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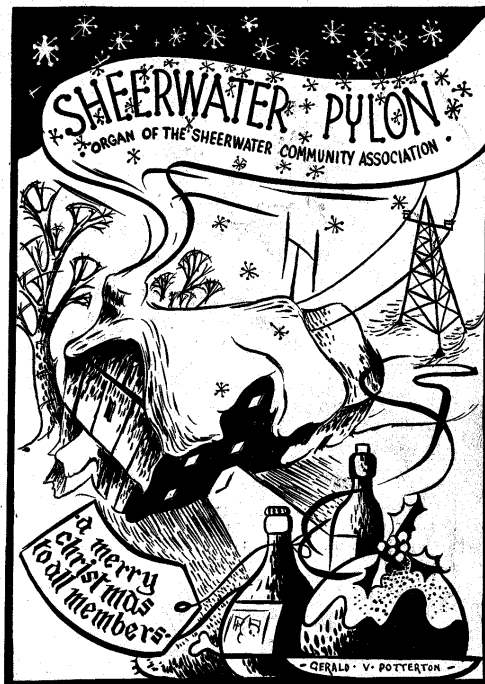
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Vol. 2. No. 3

DECEMBER, 1953

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Page 2

SHEERWATER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL.

Hon. Officers:
Chairman: Mr. H. Moore, 17 Bentham Avenue.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Cole, 120 Blackmore Crescent.
Secretary: Mr. J. McDermott, 14 Hanbury Path.
Assistant Secretary: Mr. J. Royal, 14 Albert Drive.
Treasurer: Mr. J. Hawkins, 118 Blackmore Crescent.
Membership Organiser: Mr. E. Murtough, 10 Albert Drive.
Pylon Editor:

Council Members:
Mrs. Harris, 132 Devonshire Avenue.
Mrs. Simmonds, 15 Blackmore Cres.
Mrs. Hawkins, 17 Hanbury Path.
Mrs. Dunlock, 95 Devonshire Avenue.
Mr. Dewdney, 12 Bentham Avenue.
Mr. Jackson, 44 St. Michael's Road.
Mr. Lewis, 71 Lambourne Crescent.
Mr. Dunne, 18 Henslow Way.
Mr. Levi, 5 Devonshire Avenue.
Mr. Jones, 224 Devonshire Avenue.

Mr. Kelly, 232 Albert Drive.
Mr. Clavey, 229 Albert Drive.
Mr. Wells, 33 Albert Drive.
Mr. Clarke, 93 Albert Drive.
Mr. Hart, 225 Albert Drive.
Mr. Watkins, 10, Hanbury Path.
Representatives:
Gardening Association: Mr. Cooper.
Labour Party: Mr. Knowler.
Conservative Branch: Mr. Williamson.
Catholic Men's Guild: Mr. Gann.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. McDermott, 14 Hanbury Path

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING FRIDAY, 1st JANUARY

at 8 p.m.

at COMMUNITY CENTRE, DEVONSHIRE AV.

MEMBER

Dictionary definition of the word member is as follows: The limb of an animal with a special function; any part with a special function; one of a Community or Society.

Who among us is not a member of some Community or Society: a Trades Union, Political Party, Religious Body, Community Association, etc.? And how do we stand with regard to the above definition? If every member has a special function, then the animal or body cannot function properly if we are absent.

We may be a leg, eye, tooth, mouth, tail or just hair. But if any part is absent, then the whole must suffer from our own default. This is a serious matter for each of us. The body meets together and then finds many of its functional parts missing. Surely, if we do not attend to the needs of the body then we cannot complain if the body doesn't act correctly.

We must think and deeply consider whether we are in fact useless members,

and whether or not our support is there to meet the needs of any organisation to which we may belong.
H. T. D.

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A Sheerwater Loan Club is being formed on the estate commencing in the New Year. Will all persons interested get in touch with Mr. Sartain, 183 Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater.

Page 3

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

On our journey to the National Federation of Community Associations three of us were delegates to the Area Conference at Westminster on October 10th were hoping that the results would be worth while giving up a whole precious Saturday. On our journey home we were able to say that every minute of it had been well worth while. It was a most instructive, constructive and enjoyable day. The meeting was very well organised, and the vote of thanks passed at the end was really meant. There were two chairmen, Mr. A. T. Carr from Slough Community Centre and also a councillor of N.F.C.A., who took the morning session, and Mr. G. B. Howden, of Wimbledon Community Association, and also a councillor of N.F.C.A., who took the afternoon session.

During the morning a lengthy discussion took place on "Difficulties Experienced in the Actual Running of a Community Association". The opening remarks on this subject were made by Mr. R. A. Nunn, the Warden of the Gerard's Cross Community Association. As may be imagined, there were many items dealt with under this heading, and of the 150 delegates present at least 75 per cent. spoke on one thing or another. The main problem appeared to be on membership, and nearly all Community Associations find that their membership figure fluctuates greatly throughout the year. A number of people appear to join the Association when first arriving in the area but less interest very quickly unless a really interesting programme is carried out at the Community Centre. It was said by one delegate, however, that they had over two thousand members but as yet had not got a proper centre. They kept their membership by regular personal calls on members and by arranging classes on one educational subject or another in various places in the town. A proportion of turnover in membership was, of course, caused by the floating population—the people who only stayed on an estate or in an area for a few months before getting a transfer to the area in which they really wanted to live. There are some people who only join the Community Association to enjoy the benefits of educational classes or courses of instruction in a hobby of one sort or another. On com-

