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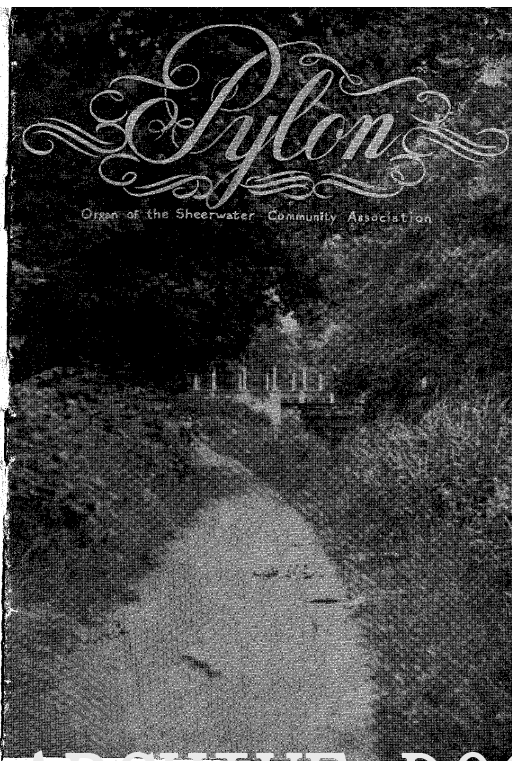
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Vol. 4. No. 9 JUNE 1956 PRICE 3d.

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. A. T. McDermott, 14, Hanbury Path.
Hon. Secretary: Miss J. Partridge, 8, Lambourne Crescent.
Treasurer: Mr. Dewdney, 11, Bentham Avenue.
"Pylon" Editor: Mr. T. E. F. Child, 30, Albert Drive.
Centre Secretary: Mrs. G. Howard, 20, Faxton Gardens.
Centre Manager: Mr. A. Berger, 19, Hanbury Path.
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Mr. Clamp, 1, Murray Green. Mrs. Clamp, 1, Murray Green.
Mrs. Gordon-Smith, 29, Bentham Ave. Mr. Gordon-Smith, 29, Bentham Ave.
Mr. Howard, 20, Paxton Gardens. Mr. A. McCarthy, 181, Albert Drive.
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SHEERWATER PYLON

Organ of the Sheerwater Community Association

Vol. 4. No. 9 June, 1956 Price 3d.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

SHEERWATER is enclosed by a canal and a railway. There are only two ways out of this "little London"—one at each end of the Albert Drive. These boundaries cannot be altered by us but there are many things within our "little London" that can, and should be altered by us. Litter all over the streets and verges—wanton damage to fences and motor-cars—general apathy about affairs of Sheerwater and district.

Of course, these conditions apply to almost all districts, but because of its contained nature and definite boundaries we have a unique opportunity to make ourselves something of a model garden city.

There are groups of people already working hard to help you in enhancing the beauties of your surroundings. Others are helping our youth in obtaining a healthy self-respect. Many others also give of their time and energy in furthering the interest of Sheerwater as a whole.

Much remains to be done before real success can be achieved, and this is where the parents come in.

Your guidance in the early formative years will influence your child for the rest of his life—whether he or she grows up to be a credit to your name or an early member of the delinquent group will be entirely due to the thoughts and way of life you teach at the early childhood stages. Your influence will decide what our teenagers will be like in a few years and therefore how Sheerwater will develop. Will it deteriorate into a drab untidy estate or flourish as an example of what can be done in a "little London"?

PLEASE MENTION THE

"PYLON"

WHEN RESPONDING TO

ADVERTISERS

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Sheerwater Gardening Association

The A.G.M. was not so well attended as last year, but despite this, quite interesting points were discussed ranging from the lack of water facilities on the allotments to the possibility of trips to nurseries (i.e., flower, not children's).

The Treasurer's report revealed that the Association is in a quite healthy position financially, but as most of the assets are tied up in our buildings and stock, it is very important that we build up a substantial cash reserve in order that more ambitious schemes can be undertaken for your benefit. There has been a marked increase in membership over last year, which is very encouraging, likewise the sales showed an increase; altogether a position which can be looked on as quite an achievement by the committee, who were re-elected en bloc, which is also an indication that the committee is working as a team, and that the membership has confidence in its efforts on their behalf.

For what must be almost a record for Sheerwater, the meeting started almost on time, and went so smoothly that it lasted less than two hours. May we say thank you to those faithful members who once more turned up to support the meeting?

