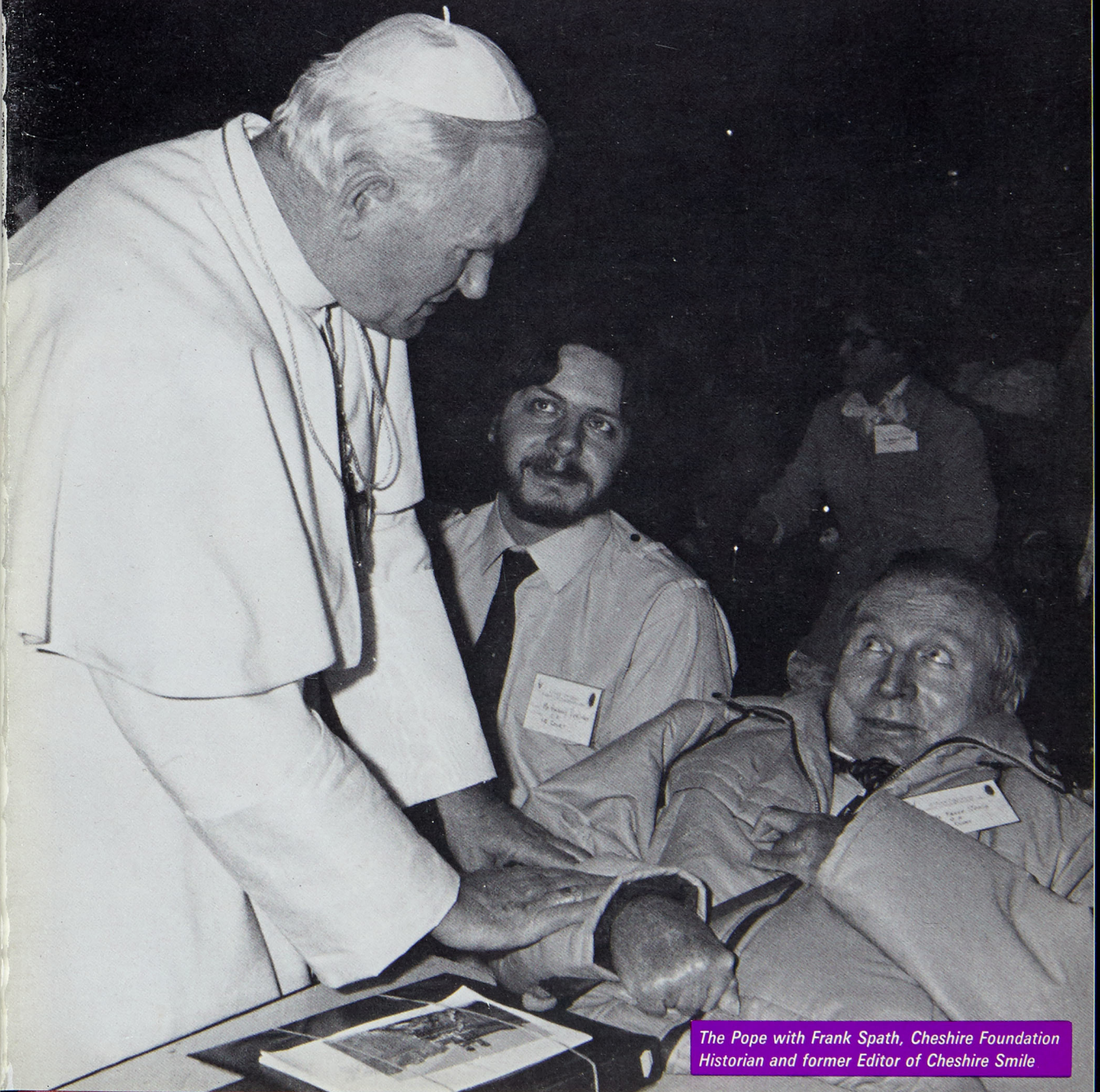


Cheshire Smile

Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation—Summer 1984 25p



*The Pope with Frank Spath, Cheshire Foundation
Historian and former Editor of Cheshire Smile*

Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

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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	Page 5
The Chairman's Page	7
Retirement of Mrs. Mary Hopercroft	9
Computer Character	11
Reflections on Nuclear Weapons	14
Operation Raleigh	15
Letters to the Editors	21
Family Week in Rome	24/25
Plan Chest	27
Around the Homes	30/31
United Nations Corner	33
Home in Bethlehem	37

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A COMFORTING STORY FROM **RAYMAR**

AFTER USING MY ROHO CUSHION FOR TWO YEARS, PRESSURE SORES ARE A THING OF THE PAST. IT'S CERTAINLY GOT TO THE BOTTOM OF MY PROBLEM!

I SIT IN MY ROHO NOT ON IT THAT'S HOW IT WORKS-BY SPREADING MY WEIGHT WITH NO SINGLE PRESSURE POINT.

MY ROHO IS EASILY CLEANED AND MAINTAINED-SOMETHING NOT POSSIBLE WITH SOME CUSHIONS

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I THOUGHT MY ROHO WAS EXPENSIVE AT FIRST - BUT NOW I KNOW IT'S WORTH EVERY PENNY. ROHO WORKS!

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Editorial

At the time of writing it is Spring. The sun is warm but the wind continues to blow cold. The sheep in the field outside the office window have been shorn and are bleating, no doubt in anger for they were not consulted in the matter which has deprived them of their thick woollen coats. But, on the farming calendar it was time for this event to take place and they were not able to prevent it. Are we able to prevent the build up of nuclear weapons by the great nations of the world as our writer hopes in her article on this issue published within this magazine, or, like the sheep, are we powerless to do anything about it.

For the majority of us living in the western world in reasonable comfort and security, there is a hope that such devastating weapons of war will never be used. But the world is large and there are places on it governed by irresponsible leaders whose populations follow them like sheep and are prepared to use any means at their disposal to gain their ends. Must it be left to the few who are willing to make the protest to save us from Armageddon?

Computer Wizardry

At last it seems that a breakthrough has been made in prejudice towards the computer. No longer is it seen as the "big bad wolf" depriving all and sundry of a living, but as a new found blessing, helping the pro-

foundly disabled to achieve new abilities and interests. Articles in this issue demonstrate most clearly the advantages to be gained by disabled people from the use of such machines. It is imperative therefore that Residents' Associations, Management Committees and anyone concerned with the welfare of residents in the homes should be making every effort to provide money towards making this equipment readily available in order that immediate advantage may be taken of this new and exciting development. Seven Springs has shown the way computers can enhance the life of it's residents; so how about it all you others? Don't sit back and say "it's not for us", try it and see.

Mr. Pinder's letter giving his reasons for the lack of response to articles in the magazine is a sad reflection on the state of affairs for those having to live in residential care. It points out how vulnerable some people are to care abuse simply by stating how they feel about any particular subject that affects their well-being. The Handbooks of Care were produced and published as a guideline not as a directive for the running of a Cheshire Home and this is always used as an excuse for not implementing many of the recommendations put forward. If residents were more aggressively active in their homes the changes Mr. Pinder talks of could become reality.

PARLIAMENTARY POINTS

The changing face of Public Services

by ROY SMITH

Certain services in the public sector which we all once took for granted are now being eroded, gradually, but surely. One could quote innumerable examples—far more than space allows—but a very relevant example came to notice recently when reading a report on a parliamentary debate. This concerns a proposal to make a charge for asking Telephone Directory Enquiry Service to locate a number.

The debate (in the House of Lords) was about how, and if this charge should be levied, and the need to ensure exemption for blind and disabled persons who would experience difficulties in using a Telephone Directory even if one was available. This small report of a debate could easily have been overlooked, except that the implications are so far-reaching and typical of many changes taking place around us, almost surreptitiously, but nonetheless real. At one time it would have been unthinkable to expect to have to pay for advice on using a service by the very people providing the said service. To use an analogy, would one expect to have to pay when entering a department store with the intention of making a particular purchase but having to enquire where to find the relevant department? Maybe the analogy is too simplistic, but some stores DO employ staff to man a special Enquiry Desk. Why? Because it is in the store's interests to provide a service and to help customers to spend their money. Isn't that what British Telecom are doing by providing a Directory Enquiry service?

In fact the cost of using the telephone service is forever increasing instead of, as one would expect, becoming less and less expensive as demand escalates. Years ago we were always told that price increases were justified in order to finance greater development of the service for the future. When are we going to see the fruits of that development I wonder? In my experience the system has in many ways deteriorated—operators are rude, many, many calls are misrouted and call boxes "out of order" not to mention the lack of up-to-date directories so that the Enquiries service need not be used. It seems that an element of trade competition might have a very salutary effect on the entire situation. Monopoly breeds complacency.

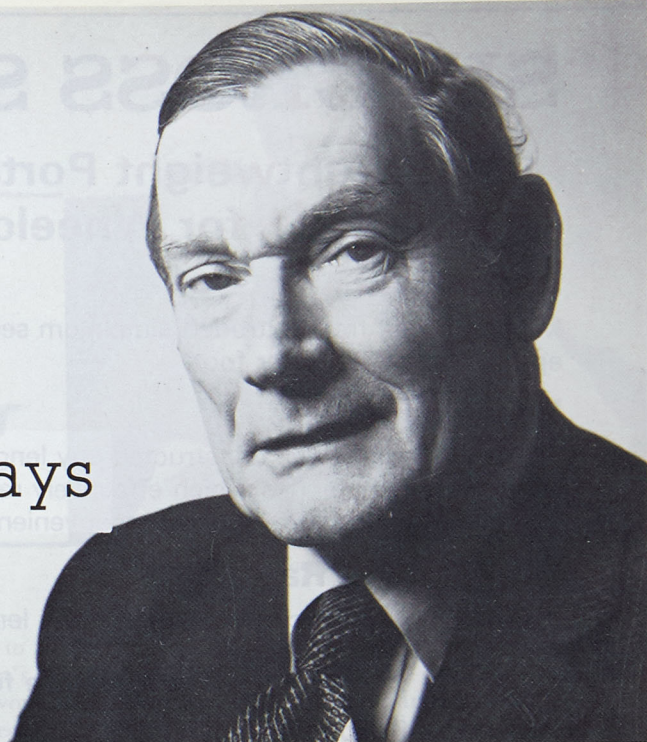
Another area of public service undergoing dramatic change is, of course, the N.H.S.—once the envy of the western world it is now trying to cope with infinite demand with fairly finite resources. In real terms more money than ever before is being spent on the N.H.S., but it is a question of political judgment and philosophy whether it is being spent in the correct way or if the priorities chosen are the right ones. Now there is to be a major review of all benefits across the board and it will be interesting to see if the existing tangle of various benefits and resources can be correctly channelled in order to produce the greatest possible value for everyone in need. The new climate in the N.H.S. with the Government hell bent on trying to obtain the best possible value for money by privatizing ancillary services and even leasing beds, staff and equipment in

private hospitals and nursing homes, is becoming something of a transitional "nightmare" ripe for opposition criticism.

In effect there is *nothing* wrong in trying to obtain the best value for money, for indeed isn't that what we all try to do in our personal affairs and with our own limited financial budgets? It is just the P.R. that is either totally absent or wrongly angled. Mrs. Thatcher once said in a major speech that the N.H.S. was completely safe in the hands of the Tory Party—she must now demonstrate the truth of that assertion for there are far too many voices ready to decry her intentions. Of course the N.H.S. has changed for it has grown and expanded beyond recognition since its postwar inception, and it costs billions of pounds of taxpayers' money, so shouldn't everyone want to have the best possible value for that expenditure? Unquestionably, the answer is "yes" but the nagging doubt always concerns the actual volume of money devoted to health as well as research and development. However, because of the success of new techniques demand is always going to be infinite, and hence the need to ensure that every penny and pound is wisely spent and the greatest possible value obtained. Reviewing and updating has to be a constant and ongoing exercise.

That does not mean a penny-pinching and mean approach to services, which brings me neatly back to British Telecom and the proposed charging for Directory Enquiry service—a *very* small-minded proposal if ever there was one.

the Chairman says



Unfortunately for us, death, disaster and dishonesty, or a possibility of at least one of them, seems to be necessary to catch the headlines or attract publicity in the media. The difficulties which we experienced at the beginning of the Family Week in Rome did get into the national news but perhaps it may be some comfort to those who experienced any of those difficulties, to know that, as long as it does not detract from our good name, there is no such thing as bad publicity. In fact, for most people the Family Week in Rome ended on a most successful and happy note with the Papal Audience, the renewal of Leonard and Sue's vows, the sunshine in Assisi and the presentation party.

There can be no doubt that we do need more and better publicity and we should all renew our efforts to obtain this. All Cheshire Homes and Services depend on public support and particularly on bequests and donations which will only be forthcoming in sufficient amounts if we become better known so that our name comes readily to mind when people are making their Wills and whenever they are in a charitable mood.

One of the factors which influenced the Trustees in deciding to establish a Country House Respite Centre at Park House, Sandringham, is that the closer association with Her Majesty, our Patron, is likely to improve the publicity given to the whole Foundation, but even establishing this venture itself requires publicity and it also requires support from all Homes and from all our supporters.

By tradition the Foundation has abstained from advertising in the national media on the grounds that our charitable income is better spent on things which directly benefit disabled residents and clients, but perhaps the time has now come to engage in some discreet national advertising and I would be interested to hear what the general reaction to such a course would be.

The living conditions and quality of life in Cheshire Homes and the standards of care provided in them and by our Family Support Services are themselves the best source of good publicity and we have in mind instituting annual reviews in all Homes and Services which we hope will both ensure that existing standards are maintained and will assist them to plan further improvements in accordance with the latest developments in residential care.

But however good the Homes and Services may be, they will only attract the publicity we want if they are talked about and visited, so that more of the public knows about them and wants to help because the Homes and Services are doing such a good job. So will everybody who is in any way associated with a Cheshire Home or Services please talk about them whenever possible to their friends, relatives, colleagues and workmates and will residents, staff and Management Committees please invite and encourage more visitors so the Cheshire Homes and Services become better known and more widely appreciated.

Peter Rowley

Retirement of MRS MARY HOPCROFT



Mary Hopcroft, with granddaughters Sarah and Catherine

The retirement of Mary Hopcroft, Family Support Service Adviser, at the age of 70, whose wisdom, initiative and vision has had an immense influence on the Foundation's work, will leave a gap that is hard to fill.