pletion, they drop out of the Association until something else comes along which interests them. The problems are many and varied, but the main purpose of Community Associations is to foster a community spirit, through the development of social, recreational and educational facilities in the neighbourhood. Only by determined effort to offer a variety of subjects under these headings can Community Associations be successful. The effort must come not only from the officers and councillors but from the members. As was asked by one delegate, "What good is it to have a really energetic organising team if the members don't support the activities or do not give as much help as they can, when they can?" There have been cases where by sheer effort and co-operation by all members, football pitches and sports huts have been purchased and put into use without any outside help at all. It is really a matter of pride in one's own neighbourhood and the friendly spirit existing among the residents.

There were few points raised about residents' trials and tribulations so far as repairs and renovations to houses and flats were concerned, or on matters dealing with residential amenities in neighbourhoods. This is because as a general rule such items are dealt with by the Tenants' Association and do not come within the scope of Community Associations as suggested by the N.F.C.A. In the case of a new estate, however, it is always hoped would be affiliated to the Community Association and work in harmony one with the other.

The afternoon session of the Conference was on the "Aspects of a Community Centre in Rural Areas". This was given in the form of a lecture by Mr. P. Hodge, First Warden of the Accra Community Centre, Gold Coast. Mr. Hodge was formerly Warden of Clever and Dedworth Community Association, Windsor. This was a most inspiring talk and was given by one who really knows the natives of the Gold Coast. The talk

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was so interesting that one felt as though by some magical effort we had been transported to Accra for the afternoon. It was difficult, in fact, to make notes of all the points dealt with for fear of missing a thread in the well-told story of life in the Gold Coast; the difficulties there are in getting together natives of all different beliefs, of different tongues and of vastly different education; there is now so much opportunity for educating oneself in Africa that the natives are all going straight from University to Government posts and are lost to the local traders and to the Community Associations. A big problem arises in transporting people in from outlying villages to the Community Centre and to get them back again at night. There is very little activity on the social side as nearly all natives wish to take full advantage of the many educational courses running at Community Centres.

Yes, this was a very interesting day and certainly gave each of us the opportunity to meet members from other areas, and the busy hum of chatter about things during a very lively lunch period gave full indication of the pleasure all of us took in being there.

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Page 5

SHEERWATER GARDENING ASSOCIATION

ALLOTMENTS.—The Allotment Sub-Committee have now completed the sorting of applications and have notified all those successful of plot numbers. A detailed list of these will be published later.

LECTURE.—An interesting Lecture was held in St. Michael's Hall on "The Herbaceous Border," given by Miss Thompson, of Surrey County Council, on Friday, November 15th, and was well attended.

The next Lecture will be "The Allotment," given by Mr. Holmes, and will take place in St. Michael's Hall on Friday, December 11th, at 8 p.m. All are invited. A General Meeting will follow.

SEED POTATOES.—Please let us have your orders for these by December 27th to enable orders to be placed with the suppliers. Price 7/6. for 2s. Orders only; delivery and payment in February and March.

PLANTS, etc.—Members are asked to give their requirements as soon as possible in order that the nurseryman may have some idea of the number of boxes, etc. Full price list was published in last month's "Pyton."

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Will all members with outstanding subscriptions please contact at the Hut or any of the officers and area representatives published below.

BULBS.—Supplies are still available at the Hut.

ALPINE PLANTS.—A few assorted genuine Alpine Plants are on view at the Hut, price 6/1 each.

WINTER WASH.—M. and B. VORTEX and UNIVERSAL for fruit trees, bushes etc., are available, price 2s. 6d.

BONEMEAL, LIME, AMMONIA, POTASH, SUPERPHOSPHATE—all available.

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. Gordon-Smith, 29 Bentham Avenue.
Secretary: Mr. Barnard, 49 Lambourne Crescent.
Assistant Secretary: Mr. Armstrong, 84 St. Michael's Road.
Treasurer: Mr. Draper, 49 Lambourne Crescent.
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Mr. Watkins, 10 Hainbury Path.
Mr. Armstrong, 84 St. Michael's Road.
Mr. Weston, 145 Albert Drive.
Mr. Harris, 187 Devonshire Avenue.
Mr. Sinclair, 41 Bunyard Drive.
Mr. Hughes, 22 Bunyard Drive.
Mr. Hughes, 183 Albert Drive.
Mr. Bonner, 31 Lambourne Crescent.
Mr. Rouse, 301 Albert Drive.
Mr. Brookfield, 210 Albert Drive.
Mr. Gordon-Smith, 29 Bentham Avenue.
Mr. Hancock, 72 Blackmore Crescent.
Mr. Gascoigne, 26 St. Michael's Road.

ON THE ROCKS

In the Rock lighthouses, such as Bishop Rock, right off Land's End, there are seven rooms, each about 10ft. diameter, on top of each other, store room, two oil rooms, kitchen, bedroom, living room and service room. There are three keepers and very little room for an extra man. You sleep on a bunk that curves round the lighthouse, and the only exercise is walking up and down stairs. The food is mainly tinned. When it is foggy the fog horn, gun, or

explosive job is going every few minutes. Officially, the longest you can be away is eight weeks, but you can never tell. Because of the weather, you can go for a week and be there for a month or more. The only means of contacting that is out of order you've had it, until the relief boat comes once a month—if it can. Then when you do get ashore you feel out of things and try to catch up with the news—you've had no daily papers while you've been on the rock.

