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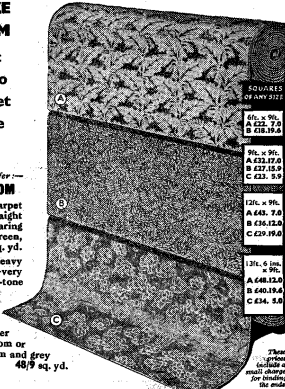
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SHEERWATER PYLON

Organ of the Sheerwater Community Association

Vol. 3 No. 1

Price 2d



OCTOBER, 1954

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THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

As the second birthday issue of the "Pylon" was being prepared for printing, I thought that it would provide a good opportunity for me to look over the first half of the year since the last A.G.M.

What have we achieved? Are we growing in membership and interest? I believe the best way is to look into our activities, and, in my opinion, the first one must be the "Pylon." Two years old! That is a great achievement when one considers the troubles that have arisen at various times, especially the sudden appearance of a competitive journal on the Estate.

Very few people realise what it entails to produce the "Pylon," the continuous chasing for copy by Mr. West, the Editor, the advertising problems, and, of course, the distribution problems. It is true that on various occasions the "Pylon" has been late, and has not been delivered to some people, but to distribute 1,000 copies is no small task, and the Editorial Committee has overhauled its distribution machinery, but before one complains, remember the great amount of work being put into the "Pylon" by its Editor and his very few helpers.

To Mr. West, who came back as Editor when we were in trouble, I would say, heartfelt congratulations on a job well done; the Community Association owes you a great debt.

And what of our other achievements? We feel very pleased that it was due to our efforts that the Youth Club, the Library, Dancing Classes for children, and the local branch of the British Legion were founded.

In spite of the fact that teething troubles arose over the Youth Club, how nice it is to see that the youngsters have somewhere to go and enjoy themselves rather than hanging about the streets, and again remember the hard work being put in by the Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Duplock, and their assistants. The wisdom of our decision to begin Dancing Classes will be seen when the first show is held in the Centre shortly, and they have become very popular.

One of the most popular amenities provided by the Association is the Library, and a total of 160 books per week is now being issued, and although the Community Association were responsible for the Library, this would not have been possible had we not had the services of Mrs. Dewdney to call on, an

experienced librarian who, from the first day it opened, has handled the Library most efficiently with her assistants. To them all I would say thank you for a job well done.

And now, how about the Social Committee and its work? Here we have a very small band of people doing an enormous amount of work in an endeavour to bring some enjoyment into our lives. The Whist Drives, the monthly Dances, and other Social Evenings have never missed, and to those who have not attended any of them I would suggest you pay them a visit. There are many good friends to be made and pleasures to be had. We must not forget the two Summer Outings to the sea that were organised—two good days enjoyed by all who went, and, I hope, the forerunner of many more.

Many more efforts have been made to ensure that Sheerwater has its amenities: our efforts at improved bus services, always a hard fight, the education problem, of which you will have read, and many other things, too numerous to mention, on which the Association keeps a watchful eye.

And now the pride of any Community Association, the Community Centre. In the months it has been opened a great number of different types of functions have been held, and the Association is indeed fortunate in having a Centre Secretary like Mr. Weston. Very few know the hours that he spends on the Centre, and I think it is enough to say that the Council leaves the managing entirely to him, and shortly, when our decorating is completed, we shall see the fruits of his labours.

Well, I have written rather a lot about our last six months, but what of the future? We are hoping to organise more varied types of functions, of which you will read elsewhere, but I would mention the educational types of functions, such as the course on Local Government by the W.E.A., open Forums, and other attractions, and we are, of course, looking forward to the coming installation of a T.V. set in the Old Age People's Club, which is being supplied by the Community Association. May they have many happy hours viewing.

And now I think the time has come for some straight speaking. All the work that is being done is due to a handful of people. This is just not good enough. We have been accused of being a clique. Of course, we are, but not by

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design. That is due entirely to the fact that in spite of many appeals we just cannot get helpers, or even Council members, so the few faithfuls are left to serve on many committees.

To the people who criticise, I say come along and offer your help. It will be readily accepted, I can assure you. It is very easy to criticise, but remember all of us who put in many hours, and this means three or four nights out of a week, have homes and families, like to watch the television or read a book. We could do much more of this if these people who complain at bus queues, etc., came forward and lent a hand. To prove my point, I would like you to know that in spite of many appeals for help to paint the Centre, only about three people have been kind enough to offer their help.

In conclusion, may I just say thank you to the Secretary, Jim McDermott. His is an exacting task, and he spends a terrific amount of time at it. His experience has been most helpful to me in the first half of my year of office.

The friends I have made, the experience I have gained, is indeed compensation for any small part I have played in the past six months in the activities of the Community Association.

GOOD WISHES

As the first Chairman of the Sheerwater Community Association I write to express my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the second birthday of the "Pylon". What a wonderful achievement this is for a two-year-old, especially as it has had to go through the many ailments of the new broom.

The "Pylon" now goes far and wide, even overseas, and this is a great medium for spreading the good news of all that is happening in Sheerwater.

The thanks of all residents are very much due to the Editor, Mr. West, also to the contributors for their news items. Very many happy returns.

H. S. DEWDNEY.

OBITUARY

The death of Mr. Clavey, of 252 Albert Drive, has robbed the Association of one of its hard-working pioneer councillors. Mr. Clavey suffered ill-health for some time, but still managed his way to help the Association.

The deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives in their bereavement.

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

Our monthly Dances have started with a swing. We are inviting some of the old age pensioners to these dances. On October and we entertained some sixteen old age pensioners and, believe me, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our next Dance will be on November 6th. Dancing to Jimmy Cole and his band; licenses last supply 1960, so make a note of the date.

Our weekly Whist Drives are becoming more and more popular. These are held every Thursday evening. Come along and spend a jolly time.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

"Show Time"
This is a children's programme, and is presented by the Sheerwater Dancing School under the management of Mrs. Jenkins.

Admission by programme only, on sale at the Dancing School. Limited number only, so get your programme now. No programmes sold at the door.

Saturday, October 10th, is an open night for those wishing to play Chess, Draughts, Darts, Cards, etc. (Refreshments will be available.) Admission, 3d. for members of the Association (please bring your card); 6d. for non-members.