The names and addresses of the committee are set out at the end of this article for your convenience.

THE PRELIMINARY JUDGING BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE L.C.C. FRONT GARDENS COMPETITION (SUMMER) WILL TAKE PLACE SHORTLY

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BEFORE JUNE 20th, AFTER WHICH THE L.C.C. WILL MAKE THE FINAL SELECTIONS.

THE FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES WILL HAVE BEEN PUT ON SALE BEFORE YOU READ THIS. WHETHER YOU ARE MEMBERS OR NOT IF YOU HAVEN'T BOUGHT A COPY YET PLEASE DO SO AND HELP TO MAKE THE SHOW A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ALSO ON SALE IN AID OF THE SHOW FUNDS. A NUMBER OF EXPENSIVE PRIZES ARE TO BE GIVEN. TICKETS ARE 6d. EACH OR 5 FOR 2s. ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE HELP BY BUYING AS MANY TICKETS AS POSSIBLE.

The initial digging of the grass verges in front of the entrance to the Hut was started on Sunday, May 13th, but owing to the extremely dry weather it has not been possible to make the progress hoped for, but by this time next year we hope they will have been restored, and no longer be an eyesore.

The coach trip to Bognor has been fixed for **Sunday, July 1st**, and as most if not all of the committee are going, the Hut will not be open on that day.

As an encouragement to the allotment holders, we are presenting a special prize to the member with the best-kept allotment. The presentation will take place at the Flower Show.

Sheerwater School's Visit to Holland

FROM 6.30 a.m. until 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th, there was an air of expectancy and anticipation in the roads and streets surrounding the school. From all directions small groups of children and parents were seen to be converging, heavily laden. From distant Chiddingfold and Bagshot others came by car and taxi—Operation Holland, conceived and planned and saved for since before Christmas, was about to be put into effect. Fifty children and eight members of staff lined up in the School Drive and faced the cameras. The Holland Album was born! The two coaches arrived, children and luggage were safely stowed away, masters made early morning jokes about collecting fifty family allowances for a week, there was a rousing cheer, much hand waving, and we were off! Certain members of staff sank into their seats to make a belated breakfast.

Liverpool Street was reached in good time and the children hastened to buy stocks of assorted chocolate, apples oranges, etc., topped up with tea or coffee, the whole soon to be wasted. But more of that anon. On to the platform to find our reserved seats occupied by stubborn and vociferous North Country folk. Their leader, twice the size of any of us, refused to give up his ill-gotten gains. British Railways rose to the occasion nobly, and packed us into the Harwich relief train elsewhere. When all was quiet once more, the leader of the North Country folk said, "Ee, lad, ah'm sorry, we're going in our coming-home seats, 't'owd woman didn't read the tickets right." We left 't'owd woman telling the L. of the N.C.F. exactly what she thought of him. That was really educational.

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By 11.35 a.m. we were through the Customs and Immigration Control and on board the steamer of the Zealand Steamship Company, the M.S. "Konigin Emma." This ship has a fine war record and within two hours the Battle of the Bulge was to be refought. Within two hours a gentle roll and occasional pitch was causing many of the younger passengers to offer up their Liverpool Street purchases as a tribute to King Neptune. So the staff, armed with napkins, towels and much good advice, laid the sufferers to sleep in sundry sheltered spots throughout the ship. The boys seemed to suffer most, probably because of their greater capacities. Howard Davies and Doven looked as if Death's icy hand would be a kind release. Like Nelson, they fell, refusing to be comforted by the words of Will Fyffe, "If a boy's got anything in him, the sea will bring it out." Six o'clock slowly came, and we were off that horrid, heaving ship and on to the coaches, en route to the Hotel Marina and Pension Bernsen at Zandvoort. Supper was soon after eight, and then off to bed for a good night's sleep—the end of a perfect day!

Sunday dawned bright and clear and hot. Breakfast was at eight, and soon after the boiled eggs, Dutch butter, cheese, white and brown bread, rusks, jam and ginger cake had been consumed by the ghostly figures of yesterday, the first parties set out to explore the town and beach. After lunch, Tom, one of the two Dutch guides provided by Friendship Tours, explained to several of the staff how easy it was to find the English Church in Haarlem. So we made a journey of several miles by tram

and then managed to discover most of the churches in Haarlem except the one we wanted. However, we found the Franz Hals Art Gallery and looked around. We discovered that one of the masters had remarkable eyesight; he told us he had seen the Laughing Cavalier. If it's not his eyesight, he must be a very good swimmer, because the Laughing Cavalier happened to be in London (presumably laughing up his sleeve). Back to Zandvoort and the children spent the evening making a series of expeditions to the top of the Water Tower—292 steps. The view from the top was magnificent, but my heart will never be the same again, I'm sure.