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THE FUTURE OF SHEERWATER

No. 2 — THE FACTS

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, it is one of my duties to watch the employment position all over the country. This is part of the Government's policy to maintain full employment, and we have carried out with great success in the face of very difficult international conditions.

One of the essential requirements to maintain full employment as we have done is that the Government should encourage "balanced" development, in seeing that, in all parts of the United Kingdom there are enough jobs available for the people who want them. This policy presents special difficulties in new towns and in "extended" towns like Woking, for unless great care is taken it is only too easy to let the increase in population outstrip the provision of new factories and new jobs.

That is why I have always suggested to the Woking Urban District Council and to the Surrey County Council that we must be careful not to let this sort of thing happen in Woking. Those who advocate unregulated "overspill" into Woking, or those who try to say that new factories can be had for the asking, are in effect trying to create conditions in which unemployment would arise.

Due to my personal intervention with the President of the Board of Trade and all other Government departments concerned, I have been able to arrange for two new factories to come to the Sheerwater factory estate, and when these are finished they will have a considerable effect on employment prospects. I have had to fight to get permission for them because there are many other areas of this country where the need for new factories is much greater than those in Woking.

For example, not long ago when I was on Merseyside and on the East Coast of Scotland, one could not but accept that the need there for new factories and new industries is far greater than almost anywhere else in the country. It is also necessary to steer new industries to South Wales and to parts of the North West.

It will be seen, therefore, that we have been lucky in Woking to do as well as we have done, and I am glad that I have been able to help in this respect.

Those who are not in touch with the facts sometimes say that more factories

could be built if the Government gave permission. This is quite untrue, and I was able to announce when I was on Merseyside early this year that every factory project which helped the country's economy would be given the necessary permits and permissions by Government.

The facts are that in the tough, competitive times that face us in this country there are just not enough new factories coming forward to let every area have as many as they would like. In more difficult areas we try to help industrialists to build, but even then it is not easy to provide as much as we should like.

I am satisfied that Sheerwater and Woking are getting their fair share, and that we cannot fairly ask for more, which would mean taking it away from less fortunate areas. It is because of this knowledge that I have counselled caution in proceeding too fast with "overspill."

I have always welcomed the new citizens of Woking on the Sheerwater estate, and I fully accept it as part of my duty to try and see that local employment is provided for those who do not wish to travel back to their old jobs. It will take us some time to reach this favourable position, and the local authority, in the meantime, is perfectly right to insist that we do not go too fast and thus create unemployment in our pleasant and prosperous town.

In conclusion, although it is getting more difficult to provide jobs for school leavers, there are still many opportunities in the town, and with the new projects that are coming there will be plenty of opportunity for all Woking's present residents, in which I certainly include Sheerwater. But, as I have said, when we consider new overspill operations we must first safeguard prospects for those who are already in Woking, and this must mean that the Council must proceed with caution on new schemes.

These are the facts of the case as they exist to-day. I do not think it right that party politics should enter such an important matter as providing jobs, and it is on this basis that I have been delighted to have the co-operation of the local authority, the Trades Council and all the other local bodies concerned.

(Continued on page 15.)

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GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

I was somewhat severely taken to task over last month's article by a lady who asked how many people had £15 to spend on converting a radio set, and, as I should like to raise £15 myself, the question admittedly has some point.

However, the idea was to turn an existing wireless set into a radiogram, and, as the latter, to be any good, costs at least £70, there should be a saving somewhere if you can afford to make it!

If you want to go into the question, the first thing to do is to check that your radio is worth the effort. Generally speaking, any post-war receiver, of reputable make, is capable of much better reproduction than it will give in its present cabinet, especially if this be made of plastic. A letter to the manufacturer, quoting the model number, will usually bring a frank and helpful answer. If the advice is against conversion the best thing to do is to forget the whole thing.

For the normal set, after fairly wide listening tests, I would advise the new Collaro AC3/534 unit with the sliding type "O" pickup. This comes complete, ready to build into your own cabinet at £10 6s. 1d., and deals with records of all speeds and sizes.

Until recently, good loudspeakers have been most expensive, but a new range of "Sterterian" speakers were demonstrated at the Radio Exhibition and have created great interest. Prices range from £2 10s. 6d. to £3 13s. 6d., and model 111 is the ideal unit for the present purpose.

The simplest way of mounting the speaker is to obtain the largest piece of five-ply or Weywood that can be had and lean the contraption in a corner of a room, first, of course, having cut a hole through which the sound may emerge. All that remains is to connect the player to the pick-up sockets at the back of the set for the new speaker to the external sockets, disconnect the internal speaker and play... and the best of luck.

Next month should give more scope for arguments. I hope to make some suggestions on building a record library fit to live with for a long time and not just for the moment. Records, after all, cost money.