Mary trained as a nurse, midwife and Health Visitor; also in House-keeping and Administration. She specialised at first in caring for sick children and then became Technical Adviser to the editor of *Nursing Mirror*.

Service Overseas

In 1939, at the outbreak of war, she returned to nursing and joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service, working in hospitals and on a hospital ship bringing casualties out of Burma and some prisoners of war. Later in the Burma campaign she opened a women's hospital outside Calcutta catering for the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India).

On return to Britain she was appointed Matron Supervisor of Nurseries in Middlesex and was the first Health Tutor of nursery nurses in the county, later becoming a national examiner in the N.N.E.B.

In 1950 she returned to the East, having married Group Captain Campbell Hopcroft, DSO, DFC. She was expecting to enjoy the life of a serving officer's wife but, being Mary, within a week of her arrival,

she stepped in to relieve the Matron of the Children's Hospital who had suffered a nervous breakdown.

She remained in that post for three years and returned to the UK after three years. Later the hospital was recognised as a Children's Nurse Training School, the only one in South East Asia at that time, a testimony to Mary's teaching and administrative skills.

"Mary was then occupied looking after her daughter, Frances, and also worked in district nursing and as a Health Visitor. Sadly her husband then became ill and she nursed him till he died."

New Interest

Since then she has worked with enormous energy and commitment alongside disabled people, first as National Welfare Officer with the Multiple Sclerosis Society where she learned much about the effects of disablement on families as a whole, and then as General Secretary of The Disablement Income Group which taught her about the struggle the majority of handicapped people have to meet the cost of disablement.

In 1973 she joined the Foundation and spent five years training members of its Service Corps. After five years of visiting Homes she became convinced that an alternative to institutional life had to be provided

in some way, and it is undoubtedly her vision and enterprise that was instrumental in the Foundation's decision to set up Family Support Services. She gained experience in this new field when she was seconded to organise a pilot scheme in Hampshire and later became Family Support Service Adviser with a brief to develop further schemes for the Foundation. Eloquent evidence of the success of her work is the fact that there are now twenty Services operating successfully in England and further schemes are at the planning stage.

She has the satisfaction, too, of knowing that her work in the community has helped to save many people from being forced to sell up their homes and abandon their cherished independence.

As a celebration of her retirement and her 70th birthday she decided to join the Ryder/Cheshire Family Week in Rome for a little holiday. As it turned out she found her skills much in demand and along with other helpers worked very hard indeed! However, she says she would not have missed the experience for the world.

Total retirement is not for someone with Mary's energy, and she hopes to be involved in setting up a Family Support Service scheme in Italy for people in need in due course. A further challenge which she will meet with her usual enthusiasm.



Reporter Rosalie Wilkins (right) talks to Ken and Maggie Davis, leaders of the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People.

'Statement of Intent'

TV DOCUMENTARY • Ken Davis • Founder and Coordinator of the Coalition

“Politicians feel that they have got the right to make decisions on behalf of disabled people . . . and what we’re saying is that disabled people have been left out of that process but here we are, we’re on the scene, and we want a say of our own.”

Statements of Intent to provide full integration are only too familiar to disabled people, but in Derbyshire the County Council has been challenged to make theirs a reality.

The challenge comes from the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People—a group which spans the range of disability—which the Council helped into existence during IYDP. A working partnership

was set up; the Council published their “Statement of Intent”, and together they planned the establishment of the first Centre for Independent Living in the country.

The independent living movement lies at the heart of full integration. It is the Derbyshire Coalition’s aim to turn around the country’s resources, currently poured into residential care for the few, into providing comprehensive services which could keep disabled people living independently in the community.

This film, shown on the Link Programme on the 12th April, 1984, charts the first major trial of strength between County Council

and Coalition. It was brought to a head by the Coalition’s plan to turn the County’s only residential home, Cressy Fields in Alfreton, into the Centre for Independent Living. This radical plan turned out to be a challenge both to the Council and to the Coalition. Had the Council under-estimated the extent of change needed for full integration? Could the Coalition hold together and cope with the reality of local politics?

“Statement of Intent” is a film about the growing power and confidence of disabled people who are no longer willing to sit back and let others decide their lives: a film about grass roots politics in action.

Rathfredagh and O’Dwyer Correction

The following is a correction to the paragraph that appeared on page 20 of the winter issue of Cheshire Smile.

Both the Rathfredagh and Bohola Cheshire Homes in Ireland receive capitation grants from

Health Boards. The extension to the Rathfredagh Home was built entirely from money raised by the Home itself and the extension to the Bohola Home did receive a grant from the Department of Health.

Apology

The Editors wish to apologise for omitting to make acknowledgement to the journal “Social Work Today” for permission to use their article—Patricia Gay “the other woman”—Speaking Out which appeared on page 30 of the Spring issue.

Steven Ludlow, Supervisor of Heatherley Cheshire Home's new computer project is someone with a particularly sensitive appreciation of the problems of handicapped people because he is severely disabled himself.

Steven is 31 and became disabled at fourteen after an accident. His push bike went into the back of a lorry—"a damn silly thing to happen" was his terse comment.

Academic Attainment

His injuries are so severe that he is permanently in a wheelchair and has only very limited use of his hands. Steven spent a year in hospital and when he came out to try to pick up his life again, he decided to carry on with his education and add to the three O levels he already had. This achieved, he went on to study for A levels and did so well that he was accepted as a student at Sussex University.

There the problem was how to make himself a part of University life despite the extra help he needed. He thought he might have to live at home and travel to and fro each day. However, he found a solution by living in the hospital where he got assistance with dressing and toileting. Later he played a leading part in setting up a specially adapted hostel for other disabled students.

By 1973 he graduated with a B.Sc degree in biology and went on to do graduate work for two years, mainly in theoretical biology which embraced a certain amount of computer work.

Settled Career

Computers interested him and, in his practical way, he realised that

COMPUTER CHARACTER

he would be in a growth industry if he made this his career. "I took a commercial course as a programmer and then went to the Milton Keynes intellectual workshop for disabled people in 1982. "It took me a year of haggling with the local authority to get the necessary grant, but in the end they relented" he grinned.

At Milton Keynes he worked as a systems analyst dealing with commercial firms and while there met a nurse called Sue who is now his wife. After their marriage there was nowhere suitable for them to live so they left.

Last October Heatherley appointed him as Supervisor to set up their new computer scheme for residents and offered him and Sue an adapted bungalow in the grounds. The computer room now has three machines, provided out of a £3,000 grant from the Manpower Services Commission and Steven has six part time, hitherto unemployed trainees to help him in his task of introducing residents to the mysteries of the computer. He reports that in three months the enthusiasm of the residents is exciting.

"We have ten to fifteen people on our regular timetable and one or two are so keen they have to be almost wrenched away from the machines" he said.

Some are learning to play computer games, others to write letters and articles, or make drawings, while a few are attempting to write programmes.



Getting to Know You!

Steven not only instructs trainees but also stresses to them that an important part of the job is getting to know the residents, their interests and their particular problems. In addition, he devises adaptations to the machines for those who are unable physically to tap the keys.

"We liaise fairly closely with the care staff and it is heartening to hear of the lift in morale. Some people who were previously introverted and apathetic have now become quite changed", he said.

"One enormous asset is that a computer is a forgiving machine. If you make a mistake you can easily put it right and so it is not nearly so frustrating."

Later he hopes to get organised so that the Home's accounts can be done on the machine.

"The benefit of computers for disabled people are enormous" says Steven. "Despite their disabilities, they can do something with the machine, instead of passively sitting and having things done for them. One or two residents who have never learned to read or write are gradually picking it up. Just imagine what that achievement will mean to the quality of their lives."



Steven Ludlow, seated front row, second on left, with members of the Heather-Com team



Mark Brownfield receiving a cheque for £650 from Sir Peter Baldwin, S.E. Thames Regional Health Authority.

Photo: Courier Newspapers, Tunbridge Wells.

Remarkable Achievement

Mark Brownfield, a 22 year old resident of Seven Springs, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, has achieved a quite remarkable triumph in winning first prize in an essay competition organised by the Tunbridge Wells Branch of Access for the Disabled.

Remarkable because of Mark's very severe disabilities. He is wheelchair bound, has virtually no sight or hearing, distorted speech and cannot write.

His only means of communication was by means of touch, which meant practically no communication at all and he was becoming increasingly isolated.

Then came the computer room at Seven Springs. As a result Mark was able to receive messages in Morse Code through high powered earphones. A new lease of life and an outlet for his sharp brain.

The Access competition was on the subject "What I would do with £650 if I won it and how it would help in my chosen career".

He needed the help of an able bodied volunteer, his friend Daisy, but the words and construction of the essay were entirely his own. Daisy described the competition to him on the computer. He then replied stating what he wanted to say. Daisy recorded him and then typed on paper what had been recorded and in due course typed it back into the computer so that Mark could recall what he had said.

Six hundred and fifty pounds, he wrote, would buy him even better communication. An extract from his essay puts it this way:

"I am writing this essay so I can communicate with my friends, through a machine, a machine that can change communication into morse code which, if loud enough, I can feel through headphones. The machine needs to be small and portable to carry on my chair so that I can speak to anyone, at any time, without having to go to a particular place. The machine must be adaptable so that the residents can work it . . . with the machine I would be able to communicate with more residents. It is the communication that is concerning me most and when I am asked about my chosen career I'm afraid I haven't anything to say at the moment. I am trying to win £650 for the machine. I can think about my chosen career later on—I just want to communicate."

At a small celebration at Seven Springs Mark was presented with his winning cheque by Sir Peter Baldwin, Regional Chairman of PHAB. And he will get his mini morse machine. The Compaidd team at Seven Springs are about to proceed with its construction.

Commented Mrs. Lorna Ridgway, Chairman of Seven Springs. "Mark's achievement is astonishing and moving. He is extremely intelligent and knowledgeable and we realise this more and more each day with the aid of the computer. The effort he put into the essay, and the effort his helper Daisy put into it, was intense. It took 30 hours to complete. He was tired afterwards but also elated."

When a person loses their tongue, simply by moving to another country, they lose a piece of their personality. A necessary part of their communication equipment will have been taken from them simply because they cannot speak the language, (the fools we can appear in a foreign land). What if one loses the ability to speak coherently when you really need to? When you are ill for example and when you rely on the means of quick communication.

You can be a perfectly rational and intelligent human being, struggling to make enough to pay that mortgage; buy that new car; the split level oven and hob would look even smarter if renewed; but what about next year's subscription to the golf and squash clubs and that new squash equipment? That's life.

As a matter of course you see the old witch doctor for the annual check-up. However this time, although "there is absolutely nothing to worry about but I would like you to see . . .", so, after a while, you see the specialist who, eventually, refers you somewhere else and, suddenly you realise that you have something unpronounceable but, luckily "there is no reason why you have to get any worse for a long time however these diseases are so unpredictable".

You may be one of the "lucky ones" and indeed live a reasonably active life for many years, but if you are one of the unfortunate victims of a progressive illness, it may mean care in a "home".

Gradually you may encounter difficulty with speaking, then movement. Now try and communicate with a speech impairment; remember you are unable to move and (contradicting all popular misconception) have all your marbles.

The plight of disabled people who have to put up with speech impairment as well as any other handicap can be most distressing, for both the sufferer and the onlooker. The inability of an intelligent person to express thoughts and request help results in severe frustration and even depression. It can result in anger, apathy, and of course, great misery and unhappiness.

Thank you Technology—DUNCAN BELL

The microcomputer has become an invaluable friend to many physically handicapped and it is this phenomenon that people find so fascinating.

A firm called POSSUM, almost a household name to many disabled, have been manufacturing for years a whole range of specially designed devices for the physically handicapped. They vary from a simple and easy to operate alarm for the housebound through typewriters and word processors or even speech synthesisers for those with speech difficulties to "interfaces" (or selection display matrix boards (rather like the board that has become familiar to all who know the ubiquitous Possum typewriter) allow you to call up specific key words for control of a micro.). To a large extent the problem of communication, with all its attendant difficulties, is being overcome. More and more companies are making aids for communication and self expression.

One such aid produced by POSSUM is a word processor, which can be operated by the seriously disabled via a suck/blow tube coupled to a microswitch, it has a VDU for composing and a matrix board (approx. 2 ft. square) displaying all the normal typewriter keyboard characters and functions

giving access for example to a word-store or "lexicon", so if the operator blows to light up "lexicon" then has a suck and blow to choose any letter in the alphabet, he displays a list of words beginning with that letter (on average about 35 words for each). If you select "cursor" the same can be moved to edit—move letters, lines or even paragraphs. The finished article can then be automatically typed. There is a telephone/computer line link facility.

Who would have thought that eventually our one time adversary and "sword of Damocles", the computer, would become a device, a machine for helping handicapped people of all ages. Are we witnessing a philosophical shift or change of attitude towards the all powerful and all inspiring computer? Is society beginning to realise that they are a mere tool, a device, albeit a sophisticated tool, for their use and even amusement. The torque wrench was once considered a marvel of scientific invention for the privileged; I bet all keen, money conscious, amateur car mechanics own one.

The price of the micro falls every day, and its uses become more and more diverse; how long before you own one?

Duncan Bell with his computer system



Many people believe that Britain's retention of nuclear weapons has deterred aggressors, and has kept the peace in Europe since the second world war. But forty years is a very short time in human history. As Bertrand Russell said, "You may reasonably expect a man to walk a tightrope safely for ten minutes, it would be unreasonable to do so without accident for two hundred years." The deterrent has only to fail to deter once, and the likelihood of this happening increases every year. In the Anglican report, "The Church and the Bomb", the authors say, talking about the dangers of proliferation, "India, Pakistan, Israel and South Africa are all believed to be able to produce nuclear bombs very quickly, if they have not already done so. 29 states are thought able to do so within the next 30 or 40 years, 13 of them with

of which the physicians speak, are summed up in the words of Jesus, "Love your enemies." If Britain had no nuclear weapons, the worst thing that could happen to us would be to be invaded by the U.S.S.R. I think it is unlikely that this would happen, but it is possible. As a person who has worked for Amnesty International for over twenty years, I don't think that I have any illusions about what life would be like if we were conquered by the Russians. An article similar to this one could earn me ten years in a labour camp. Russian dissidents find themselves in psychiatric hospitals being treated as insane. That was the price Viktor Rainsberg paid when he protested about the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia.

