

Cheshire Smile

Quarterly Magazine of the
Leonard Cheshire Homes Around the World
September 1986 25p



New Life for Mark
Story—Page 4

Cheshire Smile

The Quarterly Magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Founded 1954

Issue No. 115

SEPTEMBER 1986

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.

Publication dates are March, June, September and December. If you would like to ensure that you receive Cheshire Smile regularly, we should be glad to put your name on our mailing list.

Subscription Rates: £2.00 per annum, incl. postage.

All communications regarding advertising in Cheshire Smile to be sent to the Secretary.

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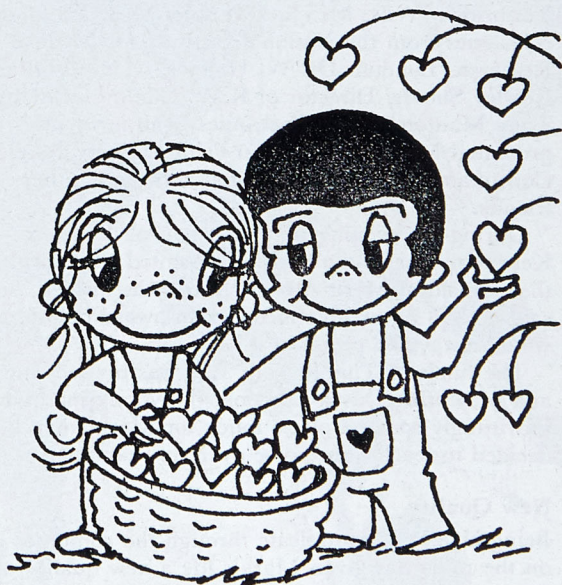
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Greatham, Liss, Hampshire
GU33 6HL
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COPY DEADLINE DATE

1986

Christmas number

24 September



THE HARVEST OF
YOUR AFFECTIONS

KIM

With acknowledgment and thanks to KIM CASALI

NEW LIFE FOR MARK

by Daisy Fletcher

In the Cheshire Smile of Summer 1984 was a story of a "Remarkable Achievement"—it concerned Mark Brownfield, a young resident of Seven Springs, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. He is wheelchair bound, deaf, virtually no sight and his speech at that time, no doubt due in part to his frail physique and also to the lack of conversational opportunities, very distorted.

First Meeting

Being a teacher and tutor but having had to take early retirement due to an accident, I met Mark on one of my visits to Seven Springs, I tried to communicate but realized I could not and had to walk away—I could not let him know who I was!

On learning he knew morse code I returned, using the tip of my finger to represent a dot and the length as a dash I continued sending S.O.S. until he realised I was communicating. I followed with "Hello Mark, I am Daisy" (Fletcher), so beginning an incredible friendship!

Incredible Progress

No way can I tell in a short magazine article Mark's incredible story—it would fill a book—the tears, the frustration, the fun, the gradual development of an extraordinary brain, the hours and hours of studying for Mark—all to be retained in his head—no way of making notes. The midnight oil burned as I prepared mock multiple choice exam papers for his City and Guilds Examination. The help I asked for and eventually received unstintingly from members of the West Kent Amateur Radio Society, but let it suffice to say during the last two years Mark's progress has been incredible.

Along with maths, physics and science, Mark had to study outlining of electrical theory, power supplies, basic solid state circuits and their application, measurement, repeaters and satellites, and many other radio and electrical facets. Three sections of the exam requiring a 100% pass.

A Pass!

December 1985 crept nearer, so dawned "Examination Day"! The atmosphere fraught, as I began to feed the examiner's questions into the computer for Mark, who had to pick up the output of morse vibrations on his temple bone. The examination took two days to administer because it all had to be in morse. This, and also the drawing of diagrams, were the only concessions allowed. Then followed long weeks of waiting! Have I passed or haven't I? being Mark's constant cry.

February—the long awaited envelope arrives! "Yes" it is a Pass! What excitement.

Person to Person

End of March final examination, the International Telecommunication Morse Examination, also passed with flying colours! Now Mark is a fully qualified Amateur Radio Operator with a First Class "A" Transmission Licence which enable him to communicate with all parts of the globe—person to person on an equal par—no allowance made for, or knowledge of, any disabilities!

Space Hopper

Before, he was unable to communicate with people because of his severe handicaps but now Mark is speaking through morse code to people all over the world. Up to date he has contacted and worked fourteen different countries. In fact now that he is operational he has become the modern "Space Hopper" jumping from country to country, never again to feel lonely or friendless.

Celebration for Success

To celebrate Mark's new life I organised a "This Is Your Life" evening so bringing together all the people who in one way or another have helped in Mark's achievement. In all over a hundred and thirty guests attended including The Mayor and Escort of Tunbridge Wells, Mr. Jack Perkins M.B.C.S. and colleagues from the National Institute for Medical Research, London. Dr. W. Holmes, Medical Officer, Rowley Shears, Director of K.W. Communications, Tony Manton, Casio Electronics, who incidently presented Mark with a Casio Printer. Barry Jones, Consultant, Moorfields Hospital and many other friends.

During the evening the Chairman of the West Kent Amateur Radio Society presented Mark with their Shield of Merit Award. Mark was thrilled, and said he had never ever received an award before, and would always be proud of it.

The finale of This Is Your Life was my locating and presenting David Lurcook, the young man who unwittingly sparked off so much for Mark when he decided to teach him morse over six years ago.

New Quality

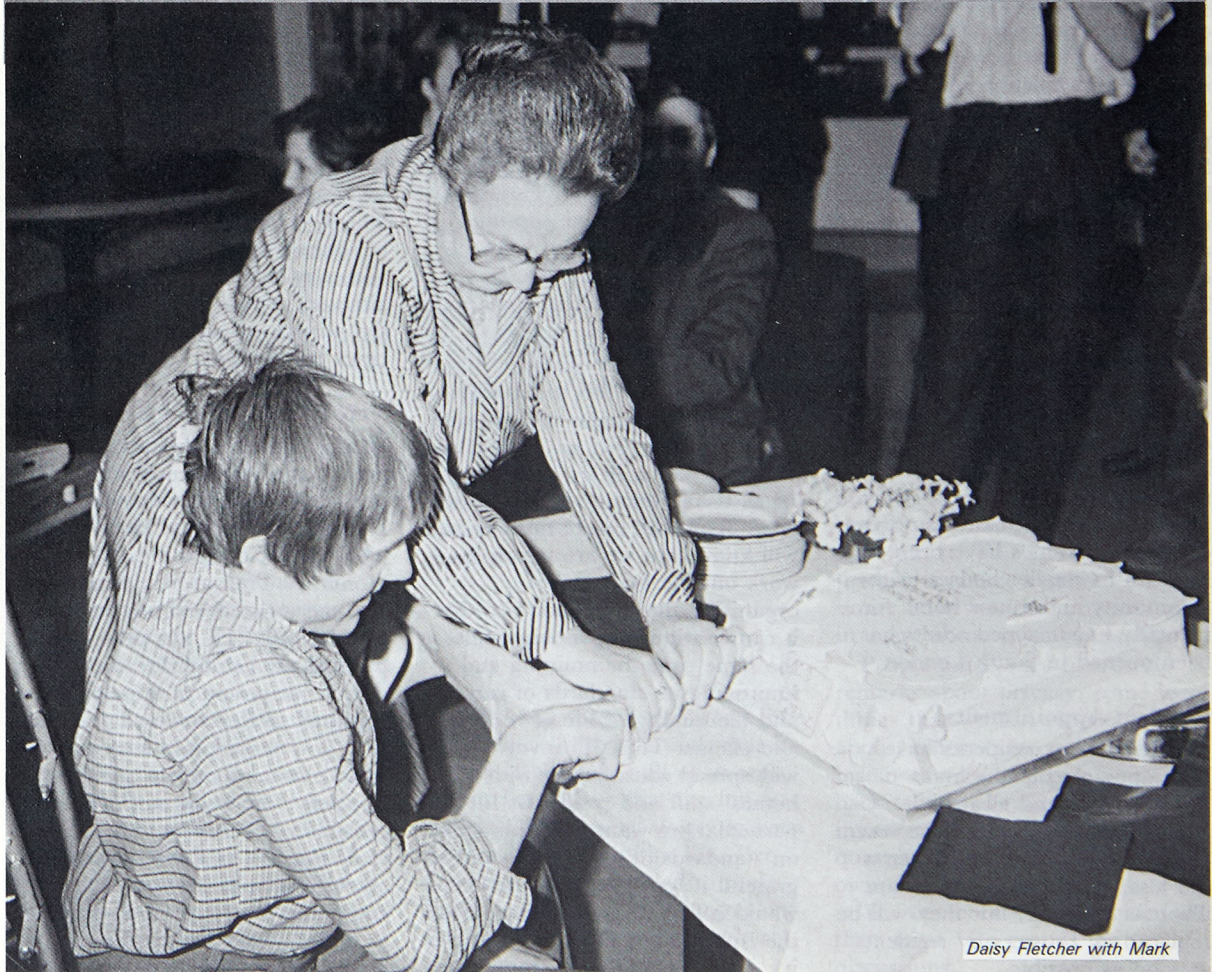
Being able to communicate through the computer and on the radio has given Mark's life a new quality, and I am sure all the readers of the Cheshire Smile will join me in wishing Mark many, many years of happiness and friendship as he continues to send over the ether—

"Hello Old Chap—I am MARK!"

Daisy Fletcher, Tutor to Mark Brownfield, Seven Springs Cheshire Home, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent



"This is Your Life" evening in progress



Daisy Fletcher with Mark

REPORT

Annual Conference • Stoneleigh

7 June 1986

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 1986 Annual Conference and particularly to the delegates who have come from as far away as Northern Ireland, Cornwall, Fife and India.

New Projects

The past year was a very successful year. Two new purpose built homes have been completed and opened—Newlands House and The Orchard replacing Staunton Harold and Springwood, each costing well over £1 million. A third replacement home is well on its way to completion at Littlehampton. The four new projects at Chigwell, Brampton, Stockport and Exmouth have all been streamlined and are well under way. Substantial alteration and improvements have been completed at Cann House, Freshfields, Mickley Hall and Danybryn and improvements are in hand at 20 other homes.

Our Park House project is going well and on target for full opening on 1st April 1987. Tony Kendall has been appointed Director of that project.

The handicapped children from our Dorset Homes have been resettled in smaller houses in the community and a new home for mentally handicapped adults has been opened in South London.

Resident Appointments

Residents or ex-residents have been appointed to the main Trustee body and all its committees except one. The recent death of Peter Wade has been a sad loss, as was that of Graham Thomas last year, but they will be replaced as Trustees by residents as soon as possible.

Sponsorship

Despite the primary liability for the sponsorship of residents having moved from local authorities to central government, ie from social services to social security, all homes have coped without any financial catastrophe. The shortfall on the cost of maintenance which has to be met out of fund-raising will, however, have to be watched.

Despite the pressure from some health authorities to make homes register wholly or partially as nursing homes, which is contrary to our view that most disabled people need care rather than nursing, most homes have succeeded in registering wholly or mainly as residential care homes. Nursing homes or dual registration is, however, something which all homes will need to take particular care about in this and future years.

Despite the restriction on local authority spending our Family Support Services have continued to operate successfully and have increased in number. We do, however, anticipate that they may need more financial support in the future from central funds and from the homes with which they are associated.

Future Plans

In all it has been a very successful year. As to the future most of you will know that we are trying to work out the best way of organising the Foundation so that it can continue expanding whilst at the same time maintaining and improving its standards of care and the quality of life of residents and clients. This will involve widespread consultation with homes' staff and residents. In particular we want residents views on standards of care and would be grateful if residents who are here would collect a questionnaire from the Information Desk and complete it.

Please don't be alarmed or misled by the expressions "devolution" or "regionalisation" which are sometimes used in this context. I assure you that we are not going to introduce a layer of administration between the homes or services and Maunsel Street. Our aim is to maintain the Foundation as the leading charity caring for disabled people with a preponderance of voluntary workers working side by side with an adequate number of paid staff but without individual homes and services being controlled and directed by a large central Headquarters or by regional headquarters as happens with most of the large national charities. The problem is that the Foundation has grown so big, the cost of building new or replacement homes has risen so high and the legal and registration provisions relating to the care of disabled people have become so complicated that we must either change our way of working or employ a much bigger staff.

When the cost of building a new or replacement home is £1.5 to £2 millions we can't afford to build something which may become a white elephant in 10 years time. The Trustees have to find a way of sharing their responsibilities with a wider number of people and although we have not yet found the answer we are determined to crack the problem.

Vote of Thanks

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my personal thanks and those of the Trustees generally to Dennis Greig who has decided to retire as Honorary Treasurer and as a Trustee with effect from our AGM on 12th July. He has been a particularly helpful Treasurer and during his period of office has instituted systems of budgeting and cash-flow projection which enable us to plan and control our future in a way which was not previously possible. Fortunately, he will remain associated with us in connection with the use of computers by residents and homes as a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer of Compaid.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCE

Money-Go-Round

Over £5 million is out on loan in this country to Homes and projects, the largest amount ever, and I think this endorses the importance I place on what I call the "money-go-round". That is the money we lend to our Homes and projects which is in fact a loan which comes back to us to be re-used. It is wonderful the way in which these repayments are coming back to the centre so promptly. We average about 10 years for full repayment to be made and that is what I hope will be maintained. It is essential that this money comes back, because the voluntary income coming into the centre—that's donations and legacies made to the Foundation. I don't want that to be misunderstood, by the cost of running I mean everything that is funded from headquarters. That cost is now approaching the average we get in direct voluntary contributions to the Foundation. In other words, not a lot left over from our new projects. We rely very much on this merry-go-round of finances.