G. R. W.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre is virtually completed. Very soon the furniture and equipment will be delivered, and the scene will be set for yet another phase in the development of Sheerwater. New Year's Eve is the opening date, as reported elsewhere. Friday, January 1st, will see the first monthly meeting of the year in the "home" of the Association, and on Saturday the 2nd a Social is planned by the Social Committee. The Community Centre will have a good airing in its first week, and if applications for lettings are anything to go by the Centre will be well used. And as I have said the post, that is how it should be. Let it not be forgotten, however, that the Centre is for all to use, and that its use must be as varied as is possible in any given week. Let us see the development of a Dramatic Group, of a Debating Circle, and the suchlike. The interests of the Community are many and varied. Every effort must be made to cater for all. But it is up to you to say what you want and when you want it, catering for diverse interests can be a very difficult problem.

We must, of course, congratulate ourselves on achieving a Centre. Few people realize how difficult it has been to reach this happy ending. Many stumbling blocks have been overcome, but, as with other problems, the Community Association, with singleness of purpose, has achieved its primary aim, to secure a Community Centre.

In passing, we must record our warmest thanks and appreciation to the Church authorities for allowing us to use St. Michael's so often, and to reduce the Church Hall if it is hard to see how we could have flourished in the way that we have.

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REPORT OF ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST DEALT WITH AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1953

- Application had been made for membership of the National Federation of Community Associations, and information had been received that the Association had been accepted as full members.
- Details of the constitution and officers of the Sheerwater Angling Association had been received; application for affiliation approved.
- Letter to the Head Postmaster asking urgently for stamp machines to be fixed to existing boxes. No reply as yet. Further letter to be sent.
- Letter from MIDDLESEX AND SURREY LEAGUE FOR THE HARD OF HEARING. The activities of this organisation to be brought to the notice of the residents at the next General Meeting and through the medium of the "Pylon".
- Letter from Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, giving information that the length of Sheerwater Road which passes the estate will be automatically restricted to 30 m.p.h. by the erection of street lamps, and that a chain link fence would be erected along railway boundary of the estate, agreement having been reached between British Railways and the London County Council. (This fence has now been completed. Surmounted by barbed wire, it reaches to 6ft.) Letter of thanks for their co-operation sent.
- Letter from the National Association of Women's Clubs urging the Association to form a Women's Club.
- Letter to London Transport Executive asking for more buses on Saturday mornings. No reply as yet, but traffic conditions have been carried out.
- Letter of thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for co-operation in the difficulty caused in the matter of household refuse clearance when St. Michael's Road was under repair.
- Letters to and from local National Hospitals Service Reserve. Arrangements made for the next General Meeting to be addressed.
- Letters to and from Divisional Education Officer about damage to school fencing.
- Letters to and from Woking Librarian re placing of "Pylon" in the Reading Room. Matter to be considered by Library Committee. "Pylon" is available in the Reading Room meanwhile.
- Recreation Ground. Reply from U.D.C. that letter of protest asking for a deputation to be received would be considered at the next meeting of the Parks Committee. Letter from M.P. that U.D.C. were waiting for the grant of £5,000 to be received. Letter of thanks to M.P.
- Letter from U.D.C. Engineer that early morning street lighting would be considered by appropriate Committee and that automatic control clocks would be attended to. This list has been carried out.
- Letter from Chief Education Officer. No separate Governing Body for Sheerwater School. Sheerwater West remains grouped with Woking Town and the East Primary and Secondary Schools with West Byfleet and Pyrford.
- Letter to L.C.C. re parking on grass verges, and in one case of the grass being regularly driven over. No reply as yet, but information is to hand that the police have taken action on both complaints.
- Letters to two councillors that absence from Council meetings for three times meant, under the Constitution, that without adequate reason they should be deemed to have resigned. In the case of Mr. Kelly, of 232 Albert Drive, Council decided that they had no option but to assume his resignation.
- The Management Committee reported steps already taken to ensure early opening of the Community Centre. Mr. Ewart Bell, Surrey County Council, was present to give valuable advice. Messrs. Dewdney and Williamson elected to serve on Governing Body with County Council and U.D.C. The management, of course, will be delegated to the Association.
- The Re-warding Committee obtained approval of resolution that the Association had no objection to proposed re-warding, but pressed for two polling stations on the estate.
- Recommendations of Committee of Enquiry reported elsewhere approved.

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CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

(Woking Division.)
Dear Sir,
On Wednesday, November 25th, the Woking Division of the British Red Cross Society held their annual inspection at their headquarters, Walton Road. Five Woking Detachments were inspected by Miss Syme, County Secretary. One of the Detachments taking part was the Surrey 36, the new Detachment recently registered for Sheerwater.
After the inspection, Miss Syme enrolled a number of new members, including four from Sheerwater—Miss M. Thackery, Miss J. Shepherd, Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Taylor.

The above Society wish it to be known that members of the public requiring "Medical Loan" may obtain this from the Red Cross Centre, Walton Road, at the following times:
Every evening except Wednesdays and Saturdays; also open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10.30 and noon. A small deposit is required and is repaid when goods are returned in good condition.
L. STROUD,
Publicity Officer.

THANKS

Dear Sir,
May I please express through the "Pylon" our very sincere thanks and deep gratitude for the many kind letters and tributes we have received following the sudden death of Diane, one of our twin girls, at the age of seven years.
Although we have been in Sheerwater for more than a year, we still "knew" only a handful of people here; but when such tragedy occurs it is really remarkable to find out just how many friends we really have. Everyone has been so kind and helpful that even in the midst of our grief our hearts were lightened by such good neighbours and friendship.
While it is impossible here to mention all by name, we would like to thank in particular Mrs. Gosiewski, Mrs. Field, Miss Beaton and the staff of Sheerwater West School, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Falkner and the Rev. C. G. R. Pouncey.
With such good neighbours, how can Sheerwater fail; it must be a success.
Yours very sincerely,
MR. AND MRS. H. P. DYER,
23 Lambourne Crescent.