But, compared with nuclear war, occupation by Russia would be the lesser of two evils. The physicians

For these reasons, I believe that Britain should cease to depend on nuclear weapons for its defence, whatever any other nation may do. In the end, the two superpowers will have to reach an agreement to disarm, if they are not to destroy the planet. But Britain, as a small nation, could take a first step by renouncing nuclear weapons entirely. This might break the log jam and give fresh impetus to multi-lateral negotiations between the superpowers. But even if it did not it would still be the right thing to do. How can we be prepared to use nuclear weapons in any circumstances at all? Millions would be killed, burned and injured, and, in the sombre words of the doctors in their report, "The survivors would envy the dead." How can we contemplate inflicting the horrors of nuclear war on any members of the

REFLECTIONS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

by Audrey Shepherd

plausible, political incentives for doing so. The true danger of nuclear proliferation is that the weapons will become part of the substance of confrontations far more intractable than that in relatively stable Europe." This is why I believe that a new way forward must be found.

One of the conclusions reached by the 100 doctors who took part in the 1st Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, held in Virginia, U.S.A., in 1981, was that new ways of thinking are needed today. They say, "We seek security as humanity has traditionally done from spurious nations of strength, dominated by false concepts of winning and losing. Such thought patterns have become outmoded by the realities of nuclear weapons." As the Anglican report says in its final chapter, "The evils caused by nuclear war are greater than any conceivable evil which the war is intended to prevent. And neither side could win a nuclear war between east and west."

For me, although I am not a Christian, the new ways of thinking

in their preamble say this, "Nuclear war would be the ultimate human and environmental disaster. The immediate and long term destruction of human life and health would be on an unprecedented scale, threatening the very survival of civilisation." I don't believe that the U.S.S.R. would attempt to invade W. Europe if there were no nuclear weapons sited there. They have more problems than they can cope with in E. Europe. But, if I am mistaken, and we were to be invaded, the Russian empire would, in time, disintegrate and fall apart, as all other empires have done throughout history. The greater the area conquered by the U.S.S.R. the more dissident groups would spring up. Non-violent, passive resistance could be exploited to the full. Life would be unpleasant for us, but there would be a future for the next generation. Change would come and life on the planet would continue. In the event of nuclear war, the human race would finally have chosen death, the end of the species and the destruction of the environment on which we depend for life.

human race to which we belong? If we can't, then I believe that we must take the initiative in trying to find a way of living together in peace. Unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain could be the first step on that way.

Perhaps you are wondering why this article should appear in the "Cheshire Smile". The reason is that I am severely disabled myself, so attendance at demonstrations during the winter months is not a practical way of making my views known. I have decided, therefore, to make my contribution to the peace movement through the written and the spoken word. I wondered if other disabled people who share my views might like to protest against government policy in the same way.

Letters can be written to local councillors and newspapers, to members of Parliament, to the Minister of Defence and the B.B.C. Conversations can be initiated with one person or a small group, or one can offer to speak at a meeting.

OPERATION RALEIGH

A ROUND-THE-WORLD EXPEDITION extending over four years, Operation Raleigh involves exciting scientific, conservation and community projects on land and sea. This ambitious venture follows the pattern of its successful forerunner, Operation Drake, which took place between 1978 and 1980. The Venturers will be chosen after interviews and exhaustive selection tests. They will also be given expedition training prior to joining Operation Raleigh in the field.

Cheshire Foundation

THE EXPEDITION WILL FOLLOW the pattern of Operation Drake in 1978, in which Mr. Paul Hanson, a resident at Hydon Hill Cheshire Home, very successfully took part. The Cheshire Foundation has been offered two places in each of the four years for residents in Cheshire homes. As it is likely that the first two nominations for 1984 will be required soon, Mr. Hanson and Major Gordon Mitchell, the Head of Home at Hydon Hill, have very kindly offered to assist with advice and co-ordination.

COLONEL BLASHFORD-SNELL AND THE ORGANISERS of Operation Raleigh are hoping to assist successful applicants to find sponsors to help with the cost of the expedition and our Trustees have already kindly agreed to "start the ball rolling" with a donation of £100 towards the cost of each resident who is selected.

IF THERE IS ANY RESIDENT of your home who is in any way interested, please arrange for them to get in touch with Major Mitchell as soon as possible.

EXPLOITATION OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES is a matter of deep concern to most youngsters. Operation Raleigh will enable many of them to assist in conservation tasks whilst keeping alive the Elizabethan spirit of adventure. The expedition will provide many opportunities for the young to overcome problems,

seek new challenges and develop their talents. In short, they will be encouraged to discover leadership.

THE VENTURERS WILL TAKE PART in one of the sixteen 3 to 4 month phases. Each will include more than 200 Venturers aged 17 to 24. They will be working in arduous and testing conditions under the direction of experienced scientists and specialists.

A MAJOR NEW EXPLORATION VESSEL is being equipped as the expedition flagship. She will act as operational headquarters and communications centre providing crucial back up for the land-based projects. Modern laboratories will also enable her to carry out extensive oceanographic research.

THE EXPEDITION BEGINS IN NOVEMBER 1984 when the flagship sets sail from Merseyside, bound for North Carolina. Upon arrival in the United States, Operation Raleigh will take part in the celebrations of the founding of English Speaking America 400 years ago by the explorer and leader of men—Sir Walter Raleigh. Accompanied by vessels and sailing ships from participating nations, the flagship will then sail to the Caribbean, Central and South America, Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, Asia and Africa on its voyage of scientific discovery and human achievement.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PROJECTS are being planned by recognised scientific and conser-

vation bodies, in co-operation with host governments. These will include comparative zoological, botanical and geographical surveys of tropical rain forests, deserts and montane environments as well as archaeological excavations and medical research. Links with international and local agencies will enable Operation Raleigh to co-operate in environmental development programmes and community projects.

OPERATION RALEIGH is the largest, most ambitious multinational expedition ever undertaken. An enterprise of inspiration and motivation, it is a challenge to the world's youth—offering them new horizons of hope and opportunity.

Select a Venturer

These Venturers—4,000 in all—from diverse backgrounds, will have one thing in common: potential. Do you know a young person, aged between 17 and 24, with potential, or one who is disadvantaged, disabled or unemployed?

If you do, and want to put forward their application, further details may be obtained from:—

Col. J. N. BLASHFORD-SNELL MBE
Ministry of Defence (Room 440)
Old War Office Building
Whitehall, London SW1
(Tel: 01 218 0496)



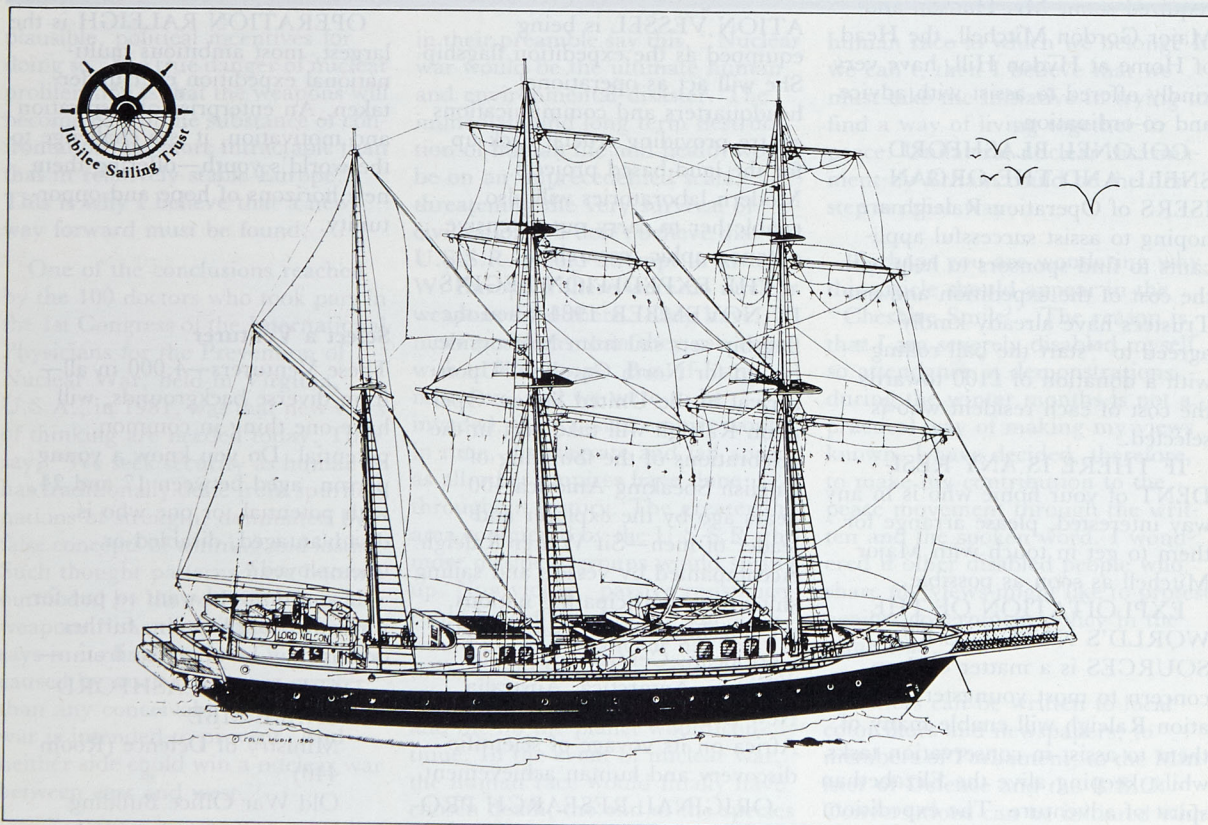
The Jubilee Sailing Trust was established with a donation from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund in 1978 from an idea conceived by its Founder and Secretary Christopher Rudd, B.A. (Cantab) who has been involved for many years in sailing with the disabled.

Restoring the will to win through partnership at sea

The Trust was set up to provide the opportunity for a meeting point of the disabled and able-bodied in the unique setting of a sailing ship at sea. It has been found that through the challenges, adventures and achievements of sailing a square-rigger, the scheme offers not just an exhilarating and enjoyable holiday for all its participants, but also provides a unique and effective way of helping a large number of people to win their battle for a new life and thus helps to shorten the often lengthy and costly process of readjustment to normal life.

The scheme's success lies in the opportunity it gives for a person to test him or herself to hitherto undreamed of limits. The sea has always provided the challenge to the able-bodied: now, the Trust extends it to the physically handicapped.

At sea, there is always an element of danger. There would be no sense of challenge or excitement if this was not so, and the disabled have every right to share it. Vessels used by the Trust are equipped for them to do so, as far as possible, on equal terms with the able-bodied.



LORD NELSON. The 400-ton barque, designed for the Jubilee Sailing Trust by Colin Mudie, FRINA, for offshore sailing, in which those with physical handicaps will comprise half of the voyage crew of forty-four.

In addition to the specialized gear on board, to make possible the maximum participation by the disabled, each vessel has a well-equipped sick-bay and trained medical staff.

The brigantine Soren Larsen

In 1983, the Trust chartered the brigantine "Soren Larsen" for 10 weeks. She is best known for her television appearances as the "Onedin Line" flagship and Shackleton's "Endurance". All cruises were booked almost as soon as they were announced. In 1984 and 1985, the Trust is chartering her again; this time for a full six months.

The highlight of the 1983 season was the Tall Ships' Race, in which the Jubilee Sailing Trust was the first ever to enter a crew containing a substantial number who suffered from some kind of physical handicap. Apart from winning a prize for coming third in her class, the ship was awarded the most coveted trophy of all: The Cutty Sark Bell, which is given to the ship considered to have done most to promote international understanding and goodwill. In the Race the "Soren Larsen" voyage crew of 22, included those with polio, blindness, muscular dystrophy, spasticity and speech impairment. All played their part in the ship's triumph.

The barque Lord Nelson

The Trust intends to build a new vessel to be named the "Lord Nelson" after Britain's most distinguished sailor. The new vessel, when built, will have accommodation for a voyage crew of 44, of whom half can be disabled, with up to 8 in wheelchairs. There will also be a permanent crew of 6-8.

The ship, as planned, will be a 135' barque, of 400 tons designed by Colin Mudie, F.R.I.N.A. The proposed hull has been specially designed and tank-tested to ensure it will be stable and dry in a seaway. A wealth of ingenious equipment, most of it tried and tested aboard the "Soren Larsen", will make the wheel, chartroom, engine room and even the flat-topped bowsprit accessible to wheelchairs.

Visual or tactile signs will pass instructions to the deaf, and a compass, which gives out an audible warning if the ship strays off-course, will allow the blind to take a turn at the helm. Suitable clothing and a heating system will be available to aid the less mobile. In an average year some 1,700 crew-members will sail in her. Half will be physically handicapped. The "Lord Nelson" is expected to cost £2 million to build, and an additional £1.5 million endowment will ensure that a berth aboard a vessel operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust is within the means of everyone.

For further information contact: The Jubilee Sailing Trust, Atlantic Road, Eastern Docks, Southampton, SO1 1GD. Tel: 0703 31388.

SEQUAL

New name for a nationwide charity for disabled people

SEQUAL the new name for the national charity formerly known for more than a decade as PUA (Possum Users' Association).

SEQUAL—Special Equipment and Aids for Living—supplies and maintains a wide range of electrical and electronic equipment for its members. SEQUAL is run by disabled people for disabled people. It therefore fully understands the importance of providing the most appropriate input to suit the individual's needs. This is particularly relevant in view of the substantial increase in the range of equipment offered by manufacturers with the growth of micro-electronics. SEQUAL aims to improve the quality of life for severely physically disabled people as well as changing attitudes towards disability and encouraging awareness of what disability means in terms of personal life.

SEQUAL makes no charge to the disabled person for equipment issued, although funding may come from voluntary groups in the locality where the person lives. Independence-giving aids range from small communicators for those without speech to multi-functional micro-computer controls, as well as page turners and specially adapted typewriters.

SEQUAL also runs a special emergency service which can supply communications equipment vital to terminal cases in a matter of days.

For further information contact: Hilary Finch, Co-ordinator SEQUAL, 27 Thames House, 140 Battersea Park Road, London, SW11. Tel: 01-622-3738.

Footnote: The Foundation's newly appointed Aids and Equipment Advisers, Lesley King (north) and Judith Cowley (south) are in the process of negotiating with Sequal for the benefit of the residents in the homes, most especially those with communication problems.