Monday was another rest day, and from early morning the trains and trams brought hundreds of visitors into Zandvoort. Zandvoort is within easy reach of Amsterdam, and its miles of beach attract many week-end visitors. In the afternoon there was a motor racing meeting at the local circuit which winds through the sand dunes, and a large party went there. They spent an enjoyable afternoon and, although one of the cars did crash, our party did not see it.

The next day, Tuesday, was the first of our organised coach tour days. We left the hotel at 9 a.m. and drove south through the bulb fields towards The Hague. On our way we visited the famous flower gardens known as the Kenkenhof, and we were suitably impressed by the displays of tulips, hyacinths and other spring flowers. At The Hague we toured the famous Peace Palace. This was opened in 1913, and the local guide, who spoke several languages fluently, explained to us what the various nations had contributed. The children were greatly impressed with a copy of the statue, "Christ of the Andes," which

dominated the huge central staircase. Later the guide took us into the Court of International Justice, where the Persian oil case had been heard.

From The Hague we drove to Scheveningen, the well-known seaside resort, where we ate our packed lunches. There we heard that the Scheveningen fishing fleet had won the annual herring race and had brought the first of the new season's herrings back from the North Sea. Tired but happy, we returned to the hotel for another excellent meal. The food was of a very high standard, with plenty of salad and cold meat to fill up on, if the main course was insufficient! Alas, the tea was weak and suited not our English palates. That evening we found the Espresso coffee bar. This was a small but smart café in the main street. It was owned by an American who had been demobilised in 1918 and had married a Dutch girl. He had a record player and a typically generous American personality. Three of the party were given miniature Chianti bottles with "the compliments of the

It will not be long now before the Flower Show takes place, so please note the date, **SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th**, at 2.30 p.m., in the Community Centre. Full details can be seen in the schedules already referred to.

GARDEN WORK—JULY
Flowers.—Continue to tie up sweet peas and remove all withered blooms and seed pods. Give plenty of fertiliser or liquid manure. Remove pansy and viola blooms as they wilt and do not allow seed vessels to form. Seedling pansies may be planted out.

Thin out annuals in moist weather. The thinnings may be replanted elsewhere.

Dahlias should be staked and mulched. Those for exhibition should be disbudded.

Propagation of hydrangeas can be carried out, either by taking cuttings or by layering. If the latter method is adopted the "tongue" should be made at the base of new season's wood.

Layering of carnations may proceed during the latter half of this month.

Vegetables.—Remove beans and peas which have finished bearing. Dress the ground with lime or soot and prepare to receive the main crop winter greens at the end of the month. Lift early potatoes and earth up later varieties. Early crops of celery and cucumbers should be liberally fed with liquid manure.

Plant out some May sown cabbage and cauliflower seedlings for autumn and early winter use.

Main crops of celery, borecole and broccoli should be planted out.

Feed vegetable marrows with liquid manure and thin out weak shoots.

Reminders.—All the fertilisers and liquid manure, etc., which you need are on sale at the Hut. It is to your

advantage to make your purchases there. Increased turnover means more favourable than ever prices.

A special note to non-members.—Membership costs approximately one halfpenny a week. One bag of lime purchased from us represents a saving equivalent to several years' subscriptions. The Association was formed to help all the residents, so why not join now, and save quite a lot of money. We have over 400 satisfied members; why not become one yourself now?

Do not forget the preliminary judging of front gardens takes place shortly before June 20th.

Officers and Committee of the Association:

Chairman: Mr. R. Gooch, 125b, Dartmouth Avenue.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Barnes, 34, Lambourne Crescent.

Secretary: Mr. E. A. Venn, 262, Albert Drive.

Treasurer: Mr. F. Draper, 46, Lambourne Crescent.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. G. Camp, 24, Dartmouth Avenue.

Assistant Treasurer: Mr. L. Brookfield, 270, Albert Drive.

Area Representatives: Mr. Bone, 24, Albert Drive; Mr. Cooper, 112, St. Michael's Road; Mr. Gordon Smith, 29, Bentham Avenue; Mr. Harris, 187, Devonshire Avenue; Mr. Rowse, 391, Albert Drive; Mr. Sinclair, 47 Bunyard Drive.