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STAMP COLLECTING

I wish to refer to "Stamp Corner" in the November issue of the "Pylon". Being a keen collector and specialist in a few countries, I would like you to pass to those concerned that I am in a position to circulate "Approval Books" with first-class material, mostly at quarter and half catalogue. This is purely a hobby of mine, and I do not run a part-time business. I am in a position to obtain material at moderate prices, and would be only too pleased to make approval books and pass on to those interested. I can cater for the advanced collector. And for the beginner I can offer plenty of material at one-eighth catalogue.
I would be pleased to hear from or see anybody interested.
Yours faithfully,
A. J. PRICE,
23 Lockwood Path.

SHEERWATER COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dear Sir,
I should be grateful if you would include the following in the next issue of the "Pylon".
Yours faithfully,
J. W. BATCHELOR.

Will you please accept our warmest thanks for your kind gift of £6 6s. presented on Thursday, November 5th, at the Royal Albert Hall by Eileen Martin. To know that we possess so many good friends interested in our work is a great encouragement to us. With our renewed thanks,
Sincerely,
E. St. J. BIRNIE.

TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SHEERWATER
It is proposed to open a mixed Youth Club for the young people of Sheerwater between the ages of 14 and 21. A meeting to discuss this proposal will be held in St. Michael's Hall on Thursday, December 17th, at 8 p.m. Would all young people interested in such a club please attend.
Refreshments will be served.
L. A. IRVING,
Hon. Secretary,
Sheerwater Community Association
Youth Committee,
52 Albert Drive.

SHEERWATER PYLON

17, HANBURY PATH

SHEERWATER

Please submit copy not later than December 28th, for January issue.

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(Two doors from Queen Cinema)

WIDE VARIETY OF FANCY GOODS

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EXCHANGE TENANT of fully self-contained second-floor FLAT; 3 rooms, outside balcony, w.c.; quarterly electric; gas; rent, 17s.; telephone about to be fitted; near Clapham Junction; private owner will agree to exchange. Wanted House or Flat, two bedrooms.—Write 35 Winders Road, S.W.11.

EXCHANGE
E. Groves, 12 Mainwaring Court, Arnhem Crescent, Mitcham, Surrey (ground floor), wishes to exchange a missionette-type FLAT, 2 bedrooms, dining-room, kitchenette, 2 bathrooms (rent, 34s. 11d.), for a 2 or 3 bedroom HOUSE on Sheerwater Estate.

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Special Offer: COOPER'S OLD PALE SHERRY

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166 bottle 6/9 1/2 bottle
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Sheerwater Community Association

If you are unable to visit your nearest Councillor, please send your Annual Subscription of 2/- To The Treasurer,
Mr. J. W. Hawkins,
118, Blackmore Crescent,
New Members should enclose another 1/- as initial payment

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It is now impossible to accept any further names for the Christmas party. Attention should be drawn to the fact that application forms are still being received, also written requests for the Children's Christmas Party. The list was closed on October 12th, and it is impossible to add any more to the list.

I would like to point out that everything had to be ordered well in advance, as this is a very big thing, and the Committee have put a lot of work and time into it. Invitation cards will be sent to all the children that are on the list.

I would like on behalf of the Committee to thank the following trustees for the generous help towards the Children's Christmas Party:—

Messrs. Harrington (Coal Merchants).
Messrs. Charman (Grocers).
Messrs. Doeh (Grocers).
Messrs. Minty (Grocers).
Messrs. Monument Stores (Grocers).
Messrs. Sorbo, Ltd.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Christmas Whist Drive, December 18th, St. Michael's Hall, 8 o'clock.

HALLOW-E'EN MEMORY



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SOME THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Although a few of the "go ahead" type of families will have, by now, completed their Christmas shopping, by far the majority of you will have hardly scratched the surface of this perennial problem.

I always find that books are a good thing to fall back on when difficulties present themselves in the form of whatever can we give Aunt Ethel, Uncle Bob or sundry friends? For men, socks, ties, slippers, handkerchiefs, gloves or scarves are fairly reasonable gifts. And for the more deserving cases waistcoats, sweaters, pullovers, etc., are another thought. Of course, there are always the smoking presents in the form of cases, pouches, pipes and lighters.

LADIES GENTLEMEN CHILDREN

Have you visited

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GIFT TOKENS

1, Duke Street (Tel. 2739) and
The Parade, Westfield Road
WOKING (Tel. 892)

It is hoped that a children's Day Nursery will be started on the estate in the New Year. These nurseries can only be run if the demand for them is there, so it is hoped that all parents wishing to place their child or children in the proposed nursery will write to Mrs. Harris, 187, Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater.

The ladies, it seems to me, are always more difficult to provide for, as they invariably like to see or choose the majority of their presents. However, one is fairly safe with jewellery, earrings and the suchlike; and, to be safer still, make it colourless. Make-up bags, compact, writing cases and, of course, nylon, are other reasonable gifts.