Any resident or Head of Home can ask to be visited by one of Sequal's Welfare and assessing Officers, either directly or through their Aids and Equipment Adviser.



“SNAPSHOTS”

Orpheus mosaic—Demeter Goddess of the Autumn, vintage and maturity

of the Roman World

June A. Lloyd

What is archaeology? Most people think of it as a form of treasure hunting, and diggers are always being asked, “Have you found anything valuable?”, or from children, “Found any bones yet?”. The dictionary, however, defines it as the study of antiquities from the Greek word *Arkhaiologia*, but a better definition might be the study of man by looking at the material remains left behind.

Much can be learnt from small objects dug up from beneath the earth, particularly if a careful note is made of their position in the soil and their relationship to other buried objects. However, much more spectacular and immediate information can be gained from mosaics. They bring the Roman past to life in a way that a few broken walls or shattered pots can rarely do, and, as we today would take colour snaps of ourselves at work and play, so the Romans portrayed the same activities, only their “snapshots” were a lot more permanent than ours. They loved theatrical performances and gladiator contests and hunting; fishing and the grape harvest were ideal subjects for their pictures; and they were even able to display their appreciation of literature on the floors of their villas. The fact that the same designs are found throughout the Roman Empire in Gaul,

Germany, Spain, Cyprus and Britain, strongly suggests a thriving industry of travelling mosaicists with pattern books which they could show to their customers. No doubt they also had a corresponding price list!

At Pompeii are several “theatrical” mosaics, one of which shows the actors waiting in the wings before a performance, whilst another illustrates some strolling players. In Aquileia in Northern Italy a huge mosaic covers the floor of the church depicting fishermen, and showing details of their boats, nets and clothes as well as a large selection of the sort of fish they caught. Ostia also has mosaics depicting ships, fishes and sea creatures. The Romans were particularly good at showing animals in their mosaics and the legend of Orpheus gave them the opportunity to exercise their skill to the full. Woodchester in Gloucestershire has a very fine mosaic of this legend and there are many exceptionally fine studies of animals in a hunting scene around the impluvium at the Roman villa in Cyprus. Elsewhere in the same villa is a mosaic showing the grape harvest with workers cutting the grapes, putting them into nets and loading them on to the backs of donkeys. Another very popular subject was the gladiatorial contest and at Bignor in Sussex,

cupids play the parts of the retiarius with his net and trident, and the secutor in his armour, whilst the trainer, holding his rod, looks on. Other floors, such as that at Lullingstone in Kent where there is an inscription referring to the first Book of the Aeneid, and that in the Somerset Museum depicting the story of Dido and Aeneas, are an indication of the high standard of literacy amongst these wealthy villa owners.

Mosaicists were master craftsmen and as such were proud of their work. So much so that they sometimes signed it or left their trademark. At Fishbourne, Sussex, a small bird “trademark” has been inserted into the border around the Cupid on a Dolphin mosaic, and on one of the 1st century floors the mosaicist has inserted a white diamond into the black background as his “trademark”. At Bignor the artist has inserted the letters “TER” in a small triangle. Others were not quite so modest and retiring and signed their names in full as Hephaestion did at Pergamon.

Of course there are many other types of mosaics, such as the geometrical ones and some designs even manage a three-dimensional effect, but it is the ones of people and animals enjoying themselves, relaxing, which link us with our ancestors of 2,000 years ago.

HIDDEN HANDICAP

by M Love

Members of society at large, and the residents and staff of Cheshire Homes in particular, are solicitous and sympathetic to the needs of disabled people. It is human nature to make all possible allowances for the handicapped and try to ease their general and specific problems in day-to-day life. Indeed, people's helpfulness can even be excessive; a friend who became blind in his twenties found that he had to discourage well-meaning friends and relatives from doing things for him because they were, in effect, depriving him of learning-situations for activities which he must inevitably have to do on his own at times.

And yet all the kindness which exists towards handicapped people depends upon their disability being visible. Anyone can see what kind of help a person struggling uphill in a wheelchair needs; anyone can understand the nature of a blind person's problems in a shopping centre, a busy street or a railway station. But other categories of handicap also exist which are not so visible, and therefore do not stimulate the same caring and respectful attitude in the general public, or indeed in other handicapped people.

I am a resident of Mickley Hall, Sheffield, as a result of a skin complaint called epidermolysis bullosa. Put briefly, the major effect of this disorder—which is thankfully very rare—is persistent severe blistering, internal and external, caused by small pressures on the skin which would not even be noticeable, let alone disabling, in the normal life

of an unaffected person. Eating normally-textured food, grasping door handles, even sitting on a wooden or plastic chair, leads to blistering which, due to the excessive presence of an enzyme in the skin, tends to spread rather than to heal.

I have learned, through painful experience, what to avoid and how to plan ahead for situations which might be encountered. When I lived in day-to-day contact with only a small number of people, all of whom fully understood my problems, difficulties were few—I still had to endure the inevitable blistering, the dressings, the carrying of a pad of paper hankies to use as a cushion when turning doorknobs—but at least I did not have to contend with the equally special interests of other, differently handicapped, people.

Medical constraints have compelled me to take up residence in Mickley Hall, and I would like to make it quite clear that I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to live in such a pleasant place. Among other benefits, I have found the opportunity to assist others who are, in their own special ways, in need of help. My most recent operation, which restored a pincer-style opposition of fingers and thumb of one hand (in recent times webbed together, as a result of repeated severe blistering followed by "healing together"), has enabled me to derive a lot of satisfaction from helping residents who, cruelly, have perfect hands but cannot use them. Hopefully, a second operation will shortly restore similar movement to my other hand.

In the meantime, however, my hand operation has allowed me the freedom once again to be myself—to brush my own hair the way I want it, to put on my make-up in the way I used to do, to dress and behave as nearly as possible as I would have done if I were not suffering from this problem.

Not too many people notice when I have to eat liquidised food to protect my inner skin from the scratchy bits so beloved of F-plan dieters, because few realise that the skin extends through the inside of the body as well as around the outside. But regretfully I can suffer from appearing too "normal" for my own good.

It is entirely understandable that a young man confined to a wheelchair should make his machine whizz along as fast as possible—he has his own right to self-expression. But a slight knock from his chair can set me back much further than anyone's casual glance would suggest.

A community of people who are each primarily concerned with their own specific problems—after all, that's why they live here—can be difficult to integrate. One disabled person in a conventional environment is easily accommodated; it's simply a matter of everyone else making one small allowance. But in a situation where people with different forms of handicap live together under one roof, it becomes not just a courtesy but a necessity that due regard should be given to the less noticeable handicaps.

When I came to Mickley Hall I brought with me my own easy chair—a very attractive piece of furniture, well upholstered and a tempting target for the first person to enter the lounge. It's most embarrassing to have to ask someone to move out of my "special" chair; but the chair is, for me, not a luxurious creature-comfort but a medical necessity. It is at times like this that I feel half-tempted to let my blisters show, leave my make-up in its box and look like an object of sympathy—but I haven't, not yet.

And, what's more, with a little understanding I never will.

To the Editor



Dear Editors,

In your editorial you ask why the articles in the Smile remain unanswered. One of the main reasons I would say, is the fact that the residents who feel the most about care issues and would want to write are the most vulnerable to care abuse, they may agree with what is said one-hundred per cent, but would never say so in writing for fear of being victimised. Oh! fiddlesticks, nothing of the kind, people don't do anything like that. Perhaps not in most cases, but its the odd one, and it matters. If a resident is got at, I am sure it wouldn't be in a nasty way, but in a simple way, but even so it would be hurtful to the recipient.

A lot to sort out

Much of the criticism which is written in the "Smile" would not have been written in the first place had the writers with the grievance taken up their problems with the one in authority. It is so very often the case that the person in authority is the last person to find out. There is lack of rudimentary communication. Having said this, there is a lot of things that need sorting out and the "Smile" can and is doing a great job of getting to the nitty gritty of the problems which sweep through the corridors care.

What do you do?

It does seem to me that the residents who can express themselves most on the matters of care, are those who require little or no attention, they are beholden to no-one. And as these residents can do most for themselves they'll have little to complain about. There must be many residents who wish to make changes in their homes but do not know how to. The way it is supposed to be done is through the residents committee, but where the residents committee is weak and the residents are apathetic, what do you do?

Unworkable?

It is high time it all got sorted out. At the present time homes are run in accordance to the dictates of the Heads of Home, with the wishes of the residents in mind. There is a Handbook on Care which every Cheshire Home possesses, but it seems many hold the view that much of what the book says, is unworkable. Why is it unworkable? If this is the case how did it come to get written in the first place. There must I am sure, have been the need for such an undertaking.

If we hold with the view of the standardisation of the care in the Cheshire Homes, upon whom or what do we base our standards? Is there any home who has made such radical changes we could take for our model? Or could we take the Handbook of Care and put into practice its recommendations. I am sure the homes wouldn't be able to put all the recommendations into force all at once. It would take a lot of effort but I am sure it can be done.

Medication

Tablets and pills: Residents wherever possible should be responsible for keeping and administering their own pills. It seems to me all wrong when short stay residents have to give up their pills to the people in charge when they come to live in this environment for a short while. If they can be responsible in their own homes why not here? Uniforms and titles: In the hospital setting these are essential and correct. The uniform is worn with pride and the titles are held with honour and rightly so. But in the life of a care home is there such a need? The wearing of an overall can be classed as a uniform but if worn in our homes it is only used as protective covering.

Tom Hulley sacked

In the same editorial we have mention of the article about Tom Hulley, the sacked Head of a hostel for the physically handicapped. It seems this County Council were simply giving lip service to the principles which Tom Hulley was putting into practice and for this he was sacked. If the relationship

didn't impinge on the rights and needs of other people in the home then why all the fuss. Everybody was aware of what was going on.

Staff or Keeper, Resident or Client, why must there be this distinction? Right enough there has to be a distinction when one is rendering a service. But when the work has been done it should be a person-to-person relationship. When the shift ends so should the division between us. But most will still see themselves as being separate.

Yours sincerely,

E. Pinder,

Mickley Hall Cheshire Home
Sheffield

Dear Editors,


Lack of response to recent comment in the Cheshire Smile about management attitudes to Cheshire Home residents (lamented in the spring editorial) is not really surprising. It simply confirms how valid were the issues raised and how serious the problem.

Residents in homes who have given up the fight for recognition as normal human beings, capable of expressing opinions and running their own affairs, are unlikely to write to the Cheshire Smile.

Unfortunate Attitude

I see no solution to the problem. Either people can relate to disabled folk on a normal person-to-person basis, or they cannot, and until the management committee selection procedure is changed many Cheshire Homes will never be the kind of places they were intended to be—homes with a small "h", as near as possible to the ones enjoyed by disabled people who have families to care for them.

If a home is unfortunate enough to have someone in charge whose attitude is one of "passive disinterest" then there is no way that residents can be expected to pursue a life of "hopeful endeavour". If, in addition, its management committee members are not involved



To, the Editor

with the residents and never get to know them as people, discover the needs of the home for themselves, (perhaps because they are too involved in running their own affairs and serve on charity committees simply to enhance their community image) they have no idea that there is anything wrong with the way the home is being run.

I submit that membership of a Rotary Club or Round Table has more relevance in a support group where fund-raising is the prime concern, than on a management committee whose function is to make fundamental decisions affecting the lives of residents. Surely an understanding of the feelings and needs of disabled people is a more appropriate qualification than membership of Rotary or similar prestigious organisations?

Elections of management committee members along the lines of community health councils might achieve a more acceptable situation. Nominations are made by voluntary organisations, many of whose members are already working with disabled people in the community, and those same bodies are also the voters, following normal democratic procedure. Management of every Cheshire Home is said to be "vested in a committee as representative as possible of the local community", but how many are, one wonders.

Institutions, not homes

A home where residents are discouraged from behaving as though it is their own home and not an institution, becomes an unwelcoming place for friends who go along to help. In homes where residents are confident and secure, this is reflected in their behaviour and they feel able to reach out to others. They believe it is their responsibility to be friendly, perhaps offer refreshment, even if it means inviting callers to

make a tea or coffee for themselves and the host resident, to drink while they chat—which is, one hopes, what would happen were that person in their own home. I suspect in many Cheshire Homes it is rare for such common courtesies to be extended because the residents are brainwashed into believing they have no part to play in the running of the place. They passively sit—bodies in chairs, waiting to be fed, toileted and put to bed!

In such homes, it is also likely that the Cheshire Home philosophy is not explained to members of staff when they join the nursing team. They remain unaware that it was the local community that raised the money and launched the home that provides their employment, and they resent outside helpers, seeing them as a threat to their jobs. This means would-be friends don't always get a welcome from them either, and a vast store of goodwill from the local community remains untapped because (apart from the really determined ones) volunteers leave never to return because they feel unwanted and they tell others, which doesn't improve public relations!

Change Needed in Attitudes

Leonard Cheshire has been quoted as saying, "Providing a home is relatively simple. What is more difficult is to give the disabled the kind of life they should have: more privacy and more involvement in the running of the home. Aids and gadgets give them mobility and the opportunity to work, but we need a change of attitudes in the people who tend to look at disabled persons as if they were relatively 'simple', and talk down to them.

"More than that, as the years go by, things change and it is very easy to get fixed in your ideas and not be flexible enough to re-think. A lot of institutions which become successful, lose their drive through rigid thinking; I hope this will not happen to us."

I wonder how many "Smile" readers heard the play "Tell me when the feeling stops" by Hayden Evans on Radio 4 a few months ago. It was a very perceptive piece of drama, splendidly reflecting common attitudes of able bodied people to disability. It told the story of a young woman, paralysed in a road

accident, who was warned by a doctor that she would adapt to relying on wheels for mobility without too much difficulty. A greater problem would be the attitudes of her friends and family; their inability to accept her as exactly the same person as before the crippling accident—with the same views, feelings, needs and rights. We all know this is true but it comes as a big shock to discover such attitudes in a Cheshire Home.

Yours sincerely,

Rosetta Stone

Dear Editors,

On reading the article on "Disabled People's Support for Social Worker" in the last Cheshire Smile (spring 84), I was moved to write my support for Patricia Gay and Tom Hulley.

Although I no longer live in residential care, I did spend seven years of my early twenties in various forms of 'institutions' — these are the years when one, naturally, explores relationships. If, in this time, I had ever had to experience opposition I am sure it would have marked me for life.