Christmas Fair
Saturday, December 4th, we are holding a Christmas Fair. There will be toys, presents, Christmas Cards of the Estate, articles made by the blind, and side stalls, etc. In the evening we have our monthly Dancing from 8 p.m. till 11.30 p.m.

Bertram Mills Circus, Olympia
In response to a number of requests, 3,000 seats have been reserved for Wednesday, January 19th, for Community Associations.

| Adults | Children |
|--------|----------|
| 4/- | 2/3 |
| 5/- | 3/- |
| 7/- | 4/3 |
| 8/6 | 5/3 |

These are reduced prices and do not include the coach fare, which is about 3s. 6d. Any who wish to go will they please let one of the committee know and also leave a deposit. So make a note of Community Night at the Circus, Wednesday, January 19th.

P.S.—These seats are reserved for the Community Associations only, and can only be purchased through an Association.

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In the middle of December we will be presenting

"Lady—Be Careful!"

A Farcical Comedy in Three Acts by STAFFORD DICKENS

Page 5

'What Spiritualism Is'

A Public Meeting

will be held at THE Atalanta Hall Commercial Road, Woking on Sunday, Oct. 24th, 1954 at 3 p.m. (Doors open 2.30 p.m.)

Speaker:

Horace F. Leaf Ph.D., F.R.G.S.

Chairwoman:

Mrs. ENA TWIGG

ALL ARE WELCOME

SILVER COLLECTION

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TUPPENCE FOR MY THOUGHTS

I am content to lead a simple life, having come to this conclusion some years ago, when it was decided for me that a merry one would indeed be short. Which brings me to the point.

How long have you lived on the Sheerwater Estate—one, two, three years? Yes, it was over three years ago that the first of our residents arrived. They came not as invaders, but rather as settlers, seeking to find in the quiet of this countryside the peace and tranquillity which should be a natural heritage of every citizen in a free democracy.

I do not intend to dwell at length in the past, for memories are best left in the minds of their creators. Suffice it to say that transition is not easy. There are some who can never accept, no matter what the opportunity or when it may arise; far greater is the number ever eager not only to take but also prepared to give in the taking. Let it be emphasised that those who have come to Sheerwater are no exception. For every one of the few who did not stay, a score or more were ready waiting. The waiting list grows longer as our residential area nears completion. Is not this proof in itself that we are no colony of parasites but a well-knit community of people with a common wish—to live good lives?

The record of our achievement bears witness to the spirit of our endeavour. Mistakes there have been; these we do not deny. Some may recall the times when we have not spoken as one, but is this in itself a really bad thing? Conflicting views often yield the best results, whereas a team of yes-men can be easy prey to dictatorship.

Are we now to rest on our laurels, content in the knowledge that in time of dire need we shall again speak with a united voice? Most definitely no. To do so might well prove to be an intractable error of judgment. There are many fields in which the surface has been barely scratched, and any real gardener will tell you the secret of good production. We are rather proud of our gardens on this Estate, aren't we?

Which brings me back to the beginning, and so to the end. For our future can be only planned in our present, which is the development of our past. Are my thoughts worth more than a penny to you?

From the Editor

OUR 2nd ANNIVERSARY

We have now reached the mature age of two years—that is, the "Pylon" has, and a further milestone has been reached in the annals of the Association. It would be a good thing if we were to remember all the people who help to make the Magazine. The contributors (better late than never with the copy), the artists who from time to time have contributed, and those people outside the Estate who take so much interest in the Magazine, and not forgetting the distributors, the advertisers and printers.

Would it be immodest if we were to think that we have one of the finest, if not the finest, magazine of its type? I feel that most of our members would agree with this, and we have certainly received praise from a number of outside bodies.

It might usefully help if I were to quote from the year book of the National Federation of Community Associations.

"It is gratifying that these newer Associations find space to bring to the attention of their leaders the work of the N.F.C.A., and the Sheerwater 'Pylon' regularly gives two pages after an Area Conference to a very full report from the delegates attending the Conference. Such reports contain a considerable amount of valuable information as well as remind leaders of the existence and the work of the N.F.C.A. Other local magazines please copy!"

We on the Council think that the "Pylon" is worth while, and you, the members of the Association, must also think so, because for two years we have had your support and criticisms, and the sale of the Magazine is continually going up. From a small beginning to our present-day standard has meant a big stride, and we must not forget that it belongs to the membership. It's your Magazine and please use it. We want your remarks, your letters and articles if you have them. A few lines about anything will help us to maintain our high standard.

I offer no apologies for what must read like a pat on the back, but I feel sure that all of you will agree that we enter our third year of publication with even higher hopes than the first or second.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Elsewhere will be seen an advertisement for these cards. If you desire to

have them, please send your order and cash to the Editor as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

All due thanks to this committee for their sterling work. This small band of members works extremely hard to get things going, and its efforts are untiring. All those who went to the dance on October 2nd will, I am sure, agree that they all had a good time, despite the fact that the Editor won the raffle! He had one of the hairiest legs in the room (male legs), and despite also the fact that the Centre Secretary beat him by a short hair. Anyway, it was all very good fun and made a good evening. They held these dances on the first Saturday in each month. Why not come along and see how much you can enjoy yourselves? It was also a grand gesture to the old people to ask them along, and I am sure that the large number of them that came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Incidentally a collection was made towards the television set for the Old Age People's Club and came to £3.

FOUND

The lost Teddy Bear has been found, and I have been asked to express the thanks of the small child for its safe return.

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FOOTBALL NEWS

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS START IN FINE STYLE

Sheerwater Junior XI played its first game of the season on September 30th against St. John's School, Woking. The team was successful by six goals to nil. During the August holidays several of last season's team of champions were found to be above the age limit, and so it was with regret we said "good-bye" to John Josey, John Murray, Terry Cole, Herbie Taylor, Alan Jewell, Howard Davies, etc. This season they will be playing for the Under 13 side. However, Ledger, Waite, Foote, Daniels, Donovan and Kaye remained of the "old guard" and training matches were organised at Fullbrook Ground on Saturday mornings to discover new talent. Fullbrook Ground is loaned to us on Saturday mornings, and we may be able to use it on Friday afternoons for our home ties in the Hodgson Cup. All our games in the Woking and Chertsey Leagues are to be played away.