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house." A before-bed cup of coffee became the thing with the girls, and each evening the Sheerwater Girls' Choir rendered (to tear apart) the "Yellow Rose of Texas." Some of the girls never knew whether he accompanied his final smile and wink with "Good-night, ladies" or "babies," but he was a great success all the same.

Wednesday was another tour day and we set off for Amsterdam. On the way we entered a small clog factory and watched a pair of clogs being made. They were presented to the school. Albert, the Dutch guide, was asked if Dutch wives ever threw their clogs at erring husbands. Albert, newly married at Christmas, replied that it had not so far happened to him, but that the threat hung over all Dutch husbands like a sword of Damocles.

We were fortunate enough to be in Amsterdam at the time of the Rembrandt 350th anniversary exhibition, which we visited. Our Queen had sent over some £800,000 worth of her private collection. After lunch we toured the canals and harbour of Amsterdam by boat. This was most interesting. The guide pointed out the Amsterdam weather forecasting station and said it was the best in the world. They never gave a wrong forecast for yesterday's weather, so we were informed! He also pointed out the dirtiest house in Holland, once owned by Admiral van Tromp, who threatened to sweep the English fleet from the seas. Apparently he took the broom away and never brought it back!

On our return to Zandvoort, after a tour of the shopping centre, John, our 6ft. 4in. handsome driver, gave a demonstration of eating a sour herring. The herring had been cleaned and the head had been removed. It was then soaked in brine.

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John held the herring by the tail above his mouth and sucked away at it until the tail and backbone remained. Someone suggested to Howard Davies, who had been very sick on the voyage over, that a herring would be an excellent meal on the trip back. Howard did not agree. Sally Wheable and Judith Roberts, two of our youngest little girls, wanted to try one, but never really got around to it.

Our final shopping day was Thursday, and most of the party spent the time buying presents and playing on the beach. The swimming season didn't really begin until June; the water was too cold in May. Quite a few hardy tourists went in, however, and everybody enjoyed sitting and playing on the sunny sand.

One very important visit which has not been mentioned was to the flower auctions at Aalsmeer. Here pot plants and cut flowers of every conceivable colour and variety are Dutch auctioned daily. These flowers are grown in glass houses and are transported into the huge flower halls on barges. After the flowers have been sold they are packed on the premises and sent all over the world by aeroplane from Schiphol Airport.

The last day was Friday and, after a week of hot sunshine, we had a day of rain. However, we visited the Zinder Zee reclamation schemes, due to be completed in 1980 and commenced in 1920. Previously a small party had visited a "reclamation" museum, where we saw many working models of windmills and also a huge floor model which flooded itself and showed what Holland would have been like if it had not been drained. They had a water pump there, made by two Cornish tin mining engineers in 1840 and which had been in use for

draining the surrounding polder until 1933. This pump, built on Newcomen's principle, could lift 76,000 gallons of water a minute.

A stop was made at Alkmaar, where we inspected the cheese market. Some of us were anxious to taste the cheese, which we did, and a number of us bought cheeses to bring home. We were rather surprised at the way the cheeses were unloaded from the lorries. They were rolled out and allowed to bounce on to the ground!

From Alkmaar we travelled on to Volendam for lunch and we were intrigued by the children and people wearing the Dutch national costume. After lunch, still in the pouring rain, we went by boat to the Isle of Marken. Here the people looked rather uncouth and quite primitive. As we landed, one very ancient crone kept staring at us from the doorway of her house. One of the masters remarked that it was probably a long time since she had seen such a nice looking fellow as himself, but modesty will not permit me to mention his name. Home for dinner, wet, bedraggled, but undismayed. After packing, we had our last coffee and tour of the town, and went to bed early. A gale was raging, an ominous forecast for to-morrow's voyage home.

Next morning, after breakfast, the coaches arrived, and our farewells were said. The hotel proprietor said we were the best behaved party he had ever had. The staff smacked each other on the back, whilst the girls thought happily of a week's undetected crime. What was the cause of that bronchial cough coming from one of the second floor rooms? Willie, the boot boy, who had cleaned all the shoes each morning, went around the coach administering farewell kisses to all and sundry, even to

youers truly! Willie obviously can, if Willie takes a shine to you! All too soon the Hook of Holland was reached and we boarded the ship. Goodbyes were shouted to Tom and Albert, our Dutch guides, and to Eric and John, the two drivers. We sailed away, and only two of the boys were ill. Was it the hand of the Goddess Nemesis that one of them had been caught smoking on the sun deck a few minutes previously?