After all, don't we have enough problems actually being disabled without having it rubbed in by some person in authority, who thinks they know best?

I believe Tom Hulley, the Officer-in-Charge of the hostel, was in the right to let the relationship continue and run its natural course. Why should he have been penalised for letting two human beings form a friendship just because one happens to be disabled?

While living in care, of course, there is more chance of a friendship between a carer and the one being cared for developing — that's the restricted social circle dictated by circumstance.

I now live independently. Who is there to control my life style? What is the difference between me and any female in residential care? Not a thing—we are both quite capable of forming friendships with whom we like, whether it be a member of care staff, fellow resident, or the guy who lives down the road.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Briggs

Cowplain, Hants.

Letter from MAURITIUS

Independent living for the physically disabled is not entirely confined to those living in the more affluent West, as the following letter—slightly corrected—clearly demonstrates. The determination and desire of physically impaired people throughout the world to be given the opportunity to live the life they choose rather than simply accept what is offered to them by others is something to be admired.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Rowley,

I think I told you about my long stay in hospital, convent and Cheshire Home. So in 1981 (I.Y.D.P.) I have the good idea of leaving the Cheshire home in order to have an independent life. So I chose four persons here who are able to work and earn money to come with me, and so we started our new life.

At first we had a fund raising so that we could get our furniture. Then I searched for a house to rent. Finally I found one suitable at Curepipe. On the 12th December 1981 we moved to our new home.

It is two years now since we moved and I can tell you that it is a very good experiment we have made. It was a venture at first.

Our main source of revenue is bookbinding. We made contact with libraries and banks so that we get work from them. Two able-bodied persons (young) live with us to help do the things that we cannot do, with a small pay of course. Things are going very well and my future project is to buy a house of our own. I hope that 1984 will be a prosperous one and that the project will come to fruition.

While writing this letter the radio is warning of a class III cyclone on Mauritius. So we are not sure that we will have a good Christmas party.

I end, wishing you all good luck.

Francois Sockalingum
Mauritius

AID TO DISABLED in Rural Zimbabwe

The Cheshire Foundation International has long been aware of the need to establish mobile clinics in developing countries to reach disabled people in remote villages whose very real needs are invariably overlooked or ignored.

Now a start to reach them has been made in Zimbabwe where the Foundation has set up six service centres which are now in operation at Musarara, Rosa, Chiporiro, Kachuta, Centenary and Mutorashanga, with half of these attached to rural clinics.

Shortage of Experience

There is a staff of seven and a part-time occupational therapist, most of them recruited locally despite a serious shortage of qualified and experienced personnel.

The project occupies three buildings—a former school hostel with three rooms, a kitchen, ten bedrooms, and an outhouse, with three rooms for domestic and workshop staff. A third building houses the Project Co-Ordinator and his family. Half an acre of land is under cultivation and provides vegetables for the staff.

Low Cost Aids

The Project now has three motor cars, provided by UNICEF, two of them Landcruisers which are essential because of the distances covered. In addition there is a workshop attached to the centre at Mvurwi where low cost aids such as calipers, walking frames, crutches, arm and leg splints, clogs and orthopaedically adapted shoes are made. A technologist received intensive training by a specialist flown out from London, and now it is hoped to train local personnel to make these simple aids from locally available materials.

Busy Units

So far eighty different cases have been referred to various specialist units which included six for orthopaedic surgery, ten to the orthopaedic workshop in Harare, three to the child assessment unit at St. Giles, four to a paediatrician, twenty five for ophthalmology treatment, one for psychiatry and thirty for medical diagnosis to different district hospitals. Fifteen people have so far been fitted with various aids and gaskets.

Enormous Task

An important start has been made and many difficult problems have been overcome. Nevertheless there is no complacency but a growing realisation that the task being tackled is an enormous one. For example, in the three areas covered under the programme (150 kilometres in radius) between 1,200 and 1,500 disabled people with wide ranging disabilities and no means of livelihood or support are in need of help. Even when the Foundation programme is fully operational the rural disability problem is so great that it will only be touching the tip of the iceberg.

On the positive side, however, excellent working relationships have been established with both governmental and non-governmental organisations and projects. Notable among these organisations are UNICEF, the Ministry of Health at Bindura, Zimbabwe Red Cross, National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped and Save the Children (U.K.).

One success story: A tinsmith from the village of Musarara whose legs were partially paralysed because of a damaged spine, was fitted with a pair of elbow crutches and has now become so excessively mobile that he can't be found any more for a follow-up!



The Pope in the Audience Hall with Leonard Cheshire and Lady Sue Ryder

Many residents, organisers and helpers gathered together in Rome to celebrate the Cheshire/Ryder Family Week. It was very much an international event with people flying in from all over the world to Italy's capital. I suppose the holiday, when looking back is rather like a golfer remembering his good shots. The problems and difficulties with the original hotel were forgotten, if not forgiven, as the week progressed and the Audience with the Pope was certainly a hole in one. The mixture of so many from western and eastern block countries, which was so happy, made one wonder why there are so many upsets in the world today. The renewal of Sue and Leonard's marriage vows, in St. Peter's, Rome by night, Tivoli, Monte Casino and Assisi. All of these leave different memories and the visit to Monte Casino by the Polish group was a moving occasion. St. Peter's Square on Sunday morning was crowded and full of interest to members of all faiths. There was also free time where leisure was spent either in Rome or Ostia.

Ostia, seventeen miles from Rome, was the town where we stayed for the week. It was pleasant, quieter than Rome, and by the sea. The hotel just about managed to accommodate us all, but the entrance hall, bar and dining room

Below—(Left) Swiss guard at the entrance to the Vatican City (Right) Assisi

were always packed. The lift worked overtime with all seven floors being used by our party. The numbers were so large that all the trips were divided into two groups. However, we all met in the evenings, plus the Audience with the Pope and the Gala evening on Friday when we were all together to celebrate.

Thursday at the Vatican is a day everyone will remember. It started at ten o'clock leaving Ostia, in a motorcade with police outriders. It was led by a car driven by Lady Bridges, the wife of the British Ambassador and a high ranking police official, followed by the Honorable Ambrose and Mrs. Allagoa, then the Le Court bus, plus eighteen coaches and the Hydon Hill bus. This was quite an experience with the police outriders blocking road junctions and stopping the Rome traffic. We were soon entering the Vatican City and parked inside. It took sometime for all of us to settle into the magnificent Audience Hall. The first three rows were used by the residents in their chairs and the rest were privileged to sit in the front rows. We shared the Audience with a party of French, who added to the occasion with a band and much vocal noise.



Departing from Gatwick for the Ryder
Standing (L to R) Sir Peter Ramsbotham, aie
the Raphael P
In wheelchair (L to R) Joan Lindley of Stonicr
the Jersey Cles

FAMILY IN ROME

by TOM G





...e Ryder Cheshire Family Week in Rome.
 ...m, a helper, Mr. Gilbert Thompson—Organiser of
 ...phae Pilgrimage
 ...Stonicroft Cheshire Home and Joan Dodds from
 ...y Cheshire Home.

LY WEEK

ME * 1984

...M GARDNER



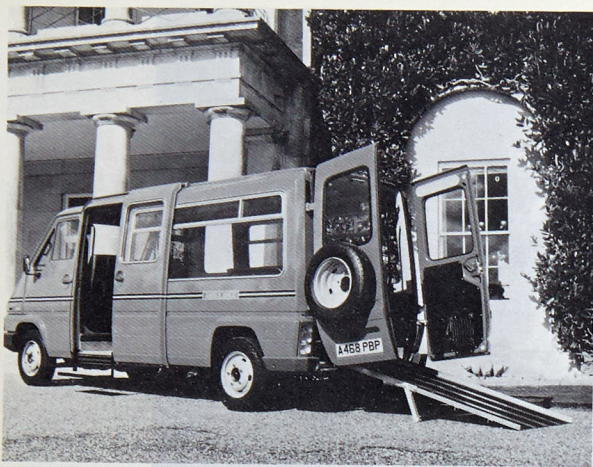
*The Hon. Ambrose and Mrs. Allagoa from Nigeria
 talking to Christopher Nias.*

Leonard Cheshire and Lady Sue Ryder both spoke to the assembled guests, before the Pope came onto the platform to a deafening roar. His Holiness addressed the gathering in French, Polish, Italian and English, he then left the platform to greet us all, first moving slowly along the lines of those people in wheelchairs and then along the many rows of the ablebodied, giving all our party an individual blessing. He then slowly returned to the platform and was just about to leave, when he turned and with a lovely gesture went back across the stage to greet the Cheshires again. One of the Vatican guides, who was with us, said it was one of the longest audiences she had known. Lunch was taken within the Vatican walls, before going into St. Peters to join in a Mass and the renewal of the marriage vows. In the hotel that night there was a gaiety which was most noticeable, with various countries singing and dancing and tongues giving a babble of noise a few octaves higher than previous evenings. The Gala Evening on Friday took a long time. This was because when people spoke it then had to be interpreted into other languages.

The larger hall underneath the hotel was packed. Many presents were given to the Silver Wedding couple from all over the world, including a substantial cheque for the new home opening in Rome. It was well after midnight before drinks and celebration cakes were served. Although there were many moving moments, perhaps the residents from Major General Bakshi's home in India, illustrated what love and caring is all about.

* * *

Some were fortunate to visit the British Ambassador's Residence and have tea with Lady Bridges. Her hospitality was excellent and a very pleasant two hours was spent with her and some of her friends. Although in the heart of Rome it was so peaceful and quiet in the grounds. Obviously there were many funny moments, some sad and some emotional. It was a moving occasion and I hope all went home with happy thoughts. Some good friends were made and I'm sure even as I write, letters must be going backwards and forwards from such places as Yugoslavia, Egypt, Israel and many other countries. I hope that Leonard Cheshire and Lady Sue Ryder will remember, with fond memories, their Silver Wedding spent with many of their friends who have a true love and affection for them both.



RENAULT MASTER for Le Court travellers

A total of 650 men and women from Cheshire and Sue Ryder homes in 25 countries attended a Family Week in Rome including 350 from Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, 109 from the United Kingdom Cheshire Homes and 50 from the U.K. Ryder Cheshire Homes. Fourteen went from South Africa and twelve from the three Cheshire Homes in Eire.

Le Court, at Liss, Hampshire, where the Leonard Cheshire Foundation began 36 years ago, was represented by two residents—Mr. Frank Spath, Historian of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, and Mr. Christopher Nias, accompanied by six care attendants, helpers and voluntary drivers, including Head of Home, Brigadier John Regan. Because of the severity of the two residents' physical disabilities, they were unable to travel by air nor use the transport being supplied in Rome. However, through the generosity of a UK Renault dealer—Liningtons (Portsmouth) Ltd.,—the Le Court group were able to make the long journey in comfort, being given the free loan of a Renault Master, specially adapted to convey disabled people in their powered wheelchairs.

Atlas Conversion

The special Renault Master used is an ambulance model by Atlas Conversions of Portsmouth, Hants., designed to carry five wheelchairs or 15 seated passengers. It is a long wheelbase, 1995 cc petrol-engined vehicle, with five-speed gearbox and extraordinary versatility. The front-wheel-drive layout provides a low floor level, lending itself to entry by wheelchairs up a lightweight ramp through the rear doors. It also has handrails, folding side steps and a sliding side door, with an interior built to luxury coach specification, soundproofed and moquette padded.

FASHION BREAKTHROUGH

The first real breakthrough in attractive ready-to-wear clothes incorporating special features for handicapped people has just been launched by an enterprising fashion manufacturer.

Artimaze Limited, already known for a popular range of mix-and-match unisex leisurewear, has chosen the highly fashionable tracksuit with its built-in comfort and style to form the nucleus of a collection designed in conjunction with Fashion Services for the Disabled.

These clothes are not only readily available, affordable and reflect the current trend for casual, easy-wear, easy-care styling, but will also be immensely beneficial to handicapped people and their carers.

There are three basic garments—two different tops and pants to match. All are beautifully styled in an attractive fleecy-backed acrylic/cotton knit fabric which ensures easy washing as well as warmth and softness without bulk.

Special features include wrist and ankle cuffs opening wide with Velcro studs for stiff limbs or calipers. All garments available in four width fittings and two length fittings. Pants cut with high rise at back to eliminate gaping. Elasticated waist. Pockets positioned just above knee, ideal for wheelchair users. Generously cut armholes on tops for ease in dressing and unrestricted movement. Zipped necks open wide for easy access.



Available in three attractive colours with contrasting trim, Grey/Maroon: Beige/Brown: Light blue/Royal. Special introductory offer £24.95 for one complete suit. Individual garments at £14.95 each plus p/p.

For full-colour brochure contact Artimaze Ltd., 118 Wood Lane, London, NW9 7LX. Tel: 01 450 6045 or 01 205 5545.

PLAN CHEST

Keith Cook

“**Mobile Home Park**” is a common advertisement now that the holiday season is here, but surely one of the sad sights is to see caravans, which trace their heritage back to the great nomadic tribes, settled in long even rows. Their flexibility removed at the same time as their wheels.

Cheshire Homes have always prided themselves on meeting the need where it exists; the local Committees seeing a challenge and facing it head-on. Like the caravan, however, the means to change has to be preserved, oiled and inflated so that forward planning groups can head for ‘horizons new’ without feeling that it is all too much trouble.

An Up-date

I have mentioned recently the different ways in which suitable independent living accommodation is being achieved, but there are also many imaginative ways in which Homes

keep up with the demand for single bed-sitting-rooms and smaller groupings of residents. For instance, Freshfields at Formby has started on the building of a group of six single bedrooms around their own lounge area in an imaginative way, which will provide easy access to other facilities in the home, coupled with increased privacy. Danybryn, near Cardiff, is expecting an early start on a separate four-bedroom block, which will replace the last double rooms in an earlier extension.

This year has already seen the opening of extensions at Saltways, Redditch, 8 single rooms and Cann House, Plymouth, with 9. By the summer, The Hill at Sandbach will be using 16 single rooms, added to replace first floor accommodation; at Marske Hall, Cleveland, 16 residents will have moved to a new extension replacing multi-bedded rooms in the original house and at St. Michael’s, Axbridge, multi-bedded rooms will hopefully pass

into history with the opening of an 8-room extension.

