

VILLAGE COUNCIL

The Village Council was formed about five years ago with the aim of promoting good relationships between the various bodies within Quarrier's Village.

The primary function of the Council was to provide a forum for discussion on how best to achieve this relationship.

We have now established that step and whilst Quarrier's have been going through a great deal of change, the Council have made progress in bringing people together and making private house owners feel a part of the Village community.

This is achieved by an invitation and visit from a council member to welcome all new comers to the Village and to encourage them to join us at any functions being held. So far, a number of the new residents have accepted our offer and some are helping the Council on a regular basis.

Although progress is being made we have a long way to go and our thanks go to Quarrier's Council of Management for their encouragement and support in any activity we organise which is greatly appreciated.

In the past year we have become a member of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. More parents have come forward to assist in the older children's games night and recently we held our annual duck race and raised in excess of £300 for games and sporting equipment for the children. Our Fuzzy Wuzzy nights, on alternative Fridays, for the younger children are still in progress and the other Friday nights are allocated for the younger children's games night.

This year we held our Hallowe'en Party on October 28th and over 100 attended. Our primary children's Christmas Party will have taken place by the time this goes to press and I'm sure Santa will have paid us a visit.

The Village Council held their Annual Dinner Dance on Friday 2nd, December, in the Gryffe Arms Hotel. This event is always well attended and gives us an opportunity to meet each other socially and hopefully to encourage others to join us.

The New Year will be a busy time for the Committee and my thanks to them all for their support and hard work throughout the year in keeping the evergrowing Village community informed of all that is happening. We hope that 1989 will see our numbers grow and, with increased support, the Council will be able to continue its service to Quarrier's Village and be a credit to the whole caring community.

JOHN PORTEOUS

Stirling Project

Quarrier's furthest outpost, and the only one outside the Strathclyde region, is an Intermediate Treatment group which meets in Banded Industrial Estate outside Stirling. An industrial unit has been transformed from an uninteresting area into a bright, exciting environment.

This project is a joint Quarriers/Aberlour Child Care Trust scheme managed by Aberlour from their Stirling Headquarters.

John Pease, the Project Leader and his staff have designed and run an imaginative series of treatment programmes both in Banded and Alloa. This project in Central Region complements a similar piece of work undertaken by Barnardos in the Falkirk/Grangemouth area.

The major function is to provide a programme which operates as an alternative to residential care for those youngsters, designing individual programmes to suit the particular needs of each young person. The purpose is to prevent social behavior from these boys and to create other areas of interest, such as planning for expeditions, craft work, and other challenging activities.

Befrienders are linked up with the young boys, to create a trusting and stable relationship with these youngsters, who so often suffer from insecure backgrounds.

The project staff are hoping to extend their successful work into the Stirling and Raploch areas and, as care becomes more expensive, it would seem that a good way forward is to have more collaborative ventures in the voluntary sector, as this project has surely proved.

Former Boys & Girls Association

The Association of the Former Boys and Girls is now into its ninth year and as news of our Association spreads the number of former boys and girls contacting us grows. Our membership is now 540 (listed), many of Quarrier's former children keep in contact with the Association itself, and we are always pleased to hear from them; some of them visit their former Cottage while others drop us a line or just phone to ask how we all are at Quarrier's.

Our big event of the year is "Thanksgiving" when we have our Annual General Meeting followed by a Dinner Dance in the evening. This year we hope to have a group of our Canadian friends with us, some of them having been brought up in Quarrier's over 60-70 years ago, others are the descendents of ex Quarrier children who emigrated to Canada.

The Main function of the Association is to assist if needed any ex Quarrier Boy or Girl and this helps to alleviate the costs to Quarriers. Quarrier's is and always will be a "caring" society and do look after their children even though these same children have long since passed out of Quarrier's official care and one way of showing this caring attitude was for the Quarrier's Management to give to the former Boys and Girls Cottage No. 8, to be used as a guest house for any boy or girl to have a short holiday or just spend a restful weekend at their former home. The Association employs a full time Housekeeper to look after the house and to care for those who come for holidays.

and as word gets around, it is sometimes difficult to fit in all those who wish to stay there, especially at Thanksgiving. However we are always pleased when our former Boys and Girls contact us.

Quarriers Village Council

CHAIRMAN	Mr. J. Porteous
VICE CHAIRMAN	Mrs. A. Todd
EX OFFICIO Secretary	Mrs. A. Blair
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
	Mrs. C. Hill, Mr. F. McCarroll, Mr. P. Guest,
	Mr. K. Whitty, Mr. D. Harris,
	Mr. J. Mortimer, Mr. H. Munro,
	Mr. W. Dunbar.