Computer Housekeeping

One thing that does help is "good housekeeping"—budgetary control. This is becoming increasingly important in Homes as the figures get bigger and bigger. One thing that has helped enormously at Headquarters is the increasing use of computers. As Treasurer, I am pleased and proud to announce the excellent work done by my Assistant Treasurer, Rita Belletty and her assistant, Joy, to introducing computers into the Treasury. It is this sort of work that I recommend to the Homes—get as much work as you can in the administration of your Home computerised—paying wages, your accounts, forecasting and budgeting—it can be done.

Information Exchange

With our computerization at Headquarters, we are for example, going to analyse a lot of the information that comes in from the one hundred or so sets of accounts from Homes and Family Support Services every year, and make available to Homes, general information extracted from these accounts, such as the average cost for various activities, so that comparisons can be made. I hope there will be an increasing willingness to share information so that those who are charged with this role of "good housekeeping" may have all the information available in this most important work.

Close Control

The deficit in running our Homes last year was up by 50%, that is a half a million pounds more than in the previous year. This is a lot of money, 50% is a frightening increase. I don't say that computers are going to stop this happening, I'm just saying it is important to keep close control on these expenses. Try and find out what you can do which will avoid these deficits taking money that can be used in better ways. We are going to try from the centre, certainly as far as the Treasury is concerned; to help Homes to help themselves.

There is a three letter word I'd like to leave with you and, that is F.U.N. I hope that all of us will do our best to see that the fun is kept in Cheshire, let us try to keep the fun in the Cheshire life. I've done my best. I've tried to make figures and Treasurer's jargon not too serious. I wish everyone here many more happy meetings.

PRIVACY IN THE HOMES

The main topic for the Conference was "Privacy within the Homes". After a short explanation from Dr. Wendy Greengross of how the conference had been organised into groups to discuss the matter, she then went on to fill in a few of the background details to this most emotive and complex subject.

Dr. Wendy Greengross:

As you know, this year's conference has been designated to the discussion of "privacy within the Homes". I am delighted at the amount of involvement there has been within the Homes and Family Support Services during the year in discussing privacy. What we are hoping to do today, is to feed back into the Homes some of the remarks that are going to be made by your groups, so allowing them to feel that they are really involved in the conference this year.

I want to thank everybody who bothered to send in their comments. They really have been very helpful. One who wrote said "... because so many residents of Cheshire Homes need help in the most intimate aspects of their lives, it is essential that what privacy is possible should be preserved for those who would value it. For some it will be an academic question. They are unaware that they are like fish in a glass bowl, but no pursuit of privacy should impose solitude on those who do not want it. To those whom privacy is almost essential for sanity however, the provision of it in every home is indispensable."

People made very interesting remarks about privacy, some were things that we had all been talking about, others quite new. For instance, a lot of people wrote back talking of noise as being an invasion of privacy. Another question was about choosing your own carer.

The conference then divided into their respective groups for discussions.

Discussion Groups

Main Points

A. Personal Autonomy and Personal Choice

1. The number of care staff involved in a resident's or client's private affairs should be kept to a minimum and this would be helped by each person having a key-worker.
2. Some loss of privacy is inevitable when living in a Home.
3. Residents and clients should be free to choose the degree of privacy they want.
4. Residents and clients should be free to communicate privately, ie take telephone calls and speak to visitors in private.
5. Care staff should be trained to treat confidentially the private affairs of residents and clients.
6. In Homes and Hostels for mentally handicapped people and people recovering from mental illness, staff have greater responsibility in the eyes of the public.

B. Buildings and Environment

1. Sound-proofing of residents' rooms is a basic need and makes a good intercom system necessary.
2. There should be a lock on the door of every resident's room, also doorbell and entryphone, and there should be no glass panel in the door for staff "to keep an eye on" the resident.
3. It is better to have several smaller living areas in a Home rather than one or two large public rooms.
4. Toilets should not be communal or in public areas, such as in a row in a corridor, but should be out of sight and near residents' bedrooms.
5. As far as financial constraints will allow, residents should be able to exercise choice in the type of accommodation they have in a Home.

6. A Family Support Service when run from a Home is an intrusion into the privacy of the residents and places an additional burden on the personnel and facilities of the Home.

C. Money and Finance

1. Individual residents must have a free choice in all financial matters, such as choosing their own bank and how they will spend their money.
2. However, such freedom must be accompanied by responsibility and living in a group imposes certain constraints.
3. Residents and clients should be encouraged to take personal responsibility.
4. Privacy must involve confidentiality in financial affairs.
5. Information and education in money skills are needed.
6. The personal allowances of disabled people are inadequate.

D. Day Care/Respite Care/Open Days/Holiday Beds

1. Day care facilities should be in a unit separate from the Home.
2. Respite care should be offered to both partners in a couple where only one of them is disabled so that both of them have a break.
3. Family Support Service staff are guests in their clients' homes and should behave similarly in a residential Home.
4. Through the Family Support Service and respite care a Home maintains links with disabled people in the local community.
5. When there are several "intruders" in a Home extra care should be taken to safeguard residents' privacy.
6. Residents should be involved in planning for Open Days and be free to opt out of being a public spectacle if they wish.

E. Medical

1. When a resident is able to administer his own drugs, and wishes to do so, he should be allowed to.
2. A resident must be free to choose his own GP, dentist, etc.
3. There must be privacy of medical consultation and of treatments.
4. Privacy *may* have to be overridden in the best interests (ie general health and safety) of a mentally handicapped person or a person recovering from mental illness.
5. Medical records must be confidential but senior care staff need some information for care purposes.
6. To enable a resident or client to enjoy the same degree of privacy as anyone else when attending hospital, a care assistant should escort him.

F. Group Living

1. Every resident should have a single room if he wishes.
2. There should be the same respect for a resident's privacy as for the privacy of anyone outside the Home.
3. Individuality, such as in choice of lifestyle, should be maintained and independence encouraged.
4. Residents should be free to choose, eg whether or not to use locks on doors, and free to decide what risks they will take.
5. There should be flexibility within the Home so that freedom of choice is possible.
6. There must be co-operation and discussion between residents, staff and management.

Address by GENERAL VIRENDRA SINGH

I feel very privileged and honoured to be here at this conference today. I have been to five of your conferences and I've always found them very stimulating, and more particularly now with the participation of residents from whom we have a great deal to learn—their courage, their fortitude. We are dealing with essentially a human problem and I think that the most important aspect of our work is to provide love and affection to make the resident feel that they are needed, that they are useful members of society.

Different Conditions

Conditions vary from country to country; you had a very useful discussion on the privacy of the individual in the Homes in the UK, but in India where we lay great stress on the joint family system, conditions are different

and I feel that they must share with each other their life, their happiness and their joy. It would be impossible to provide the same sort of facilities that may be available in England.

Valuable Participation

I would like to take this opportunity of conveying to you greetings from our Chairman Dr. Correa and, from all the Homes in India I bring you warmth and sunshine—I see that it's now a little clouded over! I would also like you to know how much we in India, value the participation and help that we receive from the International Foundation. Their help is always readily available whenever we need help and I would like to thank Sir Henry Marking and all members of the International Committee for their hard work.

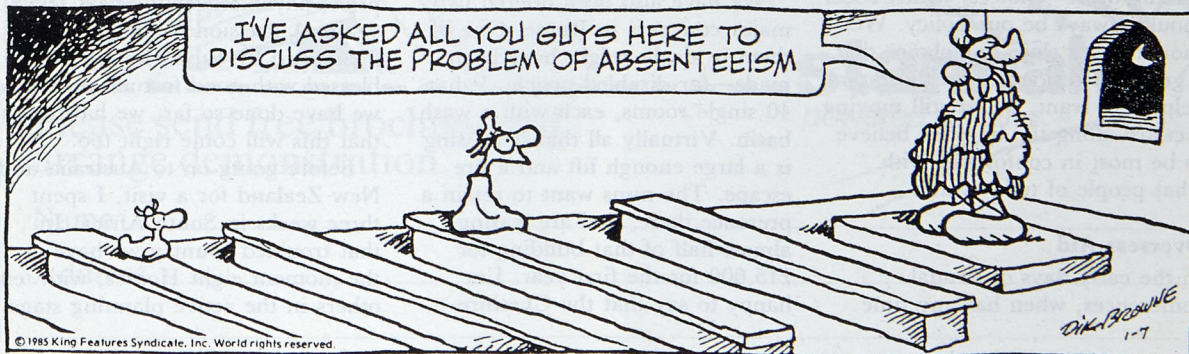
Young People Needed

We were pleased that Leonard was able to pay a visit to us in India last year when he spent a few days in Delhi before going on to Derhu Dun, a warm welcome always awaits him. I would like also to say that anyone who comes to India will be most welcome. We have a few volunteers who come to us from the United Kingdom to work in our Homes for a few months. I am particularly interested in the participation of young people in the work that we are doing. In India the National Cadet Corps had adopted the various homes in the places where they are located. Visits from boys and girls from schools, colleges and universities make the residents feel that they are still wanted and that they are people. I feel that younger people must take full participation in looking after disabled people.

HÄGAR the Horrible

®

By Dik Browne



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Closing Address by

GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE VC OM

It's a tremendous pleasure for me to come to these annual conferences. They always stimulate me and they give me the chance of meeting some of you whom I otherwise do not meet for such a long time.

This conference has revived a memory of something that happened in the very early days of Le Court, when one of our problems was cooking, it had to be done either by me or any other odd-bod who could be found. On this particular occasion lunch was cooked and of the twelve people present eleven found it totally inedible! But the twelfth said it was the best meal he had ever had. Listening to some of the discussion groups made me think about the many different views there are, I listened to one argument and was completely swayed by it. I listened to the contrary one and I think that's right too!

This conference has shown the diversity of views that there are over many issues, and the necessity of multiplying and leaving open—choices, which I feel should always be our policy. We should never close any choice that a group of residents and those that help them want, whilst still moving forward along the lines we believe to be most in conformity with what people of today want.

Overseas Aid

In the early days of annual conferences, when half my time

was spent abroad, I used to spend half the year or so abroad. This year one might say, the year of Sport Aid and Bob Geldof, and with the spotlight on the poverty of some parts of the world, I would like to say something about the Overseas Homes, in the hope that we as a Foundation, that is you in the Homes, can find a way of bringing more help to them. You probably know that of our entire budget in Britain which runs into millions, only £180,000 is spent on the Overseas Homes.

Out of Despair

Three years ago you will remember we had a Family Week in Rome, and those of you who came will remember that whilst most of it was wonderful, a lot of it was the opposite. But out of it came something very concrete. In Rome we now have a small Home Visiting Service for those suffering from cancer. It's been operating for more than year on a modest scale, but nevertheless, operating.

We have also been offered two major convents in Rome. One of them is ideal—might have been made—for disabled people. It has 40 single rooms, each with a wash basin. Virtually all that is missing is a large enough lift and a fire escape. The nuns want to retain a presence there, and are leasing almost half of that building for £15,000 for the first year. I'm happy to say that the Cheshire

Foundation has provided that first years rent for us. The Home will open in October.

Holiday Accommodation

As we have very little fund raising capability in Rome as yet, we are going to offer it as holiday accommodation for disabled people of any nationality visiting Rome. We think that by using it in this way we can cut our expenses to the minimum, whilst deciding how best we can use it as a residential home, get ourselves organised with government, and begin fund raising etc.

The other convent which the Sue Ryder Foundation is negotiating is in the very centre of Rome, and at the moment houses a cancer hospital providing forty-one beds, plus one floor that is let out to an oncology unit—a large 15 acre property. The nuns also want to retain a presence, and are offering a sale to Sue Ryder of the greater part of the complex at a very concessional—but still huge—price, payable over the next seven years. A decision has been demanded by July. Having been blessed with good fortune in what we have done so far, we have faith that this will come right too.

Before going on to Australia and New Zealand for a visit, I spent three weeks in South Africa. In that troubled country we have at the moment eight Homes, with ten others in the active planning stage.

*** Plans are being made to hold the second International Conference in 1989. ***

Around Britain



CREDITON

A Centre for Tourism

with TOM GARDNER

Crediton is on the A377, Exeter to Barnstaple road, about eight miles north west of Exeter. The name Crediton takes its name from the local river the Credy. The casual visitor will not be impressed by what he sees. Crediton appears to be one long wide street with adequate shops, but no real old world

charm. However there is far more to Crediton than this, as it is full of history, and an ideal centre for touring as Dartmoor, Exmoor and the coasts of North and South Devon. Its population is somewhere in the region of six thousand, with some well known industries plus agriculture creating the main occupations. The surrounding countryside is beautiful with small rural villages in the valleys and the red Devon soil is much in evidence.