Space at a Premium

Many Homes do not have space to expand into, and this leaves residents, staff and Committee with a discussion on the options open to them. Which is the priority? Individual living space; communal activity areas or facilities for care and therapy? Naturally this raises many combinations of the variable factors and the working out of the possibilities can be an illuminating exercise for all who are involved.

Chiltern, at Gerards Cross, has closely considered the possibilities of the buildings in an attempt to achieve the 4 single rooms it needs, but realises that this may mean a re-appraisal of established areas and their uses. There needs to be a natural flexibility present in all accommodation and perhaps we should try to adopt for our planning groups the motto “Stones need Wheels, not Moss”.

Within reach . . .

Beryl Morton

Within reach of what, you may well ask. The answer (for the residents of this house in Thicket Road, Penge—the latest Cheshire Home) would be; within reach of our own family groups, the Penge Gateway Club and other local groups, the shops, buses, trains, churches and cafes as well as many friendly neighbours. St. Cecilia’s is also a near neighbour and we are taking an interest in this new project which is for a small number of mentally-handicapped people, between 16-40 years.

The residents will be able to go to local work centres and will also be taught living skills around the house, such as cooking, cleaning and bedmaking. Thicket Road is on the outskirts of Penge and some of the rooms have a lovely view over Crystal Palace Park.

I was given the honour of being the first person to go up in the chair lift from the lower ground floor to the hall floor. This will enable these people to share in full the communal life because the rest of the house

only contains bedrooms and bathrooms for those who are physically fit.

I was invited to the opening ceremony on March 5th. This was performed by Judge Hampden Inskip in the presence of the Mayor of Bromley, the Hyde Housing Association (which is responsible for the upkeep of the house), the architects and members of the Steering Committee, as well as many interested friends.

... WHAT OTHER KIDS DID

I wanted to do what other kids did,
After all I too was a kid.
But, Mom was afraid I might get hurt,
I couldn't even play in the dirt.
But Dad didn't see things Mom's way,
He thought that I should go out and play.
I laid awake for many nights
crying and hearing Mom and Dad fight.
I wanted to run away and hide,
It was guilt I felt inside.
But as I grew older, I started to see
all this guilt shouldn't be inside of me.
Mom held tight, but she slowly let go,
She came to realize that I was going to grow.
The only times the hold got too tight,
was when she thought for sure she was right.
There were many times I said, "What's the use?"
I just can't take all this abuse.
But something inside started to grow,
There was a lot that I wanted to know.
My friends laughed and teased me a lot,
I didn't mind, just look at what I got.
Self-respect, how many have that?
And I know where my head is at.
My pride sometimes kept me down,
But there was lessons to be found.
As I grew into teens I began to see
everyone was doing everything, but not me.
And when I asked the question "Why?"
No one answered, they just pass me by.
I had to do something, I made up my mind
this was one C.P. that wasn't going to be left behind.
Whatever my friends did, I tried it too,
Right or wrong I saw it through.
I became a woman, things didn't change,
It seemed the whole world had hold to the reins.
I shouldn't do this, I can't do that,
Where's my freedom, where is it at?
I'm a full grown person, I think I should know
where I am and which way I want to go
But people see this chair, they think I'm a child again,
When will they know better, can someone tell me when?
I've done things that most people wouldn't
Where is it written that I really shouldn't?
Life was given me so that I can live,
I know I'll get back whatever I give.
People feel guilty cause I'm the way I am,
Sometimes I want to say, "I Don't Give A Damn."
This is what I am the way you see me,
No matter how hard you try, you can't be me.
So, let me live my life the way I see fit,
You really have nothing to say about it.
Don't try to get me to pity you,
I know what it's like, it won't get you through.
You just let me be me, I'll let you be you,
Everyone will be happy, believe me it is true.
What I see ahead for me
is a time and place where I can be free.
Free from guilt, free from shame,
Shame of the fact that into this world I came.
I'm not saying that I'm ashamed to be,
But why are some people ashamed of me?

With acknowledgements to Kaleidoscope, National Literary/Art Magazine for Disabled, U.S.A.

Did you see ?

Central Television's "THE SKIN HORSE", screened on Channel 4 on December 18th, is an outspoken consideration of a subject which many people think does not exist—sex and the severely disabled.

"Mister Superwheels", comedian Tony Gerrard, who is confined to a wheelchair, says at the beginning of "The Skin Horse" that most able-bodied people categorise the world of sexuality into three groups, male, female and the disabled.

The film addresses itself to the question of disfigured people and their physical and emotional needs. Nabil Shaban, co-author with Nigel Evans of "The Skin Horse" makes clear that physical contact is very important to disfigured people, that his reaction to "perfect" female beauty is no different to that of Mr. Average. He says, "We see more disabled people on the box than in real life, what Dennis Potter called 'This parade of the halt, the lame and the blind'". "The Skin Horse" sets out to break the ghetto attitude of television towards this subject and with the use of actors, comedians, film clips, stills and children's stories proceeds in the same unstructured way that sex itself happens. The film has no conventional commentary, no polite voice-over to guide from one sequence to the next. The disabled speak for themselves, including Kathleen Venner, who is spastic and has a severe speech impediment. Kathleen has experienced sexual affection for the first time in her life, at the age of 52, and because it is so important to her to express her feelings clearly for her man, she has written him a letter in which she says, "It is as if we are supposed to live our lives beyond frustration. It is the sense of waste that I resented, the complete denial of any emotional feeling at all".

The whole essence of "The Skin Horse" is encapsulated by Chris Davis, who says "I know the joy of sex, the contentment, the freedom of spirit, the utter relief within the limitations of my body that comes from sex. Just calling it 'sex' is a very limiting word, it is far more than people think of with just one word. My body is very inhibiting but in those circumstances I feel totally free."

"The Skin Horse" was written by Nigel Evans and Nabil Shaban, directed by Nigel Evans and John Sampson and produced by Nigel Evans.

Nabil Shaban has been a professional actor for a number of years. He is one of the founders of the Graeae Theatre Company, whose recent production "Vilette" played at the Riverside last month. He has just returned from a two-week tour of India. He played "Ben" in the Central production of "Walter" which opened Channel 4 in November 1983.

Tony Gerrard started his career as a professional jazz musician and became a stand-up (sitting-down) comedian ten years ago. He is one of the busiest comedians currently working the club circuit in Britain.

For further information or cassette tape, contact Jean Denham, Chief Press Officer, Central Television, 35 - 38 Portman Square, London, W1. Tel: 01-486-6688 Ext. 341.

Around the Homes

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And when I asked the question "Why?" No one answered, they just gave me the... I had to do something, I made up my mind...



Photo—Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough

* *

Around the Homes

◀ WESTMEAD

DEVON

It had been announced in the morning papers that there was to be a royal visit and arrangements were made for us to line up at Barnstaple Junction. We were also told that H.R.H. Prince of Wales has seven minutes squeezed into his schedule to meet us. But what happened? When everything is going fine the fashionable "banana skin" in the form of a rail-strike intervened! However, H.R.H. was to be flown to R.A.F. Chivenor, and what's a change of venue for the flying "Red Feathers" in their new minibus?

We duly arrived on the apron to watch the plane come in and were told by the Lord Lieutenant "that H.R.H. would "whistle" through the visiting dignitaries but he will want to talk to you". And he did! He spoke to every resident and member of staff who was there.

All in all it was quite a day. Only when we got into the Officers Mess for coffee did we realise how cold we were. We would like to extend our thanks to R.A.F. Chivenor for all their ready help so freely given whenever it has been needed.

Christine Gallienne

◀ MARSKE HALL

It's a proud and happy moment at Marske Hall as they celebrate the 21st anniversary of its opening as the Tees-side Cheshire Home.

Mary Marsay (in chair) was the first resident to book in on that first day, and Mrs. Wells (helping her to cut the cake) shares the distinction, having been secretary all that time. So does Matron, Mrs. Turner, who has somehow managed to avoid the camera again.

A major overhaul, expected to cost some £400,000, has been going on at Marske Hall all this year. Among many other improvements, the development will allow for single bedrooms for nearly all the residents.

FRESHFIELD LIVERPOOL



The Freshfield Cheshire Home was founded in September 1975 having previously been a seminary for the Mill Hill Missionary Society. The main church is now in use by residents and non-residents as an occupational therapy room. There is a stage at one end (previously the high altar) and next to this is a small side chapel which had fallen into a state of disrepair and was used as a store room. As the home did not have any place of worship members of the staff thought that it would be a good idea if this small chapel could be re-instated. Permission was sought and gladly given from the Archdiocese for the chapel to be

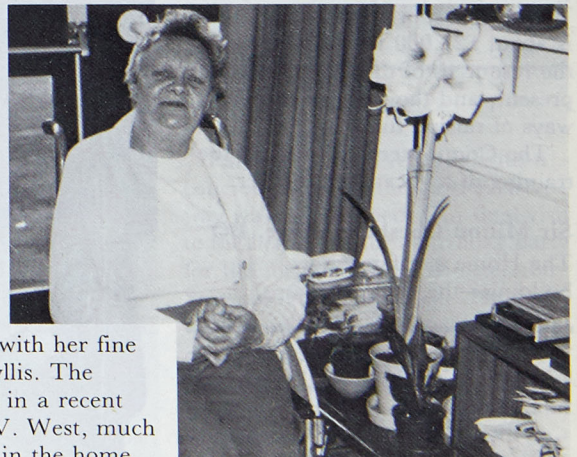
used as an ecumenical chapel.

It was thought that Christmas would be an ideal time for its opening. However, there was much to be done in the way of repairs and as time was short it was necessary for these to be carried out on a temporary basis only. Further work will be necessary in the near future to ensure its continued use.

The little chapel was opened on behalf of the Formby Association of Churches on Christmas Eve. The service was conducted by Canon Carter, Reverend Barnard and Father Sullivan.

Many thanks to everyone for their help and continued support.

GREENHILL ● TIMSBURY



Miss Nellie Youlden with her fine example of an Amaryllis. The photograph appeared in a recent programme on H.T.V. West, much to everyone's delight in the home.

SIERRA LEONE VISIT

by Denise Tabernacle

The two homes care for children
who have had polio

Freetown Cheshire Home

"I was welcomed at the Home by the chairman, Dr. Cummings and other members of the committee, and the Home Administrator. Besides the old original "railway" buildings there are now new extra classrooms including, recently, one for Home Economics. The new classrooms are clean and bright. The Home Economics room still lacked an electric cooker but it is planned to instal a kerosene stove. As electricity seems to be a diminishing source of power these days, this is a wise move, and perhaps the children should also be taught to cook on wood and charcoal!

After the chairman had given a short speech of welcome and enumerated some of the problems and plans for the Home, we adjourned to the classroom where the children sang us some delightful songs, including one that had been a favourite of Ron Travers when he had visited some years ago. This was led by an "old boy", now a deacon of the Anglican church. There were several examples of the children's handwork on display and I was presented with a lovely basket made by the children.

The Variety Club bus is now on its last legs. Transport is desperately needed to take the older children to school and to bring in the day children. A wait of over an hour is often encountered with public transport. The local cost price for a new vehicle is about £22,000 which is beyond the resources of the Committee at present, and they are looking for ways of raising funds.

The Committee has in mind the training of a vocational teacher.

Sir Milton Cheshire Home, BO

The Home is a fairly new building—the original house

donated by Sir Milton Morgai is now let. Here again, water and power cuts are problems, and the Home has abandoned the European type kitchen in favour of an outside traditional wood fire and three stones—proof that under the prevailing conditions the old systems work best!

"All children receive primary education at the adjacent school. Governmental vocational training is then available for the girls, but there is no such provision for the boys, who seem set on an academic education anyway. Those boys who don't succeed in gaining entrance to secondary school return to their homes and track is often lost of them.

The Home has no vehicle and there is no public transport apart from taxis. Fortunately the close

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proximity of the school solves a major problem. There are no wheelchairs, but I was very impressed by the locally made "rickshaw" used by those children awaiting their callipers."

WEDDING IN BARCELONA

On July 30th, 1983 we had another wedding at the Bonanova Church. This Catholic wedding was well attended and the brides were quite lovely. The priest once again conducted the ceremony with all the

congregation seated in deference to the brides and their friends.

Luisa Macet married Daniel Rodriquez and her twin sister Carmen married Juan Solé.



Left to right:
Daniel Rodriguez—male nurse
Luisa Macet
Carmen Macet Twins
Juan Solé—male nurse

TAMARIN

Report by Virginia Goldie

The home is small and compact beside the sea at Tamarin Bay. The men have one room—rather bare and impersonal by our standards—but they have to be careful in case of theft. It is all very neat and tidy.

The women are able-bodied but have been rejected by their families after psychiatric treatment. They are mostly middle-aged and look after the men and a mentally handicapped girl of 17 years. They have a nice kitchen and large dining/recreation room with television.

A few of the men do handcrafts as well as the women. They would probably do more if there were someone to teach them and they had the materials. Kallee made macrame pot-holders of coconuts and they make beautiful boxes covered with shells. They presented me with one. I had taken out some red flabon which they use to line the boxes. They also make little toys and figures which they are able to sell in the boutique.

They look after their own chickens and ducks and so do not have to buy eggs or poultry. One resident is a tailor and makes all their clothes. One man tends the garden—a plot between the road and the driveway—where he grows all types of vegetables. If anyone earns money they can keep it. The Government pays 8 rupees a month for each resident but that is very little. Mrs. Ginette Lan Yee Chiu, Chairman of the Management Committee, took us round the home. Later Miss Laurence



United Nations Corner UNHCR

“Throughout the history of mankind people have been uprooted against their will. Time and time again lives and values, built from generation to generation, have been shattered without warning . . .”

Paul Hartling

United Nations Commissioner for Refugees
Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony Oslo 1981

UNHCR came into existence on 1 January 1951 as the General Assembly's recognition of the U.N.'s responsibility for all those for whom new homes had to be found as a result of the Second World War. Since then its mandate has been extended for five year periods. Caring for refugees has proved to be a never-ending task. Today's refugees come from Latin America, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Haiti, Afghanistan, South-East Asia, Namibia.