For the children, there are numerous small gifts which are ideally suited for stockings, such as paints (almost any price can be paid for these, according to the quality), crayons, pencil boxes, diaries, toy soldiers, animals, cars, etc., again according to age. The same types are very suitable for the tree.

There are dozens of presents, such as things for the home, which are convenient for buying other members of the family, but I hope the few I have mentioned may just help to solve a small problem and awake any ideas of your own.

May you all have a very merry Christmas.

Yours most affectionately,
S. CLAUDE
P.S.—Regards from Rudolf.

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Local Representative Available

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SPOTLIGHT

Another milestone in the history of my Community has been passed since the last instalment in this series. I refer to the fencing recently erected along the railway. When one looks back over the months that have passed since the issue was first raised, which was over a year ago, the strongest impression one gets is that the successful conclusion of our negotiations comes as an anti-climax. The job, once started, was completed so quickly that I cannot help but think that it would have been easier for the two authorities concerned to have had the fence erected first, and to have argued as to division of financial responsibility afterwards. A big vote of thanks is due to all who have helped in our efforts, particularly the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, whose intervention seems to have done the trick.

Yet another long-standing source of complaint will, it seems, shortly be removed. Although no date has yet been announced, it is known that the junction of Albert Drive and Sheerwater Road will soon be restricted to protect the kiddies when going to and from school. It is not apposite to remark that the children will in all probability mostly be going to school on the estate before another year is out. The corner is a dangerous one, whether or not it is used by large numbers of children.

At the instigation of one of the more civic-minded members, action has now been taken to stop the parking of cars on the turf lining our roads. This action has probably inconvenienced motorists on the estate who have no garage, but surely they will be the first to agree how wrong it was to treat one of our finest amenities in this way. The way out of this problem is to try to ensure that the opening of sufficient garages is not delayed a day longer than necessary.

What a difference the turf makes. There has been rapid progress in this direction these past weeks, and the roads, Albert Drive in particular, look a lot better for it.

Residents have good reason again to be grateful to the two most co-operative public servants in this area. On complaints being raised, lights in the wilderness around Spencer Close were erected within a week, and other instances have occurred of defective street lamps having been dealt with on the same day. Mention was made in the last issue of

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the feelings of some of the St. Michael's Road folk for the efforts of the sanitary people in removing the refuse under difficulty. Then, during the past month, a letter was received by the Association, unsolicited, that everything possible was being done to relieve the plight of tenants in Bentham Avenue. Two very hearty votes of thanks are duly recorded.

In an excellent article on Sheerwater recently, the London "Star" took time out to scotch rumours, admittedly not so prevalent in recent weeks, of numbers of people on the estate wishing to return to London. The rumours just are not true, and I have double checked. For everyone asking for a transfer there are twenty waiting to come here. And who could wonder? Despite a local paper's opinion that the estate has no personality of its own, it is certain that the impact of the excellence of its design, layout and amenities will be felt in this area for a long time to come.

It is a pity that our joint efforts with Old Woking to get other local groups to federate have met with such a "wet blanket" response. We must now strive to perfect our own organisation (and what opportunities are presented with the opening of the centre) so that others will see the advantages to be gained by following our example.

The Association is honoured by the election of Hugh Moore to the chairmanship of the Old People's Club. Those who know his worth—and there should be precious few who do not—will know that the old folk have made a wise choice. He thrives on the surmounting of obstacles.

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TOMMY AND TIMMY

The rain was pit-a-patting upon the window pane and Tommy drew back the curtain quietly.

"Ugh," he said, "it's horrible outside. I do hope it clears up in time for our carol singing to-night." He shuddered and thought how much prettier it would be if it snowed.

"I'm sure it will, dear," said Mummy encouragingly as she secured another sprig of holly on to the picture rail. She was very busy putting up some Christmas decorations. "Clear up, Daddy will be bringing home the tree to-night, and we can decorate it tomorrow," she assured them. "Now let me see, what do I need next?" she said.

"Ah, yes, Timmy, hand me that big red bow, please." And Timmy found the right one and gave it to her. "It does look lovely, Mummy," he said, glancing admiringly at his mother's work. "Rather—I'll bet Dad'll be pleased when he sees it," added Tommy.

"Ouch!" cried Mummy, pricking her finger with a holly leaf. "I'll fix that," wrapped his clean hanky around her finger. "Thank you, my dear," smiled Mummy. "You'll be a surgeon yet."

Just as the last yellow bow was being fixed up, Mummy turned as if a thought had suddenly struck her. "Have you both made out your list of wants, boys?" she asked. This made Tom and Tim start, and they looked at each other uneasily; then Timmy fumbled in his pocket and produced a grubby piece of paper and, wiping off a bit of sweet stuff that was stuck on, he gave it to Mummy. She scanned the paper with a bewildered look. "What does it all mean?" she asked. "and who is Cheryl Nelson, may I ask?" Tommy spoke up this time. "Well—you see—she's an orphan, Mummy." He licked his lips. "We met her when we did our Nativity play at the orphanage the other day." Mummy was listening intently. "And do you know," he went on, "she's never had a real Mum and Dad like us, so we thought we'd like her to share our Christmas." Tommy finished there; he had nothing further to explain.