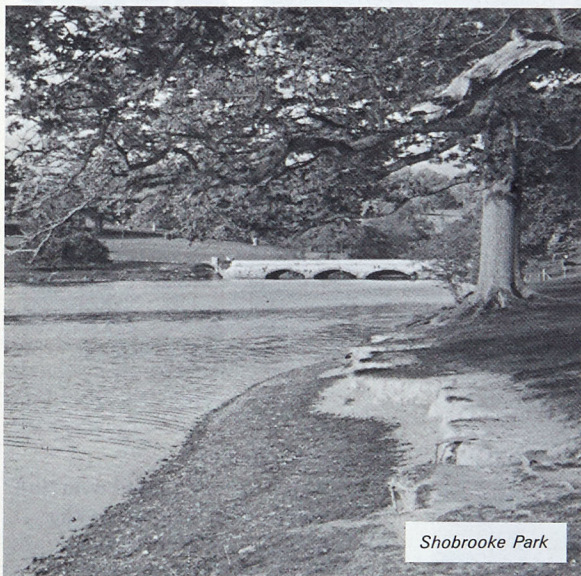
Crediton Parish Church of St. Boniface

Bishop to Archbishop

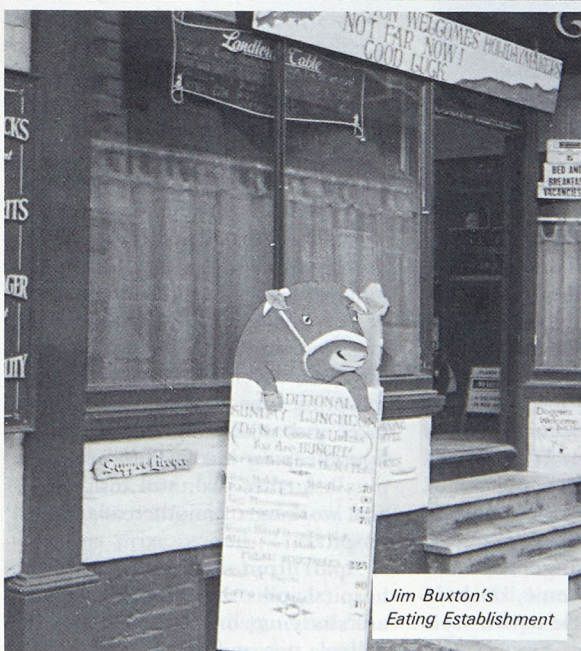
Crediton's most famous son was Winfrith, later to become St. Boniface, who was born in the town, just before the eighth century. His immediate family were among the Anglo Saxons who settled in Crediton after invading Devonshire. Soon after he was ordained, he started work as a missionary in the Netherlands, and after being received by Pope Gregory II, he became Boniface and worked in Germany. Later Boniface was made Bishop of Germany and then Pope Gregory III, up graded him to Archbishop. In 744 he founded a monastery at Fulda, which reminded him of his homeland in Devon. Seven years later he was crowned king of the Franks, thus creating a friendship with the Franks and the Papacy, which was to lead to the founding of the Holy Roman Empire. Ten years later he was murdered, but his work for Christianity had a lasting effect on world history. In the well known book, "The Making of Europe", Christopher Dawson states, "A man who had a deeper influence on the history of Europe than any other Englishman who has ever lived". Sir Arthur Bryant, in "The Story of England", goes one stage further, "No Englishman's work had had a great influence on the world", Boniface is remembered in Crediton by Dursts statue, which was unveiled by HRH Princess Margaret, twenty six years ago.



Crediton High Street



Shobrooke Park



Jim Buxton's
Eating Establishment

Disastrous Fire

Like many west country towns, it was affected by the Civil War. It was occupied, in turn, by both sides, Charles I, visited the town as did Oliver Cromwell and Sir Thomas Fairfax. In 1743 a disastrous fire destroyed the town, and if this wasn't enough another fire did much damage in 1769. This probably accounts for the lack of Tudor and even earlier buildings in the town.

Agriculture and Industry

Agriculture has been the main industry but back in the 13th Century the wool trade was much to the fore, before the wool market was transferred to Exeter. Wool was later replaced by leather, but in turn this declined with the formation of the industry in Northampton. Agriculture and industry go hand in hand in Crediton today with the production of animal foods and smaller industries of a specialist nature.

Attractive Names

The countryside around Crediton is rural Devon at its best. Even the names are attractive. Who could resist not going to see places such as Cheriton Fitzpaine, Eggesford, Morechard Bishop, Newton St Cyres, Puddington, Shobrooke, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Woolfardisworthy and Zeal Monachorum. These villages and parishes were not affected by Crediton's fires. Cheriton Fitzpaine is most attractive, with thatched cottages and Inn, plus the six almshouses which have been well preserved. Eggesford in the valley of the River Taw, surrounded by trees and Shobrooke with its parkland are well worth visiting. Shobrooke Park has beautiful lakes with abundant wildlife such as mallard ducks and Canadian Geese, a rural cricket pitch and pavilion, and when I last saw it, some very rural cricketers!

Easy Access

Crediton itself, is flat. Many of the shops have easy access and cater for most needs. In the centre of Crediton is Jim Buxton's pub—you can't miss it, nor can you miss Jim! Do not go there if you are on a diet, the food is excellent. Jim won an award last year for his English breakfast—a meal to last you a day, if not longer. His lunch-time and evening food is just as good. The pub itself is nothing special, but the food and Jim are well worth a visit.

Real Cheese

Although Crediton is an ideal tourist centre its lack of first class hotels is surprising. It does not appear to be geared to the tourist trade—perhaps it does not wish to be. However the area itself is delightful and worth a closer look on your way to the coastal or moorland areas. One other word. On your way from Exeter call in at Johnny Quicks. Here you can buy real cheese which is a welcome change from the plastic variety. The only problem is, unless you buy in a large quantity, you will have probably eaten it by the time you reach Crediton!

“Wisma” in Indonesia means “home”, and here in Jakarta Wisma Cheshire indeed means home, a cheerful, thriving home, for the 32 residents who live here.

Wisma Cheshire

by Dick Jones

It is the only Cheshire Home in Indonesia and is situated in the suburbs of the sprawling capital city, Jakarta. Jakarta has, in spite of its population of some 8 million people, managed to avoid the impersonal, every-man-for-himself atmosphere that one finds in so many cities in the world. Instead it is formed of a series of close communities, where everyone in a particular district knows just about everyone else: where families stroll in the dusk, eat their evening meal off a food stall, talk to their neighbours and take an interest in each others welfare.

Community Contact

So it is that Wisma Cheshire is an essential part of community life in the Jakarta suburb of Fatmawati, named after President Sukarno's first wife. As you near the home you will see residents chatting to local street traders, enjoying one of Indonesia's remarkable clove cigarettes with friends or, as evening closes in, bowling along in their wheelchairs to get back for supper.

The home they return to was set up in the early seventies with funds raised from voluntary donations from firms, individuals and the local community and a grant from the Cheshire Foundation. The Government lent their support and land was made available by the late R. P. Soeroso, President of the Fatmawati Foundation. Group Captain Leonard Cheshire opened the original home in November 1974 and, in more recent years, an annex and the “Red Feather” shop were donated by the Women's International Club Jakarta, plus a fourth building, the Halfway House, by the Jakarta Municipal Council.



Top row: Mrs. Ellie Collins i/c Handicrafts, President of WIC, Mrs. D. Soetjitro.
Bottom row: Reni, Suheri, Melani

Age Range

The four main buildings are all cosily cheek-by-jowl and connected with sheltered runways, and anyone who has experienced Jakarta's tropical storms will appreciate how important it is that they are well covered: it was to here we went in order to get up-to-date in our information for this article. We were met with the charming smile of the ever-busy Matron, Sri Murihati Sunoto, who together with a cook and two male general-helpers looks after the 32 residents, 20 of whom are men, 12 ladies, with the youngest resident only 18 and the eldest only 50, Sri herself was trained in Holland for 3 years, nursing and looking after the elderly and has been at the home since it opened. Her own husband is a paraplegic and resident in the home, they married in 1981 and have a three year old daughter, Santi, who scooted around us, and the home, on her little 3-wheeled tricycle as we talked.

Stories of Success

It was early evening, and over the noise of the rain beating on the roof and a group of residents enthusiastically hammering black, shiny wheels onto little scarlet, wooden trains, Sri told us about the Wisma Cheshire. There were many moving stories, some of hardships unknown and inconceivable in welfare wealthy western countries, yet, overall, the atmosphere is one of vigorous, cheerful independence. They are proud of the work they do, the independence they've achieved and of residents who have obtained jobs outside of the home and have now left, seven of them working in reception-type jobs in hospitals, three in banks and one housekeeping in the Hilton Hotel, plus a further two, still resident, also working in another nearby hospital.

Apart from those working in the hospital, plus three residents who are studying, one at Secondary School, two at High School, and

PARK HOUSE

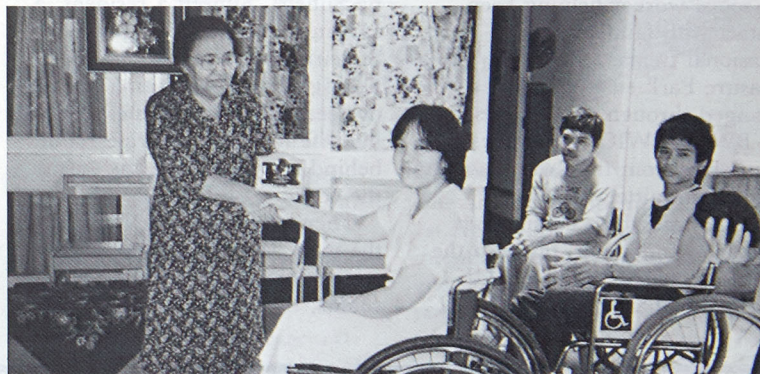
one girl who works in a printing shop, everyone works at the home, whatever the disability, breaking for lunch, resting from 1 pm-3 pm, working through until 5 pm. The men work in the adjoining Co-operative for Disabled carpentry workshop, where the speciality is large, beautiful dolls houses such as every child would adore to have, and the girls on a range of handicrafts: handicrafts of the highest standards and for which, in the Cheshire Home's Handicraft competition, Melani won 2nd prize and Reni 3rd prize. From the sale of their dolls houses, and handicrafts from the Red Feather Shop, residents donate a proportion to the home and keep the main part for themselves.

Active Living

Later Sri took us for a walk-around. First the girls rooms, two to a room, and a small dormitory of four: all around, pictures and their personal items. Then over to the Halfway House where the eight residents there are indeed very independent, paying all their own expenses and even employing their own cook. Here we met Reni in her room, listening to music on the stereo radio-cassette that she had recently bought with her own earnings from the sale of handicrafts. Reni's room had several magnificent trophies and numerous medals on ribbons for events won at the Paraplegic Games which take place very 3 years in Solo, events which include bowls, table-tennis, basket ball, javelin throwing etc. and Reni had won first prize overall. The biggest cup was for the Cheshire Home team in the Jakarta to Bogor wheelchair rally, a distance of 50 kilometres on a busy main road.



Mrs. Dina Soetjito with Suheri—1st prize for Photography



with Melani—2nd prize for Tea Pot Mats



with Reni—3rd prize Blue Cushion Cover

Responsible Role

Across the hallway Jati was watching the TV news in her room, a room with two dominant pictures, one of her cutting her wedding cake with her husband, who she met and married at the home. The other of her shaking hands with the President of Indonesia, President Suharto, at a rally in the National Stadium. Jati is the head girl. Wisma Cheshire has a very good system whereby a Head Girl and Head Boy are elected by the residents and they help Sri run the home; especially

when Sri is away, then they look after the keys, attend the telephone, organise the meals etc. all very important for the smooth running of the home. Jacop is the Head Boy, but he had gone visiting when we were there. We then went over to the Co-operative for the Disabled building where we saw the dolls and where four of the men, their work finished, were playing a vigorous game of dominoes, played with small cards, slapped down enthusiastically at each move.

continued on page 16

Voluntary Service

Finally a visit to the new exercise room which also doubles as a mosque for the muslim residents. Both religions, Christianity and Muslim, are worshipped and respected, with all main festivals observed. So it was we ended our visit, trying now to recall all the other things Sri told us, about the boys and their weekly basket ball, the volunteers who help with physiotherapy and in cutting out the materials for the handicrafts, the social worker helping keep contact with families, the occasional treats, trips to the Ancol Pleasure Park etc—sometimes arranged through the kindness of the BWA or WIC, sometimes by themselves from their own savings, of the Committee with its voluntary members coming not only from Indonesia, but also the USA, Australia, India and UK under the Chairmanship of

Mrs. Dina Soetjitro, who has herself been awarded an appreciation by the Jakarta Municipal Government for her outstanding voluntary service in social work.

Sports Scene

In a room behind them were two small snooker tables with much noisy action going on, with a mixed group of residents and local neighbours. The Co-operative and the work done there is organised by Suheiri, himself a resident, a carpenter, and a photographer—Suheiri was the winner of the photographic competition for the overseas Cheshire Homes. He and his wife live in a separate room behind the workshop, his wife is the cook.

Then we sought out the rest of the men, where were they? A strange emptiness, no one in the rooms; then a great cheer gave

them away. They were all crowded into one room watching a football match, Bandung v Irian Jaya, and the Irian Jaya goalkeeper was just fishing the ball out of the back of his net. Altogether far too exciting and absorbing for us to dare interrupt, so on our way we went.

Secure Home

What do we remember most, the trophies, the dolls houses, the football on TV., the stories of misfortune? No, I think the lasting impression is of a stubborn independence to have a truly secure home, with that family atmosphere of which Indonesians are so justly proud in their normal lives plus, and readers you have to come to Indonesia to see this, that most wonderful thing, the Indonesian "Smile", a smile from a Cheshire Home in the finest traditions inspired by Leonard Cheshire.

PARKING IN WESTMINSTER

The City of Westminster has designated 18 parking spaces in Central London for Orange Badge Holders. The Council continues not to recognise the scheme as a whole but it is hoped that these spaces will be of some help to disabled visitors to the West End and, perhaps, mark the beginning of a change of policy.