Harwich was sighted and soon we were back on terra firma. The Customs officers were kind and we were allowed to pass unsearched. By train and coach and on the hour of eleven o'clock we delivered our charges once more into the hands of anxious parents. Operation Holland was over. The staff breathed a sigh of relief; no one had been lost, drowned or stolen!

The trip was a great success. There is no doubt that everybody was left with happy memories of Holland and the Dutch people. There is no doubt that everybody on the trip felt that such an overseas tour must be an annual fixture. There is no doubt in the minds of staff that, allowing for youthful exuberance and enthusiasm, the behaviour, appearance and deportment of the children was of the highest quality at all times. They were a credit to themselves, to their parents and to the school.

Two final memories. There was Gillian who failed to master the Dutch language and persisted in calling the hotel proprietor "manure" instead of "mijnheer." And there was Fred, whom we thought we had lost overboard when we saw a bell buoy bobbing in the wake of the ship.

And now for next year. "Look out, Continent, here comes Sheerwater." R. B. BROOKS.

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CORRESPONDENCE



Copy of a letter from Ministry of Fuel and Power to the Rt. Hon. Harold Watkinson, M.P., in response to extensive efforts to get coal and coke delivered to upper floor flats in Dartmouth Avenue. (Reproduced by permission.) From the Parliamentary Secretary, March 9th, 1956.

My dear Harold, Thank you for your letter of February 21st and the correspondence you enclosed about the problems of coal and coke deliveries to flats at Sheerwater.

I appreciate the apprehension of the tenants in this case, which emphasises the sort of difficulty which is becoming more acute with the increasing numbers of flats and the shortage of labour. Coal and coke delivery is, of course, an arduous and dirty job, even under the best of circumstances; and we have to face the fact that there are not many men who will do it if they can get more congenial employment.

The subject is receiving the attention of this Domestic Coal Consumers' Council, and at their suggestion it is being examined, as a matter of urgency, by the London Regional Committee of the Coal Utilisation Council and the Institute of Housing, who are reviewing all aspects of the problem, including the possibilities of packaged deliveries, which are not so exacting in their demands on labour. This case also adds point to representations we have made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government about the need for the provision of adequate delivery and storage faci-

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lities in flats. It is, of course, very difficult to install such facilities in existing flats; we can only look for improved arrangements in new flats, and it is to this end primarily that our representations must be directed. We shall nevertheless be drawing the attention of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the present case.

In the meantime, I am afraid we cannot compel any merchant to take on any particular coal registration, nor can we compel a coalman to carry fuel to any particular premises. I am advised, however, that, although it is true there is only one merchant delivering to these flats at Sheerwater, there is no question of his not being prepared to supply new tenants.

I think perhaps I ought to add that, though we appreciate that householders may prefer to have some choice of merchant, there is something to be said, in cases such as this, for one merchant being responsible for the whole of a block of flats. In this way he takes the rough with the smooth, whereas if there were several merchants one might take the easier flats only, so making it harder for the tenants in the more difficult flats to find someone prepared to supply them.

Yours ever,
(Signed) DAVID.

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THREE LARGE ROOMS and bathroom, rent, light and heating free for very light duty (half-hour per day), for a 2/3 BEDROOMED HOUSE.—Write only, H. E. Cadle, 17, Park Crescent, London, W.1.

SHEERWATER RECREATION GROUND

Miss J. Partridge, Hon. Secretary, Sheerwater Community Association.

April 11th, 1956.

Dear Madam, I duly submitted your letter of 22nd ultimo concerning the delay in the completion of the above Recreation Ground to the appropriate Committee of the Council.

As no doubt your Association is aware, the original contractor commenced work before the site had been conveyed to this Council, and in July, 1954, was required to cease and quit the site by the London County Council. In view of this delay the contractor was unable to continue the work, and the Council approached the second lowest tender, who accepted the contract.

In October, 1955, the contractor alleged that the site had been made exceptionally wet by water leaking from the Basingstoke Canal, and in November, 1955, alleged that the site was too wet to work. He thereupon withdrew from the site, and in

spite of repeated representations by the Council did not return until February of this year. He is now making good progress and it is hoped that grass-seeding will start this month.