Mummy looked at them both and smiled. "I think that's the real spirit of Christmas, boys, and I'm proud of you." The familiar knock at the door stopped Mummy saying more. "That's Daddy," whooped the twins, who flew to let him in. "Look—hurray, he's got the tree," they shrieked. "Mind now," Daddy said, "or else you'll prick yourselves, and that will finish the carol singing to-night." He struggled with it through the door and rested it on the hall floor. "And that," he said, "can stay there until I thaw out." Mummy gave him and the twins a nice hot cup of tea as they were all seated around the fire, and the twins were relating excitedly that they were going Christmas shopping to-morrow and that meant, they knew, a visit to the big store's Father Christmas.

"What do you think of the decorations?" asked Tommy, hugging his father's knees. "Well, do you know what?" said Daddy. "I thought it was fairylaud. Good show, Mummy." Another knock came, and this time a burst of clear young voices broke the stillness of the evening, with a boisterous rendering of "God rest you merry, gentlemen," and as Mummy helped the boys on with their coats, scarves and warm mittens, she too hummed softly with them.

Soon they joined the choir singing loud and above them all. Mummy and Daddy stood at the door and the little group moved from door to door. "Bless them," she said, and took the opportunity to tell Daddy about Cheryl Nelson. "That's a splendid idea," he readily agreed. "I'll get in touch with the matron as soon as possible." This made Mummy very happy, and she knew her twins were singing out a happy Christmas to all children, especially the girls and boys of Sheerwater, they getting a Tommy and Timmy special top note.

THE FUTURE OF SHEERWATER
(Continued from page 7.)
Those who have employment problems will be sure of sympathy and assistance from the local employment service of my Ministry. I am also always very pleased to hear from anyone who likes to bring their personal problems to my attention.

HAROLD WATKINSON, M.P.

Members are asked to give support to the collection of old wool and woollen garments being taken at the end of the month by the new Sheerwater Scouts Groups as a fund-raiser.

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We can help you to make your Christmas
the success you would like it to be

We have presents for all
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and all the good things you
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STAMP CORNER

LOOKING AFTER A COLLECTION.

A matter of stamps which is the hobby, the question arises how to look after a collection. I know a person who from time to time garners stamps from divers sources and deposits them in envelopes and boxes, explaining that he is waiting for a "rainy day" when he proposes to sort them out and do something about them! That is all very well, but some people have a tidier approach to the hobby, and from the start it is as well to arm oneself with an album, or book, and a supply of stamp mounts or hinges (usually one can buy a fair enough type of these at 1,000 for 1s.). It is a good idea to obtain a catalogue; an old one is far better than no catalogue at all. Those by Stanley Gibbons are very popular; all items are listed in chronological order; most varieties of colour, perforation and watermark are detailed, as well as Gibbons' own estimated value. With these things a start may be made arranging the collection.

Begin by mounting the stamps in a plain book and beside each item write, in pencil, the catalogue details. A number of stamps will come to collectors on covers or pieces of envelope, etc. These should be cleaned very carefully. Remove any gum as far as possible without going too near the stamps. Make sure to remove any part with writing in ink or pencil (it may be indelible). The pieces should then be soaked thoroughly in a tray or bowl of cold water until all extraneous matter detaches readily from the stamps. Tweezers should be used to handle stamps; however, make sure they are washed, fingers carry natural greases! The stamps should be laid face down on a sheet of dress blotting paper until they are dry.

Some older issues of stamps were printed in fugitive inks, hence care should be exercised when soaking. If practicable, the face should not be made wet, the piece of paper being laid on the water to soak.

When mounting a stamp the hinge should be folded so that at most a quarter only is stuck lightly to the back of the stamp just below the top edge. The remainder of the hinge, folded back and downwards from the top of the stamp, should be affixed to the paper.

When all the available stamps have been cleaned, mounted in the book, and

catalogued, the collector may look around for the permanent album, when he can afford it! My advice to would-be purchasers is only to obtain one of many suitable plain loose-leaf type albums. In these leaves may be added as well as the collection grows, and later on new and uniform volumes can follow. Plain white leaves are as good as any, and printed stick-on headings can be obtained as required. Don't forget to write up the collection in pencil as a rubber eraser can then do the trick if mistakes are made.

For those who like a different effect, black loose leaf sheets give a unique appearance, but remember! use white ink for headings, etc.

APPROVAL CIRCLE.

Arrangements can be made to circulate a small number of approval books each month. All those who are interested should drop a line to the address below.

All names will be placed in order of application on a list. Approval booklets will be circulated from one member of the Circle to each other member in turn according to their position on the list. The packet of booklets for the second month will be sent out to the second member and so on, the first member for the previous month having taken his place at the tail end of the list. In this way all members will have their chance in turn to have first look at the booklets.

These booklets will contain British Empire stamps of first-class condition at prices from one-quarter to one-half catalogue, covering a wide range of countries and periods. The only variation of this price will be in the case of current mint stamps, when, in most cases, face value will be asked.

The stamps offered will be for collectors who are just beginning, for collectors who are well on the way with their collections, and even for advanced collectors. We will also endeavour, if possible, to fulfil any special requests, but please remember that we are only collectors like yourselves with a fair source of supply, plenty of duplicates, and the big profits to make. That's why the goods are offered at these reasonable prices.

Enquiries: c/o C. Bowen, 28 Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater.

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WALTON ROAD PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Parent Teacher Association at Maybury County Primary School welcomes parents of children living on the Sheerwater Estate.