A list of the locations of the parking spaces has been prepared by the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled and can be obtained from RADAR on receipt of a second class stamped addressed envelope.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London, W1N 8AB

DHSS NHS Spectacle Voucher Scheme

The voucher scheme introduced on 1 July will allow children and those on low incomes to share in the advantage of consumer choice. They will no longer be restricted to the existing range of NHS frames, most of which have remained unchanged over many years.

Instead they will be provided with vouchers so that they can shop around for the best buy from the many low-price frames that will become increasingly available. They may, if they wish, use their vouchers towards the cost of more expensive frames that are on the market at more competitive prices than formerly. Sight-tests will, of course, remain free.

I am pleased to announce that the necessary financial help will be provided through a range of six vouchers. There will be three vouchers for single vision spectacles with values of £14.25, £22 and £33 depending on the complexity of the individual prescription. Similarly there will be three vouchers for bifocal spectacles with values of £27, £42 and £66. Certain additions will be made for clinically necessary prisms and tints. For those requiring complex lenses, but who do not qualify on income grounds, the help currently provided will be continued by means of vouchers intended as a contribution towards the cost of their spectacles. These will be priced at minimum values of £2 for complex single vision spectacles and £14 for complex bifocals but may be as high as £11 and £26 where both prisms and tints are required.

The Government is satisfied that in the currently more competitive spectacle market these vouchers will allow people to be assured of a basic pair of spectacles suitable for their clinical needs.

Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health.

PARK HOUSE

The conversion of Park House into a country house hotel for physically handicapped people is going very well. The contractors expect to complete the building during October. This will be followed by a three month fitting-out period, when carpets, curtains, furniture and equipment will be installed. Staff will be recruited during the winter months, although the key managerial appointments of Deputy Director (who will also be Head of Care) and Catering Manager will be advertised in September. Most of the 30 staff will arrive during January and February 1987.

Facilities Provided

Park House will contain 16 bedrooms (7 single and 9 twin or double) and therefore provide a 25 bed capacity throughout the year. Every room will be equipped for use by handicapped people, as will the public areas of the hotel. Full 24-hour nursing care will be



provided for all disabled guests and any special requirements, such as dietary needs, will be met. Able-bodied relatives and carers will also be able to come and stay at the hotel. Although it is anticipated that most guests will come direct to Park House in their own transport, the hotel will have its own vehicles for meeting guests at railway stations or pick-up points and used for taking them to places of interest in East Anglia during their stay.

Opening Date

The advertised opening date is 1st April 1987, but we are intending to take up to 16 disabled guests (plus carers if desired) at reduced charges for weekly or fortnightly periods for 4 weeks from 28th February 1987 as an Introductory Offer. During this period it is hoped to attract people within a wide range of disabilities in order that our staff and equipment can be fully tested before we open in April.

Accommodation Charges

The full range of accommodation charges for Park House from April 1987 to March 1988 will be notified in the hotel brochure which will be widely distributed to Cheshire Homes, Family Support Services, other charities, Social Services and the tourist trade in November 1986.

There will be three seasonal rates as follows:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Peak | 1st June-30th September, plus Christmas/New Year |
| Standard | 1st March-31st May, 1st-31st October |
| Winter | 1st November-28th February, less Christmas/New Year. |

After 1st April we will take guests for any length of stay between one night and three months, although we will encourage people to stay for weekly or fortnightly periods at a small discount from the daily rates. The terms will vary according to whether guests choose full or half board (bed, breakfast and evening meal) or bed and breakfast only.

Daily charges for 1987 are expected to be as follows:

| Rate | Bed and Breakfast | Half Board | Full Board |
|----------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Winter | 26 | 33 | 36 |
| Standard | 28 | 35 | 38 |
| Peak | 30 | 37 | 40 |

Guests sharing a double room will each be charged 70-80% of the rate for a single room. During the winter months, bargain breaks and special interest and activity weeks will be available at lower prices which will be notified later.

For the Introductory Offer in March we will be charging £150 per week full board for a single room or single occupancy in a double room, and £120 per week per head for a shared room.

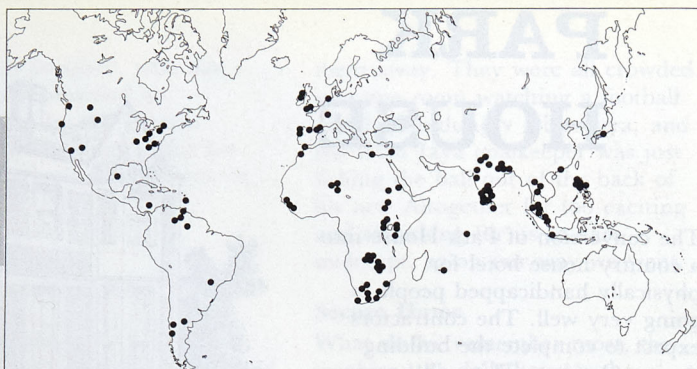
Provisional Bookings

The Director's office will be established in Park House by 1st November 1986. From that date provisional bookings can be made by telephone when applicants will be sent a form on which details of disability can be recorded so that staff are fully prepared to meet guests individual needs on arrival at the hotel.

Bookings or queries between now and November should be sent to:

Mr. A. J. V. Kendall
Park House
Sandringham
King's Lynn
Norfolk PE35 6EH

Cheshire



Greathouse Wiltshire

Compost 'n' Chips

Other homes might be interested to hear of our recent experience with "Community Industry"—a work experience scheme—who have been helping us out with our gardens. Led by an excellent supervisor, ten youngsters have been with us for the last seven months or so. They have cleared a beautiful "wild garden" area laid about 500 yards of path, dug out and rewalled a large pond, and we now have a whole new area in our own grounds for our residents to enjoy—if it ever stops raining! The project has been successful in so many ways—for us, for the garden itself and for the youngsters too.

They have seen the project through and it has given them a great feeling of achievement and satisfaction. There is no cost to the home for labour on this scheme. We had 180 tons of hardcore (and the use of a roller) donated by Amey Roadstone and only had to pay for the tarmac.

Now we are planning to have a living-in (trained) volunteer from Horticultural Therapy, hopefully for a year who will develop gardening projects appropriate to our residents' interests.

Computers

We are about to start up with computers for the use of the residents, with the help of the Manpower Services Commission. They will supply two computer and trained staff for a minimum of a year—again at no cost to the

home. We know of a number of other homes who have them already and are loud in their praise. Some of our residents are already excited at the prospect and one of our day-care clients has penned the following poem.

THE WORLD OF THE MICROCHIP

In this day and age its easy to slip
Into the world of the micro-chip
Machines and computers are nobodies fool
They're used by we humans just like a tool.

Now don't confuse chips with the one that you eat
This little chip is really quite neat.
It's size is deceiving as it is so small,
But don't be fooled, it can do it all.

Computers, computers, are really ace,
They're in shops and schools and even in space.
In offices, factories, all over the place,
You'll find a computer in some small space.

They put them in cars to tell you what's wrong
And one day they might even sing us a song.
They synthesise music for pop groups to use,
Machines helping humans to kick off the blues.

You get printers, disc-drives, modems to call,
Software, hardware, peripherals and all.
Printers write letters down a treat,
Disc-drives are quick and very neat.

Now as you can see, its a wonderful age
Just flick a switch instead of turning a page.
Computers are great, they won't let you slip
Welcome to the world of the micro-chip.

By Paul Clasper (aged 12)

ROECLIFFE
MANOR

CORRECTION

In our June issue—Page 21—NIKKI BARKER was incorrectly named Nikki Woods. We apologise for this error

Homes Around the World

The Grange Poole • Dorset

More Car Comforts

We at the Poole Cheshire Home read with interest the article in the March edition of *The Cheshire Smile* on the Carchair wheelchair fitted to the Nissan Prairie, and purchased by the Hertfordshire Home.

A tall order

We also had the same requirements of a vehicle, namely that it should carry a wheelchair bound passenger, at least two other passengers plus the driver, and look like an ordinary car, not a weird conversion. It had also to have a simple, quick and fail-safe system to get the wheelchair, any wheelchair, in and out. A tall order.

We looked at every vehicle on the market before arranging a demonstration of the Carchair fitted to a Nissan Prairie. Certainly it looks like an ordinary car and has the passenger accommodation, but we weren't happy about the Carchair system.

Complex system

It uses a special wheelchair that not all the residents can use, as admitted by the Hertfordshire Home. An individual's wheelchair is like a shoe, that will fit few other people. It also means that a quick trip to the shops requires a transfer to the Carchair before setting off, then another transfer back to your own chair on return; time consuming and an effort for staff and residents. And what about residents who prefer the independence of a power chair? They're not catered for. Lastly, such a complex system for getting the chair in and out can not be



The Brotherwood Conversion

(Above)
Nick Lawrence-Parr
with Nigel Edwards
and (Below) with
Therése Kenyon



totally reliable, and a mechanical failure could leave you embarrassingly stranded.

Discreet conversion

So for us, the Carchair was out. But not, it seemed, the Nissan Prairie. We received information on a new and very discreet conversion of the Prairie to take almost any type of wheelchair; The Brotherwood Conversion from Station Garage, Yetminster, Sherborne, Dorset.

No need to transfer

What they've done is to lower the floor (invisible from outside) and raise the roof just a few inches to provide ample headroom for the tallest of people. If anything, the

slightly raised roof improves the lines of the vehicle and in no way draws attention to it. Wheelchair loading is by a simple integral shallow ramp at the rear. No need for transfers; you just stay in your own chair, manual or powered, and the whole operation to being fully clamped in takes less than thirty seconds. The normal seats can be fitted either side of the wheelchair position.

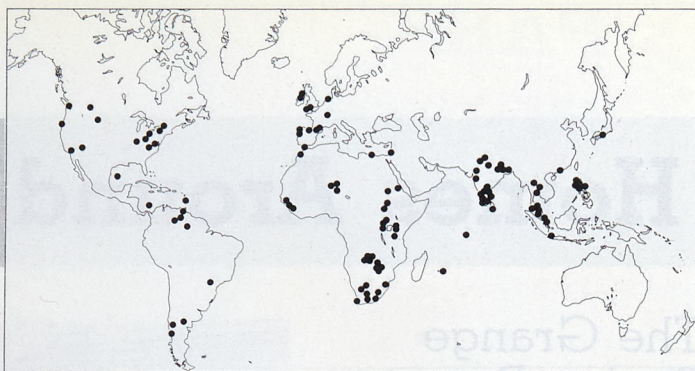
Constant use

The Brotherwood Conversion fulfilled our very stringent requirements so we ordered one. Since delivery our choice has been more than justified as the car is in constant use and most popular with the residents.

Nick Lawrence-Parr

Cheshire

Coomb • Dyfed



Mrs Lorna Rodman (resident) presents floral basket to HRH Princess Alexandra

Royal Opening

Residents, staff and Management Committee members were delighted to receive a visit from Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra on Thursday 29th May 1986. She arrived at the home accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed Mr. David Mansel-Lewis JP and his wife, Lady Mary Mansel-Lewis and joined everyone for a buffet lunch. During the two hours she was at Coomb, Her Royal Highness talked to all residents, staff, Management Committee members and many of the home's friends and supporters.

Before departing she officially opened the new Alexandra Wing, a permanent traditional building, containing six single rooms for residents with associated facilities.

Warm sunny weather blessed this very happy and long to be remembered occasion.

St. Cecilia's • Kent

Popular Programme

The computer continues to receive considerable interest for various uses. Roughly half the residents are engaged in using it on a regular basis. The word processor is still the most popular feature, with a constant flow of letters issuing from the machines. A couple of residents are improving their reading and writing skills on

it, with the aid of Pat Lewis our speech therapist. The quiz programmes continue to be popular and provide an outlet for those residents who may find the inter-home quizzes a little difficult to follow. The two-switch operated drawing programme is also gaining in popularity, this having the advantage that the user does not

need to be able to use the keyboard. The same is true of the quizzes. Scrabble is also a great favourite, as it can be played against the computer or another player (of the human variety!).

To sum up, things are going forward with the computer continuing to benefit many residents.

G. W. Saunders

Homes Around the World

The Hill • Sandbach

Tele-co-operation!!

Residents of the many Cheshire Homes, and the Sue Ryder Homes too no doubt, come in all shapes and sizes, each with their own particular problem and limitation.

Added to the fact that we each have our individual aptitudes, frailties, dislikes or distrusts of the equipment designed by well meaning people to help us, we each have a different shape and size of wheelchair.

Keeping all of these facts in mind, just imagine for one moment the great consternation in the minds of the managers of British Telecom, when asked to "Come round and alter our telephone communication system"!

Added to this was the fact that in their modernization programme British Telecom had decided to terminate the small exchange in Sandbach and incorporate us in the Crewe Area Headquarters.

First of all we had a vote to decide should we use the Telecom phone-card system as opposed to the old coin box with its hunting for 10p pieces or, purchasing 20 or 40 unit cards that are light and easy to manage. The phone-card system was the one decided upon.

The first operation was to site the phone-card box at the right height. Then there was the problem of the number buttons ... Tiny weeny little numbers that made it impossible for those with

lack of co-ordination to use, but Glyn the engineer fixed a special row of large buttons laterally on a bar beneath the set numbering One to Nought horizontally. Then replacing the cradle for the receiver a switch was incorporated to the card-box. The use of this switch allows the receiver to be placed away from dislodging by any wheelchair, because we, like many other Homes, have a loudspeaker box that enables residents to listen and speak without the need to hold the handset. The receiver and the loudspeaker box have independent volume controls.