The Council are equally concerned with the Community Association at the delay in the completion of this part of the work, and fully appreciate the urgency of the position so far as it affects the young children on the Estate.

The further development of this Recreation Ground is now being hampered by the Government's restrictions on capital spending, but you may be assured that the Council will proceed with the conclusion of the Recreation Ground as soon as they are in a position to do so.

Yours faithfully,
M. SHAWCROSS,
Clerk of the Council.

(The above reply has been received from the Urban District Council in response to our efforts to speed up the work on our Recreation Ground.—Ed.)

UNBREAKABLE GLASS Co.

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EDITORIAL

IT was learned at a recent council meeting that the Angling Club have extended an invitation to any of our old people to go with the club for a day's fishing. They would be picked up by car and, if necessary, supplied with rod, line and gear. This is a warm-hearted and generous offer which deserves mention and should be applauded by all. What a pity this spirit isn't more prevalent among the community-to-day!

IT is regretted that the Gardening Association notes were omitted from our last issue, due entirely to the necessity of going to press on time to publish on our agreed date.

We take this opportunity of reiterating "Pylon" policy. Published and distributed by the Community Association primarily as a service to the residents on the Sheerwater Estate, space is available as much as possible for reports, articles and matters of general interest covering the activities of every known club, association or other organisation formed for the promotion of welfare and communal interests. With the addition of other light reading matter—topical, informative, humorous, etc.—we endeavour to make our magazine a family one, which is as it should be.

To please everybody is an impossibility—we can only try. If you have any ideas for improving our magazine, please let us know; suggestions which will appeal to the majority of our readers are always welcome. If we don't hear from you—approval or criticism—we can only assume satisfaction that the time and effort of this voluntary "Pylon" Committee is of benefit to our community.

Finally, we again emphasise it is seldom possible to publish a maga-

zine of this size and nature without incurring a loss. The recent general increases in the cost of printing have hit the "little" people more than anyone else. We are doing our best to offset this—we hope we will succeed. Meanwhile, we repeat our thanks to all our advertisers, both old and new, and ask every reader to give full support to them. You, too, will benefit from their good service, civility and satisfaction in your purchases.

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SHEERWATER BRITISH LEGION

The recent sunshine prompts us to remind members that several trips have been arranged for the near future. On June 3rd the venue is Windsor and Runnymede, while June 23rd is scheduled for a mystery tour. Other trips include Southsea, and members can obtain full details from John Mason at the Community Centre on Monday evenings.

A most promising start has been made to the fund for a standard and, thanks to the generosity of residents, it would appear that we shall be able to achieve our object. The committee hope that the next issue of the "Pylon" will contain full details as to the amount realised and its disposal.

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SHEERWATER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the

Community Centre

on

Friday, June 29th, 1956

at 8 p.m. sharp

Come and support the Association

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Painting Competition



FOR CHILDREN 8 TO 10

Colour the above picture in paints or crayons and send to the Editor not later than MONDAY, 25th JUNE, 1956.

5/- will be awarded to the best entry. The Editor's decision is final.

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Something New—Something Old

TO start a new venture on Friday, the 13th, would appear to be asking for trouble, but those responsible for the foundation of the Sheerwater and District Old Time Dancing Club evidently didn't think so, for this was the date of their opening night in April. With a membership rapidly approaching the 100 mark, regular meeting every week, well attended, it looks as if our newest club is here to stay.

About two years ago an attempt was made to interest the people of this Estate in old time dancing, and the response wasn't very encouraging. Why, then, has this new club got away to such a flying start? Not entirely a question of organisation, for among the elected committee and their helpers are several of those who advocated it originally; nor can it be the composition of its membership, which is well proportioned with young, old and in-betweens, with both sexes equally represented. Whatever the answer, it is evident this club is a good one and well deserving of success.

Present sessions are mainly instructional; in other words, after payment of 2s. 6d. membership fee for the year, for only 1s. 3d. a session there is up to three hours' enjoyable dancing with first-class instruction throughout. Even those with no initial knowledge of old time dancing soon have their doubts dispelled and fears forgotten under the able guidance of Mr. and Mrs. E. Gallagher, who are the club's qualified instructors.