The greatest concentration of refugees in the world is in Pakistan. Between two and three million Afghans have sought refuge in that country, not for a week or two but for an undetermined number of years. Refugees first have to be clothed and fed. That is being done. There is disease and there is malnourishment among Afghan refugees but no more than in the nearby towns and villages of Pakistan. In spite of enormous difficulties, supplies do reach the remotest camps, and medical teams are staffing dispensaries almost everywhere. There are many projects in education, vocational training, reforestation—stimulating and involving refugees in the community's life. But there remains the relentless anguish produced by exile. It must be many, many years before these proud and independent people feel “at home” even though Pakistan has shown such wonderful humanity in its welcome. Unhappily in this case the repatriation and rehabilitation, successfully carried out elsewhere in the world is but a distant dream. So the temporary aspect of the original UNHCR camp has disappeared. There are few tents, they having been replaced by mud-walled huts, with “purdah” walls around their family compounds. The markets are open and trade is beginning to flourish. Afghanistan is no longer headline news but UNHCR will be needed there for many years, as it is needed all over our sad and strife-torn world. It must become a very different world before UNHCR becomes redundant.

The headquarters address of UNHCR is Malais des Nations CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland. If you would like to contribute to the success of UNHCR programmes you can get in touch with the nearest UNHCR office. In the UK this is 36 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RR.

Elizabeth Greenwood

Gadiroux, the Matron, and Gerard, one of the helpers, two residents, Kallee and Georges, took us in their new van to see Cassela Bird Park. The birds, native and exotic, were in aviaries in a most beautiful garden full of pools of blue water-lilies, gold and black fish, surrounded by paths, steps and bridges made of volcanic boulders. We had tea, or rather Coca Cola, sitting at a table amidst the gorgeous flowering trees.

Part of the new veranda with a concrete ramp to the garden/driveway was just finished. Our final visit to the home was for a birthday party for the former Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosager Rangooram. He was 82! There was a lovely cake with one candle, and he and Matron danced round it. One of the residents made a speech and presentation and we all sang “Happy Birthday” in English.



Disabled Living Foundation **MUSIC ADVISORY SERVICE**

The Music Advisory Service is available to disabled people, whatever their age or disability, and to all those involved with them. In addition to answering questions on any aspect of music, both amateur and professional, the aims are to keep in close touch with all other organisations concerned in music with disabled people; to be aware of new developments; and to encourage people by visiting, giving talks,

stimulating training, disseminating information and taking any other appropriate action.

The Service has recently produced a new resource paper—**Music and Hearing Impaired People**—which is available from **Daphne Kennard, (Music Advisor)** at the **Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London, W14 8NS.** Price: 80p plus postage.

ARTSLINE

The choice of entertainment in London is limitless. Many people however, face practical problems in getting out and about. Artsline, the telephone advice service on the arts in London for people with disabilities and special needs, can help solve many of those problems.

Artsline's vast information resources can cater for the interests and requirements of each individual caller. The service can provide wheelchair users with details on access to buildings and outdoor events, and advise on transport. Blind persons are invited to 'phone in to get a talking "what's on?" guide, or to obtain information on a specific interest.

A special concern is to provide help for people who wish to become

actively involved in the arts. Artsline offers guidance on educational opportunities, and on arts groups for people who share similar interests. As a result, many disabled people have developed latent skills, discovered new confidence and enthusiasm.

Crossing all the usual boundaries set by area and education authorities, arts organisations and social groups, Artsline aims to serve anyone needing special help in gaining access to London's arts and entertainment. There is no charge for the service. Artsline is a registered charity and receives financial support from the GLC and a number of London boroughs. It also has a continuing association with Capital Radio through on-air promotions.

Information sheets are now available by post (send large stamped addressed envelope) from Artsline, 48 Boundary Road, London, NW8 0HJ.

1. Theatres, cinemas and concert halls in Greater London with full facilities for wheelchair users.
2. Museums and galleries that are easily accessible to wheelchair users.
3. Arts buildings equipped with hearing aid systems.

The "phone-in" service is now open Monday—Friday 10am—4pm, and on Saturday 10am—2pm. Tel: 01 625 5666 or 01 625 5667 (Vistel unit available).

MARKET PLACE

The New ELITE

A new concept in Powerchairs has arrived with the introduction of the Elite-designed and manufactured by Everest & Jennings at their Corby factory.

Not only does the Elite have all the attributes essential for a good indoor and outdoor chair, but it also incorporates a seating system already widely acclaimed for its comfort. The "postura" seating unit, combined with a spring suspension and a unique flexible frame takes the bumps out of any journey, whether it be on grass, gravel or uneven pavements. With the detachable "Kerbmaster" the Elite tackles kerbs with ease, going both up and down forwards. A six speed selector gives the right control for every environment and compact styling makes light of narrow doorways in the home.

The Elite is very transportable too. A fold down back means the chair travels comfortably in the back of an estate and the chair may be dismantled to suit most family cars.



For further information contact: Everest & Jennings, Princeswood Road, Corby, Northants.
Tel: Corby (05366) 67661.



Vessa—Foldaway 'Flivva' Scooter

The 'FLIVVA' is a strong, stable, basic three-wheel scooter. It is easy to use, attractive and strongly built for personal transport and mobility in and around shopping precincts, on pavements, roads or other metal surfaces. It is cleverly designed also for easy dismantling and transport in the boot of a car.



Vessa—'Trekka' Micro Car

The 'TREKKA' micro car has good looks and a host of convenience features for those who want personal transport with flair. Sliding seat front entry and exit, 'executive' comfort seating, easy and safe tiller column controls, and a smooth action, well designed foldaway hood for weather protection.

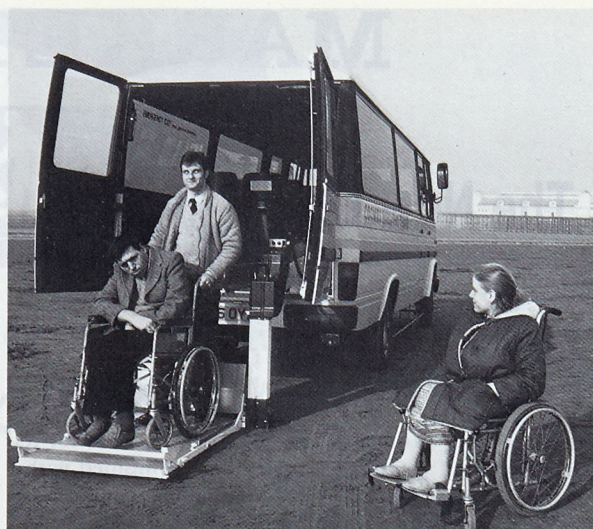
For further information on these two models, contact Vessa Ltd., Alton, Hants. Tel: Alton (0420) 83294.

UNIQUE COACH

A unique new coach combining luxury interior with special facilities for wheelchairs has just been announced by Devon Conversions. Devon's conversion to a Mercedes-Benz 608 is the first in this country and offers a clever combination of 16/17 luxury seats with two wheelchair mounts and a power tail-lift.

The 4.1 litre vehicle has the usual Devon luxury coach fittings at the front, complete with high backed seats. The real differences are at the rear. Instead of the usual rear seats, two mounting points are provided for wheelchairs and at the back is a door to a Ratcliff RVP250 electro-hydraulic tail-lift. The result is a highly flexible vehicle able to carry 12 able-bodied passengers and two in wheelchairs.

Price, according to specification, is about £20,000.



For further information, contact Devon Conversions Ltd., Vulcan Works, Water Lane, Exeter, Devon EX2 8BY. Tel: 0392 211611.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Disabled Persons Bungalows. We have vacancies for two married couples. These bungalows have one bedroom, specially fitted with hoists, remote control mechanism for opening and closing windows. Kitchen and bathroom have special fittings. Please apply in writing to Heatherley Cheshire Home, Effingham Lane, Copthorne, Sussex.

For sale—Stannah Home Lift (not stair lift). No shaft needed. As new, £1,000. Buyer removes. Phone 01 701 5762 office hours for where to view in Norfolk.

Envelopes: We have 10,000 Manilla Multi-tuck envelopes size $10\frac{1}{4} \times 8$ " surplus to our needs. Any offers? Buyer collects. Contact the Cheshire Smile office.

WANTED: Disabled lady needs one experienced care attendant for holiday duties in Jersey. 17th-24th September 1984. Free flight, meals, accom. Tel: 01-803-0248.

Pen-friend wanted for 29 year-old married lady with two children. Hobbies include reading, letter-writing, aerobics and swimming. In first instance contact: Mrs. P. A. Anderson, Organiser, The Maidstone Family Support Service, c/o Social Services Dept., Room 18, 123 High Street, West Malling, Kent.

Pencils, superb ball-pens, combs, diaries, bran tub toys, etc., gold stamped with your organization name. Raise funds quickly—easily. Repeat orders assured. Details: NORTHERN NOVELTIES, Spencer House, Spring Gardens, Bradford, BD1 3HE.



MR. MICHAEL PALMER, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR since 1982, has resigned due to ill health and his resignation has been accepted by the Foundation with regret.

Michael developed a deep interest in the developing countries while an undergraduate at Oxford. Previous jobs included work with UNICEF, Euro Action Accord and the United Nations in New York.

In 1983 he married Catherine (Kate) Stinson, Head of Care at White Windows Cheshire Home.

HOME in Bethlehem

by Wilfred Burnham

Whilst on holiday in Israel last year my wife and I took a trip on a local bus from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. We alighted near the Square in the town and as was my custom I called at the Tourist Information Office and obtained a map of Bethlehem. We studied it over a drink and were surprised to find marked on it a Cheshire Home which was in walking distance from the Square. So after visiting the Basilica of the Nativity and having a spot of lunch we decided to seek it out. The home was just off Paul VI street, quite an ordinary building of two stories set in a small courtyard amongst flowering shrubs. We rang the bell, introduced ourselves as interested visitors and were invited in to meet the young lady in charge, Nabila. She welcomed us, took us into her office and arranged for a cup of tea whilst we chatted. We noticed that there was a framed picture of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire on the wall beside her desk.

Nabila explained that the Society originally started off in 1960 under the name of "The Cheshire Homes for Physically Handicapped" but in 1975 it was Arabized, became independent and was now administered under the name "The Bethlehem Arab Society for the Physically Handicapped". When it was originally founded in 1960 it had 6 residents and now the number has risen

to 60, their ages ranging from 2 to 30 years. After our chat Nabila showed us round the various rooms. We first saw the very young children, mostly two to a cot. Their big brown eyes, some serious, many smiling were very appealing and gave little hint of their physical disabilities.

In other rooms and in the corridors we met some older children, they were excited to see strangers around and chatted away to us and to Nabila. We were shown the physiotherapy department which, in addition to residents needs, provides treatment for more than 800 out-patients from all over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There was also an occupational therapy department where the handicapped are trained to develop their mobility skills.

Some of the children meet daily in groups in small classrooms to receive education according to their own abilities and aptitudes. A recent innovation was a Play Garden at the back of the building, specially equipped for the handicapped. Nabila said they were particularly pleased to have this facility which was very popular with the children. Older children have the opportunity to attend a vocational training

centre which was established in 1980. There they are trained to practice crafts such as weaving, embroidery, woodcraft, leatherwork and the making of artificial limbs!

During our conversation with Nabila we learned that the Society receives no financial support from the government, it is entirely dependent on local contributions and external donations. It was obvious to us from our short visit that the home was working wonders with what little resources they have. The home and the children in it was clean and tidy but there was much evidence that they were not finding it easy to make ends meet.

Since our return to England we have thought much about the home and we feel that some practical help would not come amiss. It is our intention to spread the word amongst friends at our church and suggest that they might like to offer some good clothing for the children. We have been pleased to learn from Michael Palmer of International Cheshire Homes that he is prepared to arrange transport of any such gifts from the UK to Bethlehem. This is good news and we shall now go ahead in faith.

LINK UP

Tape Recorded

Magazine

for the disabled

and lonely

'LINK UP' is a registered charity which produces a monthly tape recorded magazine for the disabled and lonely. They are supported mainly by voluntary donations and by fund raising.

The aims are to relieve the needs of disabled and lonely people by the circulation of a monthly magazine, which includes music, stories, interviews, information on aids and such for the disabled. They also have religious items on tapes and a large number of members are Christians.

The Founder, who is disabled himself, is always happy to consider speaking dates when he and a helper will give a talk to any group or club on the work.

There is no membership fee, but members are encouraged to support the work by making donations from time to time.

For further information please contact 'Link Up', 55 High Street, Lower Easton, Bristol, BS5 6DW.

PUBLICATIONS

Ulverscroft Large Print Books

The 1984 catalogue has a comprehensive list of approximately 1,500 titles. Attention is drawn to the new layout of this list which ensures easier and quicker access to the information it contains. All tastes are catered for—from the younger generation by such classic titles as "Wind in the Willows" and "Treasure Island"—to the older person who enjoys such authors as Harold Robbins, Danielle Steel and Sidney Sheldon.

The house of Ulverscroft are proud to announce that George Orwell's celebrated novel "1984" is the only easy-to read large print edition available.

Ulverscroft Large Print Books Ltd., The Green, Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicester. Tel: (0533) 364325.

Tolley's Social Security and State Benefits 1983-84 with Rates of Benefits for the two years to November 1984, by Jim Matthewman Bsc and Nigel Lambert LLM

The third edition of "Tolley's Social Security and State Benefits" is a clear and comprehensive guide to the whole complex area of State financial assistance available for the individual.

The 1983-84 edition is fully updated to include changes in the law up to 1st October 1983 (and sometimes later), rates of benefits for the two years ending November 1983 and November 1984 and national insurance contribution rates for the tax years 1983/84 and 1984/85.

Available post free from: Tolley Publishing Co. Ltd., Tolley House, 17 Scarbrook Road, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 1SQ. Price: £10.95 (Code Ref: TSS83)

Marketing—A Handbook For Charities

by Alastair and Dorothy McIntosh

A New Guide to Help Charities Survive and Thrive

This new handbook shows charities how they can learn more about themselves and their supporters, and then use this information to build their success. It is the first marketing book written specifically for non-profit organisations in Britain. It also includes some simple techniques in market research which can be used by small local associations and national charities alike.

The aim of the book is to help charities help themselves to be more successful both in raising money and in obtaining support for their cause. At a time when many organisations see a pressing need for funds, this book will provide the essential information needed to construct a successful appeal both to the organisation's existing supporters and to the public at large.

The book is both lively and practical. It provides sufficient information for those who plan to do their own marketing and the essential background for those who wish to brief a professional. And it details sources of the free professional help that charities can tap.