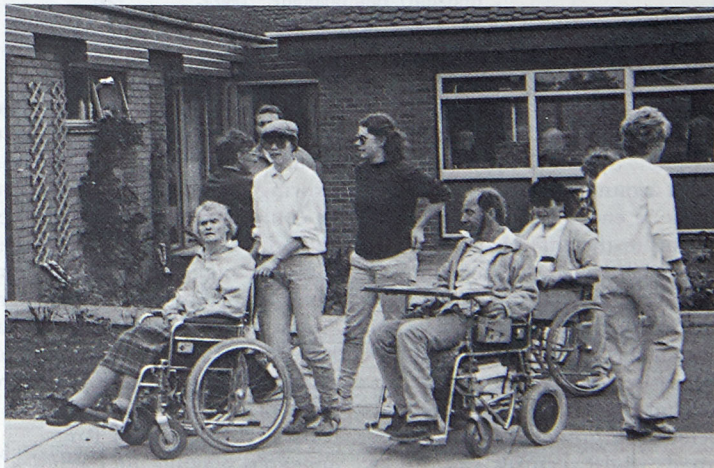
Our telephone is a great success.
George W. Manders

Saltways • Cheshire

'Chairity' Push

A total of £70 was raised by a sponsored wheelchair push around the grounds of the home for Bob Geldof's Sport Aid.

Sponsors, including office staff from Royal Doulton in Stoke on Trent and the home's staff pushed 12 wheelchair bound residents around the quarter of a mile course on the stroke of 4—the time set for the UK's world participation and it proved to be an enjoyable and successful day.



Cheshire Homes Around the World

The Chiltern ● Buckinghamshire



Roy Castle piping in the haggis

Scottish Day

A few months ago we decided to have "Special Days" from time to time. The "Special Day" really revolves around eating but everyone is encouraged to dress according to the title of the Day, so it was kilts all round, of many shapes and sizes, on the occasion of the Scottish Day. For this we decorated the tables with tartan material—scraps from the workroom cupboard—and fir cones collected from under the trees up the road, whilst pictures and posters of Scottish scenes adorned the walls.

Piped Haggis

We are very lucky that Roy Castle is a friend of ours and lives just around the corner. He is good at blowing the bagpipes and although he could only spare five minutes as he had an afternoon appointment, it was enough to pipe in the haggis when everything was ready. Only one or two residents knew about Roy coming, so when the bagpipes started up in the hall there were looks of surprise and alarm on the residents' faces, until Roy appeared playing the bagpipes followed by Fred carrying the haggis.

Special Brew

When this ceremony was over it was time to tuck into the haggis, eaten with swede, potatoes and gravy after which was served black treacle pudding and whisky sauce. All this was washed down by a special brew of Chiltern Cheshire Home whisky punch before four of the staff entertained us with their version of the sword dance.

Similar occasions have followed as we have been celebrating the Saints Days, making an enjoyable break from the daily routine.

Gill Morgan.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AIDS FOR THE DISABLED (CHAD)

In 1972 the Wheelchair Fund (Overseas) was established by Norman Whiteley, a disabled resident at Atholl House, London Cheshire Home, following a visit by him to a Home in Marrakesh. He found that there were virtually no proper wheelchairs for residents use and on his return resolved to do something about it. He contacted Leonard Cheshire, founder of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, who gave his blessing and encouragement to this project and very soon wheelchairs were being obtained and despatched to all parts of the Third World. Unfortunately, Norman died in 1983, but the job as administrator was given to Peter Reynolds, disabled resident at Greenhill House Cheshire Home, near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Although born a spastic and severely restricted in speech and limb movements Peter, with the aid of his Apple computer, willingly took up the challenge. He was soon sending wheelchairs to countries in Africa and the Indian sub-continent, but after a while it became clear that other orthopaedic aids were greatly needed and were in short supply abroad. These included crutches, walking frames, and items for adaption like calipers and surgical boots. Many good quality pieces of equipment are obtained

secondhand, and various forms of transshipment are used; UK residents working abroad have taken quantities of medical aids as excess baggage and the RAF have helped out in cases of emergency.

Obviously, some equipment has to be purchased, and funds are always required for this and to cover transportation costs. There are no paid employees but Peter does receive voluntary help with filing, fund-raising and driving. To quote a few recent examples of how assistance is given where needed: Alison Eastwood, wife of the Counsellor at the British Embassy in Khartoum took back with her five wheelchairs and five pairs of crutches for use at the Cheshire Home in Khartoum, Derek Joy, who runs a mission school near Jos, Nigeria has on three occasions taken equipment with him for the school.

Most despatches call for conventional transport however, by air and sea, and this can be costly, depending on size and weight. But the need for these supplies is so great that delay must be avoided where at all possible.

Generous Support

Fund-raising is required to meet expenses and here there has been generous support from individuals and a number of organisations, chiefly from the Inner Wheel Clubs of Great Britain. Rotary, Rotoract, Women's Institutes, Churches—including one outstanding Lenten Project at Wimbledon Park, which produced £1,342 and four brand new wheelchairs—and our one support group, at Stonesfield in Oxfordshire, have all made major contributions to the Fund, as have other Cheshire Homes, notably Brixham. Since the demand for equipment other than, but as well as, wheelchairs has grown, it has been decided by Peter to change the name of the Fund. It is now known as CHAD which stands for Leonard Cheshire International Aids for the Disabled.

CHAD is now a vital link between Cheshire Homes in the UK and those overseas. It must be ready to respond to growing demand and with your help CHAD can do it.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR FUND (OVERSEAS) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1985

| | | | | |
|----|--|---------------|--|---------------|
| | 1984 INCOME | | 1984 EXPENDITURE | |
| | 2,102 Inner Wheel Clubs of Great Britain | 626 | 7,246 Wheelchairs and Equipment | 1,948 |
| | 258 Rotary Clubs of Great Britain | 683 | 3,085 Shipping and Transport | 1,017 |
| | 72 Cheshire Homes— Douglas House, Brixham | 106 | 220 Sundry Expenses | 197 |
| | — Support Groups— Stonesfield Group | 1,000 | 50 Insurance | — |
| | 10 Womens Institutes | 93 | | |
| | 2,773 Donations | 1,347 | | |
| 35 | Sales | 381 | | |
| — | Less Purchases | 134 | | |
| | 35 | 247 | | |
| | — Grant-Leonard Cheshire Foundation | 1,000 | | |
| | 265 Deposit Interest | 145 | | |
| | 5,515 | 5,247 | 10,601 | 3,162 |
| | 6,001 Bank Balances 1st October 1984 | 915 | 915 Bank Balances at 30th September 1985 | 3,000 |
| | <u>£11,516</u> | <u>£6,162</u> | <u>£11,516</u> | <u>£6,162</u> |

AUDITORS REPORT:— We certify that the above income and expenditure Account is in agreement with the accountancy records which in our opinion have been properly kept.

46 St. Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LT
9 January 1986

EDMUND R. GIBBS & CO.
Certified Accountants
Honorary Auditors

RECOVERING

from mental illness

—a small but important part of the Foundation's work

by Kay Christiansen

Recovering from mental illness or psychiatric disorder is a slow and painful business. It is a time when help and back-up support are essential in making the slow climb back to living and coping independently in the community with all the stresses and strains that modern life involves.

It is perhaps little known that this sort of help is being provided by The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, currently running three hostels in the London area, accommodating over fifty men and women.

Two of these hostels are in Wimbledon and one is in the heart of London's East End.

Open Opportunities

In all cases, the ultimate aim is to provide a half-way house where ex-psychiatric patients can have the opportunity to learn social skills, long since forgotten if they have been for many years in the institutionalised atmosphere of a mental hospital. For example, even catching a bus or a train, or choosing new clothing may present great problems and uncertainties at first. They can also be aided gently towards self-realisation and the ability to resume responsibility for the direction of their lives by learning to take necessary decisions.

Sense of Security

The hostels are staffed, but the Foundation also runs six groups homes—three in Wimbledon and three in Uxbridge, which are managed by residents themselves in the knowledge that there is some back-up on call when they require it. Group homes are designed for longer stays for ex-patients who may never be able to cope entirely without help, while hostels in general offer stays of not much longer than eighteen months.

Nicholas House

I recently visited Nicholas House, off Shoreditch High Street. There is a staff of five in this hostel, headed by a 28 year old Oxford graduate, Steve Peacock, who was previously a Probation Service Assistant Manager and deputy head of Nicholas House for three years.

Nicholas House was originally a community centre run by Cheltenham Ladies College in the days when it was fashionable for the well-to-do to interest themselves in welfare work in the East End. Today it provides support accommodation for twenty men and women, who are referred there by hospital social workers or professional agencies in the community health service. There is a pleasant sitting room, colourful dining room, a television viewing room, and an activities room for games, arts or crafts. Bedrooms are single.

Trial Period

Steve Peacock explained that the selection of residents starts with an informal interview after which a detailed application has to be made. Following this the applicant spends two weekends at the house to see how he fits in. If this is a success, a trial period of three months residency begins. Each person is allocated a member of staff to be their key worker and throughout the stay there is a weekly counselling session lasting one hour. At the end of three months, there is a review of progress on which depends a confirmation of the stay for a further period.

Valuable Individual

“The staff all have extensive experience of social or psychiatric work, though we do not look for specific qualifications because we are not particularly obsessed with the precise nature of the mental diagnosis or personality disorder”, Steve explained. “Each resident

is perceived as an important and valuable individual with his or her own needs and aspirations, and we see our job as helping them to discover what these are and how to reach them."

"These goals obviously vary. But in the case of someone who is anxious to have their own home, it would be getting the initiative to register with the housing department. For another, securing a job might be a priority, and then it would be filling up application forms and getting to interviews."

"There is no question of chivvyng anyone or of doing things for them that they ought to be doing themselves. For example, if someone is sitting around here all day, nothing would be said at the time but that person would know that the matter would be raised in the next counselling session. Likewise, if a resident's room is shockingly untidy we don't interfere, although if it became damaged or insanitary we would obviously intervene."

Own Decisions

"There are various ways in which we try to build up our residents self esteem, which may be very low, and make them aware of their worth and value as human beings. We are very concerned to encourage all efforts to get a job because getting and keeping one is the greatest moral booster possible. We would also make residents aware of stimulating things to do—interesting local walks, museums and galleries worth a visit—but the decision to do these things most ultimately be up to the individual and that is part of the therapy. Once you have succeeded in

building up some self esteem many things follow naturally on—such as the ability to decide one's course for oneself and to find the necessary motivation to take the appropriate action."

In pursuance of this philosophy almost nothing is mandatory at Nicholas House with the exception of a certain number of chores such as washing up and cleaning which is done on a rota system at weekends.

Future Prepared

The average stay at Nicholas House is about eighteen months to two years, but this, too, is flexible according to circumstances. Each person who is returned to the community to live independently does not leave until it is known that he or she has a suitable flat or bed sitter to go to, and that financial support has been arranged. Even then, residents are not left high and dry abruptly. Staff from Nicholas House drop in casually to see how things are going, and later the Tower Hamlets Community Service with which very close and good relationships exist, would take over.

"We regard our follow up work as very important and it is by this means that we know that we enjoy a good success rate," Steve told me. "That's good for staff morale too!"

There is little doubt that many more services such as those provided at Nicholas House are needed to help the increasing number of people who have been blown off-course by the pressures and stresses of a difficult world to be given the chance to re-establish themselves in the community.

THE BROTHERWOOD CONVERSION[©]



A tailor made conversion of the Nissan Prairie for the wheelchair-bound passenger and family, which still retains the vehicle's original style.

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Moving

In 1984 I wrote a paper which was distributed to the Director, Deputy Director, Trustees of the Care Committee, and to all Fieldstaff entitled "Moving Forward".

I received one or two favourable comments but as with many papers that are written one has to expect that from time to time they fizzle out like a damp squib without producing the results they were intended to provoke.

However, as the points in it are still relevant an updated version appears below.

R. E. Hopkinson
North West Regional Care Adviser

During my eight years with the Leonard Cheshire Foundation I have seen many changes in Homes and at Headquarters. We have moved forward considerably.

Standards of care are improving all the time. Attitudes to the care of the disabled and to members of staff have also improved but we still have a long way to go.

Busy Years

Computers are coming into our Homes and there are no boundaries for the microchip for offering new and improved aids for our residents and for the efficiency in running Homes. We have also, for our guidance, the Handbooks of Care which are in the process of being updated. We have also seen the commencement of the Family Support Service and we are talking about Regionalisation/Devolution. Annual Care Reviews have not commenced. We, The Foundation staff have slightly increased and counsellors are now Care Advisers and are doing similar work to Residential Services Advisers in Local Authorities. They have been busy years.

Services Available

In addition we now have the services of two Rehabilitation and Equipment Advisers, a Training Adviser and a Family Support Service Adviser all of whom are available to residents, staff and members of management for consultation.

Need for Change

Before moving further forward is it not time we took stock of ourselves and had a close look at some of the things which we have perhaps not improved? We must continue to look forward but I think that there are times when we should stop and look back to see if we have missed something along the way before it is too late. Have we really achieved as much as we think we have? Yes, I think we are more professional, certainly in terms of expertise but are we professional enough to accept that there are still things happening in our Homes which should never be allowed? Things which none of us would accept in our own home. How often do we hear people talking about attitudes? There is certainly a need for change in this respect on the part of us all.

Questions to be Answered

As we begin to use the new technology to improve life perhaps we should look first at what we call total care; Do residents expect too much from their carers? Do the carers expect too much from those for whom they care? Do all residents want total care? I think not.