A word about Mr. Gallagher, a man who not only thoroughly knows his work but also thoroughly enjoys doing it. He made his first acquaintance with ballroom dancing

at the age of 14; the place none other than the famous Empress Ballroom at Blackpool—a real champion start. For many years a resident of Woking, he has organised, instructed, and acted as master of ceremonies in almost every district and further afield. From Guildford in 1943 to St. John's, Horsell, Brookwood, Byfleet, West End, and now it is the good fortune of Sheerwater to have the services of this excellent instructor. Together, as always, with Mrs. Gallagher, for what better partner can there be than your partner for life?

The extent of activities in the initial stages of any new club is greatly dependent on its financial resources, and for this reason it was considered best to start as an independent concern and concentrate first on a build-up of strength. There is no question whatever of difference of opinion with the Community Association or any other organisation concerned with the promotion of welfare and social activities for the benefit of residents on the Estate.

Future plans? Reference to the many past local connections of Mr. Gallagher gives an idea of the extent and popularity of old time

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dancing within this district. Here is one of the ways in which people can get together in a real communal spirit, and arrangements are already well in hand for visits to some of the other local clubs with their return visits to Sheerwater. There will also be many open dance nights, in addition to instruction, and the committee have several other good ideas which will materialise in due course.

The name of the club is Sheerwater and District, and an equal welcome is given to residents on the Estate and anyone from Woking or Bifleet who live within this vicinity and would like to spend enjoyable evenings with a jolly, friendly crowd.

CONTROL OF LIFE

The power to pass on life is a gift which we hold in trust for posterity. It touches men and women very deeply. It is a false approach which attempts to isolate the physical from its other aspects, for we are more than animals.

For a full discussion of this and kindred topics read "CONTROL OF LIFE," by Dr. Halliday Sutherland (Burns and Oates, 15s.). Ask for it at the local public library.

Sheerwater Angling Club

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"REEL" ENJOYMENT FROM ALL "ANGLES"

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Woodham and Sheerwater Labour Party

Top of the Poll again!

YES, Woodham and Sheerwater were again poll champions in the Woking U.D.C. elections on May 12th with 16.2 per cent. This is good, but still far from the percentage that is required to give a clear and more definite picture. We must hold this lead and try for an improvement next time.

The result—well, as the "Woking Opinion" so rightly reported, "there is elation to-day in Woking Labour Party circles. Saturday's Council election brought them a bigger victory than they had dared to hope for, however they cared to admit it. They retained and strengthened their hold on Woodham and Sheerwater, and in addition ousted Conservative candidates in three other wards."

Indeed there is elation in the Labour Party, but we are very mindful of the tremendous work that has made possible this victory for Socialism. The teamwork and organisation of the ordinary people in one cause—to win the election for the Labour Party. The team: First of all the canvassers, on the whole, were met with friendly replies to their questions, and, of course, the few who lacked common courtesy. The tellers at the poll station—numbers, numbers, a monotonous task, but most important. The knockers-up—arduous job, constantly reminding people that it is their duty to vote; their vote is important, every vote is vital—which after all they really are. The committee room staff, sifting the poll numbers and reports as they come in, charting and passing on the analysis to the subagent for his opinion and action where necessary. Car drivers—they will know Sheerwater Estate

and the backwoods of Woodham like the back of their hand by the time it's over. They must know the shortest way to the poll. It took one old gentleman nearly three-quarters of an hour to cast his vote, even with the assistance of a car in both directions, because of his crippling ailment, such was his desire to use his vote, an excellent example to all those who thought it just not necessary.

Then the close of the poll at 9 p.m. and the trip to the Grammar School, where the count takes place, to watch and wait for the results to be declared. An exciting day; only those who take an active part in these elections know what the rest are missing.

To the active people, and to those people who placed their 'X' in the correct place, Cdr. Paul Davey and the officers of the Woodham and Sheerwater Ward extend their sincere thanks. Their efforts have resulted in well-earned victory.

To Mr. Hudson we offer our condolences; he worked very hard and fought a clean fight, which was to his credit.

As a car driver on the day of the election I was greatly distressed by the number of children playing in the various roads of the Estate.

Sheerwater Community Association

If you are unable to visit your nearest Councillor please send your Annual Subscription of 2/-

To The Treasurer,

Mr. Dewdney,

11 Bentham Avenue
New Members should enclose another 1/- as initial payment

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with cars and delivery vans parked. Weaving in and out was sorely aggravated by the small lads popping out between the vehicles. One small lad sitting on the kerb, believe me or not, actually stretched his feet out in an effort to reach the front wheels of the car I was driving as we approached the kerb to stop. My passengers knew then how recently the brakes had been relined. This goes to prove how VERY NECESSARY the Recreation Ground is going to be. Let us all hope that Government economies will not reach Sheerwater so as to prevent the speedy completion of this worthwhile project.