Price £4.95, available from The Directory of Social Change, 9 Mansfield Place, London, NW3 1HS. Tel: 01-794-9835.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

ANNUAL RATE £1.65 INCLUDING POSTAGE

If you would like to receive the Cheshire Smile regularly, please fill in your name and address and post this form, with remittance to: Cheshire Smile, Le Court, Greatham, Liss, Hampshire GU33 6HL.

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Obituaries

BEN WORTHINGTON

An Appreciation by

Leonard Cheshire

The sudden death of Mr. Ben Worthington on April 17th at the age of 48 represents a severe loss to disabled people for whom he worked with unflagging energy, imagination and deep commitment for nearly 25 years.

A stockbroker by profession, and a member of a distinguished brewing family, his involvement with disabled people began in the early sixties when he wrote to Leonard Cheshire expressing interest in helping with the work being done in setting up a Cheshire Home in Northumberland. Subsequently he joined the Management Committee of Matfen Hall where his rare qualities quickly became apparent. Later, with his tireless enthusiasm he was the driving force behind the setting up of a further Cheshire Home in Durham, opened in 1972, and brought to this enormous task his considerable organisational ability and talent for enlisting others to help. His energy seemed boundless.

He became a Trustee of The Leonard Cheshire Foundation in 1976 with overall responsibility for the good management of a number of residential homes and also took on the Chairmanship of The Foundation's Housing Association set up to provide housing for both able bodied and disabled people in the community. This work made him increasingly interested in the concept of offering disabled people alternatives to residential homes, so that they could enjoy a choice of lifestyle.

In 1981 he made a decision to channel all his efforts into setting up a Cheshire Foundation Family Support Service in the Newcastle area offering part-time care to disabled people and families with a handicapped member living in their own home. With typical thoroughness and attention to detail he succeeded in getting this scheme off the ground and the Service he set up has undoubtedly saved many people from being forced into residential care or from nervous breakdown. At the time of his death he was already planning to extend the scheme to cover a wider area.

Ben related with instinctive ease and sensitivity to the many disabled people with whom he came into regular contact and his cheerfulness and optimism were infectious to all those around him.



His compassion and his generosity of spirit and willingness to take on more and more were legendary.

He sought in everything he did to enlarge opportunities and horizons for disabled people, bringing to them his love of classical music, art and literature whenever he could.

A profound influence in his life was his conversion to Roman Catholicism which permeated every facet of his life.

He leaves a wife, who loyally supported him in all his charitable activities, and three children.

Michael Bailey, died on 19th December, 1983 aged 43 years, had been a resident at James Burns House for only five months, yet he is sadly missed. He was a quiet, practical man of Dorset, with a profound knowledge of natural lore and of his beloved New Forest—which, in spirit, he never left. It is this close bond with the world of nature that will be our abiding memory of him.

Jack Hill, resident of Freshfields, died suddenly on 12th January, 1984. A special service was held for him in the residents' own chapel, and it was well attended. Jack was the treasurer for the Residents' Committee for a long period and will be much missed.

Edward Ball, oldest resident of 'Eithinog', Colwyn Bay died in

early December 1983, aged 71. The two 'loves' of his life were the Everton football team and horse racing. Many of the residents here are convinced 'Ted' has helped Everton reach two Wembley Cup Finals, with help from 'The Other Side'. He achieved his ambition of going racing at the Chester Race Course, picking the winner of the Chester Cup at 24 to 1. He was a real character, and an inspiration to us all, and is really missed.

Mrs. Emily McDonald

It is with deepest regret that the residents, staff and management committee of Saltways Cheshire Home announce the death on 11th December, 1983 of Emily McDonald, a cherished member of our community.

Em was one of the older members of our community both in terms of

age and her life at Saltways. After coming to Saltways in 1977 she took on a kind of Mother figure role towards many of the younger residents and staff. Content to just sit and talk or watch TV she was a mine of helpful advice and a model of fortitude in her suffering.

To add to a high sense of responsibility, Em had a great sense of fun which belied the nature of her infirmity and the vicissitudes of her life. She will be sorely missed by us all.

Geoffrey Reid Herrick

We regret to announce the sudden death of Geoffrey Reid Herrick, Trustee of the Foundation, on the 20th May, 1984. A full obituary will appear in the autumn issue.

★ PUZZLE TIME ★

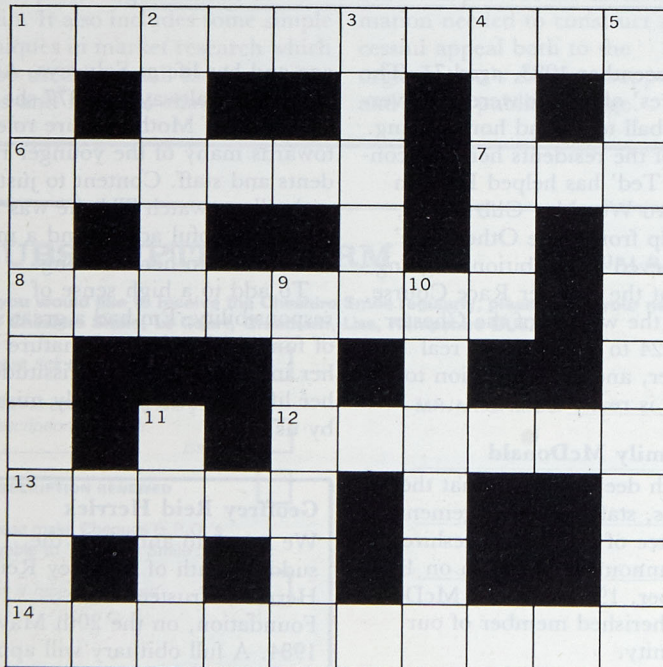
CROSSWORD No. 3

ACROSS

1. Howard is going west.
6. High.
7. A man's best friend.
8. Polisher of gems.
12. A written account of a noisy meeting.
13. The early bird gets increased remuneration.
14. A place of safe keeping.

DOWN

1. A mode of transport which endangers ankles.
2. A musical instrument without the prefix.
3. This could be difficult.
4. One of the seven dwarfs.
5. This you *must* do.
9. Undue pressure.
10. Encore.
11. A speech impediment.



FLOWER QUIZ

(Answers on Page 43)

1. What an ambitious mother wants for her daughter
- 2 For remembrance
- 3 Sounds like a female God of vengeance
- 4 Heard in a famous cathedral
- 5 Vehicle and a people
- 6 Birds feline song
- 7 Artificial stone
- 8 Smart quadruped
- 9 Two feminine names and an adverb
- 10 You can pass it, lose it, save it but don't do it
- 11 Bovine accident
- 12 Tree and sparkling wine
- 13 One letter on another
- 14 Creature of deep owned by Biblical character
- 15 Part of an eye
- 16 A dancer
- 17 Where the hillman keeps his money
- 18 150 and over
- 19 St. George did not care a this for that
- 20 What Cinderella should have advertised for

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 2





Felicia Umoren Head of Care Sue Skinner Eleanor Layton

“TWO MONTHS IN THE LIFE OF . . .” by Captain Alec Salmon

Many of us have read about “A day in the life of . . .” some public figure or personality in the entertainment world. This is about two months in the life of Felicia Umoren, a young resident in the Lagos Cheshire Home at Mushin, near Lagos, Nigeria.

The home at Mushin is twinned with the Heatherley Cheshire home at Cophorne, near East Grinstead. A flight for a resident from Lagos was arranged and Felicia was chosen to make the journey and to stay with us for one month. Within a few days it was quite obvious that the project was a great success and it was arranged that Felicia would stay for an extra month. She is a delightful young lady of 22 years, has a winning smile and is extremely industrious, eager to learn all we could teach her in occupational therapy. When I met her from the plane at Gatwick one cold wet night in December, she was obviously apprehensive and bewildered, the airport staff of British Caledonian Airways were most helpful as were the in-flight crew during her journey and we soon covered the short distance from Gatwick to the warmth and welcome at Heatherley.

We had already been told by Lagos that she was anxious to learn how to knit and use a knitting machine that G.C. had taken out to Lagos previously. The problem was that no-one was able to give her instructions on how to use it.

A chance conversation overheard in a wool shop in Crawley put us in touch with someone who would teach her, and the opportunity to hire the same type of machine Felicia had in Lagos. From then on she made rapid progress, in a period of only some three weeks she had mastered the machine. During her two months stay she also learnt hand-knitting, soft toy making and basket work to a high standard and before she left we were able to give her a certificate stating that she was qualified to teach in those subjects.

Outings were arranged to a pantomime and shopping centres where she was quick to spot bargains in dresses etc. Her chief concern, however, seemed to be taking back articles that would be of use to the home and to herself in relation to occupational therapy.

Felicia was a great favourite with all our staff and we shall miss her.

Having had experience with voluntary work overseas, I have reali-

sed the great value of twinning, especially in Africa and Asia. I have always found the residents in these Homes eager to learn handicrafts and derive an income from the sale of such articles. Residents in some of the Homes have little or no pocket money.

I was delighted to learn that from 30 UK Cheshire Homes, nearly £9,000 has been sent to various “twins” overseas. Whilst money is always welcome, in some countries it is not possible to purchase the articles locally, and what is equally welcome therefore is equipment in good condition and working order that can be used in either occupational therapy or physiotherapy. I may be forgiven for suggesting that such articles are not sent to Maunsel Street, but that homes should rely on the kindness of someone going out to those countries or “chatting-up” a carrier to help in a most worthwhile cause.

I have been greatly encouraged by Felicia’s determination to learn and improve her life and I know there are many others in similar circumstances whose lives can be changed for the better with help and encouragement.

A Committee of Enquiry into Arts for Disabled People

The Minister of Arts, Lord Gowrie, Mr. Tony Newton, MP, Minister for the Disabled, and Mr. Luke Rittner, Secretary General of The Arts Council, were among speakers at a meeting organised by The Committee of Enquiry into The Arts and

Disabled People, held in conjunction with the Greater London Arts Association.

The meeting was chaired by Sir Richard Attenborough, Producer of the film Gandhi, who is Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry.

Wide Representation

Those represented at a crowded meeting included local authorities, arts venues, such as museums, arts centres, cinemas, libraries, theatres, voluntary organisations for both the arts and disabled people, the Regional Arts Association and professional bodies such as nurses, teachers, art therapists and fire inspectors.

The aim of the Enquiry is to explore the extent to which existing facilities enable people with disabilities to involve themselves in the arts, both as participants and spectators, and having reviewed the present situation, to make recommendations to encourage development and improvement.

The "arts" were defined as to include literature, music, film, video and visual and performing arts of all kinds.

The purpose of the meeting was to collect views, evidence and proposals to help the Committee to prepare a published report.

After group discussions in the morning, recommendations were submitted to a panel and an exchange of views took place.

Awareness of Problems

Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, pointed out that since one in ten of the population were disabled the subject was extremely important. The discussion would make people more aware of the problems and needs of disabled people in the sphere of the arts, which should provide a good opportunity to improve the situation.

Access was a very important aspect. In his experience, in some cases it was impeccable, while in others it was absolutely abysmal, often when there was no excuse at all because the building was new. All these matters had to be considered.

Some discussion followed as to whether better provisions for disabled people to work in and enjoy the arts should be made a statutory obligation.

Mr. Tony Newton, Minister for the Disabled, felt this would not be wise. The Government should certainly not be allowed to tell voluntary organisations what to do and how to do it. An Act of Parliament might result in a committee whose members were all trying to advance their particular interests.

Lack of Knowledge

Mr. Luke Rittner, Secretary General of The Arts Council was also against making it a statutory obligation. He said there was a lack of knowledge concerning disability. At present the Arts Council had no policy on disablement, though recently it had produced one on ethnic minorities. He pledged that the Arts Council would now look at the idea of formulating a policy on disablement in relation to the arts.

Mr. Nick Shaban, a disabled actor and co-presenter of the TV film "Skin Horse" said he was in favour of legislation to ensure that the interests of disabled people were represented. Government enforced seat belt wearing and fire regulations so why not this? When it suited those in power, they made it mandatory, but not when it did not suit them.

Ideas for Investigation

Questions posed included the role of specialist art teachers, opportunities for advanced courses for disabled people at art colleges, whether there should be positive discrimination within the education system to increase opportunities in the arts for disabled people, ways in which the artistic needs of hospital patient, housebound people or those in residential care could be met, how methods of funders of the arts at central and local level could be best adapted to ensure better co-ordinated provision for people with disabilities, and how the media could best be encouraged to reflect the number and nature of disabled people in society in the content of radio and television programmes.

Summing up Sir Richard Attenborough said that the Committee would now consider these matters and other evidence put before them which at the very least should be able to sum up the position and expose the needs, to enable work to begin to improve the facilities and opportunities for disabled people, who formed such a large segment of society, to enjoy and participate in the arts.

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.

Trustees: Peter Allot, Esq.; Dr. F. Beswick; Group Capt. G. L. Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC; Lady Sue Ryder CMG, OBE; Mrs. P. K. Farrell, OBE, JP; D. Greig, Esq.; Dr. Wendy Greengross; His Honour Judge Inskip, QC; B. R. Marsh, Esq.; Sir Henry Marking, KCVO, CBE, MC; Lady June Onslow; Mrs. G. Pattie; The Hon. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, GCMG, GCVO; D. M. Roe, Esq.; Mrs. P. Rowntree; G. Thomas, Esq., BA; J. Threadingham, Esq., OBE; N. R. Trahair, Esq.; J. V. Tindall, Esq.; Mrs. E. Topliss; H. Turner, Esq.; P. Wade, Esq.; R. B. Weatherstone, Esq.;

Director: Arthur L. Bennett, Esq. Deputy Director (Care): C. Paul Brearley, Esq. Administration Manager: Simon Hardwick, Esq. Asst. Treasurer: Rita Bellety. Head of Mental Care: Michael Libby, Esq. Personnel Adviser: Miss M. D. Roe. Homes Planning Officer: Keith Cook, Esq. Family Support Service Officer: Mrs Margot Hawker. Public Relations Consultant: Bill Simpson, Esq. Public Relations Officer: Mrs. Kay Christiansen. Information Officer: Wally Sullivan, Esq.

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); Mary Copsey (SC); Robert Hopkinson, Esq. (N); Harry Lowden, Esq. (Midlands); Mrs. Alma Wise (SE); John Timms, Esq. (NE)

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:

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 Bakhshi MC (Retd).

Gabriel, Mount Poonamallee Road, Manapakkam, 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 Councilors: 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.