Let us look at the more simple things. Are the residents comfortable in their accommodation, do they have privacy and the right to choose? Are the basics right? Such things as wheelchairs, are they comfortable? How often do we see residents using makeshift aids because not enough priority is given to such things by staff or management? Residents who are in pain because they do not have the right staff and equipment in the Home. This situation is, fortunately, improving, but it will take a long time for all the Homes to employ Occupational Therapists and for our own Rehabilitation and Equipment Advisers to have an impact in the Homes. Waiting ten months for delivery of a wheelchair (some of us would not wait ten weeks for the delivery of household items to our home). Curtains around toilets and three baths in a room still exist in some Homes. Several residents are wanting to leave Cheshire Homes because of such attitudes towards their care. Residents who are interrogated because they want to make a life for themselves outside the Home and there are those who are prevented from decision making. How often do we see self-determination being abused in our Homes?

Forward . . .

Criticisms of Care

Should we expect residents to put up with conditions none of us would tolerate? I am sure we could complete an endless list of bad practices. Staff who can be prevented from attending training courses because of personality difficulties or instructed that they must take leave to attend courses.

Of course, there are bound to be personal difficulties from time to time, we are all aware that these difficulties exist but are we, the Foundation, doing enough to help resolve these problems? We talk about the problems, briefly report on them but then they are pushed into the background and forgotten as if they had never existed.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation has the knowledge and expertise to lead the way and to show the rest of the caring agencies that we do care. I can assure you that there are many criticisms of Leonard Cheshire Homes by outside professionals and at times we find ourselves making excuses and apologising to these people for the bad standards and asking them not to take that particular Home as a general standard of our care.

Prolonged Problems

If management and staff are not prepared to change and accept Foundation recommendations what are we to do? There are many problems in our Homes that have been in existence for so long that we should now be asking ourselves what we should be doing to achieve change. Why have we allowed them to continue?

Perhaps Annual Care Reviews will help us to understand what direction we should take, I hope so.

Surely the basic comforts, freedoms, etc., of residents are as important as the new technologies that we will be using in the future. Many Homes have increased the Physiotherapy service and begun to employ qualified Occupational Therapists. I would ask that we all, Trustees, members of staff, management and residents sit down together and try to recognise some of the long standing attitudes and problems within our Cheshire Homes and look at the ways in which we can work together to resolve them.

Enforced Standards

We should not close our eyes any longer to the fact that there are people who refuse to accept that residents and staff have rights and I think that the time has come when we should be asking staff and members of management committees not to enforce their own standards on residents in their Homes but to allow the freedom of choice giving them the right to live the sort of life they choose, without placing the many restrictions that still exist upon them.

We should not be afraid that a member of management committee may threaten to resign if questions are asked.

Constructive Course

I firmly believe that consideration should be given in the future to the appointment of more disabled Trustees. There should be more acceptance of resident and staff participation within the decision making process. I do not believe that we should neglect what residents are saying about their care and we should encourage

everyone to eventually sit down together and be constructive. Let it be a partnership between residents, paid employees and volunteers, for the benefit of all those disabled people in our establishments. It was refreshing to read the article by an enlightened Chairman of a Cheshire Home in the March edition of Cheshire Smile and it is to be hoped that there are many more like him.

Time for Evaluation

It is my belief that the Leonard Cheshire Foundation should be publicising our work more and helping the younger generation to understand disability. We should also try to encourage local authorities to do more to allow disabled people to use what mobility they have. For example, the lowering of kerbs for wheelchair users and to increase the number of places where telephones can be situated which can be used by disabled persons. Mobility Allowance has helped but we should be looking towards the day when disabled people can wait at a bus stop with the able-bodied and know that they will be able to travel on the same transport. We have a duty to encourage and educate the public to understand the meaning of disability. Surely now is the time for evaluation and to look closely at the services we provide. Before moving forward let us consider how we can improve the services with the present resources available to us.

Finally, I hope that my article will be accepted in the spirit in which it was written. It is a general professional concern which others also have. The Foundation should continue to go forward but not without first stopping to look in which direction and how far we have travelled.



Tea Break

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

by Maureen Love

It was decision time in my life, having to give in to a lifetime disability and give up my home to go into residential care.

Total Dismay

So much had happened to bring me to this point. Things seemed hopeless. My hands were in such a state almost to the point of uselessness, I had to decide what to do. The thought of giving up my home and doing the things I had always done like cooking, paying my own bills, locking my own front door, drawing the curtains, making a drink when I felt like one and staying up late if I felt like it—totally dismayed me. With a mixture of relief and heartache, I had to swallow my pride and accept the situation. The problem certainly wasn't going to go away. Twelve months previously I had given up my invalid car and it felt as though I had cut my throat as that was my total independence, now here I was giving up what little I had left and it was hurting like hell! As I sat crying alone in the flat looking through the kitchen window up into the sky I asked why? I wanted to go on living as normal a life as possible but my wretched condition was knocking me down all the time. The lack of support was staring me in the face and no matter how much will I had, I just felt beaten.

Assessment

I had visited one or two Cheshire Homes and looked around to get the feel of what I assumed would be my environment for the rest of my life. Would I be able to live with so many people after living on my own? Suddenly a date was given for an assessment period and off I went. It was strange going into a dining room full of people, the majority in wheelchairs. I was fortunate as I am still able to walk a little. They made me welcome and after a week or so I began to make friends. I was conscious of the look of my skin as it was disfiguring. Most of the people seemed to accept me. I knew I needed help and finally made my mind up, if there was a vacancy I must take it.

No Turning Back

I then had a short stay in hospital and returned to the Cheshire Home where I spent Christmas and New Year before finally going back home to pack up and say goodbye to those I cared about. The last day arrived. A van came to collect one or two items and I was ready to leave. Locking my door for the last time I could no longer cry. I was saying goodbye to a way of life I thought I would never experience again! During the journey the social worker was doing her best to cheer me up then when we arrived at the home she saw me to my room but she had to go! It was as if I'd been marooned on a desert island, there was no turning back as I watched her drive away. I felt totally deserted and lost. There were people all around me wanting to help but I didn't see them. I ate a meal automatically. Back in my room I did some unpacking then I sat and looked around. It seemed so small and cramped compared to my one bedroomed flat. There were voices all the time, footsteps up and down the corridor, buzzers going off then someone walked in and offered me a cup of tea. It was a couple of days before I realized I was there.

Sharing

It hit me like a bomb. Sitting in my room with another lady I was sharing with in the other side of the curtain which separated us both, I thought, "This is it. I'm here. I must learn to settle! If I don't I'll go mad! I'm grateful for the roof over my head and the help which is provided and I'll be here for the rest of time."

A few months later I went into hospital in London and had plastic surgery on one hand, it had been done several times before during the last twenty odd years but not as extensive as this. I returned to the home and six months later went into hospital again for the other hand to be done—both with success. As my hands were out of use for some time the nurses at

the home did my dressings until it again became possible for me to do them myself. I was settled and soon I would have my own room, the choice was mine. I was very interested and became involved with the residents committee, ending up being the chairman. As I began to find a little more confidence I wondered if I could manage in the community again. Living in an institutional environment it was difficult keeping an open mind as to one's capability in the community—the uncertainty of moving from the security of the home, the responsibility and the big question—would there be enough support?

Right Decision?

The day came when I received word of a flat and I went to look at it with mixed feelings. Great apprehension regarding independence loomed up! I was part of a large family with all of its varying personalities with staff and residents. Some thought I was mad for wanting to be independent, some thought I'd never make it, some didn't want me to leave. I felt torn between the challenge of standing on my own two feet and wanting to stay with people I had become close to and cared about, a community within itself. I was scared! I asked myself, "Am I making the right decision?" I must admit there was great hesitation. Problems with the flat and things related to my condition happened in such a way that I began to think I wasn't meant to go—but I plodded on. A moving date was made. As much as possible was sorted out with the flat and I went shopping for various things like bedding and kitchen ware. It felt odd, almost like a dream.

Full Circle

No one really knew how I felt the day I left to move into the flat. There I was leaving the Cheshire Home, something I'd never dreamed of a couple of years ago. I didn't say goodbye to people, I couldn't! It was too emotional. I hoped they would understand my feelings to be independent. Sad and frightened I got in the social worker's car. I'd spent an hour watching my things being taken from my room that I'd had all to myself for almost six months, it looked so bare. The van had gone ahead, the car wouldn't start, I just burst into tears—such a different feeling to when I came to the home. I'd gone the full circle.

Where to Start

After the removal van had left the flat the social worker did some shopping for me and then set to and made a meal. I just didn't know where to start. I would have to wait about three weeks for a carpet to be fitted in the lounge and I didn't know if the washing machine would work. The central heating wasn't working properly and I'd forgotten how to cook! Although I'd done quite a bit for myself in the home, I hadn't done any cooking for almost three years. My mind went blank as I'd tried to write a shopping list.

Only Comfort

Panic reared it's ugly head as I tried to eat the meal the social worker had made for me, the only comfort I had at that point was my telephone. Suddenly the social worker had gone and I was alone in my own living room. I think I closed my mind completely to the first night spent alone—no buzzers, no voices, nothing! I'd locked and chained the door. Had I made it? Time would tell.

Own Decisions

Five months later I'm still here. My hands are much worse and will eventually need more surgery but I am hoping that I'll be able to get through it all with the support which is now available. I can please myself and make my own decisions. It is hard and sometimes lonely as I miss the hustle and bustle of the Cheshire Home, a place where I needed to go, when I needed their help and caring.

Encouragement Needed

I'm pleased to say the Leonard Cheshire Foundation seem to be adopting a more outward look than they have in recent years. It is all to the good to provide, guide and support handicapped people to live as normal a life as possible. To be given the opportunity to excel and push oneself to a personal limit, instead of sitting vegetating and feeling sorry for oneself and finally becoming totally apathetic. Whatever disability we have, we all need that little bit of encouragement to live as normal a life as possible. I have continued to do a little voluntary work which I used to do whilst living at the Cheshire Home and I visit the home regularly as well. Once again I'm standing on my own two feet. I am continually learning and adapting to the art of survival, therefore I shall plod on.

My new kitchen



...in order to learn

Fenella Tadman Dip. C.O.T.
May 1986

The Cheshire Foundation was the last in a range of charities and organisations through which I had tried to arrange work in developing countries. I wrote to several all over the world.

I did not mean to go to India but the only enthusiastic reply that I could provoke came from the Bangalore Cheshire Home. However it took me longer still to write back to Veronica Das, the Home's General Secretary, committing myself.

I wanted to travel in order to learn and to put myself and my newly acquired profession to the test. I left immediately after qualifying as an occupational therapist in August 1985, knowing only that the Home was for physically disabled women and children, with a new rehabilitation centre. India had never appealed before but it seemed it was my destiny.

Motives

Once I had decided to go the organisation seemed to be endless and my ticking-off list never seemed to diminish. People generally reacted so negatively that by the time I was ready to go my self-assurance was at an all time low. I was accused of having various motives from seeking glory and glamour to running away and dropping out. Usually I was asked "Why?" with a note of disapproval or shock and advised not to give to beggars. I never imagined that the examination of my motives would be the main hindrance to my plans.

India is a place of extremes: these reactions were only indicative of this, and if I had been before I might have understood.

Cucumber Sandwiches

I arrived on an auspicious day: September 7th. After a morning's sleep and an English breakfast with Mrs. Das—who became my greatest support—I saw the Home celebrating Leonard Cheshire's birthday. It was an exciting day for the residents; they were in their best sarees and the children each had a marigold in their hair. It was such a moving little celebration it brought tears to my eyes which I remember made me wonder how I might feel on my last day.

I was surprised, and even a little disappointed, to be offered cucumber sandwiches that afternoon. This was not the Home's trend however: we had a diet based on rice and vegetables which was wholesome and quite varied. I gained weight quite considerably and was given an Indian cook book when I left.

Home Helps

There were a few domestic helpers at the Home who did everything, including cleaning, cooking, bathing and dressing the children, helping builders and giving out medicine. They were always cheerful and very noisy—my room was next to the kitchen—and were led by a devoted "Sister" Martha. The residents helped in the domestic running of the Home in many ways depending on their ability and interest. The more elderly, who were not appropriate workers at the rehabilitation centre, would help prepare vegetables and sort rice. One bed-ridden lady taught some of the girls for national examinations. Everyone took care of themselves and their washing as far as they were able.

Bangalore as Home

The Home is about four kilometres from the centre of Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka in south India. Bangalore is a very fast developing commercial and industrial city which still manages to maintain a very spacious and attractive layout with parks and old buildings. The climate is warm to hot, never extreme. I soon recognised Bangalore as my home and viewed itinerant foreigners as outsiders. It is a place which travellers tend mostly to pass through rather than stay. Apparently there is "nothing" to do or see but I revelled in exploring for six months. Foreigners are drawn by the fantastic shopping—silks and intricate crafts.

Just a Grin

I simply loved to travel by "autos"—rickshaws which are made up from a converted moped to take up to three passengers—and swerve and turn through crazy traffic to miraculously arrive somewhere, sometimes not where I had asked. It was a battle of wits and humour to get what I wanted, so I often had to be content with achieving a little, even if it was just a grin!

The most luxurious pastime must be to sit in a garden restaurant under a canopy of bougainvillea and vines and eat south Indian snacks like pourri, idli, dosa, and drink delicious coffee with buffalo's milk or thick, sweet, cold lassi.

I miss the people at the Home and Bangalore and cannot wait to return. My visa ran out, I missed my friends, I felt out of touch with my profession, I wondered what more potential there was for me at the Home and I learnt from my work there that I really needed to specialise.