No idle phrase this, but a genuine statement of policy. In fact, two members of the Committee, Mrs. Leyland and Mr. Dovan, have been elected especially to put forward the point of view of Sheerwater folk.

The Association was formed at a meeting on October 21st, 1953, at which about one hundred parents attended. The purpose of the Association is three-fold:

- To foster co-operation between parents and staff.
- To encourage an interest in educational matters in the district.
- To raise funds for the benefit of children at the school.

Parents and guardians of all past and present pupils are welcomed as members, as indeed are all friends of the school. The annual subscription of 2s. covers both parents.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of the Headmistress, Mrs. Moore, consists of the following members:—

- Vice-Chairman: Mr. Walsh.
- Hon. Secretary: Miss G. E. Groom.
- Hon. Assit. Secretary: Mrs. Wilkinson.
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Pike.
- Mrs. Leyland.
- Mr. Dovan.
- Mr. Myerson.
- Mr. Thompson.

There is also a delegate from the Southern Railway Servants' Orphanage and two members of the staff.

The general idea is that about two meetings shall be held in each term, and that these shall alternate between "social" and "educational" events.

The opening meeting was held on December 4th, and was in the nature of a "get together," when parents and staff had an opportunity of becoming acquainted. In the course of a short talk the Headmistress welcomed parents and friends and explained the position of Primary Schools in Education to-day. She stressed that she and her staff relied greatly upon the co-operation of the parents and hoped that the Association would further their common aims. She

hoped that a large number of Sheerwater parents would become members of the Association, as she felt that they had a special contribution to make to its progress.

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We thank you for past custom and hope to be able to serve our new customers to their satisfaction. Why not REGISTER WITH US?

SHEERWATER DRAMATIC CLUB.
A meeting of the Sheerwater Dramatic Club will be held at 24 Eaton Way at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 18th. All persons interested are invited to attend. The meeting will discuss the subject of one-act plays.

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Highlights from Nov. General Meeting

The title is something of a misnomer as the Association were unable to secure the use of a hall for the last Friday in the month as heretofore. The incidence of Christmas compels the Association to hold the December meeting on January 1st, but therefore it is being stuck rigidly to the last Friday in the month in the Community Centre.

The minutes of the October meeting were read, agreed and signed, and there were no matters arising not covered in the Secretary's report. This dealt with the letters reported on another page as presented to the Council, and then correspondence received since that date was read. Among these were confirmation from the National Federation that Sheerwater had been elected to full membership.

Letters had been received from the M.P. and the Woking U.D.C. on the thorny recreation ground problem. The Council's letter said that the grant from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had been applied for, and in reply, the Ministry had indicated their willingness to support the application as soon as the site had been acquired. The U.D.C. had asked the L.C.C. for confirmation, and having received this, would presumably receive the loan. In the circumstances, no useful purpose would be served in meeting a deputation. As it was the Association's impression that the site had been offered some long time ago to the U.D.C. for a nominal sum, the Secretary was directed to write to the L.C.C. for confirmation and send copies to the Ministry and to Woking.

The Chairman of the Old People's Club had written to say that the Club would very soon be in operation, and asked for donations in cash or kind. The Club was available to ALL old persons over the age of 60, and their husbands or wives. A resolution that the Association should make an initial donation of three guineas for the purchase of periodicals for the Clubroom was agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported the Central Fund as standing at £102 11s. 10d., the Building Fund at £69 8s. 1d. (after purchase of some items of equipment for the Centre), and the fund for the Children's Party at £43 4s. 7d. Included in the Central Fund was £12 7s. 8d. standing to the credit of the "Pylon".

The "Pylon" report showed the pro-

gress made by the new Editorial Committee in the gathering of material and the securing of advertisements reflected in the current issue. Delivered in the report of the Committee of Enquiry in a very efficient manner, Mr. Williamson told the meeting that Council had accepted the statement of account as submitted, and that they had endorsed action taken in the light of expectations in separating the responsibility for finance, advertising and distribution from the editorship. Members accepted the report without comment and thanked the Committee through the Chairman.

The Secretary gave the report of the Management Committee and said that the equipping of the Centre was going ahead. The provisional programme was a house-warming dance on New Year's Eve, the next monthly meeting on the following evening, and then the official opening on January 2nd, but this was dependent on several factors. Members thought the selection of the person invited to open the Centre should have been decided by Council, and various suggestions were made. The Secretary invited organisations to apply for bookings immediately. Questions were asked on licensing and a notice board.

The Social Committee gave details of the Children's Party and assured the meeting of success and financial provision. Mr. Irving said that the Youth Committee were all ready to get cracking as soon as the Centre was in operation, and a meeting had been called for all youth of both sexes for December 17th, as stated elsewhere. Youth leaders were being trained.

The Rewarding Committee had approved the proposed rewarding scheme and had suggested the provision of two polling stations within the perimeter of the estate, seeing that three-quarters of the electorate in the proposed new ward resided south of the Basingstoke Canal.

Mr. A. T. Duplock was elected to the Council vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Kelly.

During the course of the meeting the Chairman's attention was drawn to the paragraph in last month's "Spotlight" which had been misinterpreted in some quarters. It is stressed that this paragraph posed a question suggested in five columns of a local weekly as to whether separatist groups existed. The separatist groups referred to are Tenants' Associations.)

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