The Social Committee report that up to going to press there will be seven 42-seaters, with the addition of maybe a 32-seater, for the Littlehampton trip on June 2nd. Here's hoping for a fine day which, after all, is the basis of a grand day at the seaside.

We are planning an Autumn Fair, so if you care to set to and make a few things, whether it be knitting, woodwork or handicrafts, you can be sure that all contributions will be gratefully received. Hoopla, darts and a treasure hunt will be amongst the additional attractions.

Finally, we hope those who have had their holidays have had a good time; to the majority who have theirs to come, we hope this year's will be the best of them all. To the less fortunate who through sickness or pocket it's "stay put," we sincerely hope that next year you see you better placed.

A. R. WENDEN, Secretary.
THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

From June 6th the Clinic will be held every Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., at 77a Chersey Road, Woking.
Please phone Woking 3059 for an appointment.

Further details from Mrs. Thomas, 221 Albert Drive.
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Service before Self

THE most excellent displays and parades of the 1st Sheerwater Company of the Girls' Life Brigade during last month serve as a reminder of one of the most successful organisations originating on this Estate.

During the latter part of 1952, when Sheerwater was in its infancy, there were quite a number of problems, of which one was the important question of the rehabilitation of the very many children who were arriving. It had to be remembered that for most this would be the start of an entirely different life—new homes, new schools, new surroundings, new friends, etc., and it was therefore essential that at least an attempt be made to start them off on the right path.

Homes and living conditions were well provided and, after their initial shyness, the children soon established their friendships. The schooling problem was a headache, remembered only too well, and added to rather than lessened the necessary provision of welfare, social and recreational facilities, the latter virtually non-existent.

Fortunately there was a small nucleus of people possessed of sufficient wisdom to realise the possible consequences if nothing was done to remedy these deficiencies. Some were known by name, some by sight, and there were others who still remain anonymous. Among those familiar both by name and sight was Mrs. Patey who, in November, 1952, founded what is now the 1st Sheerwater Company of the Girls' Life Brigade.

With only the minimum of help, Mrs. Patey accepted the arduous task of the welfare and training of nearly 50 girls. Their hall was an old Army hut, used during the day

as a workmen's canteen, with no heating, lighting by hurricane lamps, and a few old trestle tables and wooden benches. With the arrival of lighter nights and warmer weather, they drilled and exercised on the concrete strip which served as a road during the build-up of Dartmouth Avenue. I have seen them many a time parading amid muck and rubble, bricks and cement; I have also heard them singing in their hut, with torrential rain churning up the mud around and beating in through holes in the roof and broken windows.

Remember the fire which completely destroyed their hut and the few precious bits of equipment they possessed? There were many other set-backs, but they held on, with the result that to-day their company is at its fullest possible strength, and Mrs., or should I say Major Patey is proud in her knowledge that they are one of the best in Surrey. Many of the original girls are still there, passing on their learning and experience to the new recruits to uphold the very high standard so evident to-day. Returning from a meeting a few weeks back, I pondered on a remark made by a comparative newcomer to Sheerwater—why bother to organise for people who evidently weren't

interested, because we never saw them? I turned into Dartmouth Avenue—maybe I didn't see an old wooden hut on a piece of waste land; perhaps it was only the wind whistling through the trees that sounded like cheerful voices singing because they were happy; I KNEW the answer!

GAUMONT, WOKING

Commencing Sunday, June 10th. For seven days.
"THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY," A. Edmund Gwenn, Shirley MacLaine.
"The Scarlet Hour," A. Tom Tryon, Jody Lawrence.
Commencing Sunday, June 17th. For seven days.
"TOY TIGER," U. Jeff Chandler, Laraine Day, Tim Hovny.
"The Intimate Stranger," A. Richard Basehart, Mary Murphy.

ODEON, WOKING

Monday, June 18th. For six days.
"NIGHTMARE," A. Edward G. Robinson, Kevin McCarthy.
"Patterns of Power," U. Van Heflin.
Monday, June 24th. For six days.
"WICKED AS THEY COME," A. Arlene Dahl, Phil Carey.
"Woman of the River," A. Sofia Loren.

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SHEERWATER.

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Please submit copy not later than June 17th for next issue.

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