N.B. The Bangalore Cheshire Home is this year celebrating its Jubilee.



Pressila, Ammu and Nagomma after a day at the Home's school.



Jaya Mary, a resident at the Home, does her washing Indian style despite being handicapped by poliomyelitis.

The wheelchair ramp into the Home is a popular place for staff and residents to gather.



Newlands House is the latest purpose-built Cheshire Home and represents a triumph of good architecture and careful planning. The thirty three residents moved in on June 1985 and the contrast with their previous home, the beautiful stately mansion of nearby Staunton Harold could not be more marked.

introducing

Newlands House

by Kay Christiansen

This Was It!

Robert Leader, Head of Home, explained the background to me. "Staunton was much loved by the residents but it was really totally unsuitable for a Cheshire Home. Some of the rooms, for example, were four bedded and on the first floor. The spirit of the place was splendid and the setting was very beautiful, but it was also very isolated from the community," he said.

"We looked at ways of adapting it to improve the facilities for residents but the house is listed and alterations were really impossible."

"If we had built an extension for single rooms it would have been a quarter of a mile from the main building! So we began to look for a new site."

"A town site proved very difficult to find but finally the agents came up with four and a half acres in the main street of Netherseal village, bang opposite a pub and a church! We decided that this was it."

Gradual Acceptance

"The residents were rather against the idea of a move at first. They had grown to love Staunton and I suppose just didn't realise how much nicer their lives could be in a building designed for the purpose. However, we explained everything in detail and discussed our plans at every stage. Gradually they came round and now, of course, are totally delighted with their new surroundings."

Cool Cost

Newlands House cost a cool £1,500,000 to build and equip. Staunton already had £700,000 of its own and the Foundation loaned a further £600,000.

A public appeal for £350,000 was launched on the grounds that this target might realistically be reached. So far £120,000 has been raised, mainly by grants from charitable trusts, and an appeal committee are hard at it raising more from other sources.

Individual Tastes

The Home is in red brick and is single storey open plan, and totally accessible to wheelchairs. Light and sunshine pour in everywhere through the large windows, and it is meticulously finished throughout. The design avoids depressing long corridors and is full of interest and variety with areas of warm exposed brick breaking up sections. There are, in addition to the main sitting-dining room, numerous attractive little sitting areas—no need for wheelchairs up against the walls here! There is a large arts and crafts room and the bedrooms are spacious, each with a built in vanity unit, but furnished to the individual taste of the occupant. Much of the furniture is built in but some pieces of old furniture and ornaments have been brought from Staunton Harold and blend in charmingly with the numerous house plants and the sleek, modern feel of the place. Carpet and curtains and wall colourings were all selected by the residents. The four modern bathrooms have coloured suites and are particularly pleasant, lacking the bleakness often associated with specially adapted baths and hoists.

Force of Habit

Food from the modern kitchen is served through a large hatchway and meals are taken at attractive wooden tables seating no more than four.

No one has a special place. Lunch is served from 12 to 1 to avoid any sense of institutionalism and there is always a choice of two hot dishes, or a cold buffet. Some residents still tend to queue up early for lunch, although the food is available at any time within the hour.

"I do wish they wouldn't" sighs Robert Leader, "It's quite unnecessary but I suppose it must be force of habit that hasn't been broken yet."

Meeting the Community

Changes are gradually being brought about with the aid of a friendly and supportive village population who have welcomed the Home into their main street. Residents are invited to the local sports club, meet locals in the bar of The Holly Bush and visit the local post office and shop.

Resident Kathleen Pickworth sums it up: "I realised as soon as I came over the threshold that Newlands was going to be wonderful" she said. "I love Staunton but this place is really smashing."

The Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Tom Brock hope that in the future they will be able to encourage younger disabled residents to come to Newlands House. The streamlined appearance of the place has much to offer young people, with ample opportunities for them to contribute.



NEWLANDS HOUSE

INTERIOR OF NEWLANDS HOUSE



The Quiet Revolution

As we rush around in our own cars it is easy to miss the quiet revolution that has taken place in the provision of vehicles for the disabled and infirm drivers. It is now just over ten years ago that the foundation for the change was laid. The government passed the Social Security Act in 1975 and at a stroke, avoided much of the criticism it was suffering on the supply of vehicles. They offered people who qualified, the option of taking a monthly cash payment to provide for their own mobility. From a few pounds in 1976 the Mobility Allowance has risen, broadly in line with inflation, to a payment now of just over twenty pounds a week. The most obvious effect of this change has been the reduction in the number of those light-blue invalid three-wheelers seen on our roads. From over 20,000 of these vehicles the figure has been reduced in the subsequent ten years to well under eight thousand and it is now reducing rapidly as the original population ages.

Cause for Criticism

In a back-handed way, most of the disabled population should be thankful for the design deficiencies of the original blue trikes. The poor safety aspects of the vehicle attracted so much criticism from most of the motoring and consumer organisations, that it forced the government to change its policy and give money instead of goods. The resulting increase in spending power and the freedom of choice created a new market and this stimulated manufacturers to offer new designs. Until recently most of these new products were either electric pavement vehicles, which are limited by law to a maximum speed of 4 mph, or conversions and adaptations to conventional passenger cars. Although these are faster vehicles, they tend to be more expensive and cannot be afforded on the basic cash allowance. The purchase of such vehicles has to be subsidised by other earnings or savings and this is not possible for a large number of disabled people.

The original trike, for all its drawbacks, did provide a cheap and conveniently small road vehicle that was particularly well suited to town driving. In fact, many of the original trike drivers have preferred to keep their vehicle and forgo the cash payments because they realise it is impossible to get a comparable vehicle within the mobility allowance.

New Design

It was with this background, that the challenger was set to the vehicle designers in the Department of Transport Technology at Loughborough University. A replacement vehicle for the original trike was to be designed. The new design had to be cheap enough to be bought and run within the financial limits of the mobility allowance and it had to be safer and easier to use than the old three-wheeler. The resulting vehicle, based mainly on modern motorcycle components, met all these requirements and offered the prospect of a completely new type of road vehicle for the disabled. The University chose to let a company, formed by the original design and development team, exploit the design. The company, Special Vehicle Designs Limited now manufacture and market the new vehicle from their factory at Coalville in the North West Leicestershire Coalfield area, following support from the National Coal Board under their new "Enterprise" scheme.



Mark Boulton test drives the new model of NIPPI three-wheeled moped for the disabled.

The Nippi

NIPPI is essentially a three-wheeled motorcycle designed so that it is useable by disabled riders. The layout is arranged to accommodate a wheelchair and allow the occupant to drive the vehicle without transfer to another seat. Access to the vehicle is by a rear ramp/tailgate and all vehicle driving controls are positioned on the handlebars. The engine is fully automatic requiring only throttle controls and an electric starter is fitted as standard equipment. The vehicle is classed as a three-wheeled moped which means that the road tax is only ten pounds per year and insurance rates are low. Since the engine is a standard

Honda moped type service and repair costs are relatively cheap and there are a lot of Honda dealers who can handle the work. The 50 cc engine gives NIPPI a top speed of about 30 mph and a fuel consumption of 70 mpg. Over the past ten years, the success of the "mobility allowance scheme" and the stimulation it has given to private enterprise to produce new designs, must point the way to future changes in the provision of equipment. The same freedom of choice available for the supply of powered vehicles must be extended to wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs and other appliances. If so, the less-able will soon benefit from the

availability and extended range of newly designed products which at least will not have the institutional aesthetics of government-provided equipment. I wonder if this is another revolution the able-bodied population will not notice?

For more information on NIPPI and for demonstrations and test drives, please contact Mike Barnes (Managing Director) or Lloyd Jenkinson (Technical Director) on 0530 810440.

Special Vehicle Designs Limited
Ravenstone Road Ind Est
Coalville
Leics LE6 2NB

COLLECTORS ITEM

Saturday, 16th November, I pulled back the bedroom curtains. It was dark, it was dank, it was dreadful and the appalling realisation came that our street collection had once again come round. Why, why, in spite of knowing better, did I always succumb to Mrs. Park's smile on a balmy day in June and agree to stand, wet, freezing and miserable as a collector in November? Ninety minutes later, I was in position in King's Square swathed in a Cheshire Home sash, a collector's licence pinned to my lapel, a collecting tin in one hand and a packet of those fiddlesome stickers in the other. In the steady downpour I moved over to one of the tattered trees for shelter but thought better of it when I noticed the two pigeons eyeing me curiously. I soon became immersed in my annual mind occupying study of human psychology. Was the donor's age significant? Did females give more readily than males, was height, weight or eye colour relevant? As in previous years, after forty minutes, I decided not. There is a hint of evidence that excessively obese ladies tend to be generous. That is always my single tentative conclusion. Towards the end of my shift, I invariably enter my

aggressive stage. I try to influence the level of donations by catching an eye and vigorously shaking the tin. I recall, as usual, that whereas the womenfolk can be intimidated, the menfolk cannot. The closing minutes of the shift are the most difficult, fantasy on occasion can emerge. How, for instance, can one collect a coin from a Siberian enclosed in layers of fur or indeed where does one apply a sticker in Benidorm in August!! Collecting sounds a bore. That it certainly is not, being peppered with incidents of interest, humour and even danger. Let me recount a few.

Collection of Callers

The magnetic fascination of the collecting tin for some; they call more than once. The girl with the fashionable "cavalier style" thigh boots who lost a coin in one and I had to help her retrieve it.

The old lady who had me, like the old Czar, awaiting the diamond held in Faberge's encapsulated Easter eggs, held in awe as he retrieved from her shopping bag a handbag which in turn revealed a purse containing a sealed plastic bag holding her money. The lady and her miniature poodle, Inky, held by

one of those new fangled extensible dog leads. At the point of contract, where coins were being exchanged for a sticker, a passer-by, one of those indescribable Staffordshire Bull Terriers, caused mayhem, leaving the donor and I closely bound together from the waist down.

Little Ben, in his pushchair, looking up expectantly as I went to apply his sticker, being deluged with rainwater from the brim of my waterproof hat. Bawling loudly, he was quickly snatched to safety by his irate parents.

The lady in a dilemma deciding to give a £1 coin rather than a pittance in bronze. My light-hearted remark that I wouldn't see her stuck brought her back in ten minutes. Rather than be seen prizing coins from a collecting tin, I gave her 50p of my own money. The "wino" whose overture for a "sub" was rejected. He proceeded to proclaim to all that I was the "salt of the earth" (or in some way, related to the earth).

My resolve not to get ensnared next year will no doubt be undermined by Mrs. Park's smile. Her task will be made easy when I recall John Stockhill's smile and wave as the bus left to take the residents back from their shift.

Anonymous

SCANDINAVIAN SELECTION

Scandinavian Selection offers a range of attractive and practical home accessories which come in kit form for assembly and finishing. The products, which include items such as plant holders, lamps, magazine holders and kitchen furnishings are manufactured to a high specification in solid pine, beech and ash. They offer opportunities for construction, finishing and decoration and are reasonably priced.

The products have been used in occupational therapy in

Scandinavia and Northern Europe for many years and have been taken up by a number of organizations in the U.K., including the Star & Garter Home in Richmond. A free colour catalogue is available from: Scandinavian Selection, Unit 26, Caldwell Estate, 366 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex. Tel: 01-847-6161.

Further information available from Murray Planadin on 01-847 6161 or 01-579 5612.



Take up thy pen



by Jenny Chaplin

My recent article on starting a "Hobby for Life", namely that of freelance writing, seems to have inspired quite a number of adventurous people to take up the pen. However, for those rather more timid souls still hovering on the brink, perhaps a few more words of encouragement would not go amiss.

It is natural to wonder initially where on earth to start this marvellous new hobby and exactly what on earth to write about. If you are an absolute beginner with a desperate urge to see your name in print, then the best thing to do is to write and send off an assortment of letters to a variety of different magazines and newspapers. The golden rule is NOT to send the same letter to more than one publication at a time. Also, do keep a record of what you send out where and when. A few headings such as: DATE SENT: TOPIC: NAME OF MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER: REJECTED: PUBLISHED: PAYMENT:, is all that's needed to keep your records straight.

Joyful Letters

The beauty of sending out letters is that they need not necessarily be typed, neither do they require a S.A.E. They will not actually be accepted or rejected in the way that MSS are dealt with, but if your letter has not been published say within about three months, then it is fairly safe to assume that it will not after all be used. And of course, if it is published, then you'll have the joy of seeing it, to say nothing of the happy sound of the cheque fluttering through the letter-box. Once your self-imposed time limit of three months is over, then you are free to try elsewhere with a similar letter to the one which has been "rejected". Even the published one can be re-hashed to give a slightly different angle to suit yet another market.

Tickets, Towels and Tea-Caddies

In starting on this letter writing business, it is wise first of all to do a spot of market-study. Get hold of a bundle of assorted magazines and newspapers (Jumble Sales are a great source) and then read the Letter Page in each publication very carefully. You will soon notice a pattern emerging. For instance, some editors like rather short letters; others like anecdotes; amusing sayings from children; old people, etc, while still others prefer "feed-back" letters which pick up a point from a previously published article, story or letter. Having made your study of the magazines, then get started on those letters. Many magazines pay quite well for all letters published, many feature a prize-winning letter, for which they will pay anything up to £15, while others award anything from theatre tickets, towels and tea-caddies right up to magnums of champagne!

Fillers

From letter-writing, it's an easy step to graduate to FILLERS and SHORT ARTICLES, and I hope to give a few hints on these topics in future articles. Meantime, if any aspiring writers care to write ME a letter, here's what I have in mind. I'll pick the ten best letters, for which I'll be happy to award ten separate annual subscriptions to "THE WRITERS' ROSTRUM".