From the practice matches a squad of fourteen was selected for indoor and playground training in basic football skills, trapping, passing, heading, tactical talks, etc. Held four times a week, these sessions were popular and useful. The team for St. John's was selected, and read as follows: E. Waite; Tracey and Belcher; Foote, Ledger and Daniels; Donovan, Buckingham, Kaye, Evans and Watkins.

In a pre-match discussion it was decided that Ledger should play a very attacking role as a sixth forward and that Foote should cover him as he moved up the field. How successful this was you will see later.

Sheerwater won the toss and elected to play with the wind and rain against them in the first half. From the whistle they pressed hard, and the St. John's goal had several narrow escapes as the result of good centres from right-winger Donovan.

Outside-left Watkins got the ball just inside the penalty area and fired in a shot which just missed the post. Sheerwater were being rather over-eager, and Ledger misicked on several occasions, whilst Kaye, the centre-forward, was slowing down the game and giving the defence time to cover by dribbling away from the goal. Half-way through the half, however, Evans received the ball on the six-yard line and made no mis-

take. What a grand moment for him! He was reserve all last season, and did not get a game, and for this game he was brought into the team in the absence of Glasby. From that moment Sheerwater settled down, and at half-time the score was unchanged.

During the interval the players were advised to take their time and to be more careful with their kicking and passing, and the centre-forward was told to be more direct. It worked wonders, because a spate of goals followed.

Soon after the restart Ledger dribbled into the penalty area, and scored with a hard drive. Then Donovan placed a low centre at Kaye's eager feet, and from an awkward position he scored with a fine shot. The goalmouth at this end was liquid mud, and the players found it hard to keep their feet. Foote collected the ball near the half-way line and brought it upfield. He made as if to pass the ball to the wing but instead sold the dummy to the defence and passed it inside, where Ledger scored once more.

St. John's broke away on occasions, but their forwards lacked the support of their overworked half-backs, and Tracey and Belcher had no difficulty in breaking up the attacks. Before the end, Evans scored a clever goal and Kaye made it six with a ground shot.

Sheerwater have lessons to learn from this game, successful as it was. The forwards had a tendency to crowd together and must learn to spread out into the open spaces. This will give the defence less chance to cut off passes.

The inside men must support their wingers as well as the centre-forward, and the outside-left especially must learn to stay on his wing and not "creep" into the goal area too much. And finally, the forwards and half-backs must spread out across the field and face the goal keeper. It should be obliged if interested fathers and brothers could help to drive these points home.

Next game, October 6th, v. New Haw, in the Chertsey League; and October 14th v. Chertsey, in the Chertsey League. In the Hodgson Cup first round Sheerwater have a bye, and in the second round meet Egham Manor at home. Fixture cards for the Chertsey League and the Hodgson Cup are on sale at 3d. each.

R. B. BROOKS.

CHURCH NEWS

C. OF E. Angels and Men

If you think of angels only as fluffy little golden-haired deers who live on Christmas cards, you are making the same kind of mistake as to think of the devil as a comic, rather mischievous character, complete with fancy dress of horns and hooves and tail. Perhaps we came to invent these pictures because the realities hardly bear thinking about seriously, or perhaps because we could not bear to think about the universe in any way that did not put ourselves in the middle of the picture. . . Man, the crown of glory of creation. It is not really difficult in these days to imagine the universe as being vastly more complicated than ever we would suppose from looking at it with our unaided eyes, and it may well be that as the microscope reveals a new world, so the Christian faith adds another lens to enable our sight to discover a new richness and harmony in the universe, the wonderful order in which angels and men have their respective parts to play in working out the purposes of God.

As we go about our ways, all the while there are passing and passing the shining ones in their ceaseless traffic in the errands of God, and through the empty voids of space ring the unending song of praise, "Holy, Holy, Holy." The pity is that our ears, save at rare moments, are deafened to their music by the din of men's chatter, and our eyes are peering at the playthings men have made to beguile and destroy themselves.

Different as human and angelic natures are, there are two great activities in which they share. As the Rev. M. W. Cutbbert reminded a large congregation in St. Michael's Church on Michaelmas Day, the angels recall to us in worship and the service of God. In the Old Testament, they are depicted as being in human form with six wings. With one pair of wings they cover their faces, not daring to look on the glory and majesty of God. It is not strange that we should find it hard to understand angels when we are accustomed to treat God as our equal, from whom we can demand assistance, and to whom we owe nothing. With one pair of wings the angels cover their feet, symbolising their reverent approach to God, not striding into His presence and striding

out again if we do not gain what we demand as though only God were the loser, but coming to Him as His creatures who depend upon Him for life itself. With the third pair of wings the angels fly, poised continually to serve God, to fulfil His commands.

Worship and service are complementary, either one alone is inadequate. To serve without worshipping, to do good without humbling ourselves before God, is to condescend to those we help, and to worship without serving is unreal. To be truly himself, man must worship and serve the Lord his God, and this is to acknowledge that He is our Creator and Lord, that we belong to Him and depend upon Him, and this we cannot do alone but only together, in the fellowship and family of His Church.

As a practical attempt to work out this truth, the new St. Michael's Boys' Club was inaugurated and blessed during Evensong on the Sunday following Michaelmas. The Club is for boys between 8 and 15 years of age, and meets on Wednesdays from 6.30 to 8 p.m. There is still room for a few more boys.

R. E. FALKNER.

FOR SHEERWATER CATHOLICS

Mass Sunday, Community Centre, 9 a.m.
Catechism: Sunday, Community Centre, 3 p.m.
By the time these notes are in print, please God I will be busy knocking on your doors again. At the moment I am left reflecting what a lot of trouble a naughty little thing like an appendix can cause. In fact, I have had ample time to reflect on many things and should come back to you a much reformed character!

Now that it is the month of the Rosary in May's year, we should surely take this chance to pay our own special tribute to the Mother of God. Many find the warmth of a good Catholic's devotion to Mary something of a puzzle and a stumbling block. Certainly, there are many Catholics whose rather unbalanced grasp of Catholic teaching leads them to speak of Mary in very extravagant and sugary language, and to pray to her as if she were something more than a creature of God's making. It is so easy to distort the full truth about Mary (or, for that matter, about

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

TOMMY AND TIMMY

Tommy and Timmy were playing in the park when they saw a very old man with a long white beard and a very long nose. They were very curious and went up to him and asked him what he was. The old man told them that he was an angel and that he had come to earth to see how the children were getting on. Tommy and Timmy were very happy to hear that and they told him all the things they had done since they were born. The angel was very pleased and he gave them each a little gift.

The angel then showed them to a very beautiful garden where there were many flowers and trees. They were very curious and asked the angel what it was. The angel told them that it was the Garden of Eden and that it was a very special garden. Tommy and Timmy were very happy and they wanted to stay there forever. The angel told them that they could not stay there because they were still children and they had to go back to their parents. Tommy and Timmy were very sad and they cried for a long time.

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still remained unbeaten, when Timmy offered to loan Clarence his to play a hand with Tom.

"Now for some fun," giggled the three chums, as poor Clarence gazed at Tim's offer most ungratefully; then suddenly fumbled into his pocket and produced a special one of his own.

"I'd much rather use my own," he said quietly.

At that moment the boys' amazement was interrupted by the sudden appearance of Daddy and Mr. Robinson.

"So . . . this is what's going on, eh?" accused their father.

"Conkers," breathed Mr. Robinson with a sigh. "Now I remember being a champion when I was a boy," he bragged.

Daddy cocked an eyebrow. "Oh, is that so?" he said. "Well I wasn't so bad, either."

"Try your skill now," urged Richard. "Right, we will," said Mr. Robinson. "They must have forgotten their boy-hood tricks," thought Tommy, watching them slamming away.

Clarence had been looking on very intently, and then, as if he could stand it no more, he stepped forward. "I'd like to give you a game," he challenged Mr. Robinson.

S-wish, s-wosh, split . . . Mr. Robinson's conker went. All eyes were on cool Clarence.

Daddy was the next victim, Timmy next, and then Richard.

Clarence just loosened his smart tie to a rakish angle and finally took on Tommy with his unbeatable.

The game was exciting, and then, as if Clarence had timed it, Tommy's special fell to the floor in two.

"Gosh," gasped Tommy in horror, hardly believing his defeat, "how did that happen?"

Clarence grinned innocently. "Er—I forgot to tell you I'm supposed to be champion of all, by our street's standards," he explained.

"Flaw! only supposed to be," exclaimed Daddy. "My word, you are, and no mistake, by lad."

The three chums looked at Clarence with respect. He looked very ruffled and unlike the goody goody they thought him.

"Good old Clarence," they shouted together, as the fathers ushered them back to the party to join the singsong.

Daddy and Mr. Robinson both declared they could have beaten Clarence if they had wanted to, but each knew

that their conker playing needed polishing up.

Tommy nudged Clarence to warn him to put his tie straight as his aunt was looking at it.

"Never mind, it matches yours and Timmy's, so perhaps she thinks it's the fashion," he joked.

This pleased the boys and all joined in with a friendly, hearty laugh.

Everyone agreed that the first anniversary party had been a huge success.

E. W. E. HAWKINS.

SHEERWATER PYLON

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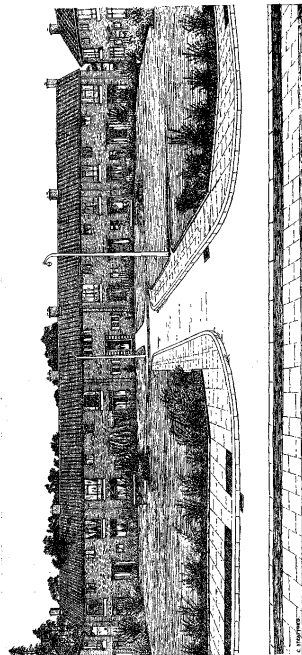
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FREE CHURCH (Methodist)—cont.

From October 23rd to October 31st we are holding a Film Mission. Some challenging films, such as "Which will ye have?", "The Cloud of Witnesses," "The Promise" and "John Wesley," will be part of the services held. We believe the people of Sheerwater will appreciate this approach to the offering of the Gospel. Services will be at 7.30 p.m. on the week evenings and 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. on Saturdays. We appreciate the generous service of the "Pylon" in opening its columns to us.

R. CLEMINSOIN,
Minister.

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OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES — SHEERWATER

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INTRODUCING

SHEERWATER OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB

WHAT matters most in life . . . ?

Somewhere to Live?

A Steady Job?

Plenty of Money?

They are important, but there are other things that we can't really do without.

There's being loved and wanted, for instance, not for your money or your gifts but just for yourself.

There's friendship and help and encouragement.

These things matter more and more as you get older and no longer have your work or your family to fill your days.

SHEERWATER OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB exists to meet these needs for the older people living on our Estate.

WHAT IS THE OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB?

First, it exists to link together in true friendship and in common interests all the older folk on the Sheerwater Estate.

It seeks to provide opportunities for them to make the most of their time and money, not only in housekeeping but in finding new occupations and pastimes.

It endeavours to provide information and assistance in all their difficulties and problems.

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Secondly, it exists to keep up the Club House in Bunyard Drive where they can meet together to talk and to do things, play games, sew and knit and read.

Thirdly, it aims at creating a Silver Link of help and friendship between people of all ages and the older ones on the Estate, so that these are never shut out of our lives, and the younger people can benefit by their wisdom and experience.

WHERE DO I COME IN?

IF YOU ARE OVER 60 then you and your husband or wife are the very people the **OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB** wants to find.

Come along to the Club House at 65 Bunyard Drive, in the middle of the square and right opposite Murray Green, on any week day between 2.30 and 9.30 p.m. and you will find—

A SITTING ROOM (and a good fire in the winter)

A READING ROOM (and a library)

A GAMES ROOM

You can talk, read, play the piano or sing, play whist, draughts, darts, billiards and snooker.

And there is a full and varied programme of entertainments, talks and demonstrations to help you to enjoy and make the most of your time and money.

And there's a nice cup of tea!

IF YOU ARE UNDER 60 then will you become a **FRIEND OF THE CLUB?**

"The best things in life are free . . ." friendship and help and encouragement don't cost money, but they do mean taking time, and trouble.

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And anyway, there are a lot of things that aren't free—coke and gas and electricity, for example, and it's very inconvenient to be without them.

We are asking you to give us—

YOUR FRIENDSHIP

YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE

YOUR MONEY (or some of it)

We suggest that you should pay a visit to the Club House and introduce yourself. Perhaps you can offer to help in some way?

And you can subscribe 2/6 or any larger sum to the work of the Club (and perhaps give us that amount next year, too.)

Then we shall ask you to write your name in the **SILVER LINK FRIENDSHIP BOOK** which is kept in the Club, and you will be kept in touch with the work and progress of the Club.

YOU MAY LIKE TO KNOW THAT—

The Sheerwater Old People's Club was formed in November, 1953, and the Club House was opened on January 20th, 1954, by Alderman R. Stamp, Chairman of the L.C.C. Housing Committee. At present, there are over fifty members.

It is run by a Management Committee made up of people representing different aspects of the community at large, especially those most concerned with older folk, and includes representatives of the S.C.C., the L.C.C. and the Working U.D.C. as well as of the Community Association, the Rotary Club, the W.V.S., and several other folk who belong to the Club.

The Club has Mr. W. L. Darby, a former Chairman of the Working U.D.C., as President, and the present officers are—

Chairman : Mr. H. T. Dewdney

Hon. Treasurer : Councillor G. Lambert

Hon. Secretary : The Revd. R. E. Falkner (of St. Michael's Church, Sheerwater)

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Postmen Through the Ages

If we are lucky, some mornings, between the hours of seven and ten, the gentleman with the blue suit with a red stripe slides a letter through the letter-box of our house or flat. It might be the regular coupon for Saturday's flutter; it might even be the rewarding cheque; it might be good news or bad; whatever the contents, we nearly all look forward to receiving our mail, and most of us feel a twinge of disappointment when there is nothing for us to-day.

The world has had postmen for many a year. The business of carrying the mail seems to be one of the oldest and most trustworthy occupations of mankind. There are several references to the practice of carrying and delivering letters in the Bible. In the historical work of Herodotus, the Roman historian, he refers to the horned messengers of the Persian King Darius as being among the swiftest things on earth, and this is dated 450 B.C. The Romans themselves had a very efficient mounted courier service, and letters were despatched to all parts of the Roman Empire. Such posts existed on the Roman roads of Britain. One wonders what inspiring messages were sent back from the commanders of the conquering legions in 43 A.D. to their epicurean Emperor Claudius as he enjoyed his Colchester oysters and his South Downs mushrooms. Or the messages sent to fetch back Suetonius Paulinus as Queen Boadicea and the Iceni cut the hapless Ninth Legion to pieces.

During the Middle Ages letter carrying was performed in many ways. The King had his special messengers who carried the King's mail about the country or overseas and who hired horses or ships in the King's name. Archbishops, Bishops and the Abbots of monasteries usually had their own letter carriers, and so did many of the nobility. Traders and merchants despatched orders and invoices to the leaders of caravans or the captains of trading vessels, and other people, if they could write, sent their letters by friends or by the floating pedlar population.

In Tudor days a Master of the Posts was appointed to supervise the carrying of the King's mail. Posts were set up along the main roads where horsemen were stationed to carry the mail to the next post up or down the road. In the

course of time, the posts became established and were placed at the largest inn, ostensibly to stable the horses, but actually to revive and sustain the thirsty postman. These innkeepers became the first postmasters; their inns became the first post offices, and their horsemen the first postboys or postmen. On main roads the men carried the mail in a leather saddlebag, but on secondary roads they often had no horse and walked, carrying their load in a satchel.

Then in 1535, King Charles I. by proclamation, made it possible for the general public to send their letters by his postboys to almost anywhere in England and Wales. The rate of postage depended on the size of the letter and the distance it was carried. The postboys simply carried the mail from Post Office to Post Office; they did not collect or deliver. The writer would take his letter to the nearest office and it would be delivered to the office nearest to the recipient's town or village. There it stayed until it was collected and until postage was paid on it. Of course, houses were not numbered and addresses were often rather rambling. Here is an example.

"Deliver these letters to Thomas Greene, Gentleman, at the sign of the Golden Cross, Weybridge, or if he be not there at his lodgings with Mistress Browne, near the Stock Market."

If the writer thought the letter was urgent he might mark it with "Haste Post, Haste, For Life for Life," or if he thought the postboy could not read, he might add an over-name of the galloway. There were no envelopes or stamps, but the letter was folded and often imprinted with the writer's signet ring. The postmaster wrote on it what the postage would be.

Letters were first delivered by postmen in the reign of Charles II. about the time of the Great Plague, 1665. One or two men were attached to the Foreign Office and delivered letters from abroad. There were about thirty men who delivered letters from the country to the centre and west end of London town. London had a Penny Post service, and letters could be sent within a charge of a penny or twopence. The postmen had no uniform, but they did wear an authorising arm badge. (Continued on page 26.)

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W.E.A. COURSE

Subject: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tutor: MR. L. J. MACFARLANE

The FIRST LECTURE will commence on WEDNESDAY, 27th OCTOBER, from 7.45—9.45 p.m. at the COMMUNITY CENTRE

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THE SECRETARY REPORTS

At long last the Association has taken the first step along that most difficult of all roads that a Community Association has to travel, the road to fulfilment of its object of promoting informal education. At the highly satisfactory Quarterly General Meeting on September 24th, it was decided to ask the Workers' Educational Association to arrange a course of five sessions on "Local Government." Negotiations are taking place at the moment as to location and times, and these members who gave in their names at the meeting will be notified as soon as confirmation is available. For the guidance of those who were unable to attend the Quarterly General Meeting, the course will most probably be run at the Community Centre each Wednesday from 7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. There are some dozen vacancies, and anyone interested should send or hand in their name and address to me. It is hoped that from this modest beginning the Association can gradually introduce a full programme to cover everyone's interests.

For this achievement, the Council are most grateful to the speaker sent by the W.E.A., Miss Elizabeth Monkhouse, who entertained her audience of over 50 with a most interesting discourse on the organisation, aims and objects of the W.E.A. She was prepared to answer all sorts of questions, and members made sure that she "earned her money." For the benefit of those who are not already aware of it, the W.E.A. seeks to provide classes in those subjects not covered in the curriculum of the local Education Authority. No practical subjects are taken, nor languages, except English literature and so on, but almost anything else is fair game. International Relations, Appreciation of Music, the Visual Arts, History, general or local—these are but a few. The main attraction is that the W.E.A. is a voluntary body run on democratic lines. They try to give what the adult wants, and the tutor he wants. Individual membership is available for a nominal sum.

Two other highlights of the General Meeting were the discussions on the Secondary School and the Mass Radiography postponement. The gentlemen of the Press have seen fit to spotlight the comments at the meeting concerning the density of tuberculosis on the Estate, but the situation is not really surprising. Overcrowding, as anyone knows, is accorded priority in rehousing,

and overcrowding combined with T.B. a greater degree. Quite rightly, the Housing Authority considered this Estate, among others, ideal in its spaciousness and location, for the rehousing of sufferers and contacts. There is no evidence at all that this has any effect on the normal household, but quite obviously pressure on the Urban District and County machinery for dealing with the disease must result, but to their eternal credit that machinery has stood up well. The Association has for some time been represented on the District Care Committee in the person of Mrs. Harris, who looks after the interests of folk from Sheerwater. It is hoped that the Mass Radiography Survey will not take place in the spring.

The meeting received with gratitude Mr. West's report concerning the interview with the Chairman of the County Education Committee about the Secondary School. The Association are well satisfied with the results of their intense efforts in this matter, in that we are now assured that secondary education will not suffer. The full programme of courses will gradually commence as the numbers of children increase, more primary accommodation will be provided as necessary, and the situation will be kept under constant review. Our thanks are due to all who have given their time and energy on this question, in which it has been proved once again that well-informed public opinion is quite a force to be reckoned with. Thanks, too, to Mr. Thompson, the Chairman of the Education Committee, for the courteous and understanding manner in which our delegation was received.

It is very heartening to see the activity going on at the Working end of the Estate, with the installation of private telephones. Congratulations to you lucky people, but a little sympathy, please, for your less fortunate brethren living in the greater area covered by the Byfleet Exchange. The situation there is grim, and there is little prospect of any change for the better yet awhile, but the Association will continue to press for early action.

British Railways are satisfied that present booking arrangements at West Byfleet are adequate for the time being and ask for toleration on the arrival of the early morning bus. A census was taken at Waterloo Station during the whole of one week recently, and only three excess fares from the trains by which early

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morning tickets are available were booked. This seems to indicate an improvement in the situation, but members are asked to keep Council informed.

Complaints were raised at the meeting about the non-arrival of essential buses and these will be taken up. Arising from a question at the meeting, information has been sought on those long-awaited shops. Unofficially we are informed that the first should open in the last week in November, and that four should be functioning by Christmas. One of the first will contain a post office. It would seem that patience at last will be rewarded, but you know, officialdom has stretched the patience of housewives to an unforgivable degree here. It will be of little value to you to be told that your martyrdom will result in more attention being paid to this question in similar circumstances in the future. There is no truth in the rumour, by the way, that postal facilities are available in the rent office. It is understood that there is no early prospect of a change in the frustrating procedure to get permission for the installation of a television aerial in accordance with the conditions of tenancy. Pleasances for the Council member who have been through in order to obtain permission for the contract and, if justified, representations will be made.

I would like to draw your attention to the plan outlined by Ralph Weston our Centre Secretary, for an extension to the Centre. A fund has been started for this purpose, and you are all asked to support any appeal made. A lot of negotiations must take place before we can go ahead, but the Council are certain that you would wish them success in their efforts to improve the present building, in order that we may more ably fulfil our objects.

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WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION?

A Community Association may be defined as a voluntary organisation of neighbours, democratically organised, within a geographical area which constitutes a natural community, who have come together either as members of existing organisations or as individuals (or in both capacities) to provide for themselves and their community the services which their neighbourhood needs.—(From the Annual Report of the N.F.C.A.)

XMAS CARDS

Have you ordered your Xmas Cards yet? As mentioned in the Pylon last month orders can now be taken

5 for 2s.
or 6d. each

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Make JOHN CANHAM your Butcher

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OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB

A very happy day was had by all on Friday, October 1st, when we held a Sale of useful articles. Result for the funds nearly £10.

Many friends turned up to buy and see the Club House, but many have said they do not know where the Club House is. It is situated right opposite Murray Green—dead centre of the triangle of houses. We welcome visitors to see the Club. Any person over 60 living on Sheerwater Estate may become a member.

The raffle for Cushion Covers, winning ticket 67, Mrs. Pettis, Bunyard Drive, Birds, ticket 1, Mrs. Field, Bateson Way.

YOUTH CLUB REPORT

The Club's new season has opened very successfully, and there are a few items of interest to report. As promised in the last issue of the "Pylon," the Whist Drives have recommenced. Under the capable organisation of Mr. and Mrs. Duplock, Mr. John Dunne and others, to whom we are deeply grateful, we showed a handsome profit on October 1st. Total expenditure, including £4 18 for hire of hall, came to £6 18 1d., whilst total takings came to £8 18 1d., leaving a profit of £2 18 1d. It was a pleasant evening, enjoyed by all who came, and the Drives will be every two weeks, usually on Fridays.

Chandler's, of Ripley, hired us a coach on October 2nd, and the Club enjoyed a trip to Southend to see the lights. You won't need to be told that a good time was had by all, including the Leaders.

There is still no official news of when we start to use the school premises. Rumour fills the air, but all we know is that negotiations are still going on.

Lastly, why not come round and visit the Club? If you are interested, look in and see what is going on.

THE CHAIRMAN.

GIRLS' LIFE BRIGADE

Now that our Methodist Church is really and truly a matter of fact, our ever-increasing necessity to expand has become possible!

Our youngest section, the Cadets, is now housed in our Church Hall on Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m., whilst the other sections still retain the facilities for meeting in Woodlands School in Blackmore Crescent at 6 o'clock on Monday evenings.

Before going to press we shall have held our National Brigade Week, from October 10th to 17th, when we especially think and pray for the needs of the growing girl. We also endeavour, during that time, to make a special financial effort, and members of the C.L.B. are issued with cards, on which personal friends and acquaintances record their small donations towards the work.

We are holding a jumble sale in the near future, details of which are still in the making.

Jan jars are being collected and sold, the proceeds being devoted to our fund, so if any of you readers have a store cupboard containing unwanted jan jars, please contact any member of the C.L.B. who will be only too pleased to relieve you of their responsibility!

J. F. MINTY

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THE ALBANY PLAYERS

have some vacant dates during the coming season. Book this four-piece band now for your dances, socials, etc. Business Manager, Mr. G. Saunders, 52 Blackmore Crescent.

SHEERWATER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(Continued from last month.)

One of the best sessions of the course was taken by Mr. L. W. Wood, Development Officer, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. He told us of his experiences in taking informal education into the small villages, and by small he meant small. Normal population of the places under his charge ranged from 35 to 500, including babies in arms and the oldest inhabitant. He took the view that separate specialist groups, such as dramatics, carpentry, etc., were the ultimate objective, but that what was really required at the outset was something that must induce everyone to get together, such as an open evening once a month. He had found that some attractive items for an open evening such as quiz contests (men v. women, group v. group or area v. area), brains trust with a name or two on the panel and with an opportunity for the audience to join in the argument (subjects such as capital punishment, the harm done by modern comics, juvenile delinquency, etc.), talks on "My Job," and what he called "Expert in the Witness Box," in which were invited the local cinema manager, the matron of the local hospital, the chief sanitary inspector, etc. He had thoroughly enjoyed, and he thought that the people under his care had enjoyed, sessions on local or general history, in which the audience were invited to bring along pictures, letters and sonnets from their own resources. He had induced local people returning from foreign or colonial service in the Forces of colonial capacity in a series entitled, "What is it like in..."

Another series of interesting talks on "Troubled Spots in the World" was given by local people who had had experience of different parts of the world, such as Egypt, Malaya, etc. He emphasised that the speakers should not be experts. A very entertaining talk was brought to a conclusion by his findings that: Social education precedes informal education; a person's boundaries must be extended (beyond those of the pools and the local brew); speakers must be warned of the ignorance of any particular subject that may become apparent; a panel of speakers must be maintained.

A joint session by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors from the Ministry of Education followed on the subject of

Craft Work in the Community Centre, and we were treated to a very interesting talk on spare-time occupations for men and women. Some good hints were given on the establishment of a well-equipped, inexpensive workshop (anyone got any of this particular item in our Centre?) which could provide the opportunity for training and practice in woodwork, metalwork and shoe repairs. A normal community should be able to find its own instructors without having to engage highly-paid ones. Hints were given on how to keep tools once purchased, and how they should be maintained. As far as the ladies were concerned, it was suggested that a women's section could start, and keep running small groups for the making of soft toys, cane work, rugs by machine and hand-knitted, piecework quilts and cushions. Successful experiments had been made with weaving on simple looms the size of a small picture frame. Examples were shown of the work done by small groups, exquisite pieces any home would be proud to exhibit.

A most instructive talk was given on the subject, "Making a Community Centre attractive externally," by a man who, like the rest of the lecturers, is an expert in his field, Mr. Paul Matt, Buildings Adviser to the N.F.C.A. As there are so many types of building in use as Centres, each with its own peculiarities and surroundings, it would, of course, be impossible to suggest any specific form of layout. He gave as his opinion that an Association, starting on a new site, should seek the advice of an expert from the commencement of operations, but, nevertheless, he thought that quite a lot of what he had to say would be of use to all. The following points are worthy of note.

1. **Simplicity.** Often the simplest layout is the most effective, and this especially applies where the Association relies on voluntary labour for the upkeep of the surrounding grounds.

2. **Lawns.** Dwarf type grass seed, which does not need cutting so often, is the best to use.

3. **Flower Beds.** Perennials are the great favourites, but the initial cost is higher, though this is offset by their being no replacement costs. Where large beds have to be considered, flowering shrubs are ideal.

4. **First Impressions.** The approach to a Centre is an important item, and the most effective suggestion made was to have a low brick wall on either side of the path, backed by an evergreen hedge kept neatly trimmed.

Many other useful tips for the exterior decoration of a Centre were given, and have been noted for future guidance (perhaps when the responsible authorities have decided whose responsibility it shall be for the erection of the remainder of our boundary fence, we shall be able, with the aid of our members, to put some of these excellent ideas into practice).

Arising from this talk, another on the internal aspect of a Centre was given by two officers of the Wiltshire Education Department, Mr. F. W. Hardman and Miss E. K. Whitley. The former laid great emphasis on a bright and cheerful colour scheme, and showed us an ingenious colour-matching device (its usefulness was lost on me, however, as I am colour blind). Curtaining was discussed at some length, and all agreed that it was a waste of time and money to use cheap materials (we have learnt this to our own cost). The Association are exploring a suggestion of Mr. Hardman for this job, that is to use Bolton sheeting, a plain coloured will type material which is both hard-wearing and reasonably priced. Miss Whitley demonstrated some very clever forms of publicity. Her advice on this subject is: "Be bold, be brief, be colourful." The usefulness of grocer's stand-up advertisements, travel posters, etc., was demonstrated. These items, suitably disguised, make very effective mounts for advertising an Association's activities. Samples shown of "splatterwork" and paper sculpture were most interesting. If any of our members have an aptitude for these effective but simple tasks, the Social Committee would be very glad to hear from them.

On this, the third evening, we were treated to one of the highlights of the course, a visit to the Beches Community Centre, Cirencester. On arriving there, we were entertained by the Association's Concert Party in excerpts from a revue they had recently staged. Everyone was amazed by the excellence of the show, both in the quality of the material and the way it was put over. Considering the fact that half the original cast was on holiday, the whole show was really terrific. Their theatre was most impressive, too, and the whole of the construction work had been undertaken

at the expense of the Association. An old barn had had its side removed, and into it had been built a Nissen hut on a six foot wall of breeze blocks. A simple idea? Yes, but, believe me, when you are inside you would never dream that it was a Nissen hut. After the show we were given refreshments and then shown round the Centre. It is ridiculous to make comparisons, but what couldn't we do with a building that permitted activities in different rooms on the same night? This I take to be our greatest need—small rooms for small sections, and with this in mind we are investigating the possibility of extending the present Centre. A note for the anglers on which to finish the design of the Beches Centre—a trout stream flows along the end of the garden. What an asset!

The whole of the morning session on the fourth day was devoted, in two sections, to talks on administration—committee procedure and finance—by Dennis Moriarty, of the N.F.C.A. Readers will not wish to be burdened with details. Suffice to say that the Council of the Association are examining the information brought back and, where appropriate, alterations will be made in our own internal arrangements. Your representatives were most impressed by the forcefulness of the arguments in favour of an Executive Committee to enable the Council to be more thoroughly an instrument for policy making without being sidled with the details of executive decisions. Opportunity would thus be found for each section to be afforded time for a short report. This means that most of the hard work must be done in small committees or sub-committees, which is broadly the policy of this Association. In committees, excepting the Executive Committee, co-optation should be resorted to so far as necessary to take advantage of specialist preferences and ability. The financial recommendations are being studied and, where appropriate, will be adopted by the Association.

The afternoon afforded a very brief and necessary respite in order to catch up with note-making and letter writing, and a relief for some of us from quite violent mental suggestion. Then followed a double session taken by the undoubted star of the course, Dr. W. Emrys Davies, B.A., B.Sc., etc., etc., Education Officer of the Central Council for Health Education. His purpose was to put over the excellent methods that organisation uses for Group Dis-

cusson. This discussion method has now largely replaced the lecture followed by question and answer methods, and has been found to be highly successful. He believed the failure of the old method was due to the barrier always set up between the platform or table and the audience. The barrier was more often than not a mental one, but was very tangible. Nowadays, the leader got rid of the barrier, took hold of the problem and then put the speaker at a table with chairs round it in among the audience. Then everyone had a feeling of equality and a sense of being responsible for any decision taken. A striking example was given to illustrate the value of this. A hospital in Iowa, U.S.A., was alarmed by statistics which showed that mothers who had been subjected to the old interview type training were most lax by the fourth week in the giving of orange juice and cod liver oil to their babies. By this time only 55 per cent. of them were using the cod liver oil, and 56 per cent. the orange juice. The new method was tried, and the results were staggering. Because the mothers themselves were responsible for the decision to start the vitamins, the training "stuck". At the end of the fourth week another count was made, and it was found that 88 per cent. were still using cod liver oil and 100 per cent. the orange juice.

Dr. Davies used some excellent promotional material in putting over his points. Gone are the days of the old blackboard and chalk. The use of Dorset cross and figures or symbols prepared beforehand (and saved afterwards for future use) has proved a great time-saver and must more effective in illustration. We have noted in great detail his suggestions and recommendations, and intend to use them at the first opportunity in getting discussion groups going. That is, if we can find the leaders willing and capable.

Of course, Dr. Davies is right at the top of his particular tree, so that our sessions with him could not fail, but I am quite satisfied that in this idea there is endless recreation and enjoyment for anyone who likes to talk round a table, and who doesn't?

On the subject of health, Dr. Davies showed us how the objects of the Central Council coincided with those of Community Associations. The United Nations World Health Organisation had produced after long discussion a definition of health which is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-

being." A three-fold state, that, is, and it is in the second and third parts that the work of an Association comes in, and he stressed that perfect physical well-being was not enough without the other parts. What are the facts? First, that one-half of all hospital beds are occupied with those patients who have mental sickness. Second, that figures show that 26 per cent. of the working population are neurotic, and a further 20 per cent. are suffering from minor mental ailments. Thus any action by an Association to promote mental and social well-being is of inestimable value in helping everyone to live healthier, more satisfying lives.

The course dispersed on the fifth day after discussions on items for next year's course and possible venues, and we left with a feeling of having spent a very valuable time, for our own benefit and for the benefit of the Association. Our thanks is due to the Surrey County Council for their grant towards expenses and to the organisations which ran the course, the N.C.S.S., the N.F.C.A., and the Wiltshire County Council. We made many friends, and gained a wealth of experience, but now comes the testing time. The whole thing will prove worth while only if (a) we are able to put over this knowledge that in its own field the Sheerwater C.A. is second to none, and this has particular reference to its magazine, of which everyone to whom we introduced it was highly envious, but the community properly. Although it must be taken into account that we have almost every conceivable interest and has no less than 43 local organisations affiliated to it. Visitors are welcome here, by the way, and we will gladly supply information to anyone likely to be in the vicinity.

No report of this nature can be complete without paying homage to the indefatigable Commander Rex Beahy, the Community Centre's Officer of the N.C.S.S., to whose untiring efforts the success of the course is largely due, and, last but not least, the Bursar and staff of the Royal Agricultural College, which provided a home for us during the proceedings.

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OSTMEN IN ROUGH THE
within 21 on page 17
They in 1709, postmen w...
sets in the evening and...
the... ringing a larg...
bell. Letters could be posted in a
slotted bag carried by the messenger.
Walking pillar boxes were given a penny
for their trouble when a letter was
posted. The postage was still paid at
the other end. Gradually the idea of
postmen spread to all large towns.

The swift and safe coaches were
introduced in 1784. The number of letters
carried increased greatly. Letter
carriers were given a uniform for the
first time. The London General Letter
Carriers had a red coat with blue facings,
and the London Penny Letter
Carriers had a blue coat with red facings.
A tall beaver hat with a cockade
was provided, but the men had to pro-
duce their own trousers and waistcoat
and boots.

Sir Rowland Hill introduced the uni-
form Penny Post in 1840, and again the
number of letters handled increased.
Under the reforms of Sir Rowland, let-
ters had to be delivered to every house
in town or country, so at last rural
letter carriers were employed. Between
the years 1852-1859 the red pillar boxes
began to appear on the scene, and the
box clearance system began. By now,
of course, postage was paid in advance.

However, the red uniforms of the
London General carriers were expensive
and soon became dirty in London's
smog. Sir Rowland in 1855 produced a
standard dress of blue frock coat and
trousers, with red piping and facings.
The beaver hat disappeared and was
replaced with the front and rear peaked
cap or "shako".

Finally, in 1883, when parcels were
carried, the name letter carrier disap-
peared, too, and they were henceforth
called postmen. Mechanisation arrived
too in the form of the "hen and
chickens," a bicycle with one large
wheel and four small ones. Since 1914
the number of motor vans has grown,
and now there are thousands covering
the rounds from John o' Groats to
Land's End. There are even a few post-
men who still use a horse, and some use
rowing boats to visit lighthouses or to
reach houses on islands. Abroad, the
Norwegian postmen use skis, and in
Lapland they use reindeer, in a typically
Father Christmas fashion. In Africa
the Zulus carry letters in forked sticks
and run over long distances. The Dutch
postman is well used to canals, and

one of our men follows the heli-
cote. And, of course, our children
will still remember the "ony Ex-
press and the Red King" even in this
age of motor cars and tele-
grams. So there we are. Next time you hear
that familiar "tat-a-tat-tat," spare
a thought for the letter carrier; his
roots grow right down into history.
R. B. BROOKS.

XMAS CARDS

Have you ordered your
Xmas Cards yet? As
mentioned in the Pylon last
month orders can now be
taken

5 for 2s.
or 6d. each

PLEASE LET THE EDITOR
HAVE YOUR ORDER AND
YOUR CASH

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