The Village Council was formed to promote the integration of our residents and our new residents in the Village. We are not a Community Council, but deal solely with what is happening in our Village. We arrange social outings, have helped parents form their own group in organising a games night for all the children of the Village. The games night is proving very popular.

Last year we organised a "Duck Race" followed by a Coffee Evening and we are hoping that we may run this event again later in the year. We have had outings to the Edinburgh Tattoo, have had a "Scots Night" all of which have been very successful.

Any problems that our new residents have the Village Council are only too pleased to assist in ironing out as the Council acts as an intermediary Committee, which can ask Mr. Mortimer to speak on our behalf to the Quarrier's Board of Management, who in turn are prompt with the information we require.

Under 6's Forum

Mrs. Maureen Buist's appointment from 1st April as Development Officer, four days per week with the Forum and one day a week at Quarrier's is opening a variety of doors and is exciting proof of how different voluntary organisations can work well together.

The Scottish Child and Family Alliance has up to now depended upon its executive members to organise all its events and to take responsibility for its publicity. It has been particularly fortunate in having a group of people who have been highly motivated and prepared to give a great deal of their time to the Association, but the work has now grown too large for such voluntary effort and it is essential that someone should be available, who is able to approach the work single mindedly.

Mrs. Buist is concentrating on the development of training and support to Family Centres and will also be producing a regular newsletter and conference programme.

Retiral

Miss Lesley B. Crawford retired from her post as Officer in Charge in Campbell Snowdon, the Abbeyfield Extra Care Unit at Quarrier's. Miss Crawford was previously Administrator at the Royal Infirmary and was employed by Abbeyfield on a 5 year contract at the beginning of 1984, to help establish their Extra Care Unit, which was officially opened in 1984.

We wish Miss Crawford many happy years of retirement at her home in Gourrock.

New Appointments

Mrs. Mary Ritchie has been Deputy to Miss Crawford since the opening of Campbell Snowdon and has now taken over the post of Officer in Charge. We wish Mrs. Ritchie best wishes and every success in her new post.

Mrs. Ros Park was trained at Lennox Castle Hospital as a Registered Nurse for Mental Handicap. When she left there in 1979, Ros took up a post as Staff Nurse at Broadfield Hospital, Port Glasgow, which caters for mentally handicapped families of all ages. She was promoted to the post of "Sister" within 4 months, a job which she did for three years.

Ros moved from Broadfield in September 1982 to Quarrier's, as one of two deputies to the Officer in Charge, to help set up Fountainview, which was a brand new unit for the rehabilitation of mentally handicapped adults. Ros worked in Fountainview for 5½ years before being appointed to her new post in April as Assistant Manager/Nursing (Care) at the Epilepsy Centre. Ros deputises for Mrs. Sharpe, the Manager, and is in charge of the Care Staff, ensuring that standards are high, co-ordinating staff duties for holidays, helping with the Consultant's clinics and the specialist services in the EEG unit, filling in when necessary in the Medical Unit and hopes to begin some training sessions for the staff in the near future. We wish Ros all the best and hope that she enjoys her new challenge.

New Appointments Monitoring Unit

Quarrier's have opened their doors to the field of research by employing Dr. Alison Kerr as Research Consultant/Senior Lecturer, on a part-time basis, two days a week as from March this year. Dr. Kerr has set up a Monitoring Unit at the Epilepsy Centre, in conjunction with our Chief Technician, Mrs. Pat Amos.

Dr. Kerr is Senior Registrar at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, and has been involved in the study and research of Rett Syndrome, the severe neurological disorder which affects young girls, (Refer to Newsheet, Autumn 1987).

Dr. Kerr is preparing a paper on the studies carried out this year for presentation at the International Conference on Rett Syndrome in Vienna in November this year, to which Mrs. Amos and Dr. Kerr have been invited.

Quarrier's new Monitoring Unit played host to the first clinical meeting of the European Hands Research Group, initiated by Prof. Gilles Lyon (Brussels). Representatives from the fields of paediatric neurology, neuropathology, psychology and psychiatry met and agreed a basis for co-ordinated research into disorders of hand movement in mental handicap. This was an excellent meeting and laid the foundation for good future research. The group welcomes new members from different disciplines, who are active in research and also expressed great admiration at the services being provided at Quarrier's.