Very short letters are best for my magazine, please, so why not get started TODAY to that "HOBBY FOR LIFE"? It could well be your first step towards years of satisfaction and creative enjoyment. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Editor, "The Writers Rostrum", 14 Ardbeg Road, Rothesay, Bute PA20 0NJ, Scotland.

PUBLICATIONS

A Change of Rhythm

The consequences of a road accident by Jackie Keirs.

The impact of "A Change of Rhythm" is enhanced by quoting pieces written, with the help of others, soon after the accident and at different times during the recovery process. Jackie Keirs is a dancer, with an artistic temperament, and also a teacher and choreographer. She has special literary skills which have enabled her to describe her feeling and sensations very vividly. Having recovered from most of the physical and psychological damage resulting from the accident she is left with an intensely felt 'hidden' disability, thalamic pain, which is extremely difficult to explain and understand.

Jackie may not be typical—but then who is? Her record of the effects of her head injury on her way of life is revealing and most moving. It is the combination of an individual's disabilities with his or her personality and way of life that creates more—or less—of a handicap. The results of Jackie's head injury have considerable effects on her daily life and, even though her levels of aspiration and achievement are very high, the constant pain takes its toll on her activities and relationships.

This booklet is of first class quality, with photographs and coloured sketches, which add greatly to the text. It will be of special interest to a wide range of people: professionals, relatives, as well as those who have suffered head injuries, those who want to know more about this type of disability and the general public, any one of whom may be involved in an accident resulting in a head injury.

Published by Jackie Keirs, 4 Edith Road, Oxford, OX1 4QA.
28 pages illustrated—price £2



H.M. CUSTOMS VAT RELIEF

The Minister of State, Treasury, The Hon. Peter Brooke MP has authorised an extension of the VAT relief for the installation of a bathroom, washroom or lavatory in the private residence of a handicapped person. The relief now covers the installation of such facilities in the room of a handicapped permanent resident of a home run by a charity. It will not cover the installation of communal or shared facilities in such a home.

The extension to the relief follows representations from the British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association (BLESMA). It is allowed with retrospective effect from 1 October 1985 as an extra-statutory concession, but an amendment to the law will be made in due course.

"What a lovely way to diet"

I was sitting at the table for my evening meal
when Richard came up and said "Gra, how do you feel?"
He showed me the menu and it looked so nice
And then he said "Gra, can I give you some advice?"
He said "Spaghetti and potatoes have got too much starch
Pork chops and sausages are bad for your heart
There's hormones in chicken and beef and veal
Oh—and Ravioli is a dead man's meal.
Bread has got preservatives, there's nitrates in ham
Artificial coloring in jellies and jam
Stay away from doughnuts and run away from pie
Fish and chips is a sure way to die
Sugar rots your teeth, makes you put on weight,
Artificial sweetener's got cyclamate,
Eggs have cholesterol, there's fat in cheese
Coffee ruins your kidneys and so does tea.
Fish contains mercury, and red meat is POISON
Salt will just send your blood pressure rising
Hot dogs, polony, have deadly red dyes
Vegetables and fruit are sprayed with pesticides.
So I said "what can I have to eat that will make me last?"
He said "A small drink of water in a sterilised glass."
Then he stopped and he pondered on for a minute
Said "Forget the water, there's carcinogens in it"
So I left the table and went out of the room
Since I couldn't eat at all I was filled with gloom,
I've not eaten for a month, and I'm feeling fine
'Cos Richard didn't mention—

BEER, WHISKEY, WOMEN and SWEET RED WINE!!

From "This 'n' That"—Douglas House

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Telephone 0508 78157

Everest & Jennings electric home and garden chair. Model UE904. Climbs low kerbs. Only used 8 months, excellent condition. Cost £1,500 new will accept £850 o.n.o. Telephone Mrs. D. L. Barnett on 01 599 4276

Vessa Vitesse Power Chair, used only 4 times. Cost new, last year, £1,150, will accept £800

Contact Ms. A. M. Dell
3 Hanover Close Walmer Deal
Kent CT14 7LA
Telephone Deal 36606

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

COMMUNITY CARE, the Independent Voice of social work has now moved to Carew House, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0DX.
Telephone: 01-661 3500,
Telex: 892084 BISPRS G (ACP).

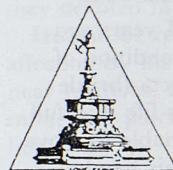
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CS

Obituaries

MR. PETER WADE

An Appreciation by Gp. Capt.
Cheshire, VC

The death of Mr. Peter Wade, a Trustee of The Leonard Cheshire Foundation on May 10th, marks the end of a lifelong fight to improve public understanding of the aspirations and feelings of handicapped people, despite almost overwhelming personal odds.

Peter was born 54 years ago with the incurable condition of osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bones) and spent his life in a full length wheelchair unable to move and without use of his hands. Despite this he was unfailingly cheerful, with a great sense of humour and approached everything he did in a positive and confident way.

A resident of Le Court Cheshire Home for ten years he did much to help raise the morale of his fellows by his active involvement. He left there to marry in 1967 and thereafter expanded his work for the Cheshire Foundation with renewed vigour and courage. For example, he undertook a gruelling tour of Cheshire Homes throughout the United Kingdom, speaking at scores of meetings and seeking the views of other disabled people as a basis for the Foundation's future policies.

He also served on RADAR's Executive Committee and Housing Committee, and was a Trustee of PHAB where he did much to further the rights of disabled people.

His views were forthright and challenging, his thinking advanced and whenever possible he made it quite clear that disabled people

were perfectly capable of making their own decisions and deciding their own futures.

Blessed by a happy marriage, he leaves a widow, Esther, a son and daughter.

CHRIS GALLAGHER

Chris Gallagher died on 18th February this year and Seven Springs lost a lively and gallant member of its community.

A design engineer by profession, with an energetic Scotsman's passion for sports, like rugby and scuba-diving, Chris broke his neck in an accident in St John's, Newfoundland. His wife, Joan brought him to England where, six months later, their little daughter was born. After one year at the Spinal Injuries Unit, Stoke Mandeville, in whose care he was to remain as a much admired and well supported out-patient, Chris came with his family to City Livery Close on the Seven Springs campus where he was a vigorous, well-loved participating member of our family until he died. No-one who knew Chris will ever forget his talents; for enlivening social occasions with his wit, laughter and songs; for running the home's accounts, on an LST business computer provided by the Department of Trade and Industry on one of their first test runs for "Remote Work Units" for disabled people; for teaching others, both able bodied and disabled, the computing skills he had learned so thoroughly; for watching and advising newcomers to the Computer Unit from his own special corner.

The high point of his achievements since his accident came when he competed for, and was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship in 1985, which nothing daunted, he used to go off to Australia, there to exchange information about computer provision for disabled people on the other side of the world, accompanied by Joan and his daughter, Vhari.

Chris, Joan and Vhari made a unique place for themselves in the Seven Springs family. Each has shown us the way that courage, love and determination can overcome severe disability, which becomes irrelevant against the high qualities of the human spirit displayed by such as Chris.

Ooh Aye the Noo, Chris, from us all.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD

At a ceremony in the Guildhall, London to mark the 20th anniversary of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Princess Anne presented nearly 100 awards to people who have been enabled to go abroad researching or participating in sporting, industrial and scientific activities from grants offered annually by the Trust. Grants offered last year averaged £3,500 for each successful applicant.

A posthumous award was made to **Mr. Christopher Gallagher**, 47, who overcame enormous personal disability to visit Australia to study the use of computers by handicapped people and his medallion was presented to his daughter, Vhari, aged 12.

Obituaries

GEORGE HAROLD SMITH

It was with a great sense of loss that Harold was taken from us on 26th March. His sudden death was peaceful, quiet and without fuss, the way he lived out his sixty seven years.

Born in Lincolnshire, Harold quickly came to terms with muscular dystrophy that was to keep him out of the fast lane of life and into more sheltered accommodation, at home, in the Mary Marlborough House in Oxford and finally The Grove, a few months after it was officially opened, some twenty-five years ago.

Harold soon established himself as a character with decided views, often off-beat and to the uninitiated, abrasive, but this contentious approach to ideas or comments was his peculiar way of extending the discussion, drawing people out, or deliberately "setting them up", the trick was to look for the slight change of expression, the flicker of his left eye-brow—you learnt by experience!

Beneath this veneer was a caring, supportive attitude to all who knew him. His loyalty and sense of fun to the many staff who took pleasure in caring for him

and his appreciation of their attentions, created close friendships and outside interests.

In its formative years, the home was entirely dependent on friends and voluntary people, many of whom still visit and help us, who were guided and encouraged by people such as Harold who valued and respected the time and talents they devoted to us.

He will be remembered with affection by his sister and other near relatives, and by us as an influential patriarch to our happy home.

ERIC COOPER—Farewell to a Friend

On 7th June 1986, Mote House and the Maidstone Family Support Service lost a good friend when Eric Cooper went to the Annual Conference at Stoneleigh, and collapsed and died "in harness".

Eric had in his life played many parts, and always given more than 100% to anything he tackled. After successful careers in the Royal Marines and the Prison Service, he came to the

Foundation at a time when most men would have been considering a quiet retirement.

Since that time, he has done something many of us would like to have done, but few of us ever achieve. As Administrator he has left a living memorial in the shape of the Maidstone Family Support Service. Without his hundred and one percent efforts this Service would not have been formed and

in the flourishing condition it is now. Today and in the future he will be thought of by many people with grateful thanks.

He was a big man with a big heart and great sense of humour, who loved good companionship and good music.

He will be greatly missed by us all, and our thoughts are with Chris, his wife, and their family.

Jean Taylor

Edwin (Eddie) Robinson, resident at Eithinog for the past 16 months, died peacefully on 12th April 1986.

He and his wife, Liz, came here from Mickley Hall, Sheffield and both have been a good asset to the home.

He will be remembered with great affection by all residents and staff.

DIRECTORY 1986

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: Peter Rowley, MC, MA

Hon. Treasurer: J. Treadingham, MBE, DL

Trustees: Peter Allott; E. L. Archer, OBE, DSO, AFC, JP; Dr. F. Beswick; Group Capt. G. L. Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC; Mrs. Diana Cottingham; Mrs. P. K. Farrell, OBE, JP; D. Craig; Dr. Wendy Greengross; Mr. David Mitchell Innes; The Hon. Mrs. J. H. Jolliffe; B. R. Marsh, LVO, MC; Sir Henry Marking, KCVO, CBE, MC; Mrs. G. Pattie; The Hon. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, GCMG, GCVO; D. M. Roe; Baroness Ryder of Warsaw CMG, OBE; J. Threadingham, MBE, DL; J. V. Tindal; Mrs. E. Topliss, BA; H. Turner; R. B. Weatherstone;

Director: Arthur L. Bennett; General Secretary: Simon Hardwick; Asst. Treasurer: Rita Belletty; Personnel Adviser: Molly Roe. Homes Planning Officer: Keith Cook, Family Support Service Adviser, Public Relations Officer: Mrs. Kay Christiansen Information Officer: Wally Sullivan. Training Adviser: David Watt

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 Adviser:

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

SPECIAL SERVICES

Aids and Equipment Advisers:

Judith Cowley (South), Lesley King (North)

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 (South-West), Beryl Capon (South Yorks/Notts/Lincs), Mary Copey (Central South), Brian Foster (Scotland and North-East), Bob Hopkinson (North-West), Sue Langdown (East Midlands), Harry Lowden (West Midlands), Alma Wise (South-East)

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Matthew Bennett, 380/384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU. Tel: 01-286-7664

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: Ronald Travers

International Secretary: 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.

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 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—Director: Frank Merceich

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.

SUE RYDER FOUNDATION

Registered as a Charity Number 222291

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

Founder: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE

Chairman: Mr C. J. B. Priest

Honorary Councillors: Group Captain

G. L. Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC; Mr D. Cross, Mr H. Inman, CBE, Mr R. I. Johnson, Mr W. L. Morris, Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE, Mrs M. Smith, JP, Mr John L. Stevenson, FCS, ACIS, FTII.

The Sue Ryder Foundation was established by Lady Ryder during the Post War Years, after she had been doing social relief work on the continent. Its purpose was, and is, the relief of suffering on a wide scale by means of personal service, helping the needy and the sick and disabled everywhere, irrespective of race, religion or age, and thus serving as a *Living Memorial* to all those who suffered or died in the two World Wars and to those who undergo persecution or die in defence of human values today. In addition to its work in Britain, the Foundation also works in several countries overseas. The Sue Ryder Homes care for the sick, the physically handicapped, the elderly, and those suffering from cancer and other malignant diseases. Domiciliary care teams also operate from some homes.

The Katumba Refugee Project

This project is concerned with work among 200,000 people in the Mpanda District of western Tanzania, of whom about 50% are refugees from Burundi. The project was launched in 1984 with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The objectives are: to provide for the treatment and rehabilitation of disabled children and adults; to train selected medical personnel in basic physiotherapy; to provide a workshop for the production of aids and prostheses; and to promote a greater awareness of the needs of the handicapped.

The Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers

The Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers were established in 1984 in order to enhance the leisure time of housebound people through visits by qualified volunteers. Pilot projects have been launched in Basingstoke and Didcot.

The Staunton Harold Project

Staunton Harold Hall in Leicestershire was purchased for the Mission in 1985 and will comprise a Sue Ryder Home for continuing care; a museum and display illustrating the subject of disability with special reference to the developing world; and the Headquarters of the Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers.