27 Nov. 1969

14 Nov 1970

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november 27 1969 to November 14 1970

Thursday. November 27 1969. Stiff neck still with me: this makes since Monday evening so I gave the L. L. P. meeting the miss this evening. This morning I drew pension and did some shopping and was able to purchase a copy of 'Sense & Sensibility' at Mary's shop so I did some mugging up for the Tuesday class this afternoon. I found this work very readable so I enjoyed my mugging up. This is the plainest description of the Romantic movement's weakness-s, in fiction form, that I have come across as yet. Of course there are plenty of non-fiction work that is anti. "Sense and Sensibility" makes good play by creating characters to stress each side of the argument, and during the years the book has been in circulation almost every body who has read it would be on the side of "Sense" so this book has served a good purpose. Salutes to Jane Austin. An uneventful evening.

Friday November ~~29~~ 28. Did a bit of dusting and some shopping in the morning and we received a letter from Bunty, letting us know that she is going into hospital until the new baby arrives. Dorothy endeavoured to get in touch but the house appeared to be empty. We shall, perhaps be able to hear from Bunty or John this evening. I telephoned Colin and told him that I should not be attending the W.E.A. class this evening: for one thing, my neck is still uncomfortably stiff down the right side and, this evening Rosemary Andrewes came for a meal with us. Dorothy and I met her at our first High Sheriff's Party: she was in attendance of her uncle, Alan Stevens, who was the Mayor of Bexhill during my

first year as Mayor of Lewes. He was Bexhill's first Labour Mayor and, being a batchelor he had no wife for Mayoress, hence Rosemary being with him on that occasion. She was training as a newspaper reporter and she has since moved to Lewes on the Sussex Express staff. She is very eager to learn about various things and is frequently away on courses and Dorothy has been of assistance to her on Lewes Local History. This evening we talked about various matters, ranging from the Maud report to world-wide subjects such as Viet Nam, which is getting more complex and ghastly and is made to appear as though the situation is all the fault of U.S.A. and for some years past now has been a subject of a good deal of protesting and, what is bad, very emotional thinking. I say "very bad" because a good deal of judging of ordinary subjects or people appears to be done on the basis of "What is his/her attitude on Viet Nam?" Particular atrocities, or alleged atrocities, are picked out and and made to appear as the general conduct of America. All this sort of non-reasoning I consider very bad. However, we three had a pleasant evening and not all the time was used up on the troubles of the world. Dorothy and I enjoyed the company of Rosemary very much.

Saturday November 29. Having got her cargo of jam to the Friends of Hellingly Hospital bazaar at the Town Hall via Roy Lambert, and inspected the bazaar herself, Dorothy went to the White Elephant shop for the rest of the morning and ~~this~~ the afternoon. I went sick with my neck and the doctor diagnosed the beginnings of shingles so my mind is more at rest now and I can set about getting it better by the simple method of following his instructions. When my neck is stiff I generally blame it on to spondilitus. I hope this business of shingles will prove (a) to be stopped in time or (b), got over as simply as may be. To both of these ends I am taking his tablets. i.e. Antibiotics: pain killers of this particular pain, and calomine to dab on it, and may good fortune attend me and the thing prove to be as (a) above. While waiting for the making up of my prescription I had a look at the bazaar and was present at the opening ceremony which was done by the High Sheriff. I noticed he was attended by Reg as Mayor and Reg had neither chain or badge on! I betook myself home and carried out the doctor's orders, going out no more today and enjoying some reading and watching some wrestling. There was a competitor in the wrestling who was 6' 7" in height and weighed 21 stone: he rejoiced, at least I hope he rejoiced in the Rabelasian name of Gargantua as a nom-de-plume. Matched against a good looking Spaniard of a mere 15 stone, he seemed to have a piece of cake to deal with, so it was greatly to the delight of the women in the ringside seats, and to me, that the big fellow was quite often taking the place of the underdog. The difference between the female spectators and me was that my pleasure was caused by the good wrestling that the little (scr) Spaniard had

to produce to enable him to make any show against Gargantua, and the women's pleasure was caused by the young Spaniards good looks and "Mr Universe" build. Unfortunately the programme came to an end before the end of this bout so I shall never know what the verdict was. We spent a quiet evening sometimes with me reading and sometimes watching television. Derby v Notts Forest.

Sunday November 30. As can be imagined I have stopped indoors all day. and I have done plenty of reading of all kinds. After a very cold night the temperature has been a bit warmer. I have read some of "Sense + Sensibility" for the Tuesday morning class. Some of "Ulyses" aloud, and some contemporary philosophy. I find that when talking of philosophy I have to use the word contemporary because to say modern in regard to philosophy means, roughly speaking, from Rousseau onwards!

Monday December 1 1969. Didn't go out all day and kept to the Doctor's advice. I was absent from all meetings in fact. Dorothy went to the County Committee meeting of the R.C.C. The neck was not too good but I believe the shingles has been halted by the anti-biotics

Tuesday December 2. While Dorothy was at the W.E. shop I did a bit of dusting and walked as far as Ken Day's shop to find how the meetings went off yesterday. Met two or three people who advised me, since I had shingles, to get back indoors. A strange thing is that when one has a sickness or complaint about which one has never given a moments thought. No sooner do you get it than it seems a great many of your acquaintance have had it, all of your acquaintance have some experience of it by way of friends or relations having it, and you are the only one who know nothing about it! I had phoned Hilda Chandler to excuse myself from attending the W.E.A. Tuesday morning class, for which I had read up "Sense + Sensibility" and Hilda came down this afternoon regarding W.E.A. matters. She brought down a remedy for shingles which one of the class had written when Hilda had apprised them of my predicament! Hilda is a remarkable woman: and it is hard to believe that she is older than me, so much energy plus so clear a head has she. Dorothy did not go back to the shop this afternoon and did some shopping towards tea-time. I am afraid the shingles had not improved by the time I went to bed so I feel rather disapointed. All the commitments, most of them very pleasing, that I shall have to miss. Still think of all the people I have mentioned above who have had to do with shingles and who have never mentioned it! After now I'll only allude to it in a very brief way.

Wednesday December 3. When I woke this morning I found de shingles had settled down into the prickling pain that I understand is part of the malady. This means it is going to take its course and I am accordingly going to take the advice of my well-wishers of yesterday and stop indoors. Actually I feel very well bodily, but this thing is gradually spreading round to the right side of my face and I shan't be able to shave tomorrow morning. I have missed the meeting of the Lewes Exhibition Trust this morning and this evening the St John's Ambulance presentations Dorothy is going down instead of me for it is the night when Asl.'s cup is presented to the best first aid man. Later I looked at the T.V. and read for awhile and Dorothy arrived home at about ten o'clock, having enjoyed the time spent with the S.J. Brigade. In spite of the constant tingle of the shingle I quite enjoyed the soccer match between the two Manchester clubs and some wrestling later. Went to bed after twelve o'clock. I shall be very glad when I shake off this indisposition

Thursday December 4. I forgot to mention in yesterdays notes that the tickets we had bought for the Com Sq. B. S. would obviously be no good to us now so we gave them to Tony Fuller and his wife. He joyfully accepted them. I arose soon after seven o'clock and got on with some of this writing having spent a very uncomfortable time lying in bed after waking. This is all I shall say about it; because on ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday I did say I would only mention it in a brief way. Anyway, this morning I found I was ever so much more comfortable once I was up. Dorothy went out shopping and, apparently met a great many people who wished me a swift recovery. She also got in touch with Joan Freyne who will possibly be able to go with Dorothy to the L.T. wine & cheese party this evening. I did quite an amount of reading this morning and afternoon, but while I am in this state I haven't much to write about. Can't seem to get the knack of digressing, or rather, letting the pen run away with me either, so this writing will appear somewhat forced. [Later] Dorothy arrived back from the Grange Party with Joan and Ted Freyne. They had, all three, enjoyed the evening and were very sympathetic to my indisposition and Joan warned me to keep ~~warm~~ warm!! They both looked very well with Joan positively looking much better.

Friday December 5. I have passed the same kind of day; and, I suppose, I must continue to do so for a few more days. Dorothy has done shopping and all sorts of other work but has been quite "regimental" in keeping me, or making sure I am, warm. This is very good for me; there is no doubt about that, but it means I have to keep reading: a situation circumstance? which I have always wanted, but now, mainly through reading a lot during my life, at age 70 I am extremely well and to be physically inactive is very galling. However, it doesn't appear that this complaint will last much longer. We lost two more bye elections. One of our own seats and one a hopeless Tory

Saturday December 6 A very cold day, at least so I understand. I've been in the warm all day and the shingles is now fast disapearing. Dorothy has done the shopping and has spent the morning and afternoon at the shop. I am rather concerned about Dorothy because she tells me there is a noise, as of a rushing in her head. I must insist she goes to the doctor tomorrow or the next day. Well, yesterday, as I have indicated I did nothing by not going out. Read some contemporary Philosophy from my new book besides the Times and watched some football and some wrestling on the "telly". By the way, while I was about it I had a look because of curiosity about the Anti-apartheid demonstrations at the Test Match (Rugby) Scotland v. Spring-Boks (South Africa). The demonstration took its expected course. Hundreds of police in the struggle and the police have to be paid for out of the rates. Twenty-five thousand spectators instead of the usual eighty thousand. What I was most concerned with, however, was the rugby game. I have heard that rugby came about in the nineteenth century because the boys of public schools were unable to keep the rules which make real ~~football~~ association football a delight to watch. Having watched some of the game yesterday I have come to the conclusion that rugby is surely the most childish game that could be imagined. It is one that is mostly concerned with the gaining of territory by brute force. As the commentator remarked at the end, "The people who wanted to play Rugby have played rugby, and those people who wanted to demonstrate against arpartheid have so demonstrated". I see it rather differently. A particularly childish game has been played which has included mauling, handing off, kicking (this latter was noticed by the commentator who mentioned that the particular Scottish player had no real need to "put the boot in") so I suppose it is a fairly usual thing to happen in this type of game. On the other hand I see some people who are supposed to be demonstrating but who are really making themselves a nuisance by interfering with other people in addition to the organisers of the test match. This idea of freedom to do what you want to do in a country has its price, and the price is paid by the John Does (who are the vast majority). I can't see today's, or any of the demonstrations about this tour having much effect on South Africa's racial policy, but if it makes one less set of games such as was shown this afternoon I wouldn't grieve

Sunday December 7. Wet all day and I'm confined to barracks any way. Did a lot of reading ~~allowed~~ aloud and some to myself. BC

Monday December 8. A fine day and I went round to the Doctor. He is quite satisfied but says precautions must still be carried out so after a short walk round, and after meeting two or three people who said what a painful and horrible complaint shingles was, I stopped in for the rest of the day and followed my usual procedure. Dorothy did the washing but did not go to her meeting of the "Friends of Hellingly Hospital". It

is about time she had a rest but I can't persuade her to let the doctor look into the causes of the noises in her head. I did some reading aloud from Linklater's "Merry Muses" and we watched quite an interesting little play which guyed clergyman meeting in a group to talk about why their message is not acceptable: guyed the "modern" or avante guard who pretend they are not "all there" and yet are "with it": and showed to glorious advantage the women who really were doing decent "human" work in the care of children, and who saw through the iconography of these two extremes to their real worth, and then got on with doing something which was really worth doing.

Tuesday December 9. Rose soon after seven and got on with some writing. I shall soon have to start my physical care again. Can't remain away from it too long now I am better. When Joan Freyne looked in (last Thursday) she looked ever so much better as I believe I have mentioned and she has kept her weight extremely well in hand by the use of exercises on the same principle as mine. Some weeks back she told me about them and I am very glad they are so successful firstly because it has made her feel better, and, secondly, because there is proof now through a body separate from mine that the principle is sound. I have spent the day indoors except for a short walk round to the Library. Saw Eve & Christine who were rather surprised at me being laid up. Christine seems to be coping with her situation, or at least putting a brave face on it because she seemed quite happy when I enquired how she was. Read a little of Linklater aloud this evening and then saw "Blithe Spirit". Light stuff but quite amusing.

Wednesday December 10. Got up at 6-45: really earlier than I meant, but I spent the time quite profitably by reading some of Don Juan's speech from the third act of Shaw's "Man and Superman". In reading this one can see the attraction of what Russell calls the "Irrationality of Bergson". Shaw's writing is good readable stuff which compells one to read on. We received the news by way of Peter Sharpe, on Monday that Dr. Henry Collins the leading tutor in Extra-mural studies, Oxford University and lately transfered to the University of Sussex, has died suddenly. He took our W.E.A. class in Lewes for three years in the early sixties and was to take another next session. There is quite a big obituary notice in the "Times" and, tomorrow, Hilda Chandler and I are going to the cremation. This morning Dorothy went to a coffee-morning at Dagmar Gann's and this afternoon to the Bells infant school concert. I am having to apologise for absence from these things but I hope that I will be carrying on again soon. It will be quite a relief, because apart from the discomfort of the affected parts (my neck and right cheek) I have felt pretty well and to have so many people sending

their regards makes me feel as though I am "Swinging the boat"! This evening there was the Old Peoples Welfare Committee quarterly general meeting to attend and Dorothy had to do that alone also. All told then, she has had a day that has not been very different from when she was the Mayoress. I spent some time reading and some "looking-in". I shall be pleased when I can go out and about again

Thursday December 11 Up at 6-30 and woke Dorothy at 7 or so because we had a good deal to do and Dorothy was due to look after the grandsons as soon as she could get to Potsham so she went thither fairly early. Later on in the morning the car came to take me to Brighton for the cremation of Dr. Henry Collins. Mr Buxton was the driver and we picked Hilda Chandler up on St Annes Hill. Hilda is the secretary of Lewes Branch W.E.A. and, since another member of the Branch had died, and was buried this morning (and by a curious co-incidence it was a Miss Pat Collins though no relation to Henry) Hilda Chandler had already attended Pat's funeral before coming on with us to Henry's, Moreover, Pat's funeral was a Catholic one and Henry's a Humanist or Secularist one. Hilda thus attended the two extremes in funerals, or disposals of the dead. This was the first secularist one that I had attended and the idea seemed to me very good. A man spoke on Henry's life and his work and some music played as the curtains closed on the coffin. One thing was rather unfortunate, it was very difficult to hear what the man was saying. I had placed my dinner in the oven, as instructed by Dorothy, before I went, and, true to her prediction it was just right when I arrived home. Dorothy arrived home later. I tried a walk up to Unwins but the cold rain made things rather unpleasant and, in view of everyone's advice to keep warm because of shingles. One curious thing this afternoon. There is an empty house down the road. Through certain circumstances it has remained unoccupied for some time and yesterday an estate agent brought me two letters out of a bundle which he said he had picked up from the doormat of this unoccupied house. The two letters were Christmas cards which had been sent to us at Christmas 1968. Talk about "Bleak House". This mail means that no one has entered the house down the road for more than a year.

Friday December 12. I kept in all day today and I shall be very glad to be out again. However, the weather has been so miserably wet and cold that it is quite nice to know one hasn't got to go out. I spent some time writing a letter to Bunty which I will finish tomorrow. Dorothy has spent some time at the shop and things still seem to be going well as regards selling things. Colin Bourne looked in this evening, being prepared, if I was thinking of attending the course at the Grange, to take me there, but I did not go and we had a talk for awhile. Joan B. is going back to work on Monday. so she is now better. Colin looked well and brought some articles for sale in the shop

Saturday. December 13. I hope today has been the last of my days in. Beyond clearing up and so on I have done nothing to exert myself except some exercises which I have started again after these two weeks or so of being "laid up". Today I haven't even done much reading so I must be getting lazy. I finished the letter to Bunty and did a little writing. The agenda has arrived for the Council Meeting on Wednesday evening so I must go through that tomorrow and make myself acquainted with "what is toward". On B.B.C. 2 this evening there was quite the worst programme of "Entertainment" I have ever seen. Fortunately it was only a short one called the "Where house". For sheer all-round badness I have never seen anything worse. By the nature of it, it does seem as though the B.B.C. is giving jobs for the boys in the shape of putting some people's productions on, whatever their worth. I hope a goodly number of protests are sent up to the B.B.C. Head Office. ah well tsk

Sunday December 14. A very rainy and rough day. At least, all the morning was. The afternoon improved a little: the wind stopped and the sun appeared at times. So my going out for a walk had to be postponed again: but ~~today~~ tomorrow I must make a start again with my many obligations. Leslie Worsfield brought round my certificate for the Doctor to sign me off the sick list. Well, I've done nothing today except study the agenda for the Council Meeting which is on Wednesday. I can't see anything particularly controversial in any of the items: and, this being the last one before Christmas, things should pass off fairly quietly. Anyway, I shall be glad to get back into swing council-wise as I shall be glad to "get back" to my own way of conducting my personal, or private life. I did read some of Hoggarts "Uses of Literacy" yesterday so I have not entirely lost touch. I was struck with the difference that has come about in the newspaper and magazine world since he produced this book. Still, his notes and general approach still hold good. Some parts of a man's work always holds good, witness my favourites, Locke and Spinoza and the pleasure I obtain from reading their works is worth something even apart from the lessons they endeavour to put over. It has occurred to me just at this minute and a propo of what I have just written that, besides a mathematical truth (i.e. 2+2=4) being eternally true and these being those things which are can always be proved to be true, there is another thing that is true although not so easy to prove so. There seems to me to be some men's wisdom, in dealing with a situation, which shows principles (I don't know what how else to describe them) that are, or seem to be, as eternally true as natural laws.

Monday December 15. I went out this morning as I had promised myself and I had quite a pleasant little potter round and did a few shopping jobs including the paying for three weeks papers. I was informed that the Local, the "Sussex Express" has gone up again. Why we should keep paying more for our papers because they are bigger through carrying more pages of advertisements I

don't know. This applies not only to the Local, but to all newspapers. They must get a much bigger income for adverts by way of the extra pages. I think there should be a test by the method they all acclaim, a free market and competition between many papers. But their praise of a way of life does not mean they believe in it enough to try it out and, in the free enterprise (sic) world of newspapers there is no such thing as a paper that is owned singly. All monopoly owned. This evening the Round Table held their Annual Wine & Cheese party in aid of their local Charities and Dorothy and I attended. Quite an enjoyable evening during which we spent some time with two women, whom Dorothy knew, a Mr. Stewart and a Mrs Williams. I was more in the company of Mrs Williams who is a very lively eighty. I hope I am as well in ten years time when I shall be eighty! The Ladies Circle (which is composed of the wives of the Round Tablers) had taken charge of the decorating of the Town Hall and it was very picturesque with very dim lighting obtained by candles here and there. One of the chief functions of gatherings of this nature is, in my opinion, the social opportunity, the opportunity to talk with various people and to be able to look on an ever-changing scene which I find very attractive. On this occasion, however, one could not distinguish people from across the hall as the dim lighting, however much it may have helped towards the financial success, did not add to the social occasion. A sign of the changing

Tuesday December 16. I don't know to what the words "A sign of the changing" with which I concluded yesterdays entry referred. I was called away and left the sentence unfinished and for now it is completely gone from my memory. Dorothy went to the shop this morning where she was alone but raked in £8. which was augmented by another £2 this afternoon. I attended the W.E.A. class in the morning at Dagmar Gann's house, and this being the last course before Christmas, we (the class) had lunch there. This course on the "Romantic" writers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century has now developed fully into what I have been hoping for, a proper appreciation of what the Romantic movement really meant. This afternoon I drew my signing-off sickness certificate from the Doctors and had a short talk with Peggy Neighbour, put over £500 into the "Local Loans" of the Otley R.D.C. and looked into the Library for a brief while. This evening, when Dorothy had rested from her endeavours at the shop, we had a look at the television and much enjoyed Cribbens, who I think is one of the best entertainers going. I received notice that an appeal board, of which I am to be a member, to do with the Technical College, has been postponed from tomorrow until next Monday. This will be a help to me because I am getting rather over-crowded and there also arrived, to-day, quite an amount of stuff to do with the Joint Steering Committee on the Leeds Planning of Traffic This joint Committee is the C.C. and the Boro C. and there is

no doubt that the C.C. has made quite a big effort to be more accomodating over the future of Lewes. The matter they have sent shows the very best of intentions. The doubt arises when it is considered how the C.C have, over the years, been leaving this matter to "rather ambitious and single minded planning officer. How much are their members still this way inclined? The answer is not in the lap of the gods and will be learned when we meet next monday. Today the debate and vote on the retention of capital punishment (execution) is taking place in Parliament I should imagine that those who are in favour of the abolition of the death penalty will carry the day. This is not merely wishful thinking on my part. I should not be against the death penalty for organized acts of crime which cause death. I am only against it for the reason that it allows no room for error, and, moreover, there are a very great number of murders which are not committed by habitually violent or criminal persons, and I would not be in favour of execution in these cases. Therefore, if we are to try and differentiate between different kinds of murder we should be in the same position of being liable to make mistakes, more so, in fact, because it would mean a good deal of arguing. I come to the conclusion that the death penalty had better go

Wednesday December 17th. A wet, dark morning. Later in the day there was an improvement but only to the extent that it stopped raining, the coldness remained with occasional sleet, so what little shopping there was to do, Dorothy did very quickly. This afternoon we went to St Annes School to see the Nativity play. This school is the E.S.N. school and we have been present at their functions for a number of years. I am, generally speaking, moved by the carrying out of all these plays by the children of whatever schools I go to each year, and particularly is this so with St Annes E.S.N. I have the very greatest admiration for the people who do marvellous work on these children. I was noticing, today, the amount of confidence Miss Watling, the tall, quiet and affectionate head mistress inspires in these children: the patient quiet work done by the music teacher that produces such effective "choral" singing of the carols; the smooth running of an affair such as this today which makes me realise the good work of all the staff and which must create in these children some measure of security and so self-confidence. We went there at 2-15 p.m. and left about 4, I having promised to attend the party tomorrow (as Dorothy has to go to Patcham) In a rather heavy sleet storm we walked to the Town Hall and were soon among the guests at the Christmas Party of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee. More good work carried out by people who do this sort of public work in a town. In this journal, on December 11 1968, I have described this party from a Mayor's outlook. This year I met Reg Varrow (the Mayor) and he had that part to do and, after tea, both he and I had the Council Meeting to attend. At this meeting, the finance committee having recommended a lift in the Mayor's allowance of £200, besides the printing

costs which were all to had applied for) the Council went into Committee. I kept out of the discussion on the recommendation but I spoke strongly against a further increase of £100 which was proposed by Councillor Franks and this was beaten. The present Conservative majority on the Council contains one or two ~~rather~~ of the type of people who, whatever their profession ~~or~~ or speciality, are amazingly ignorant. Altogether then, the meeting took a good deal of time and it was quite late by the time I arrived home. I watched some very good wrestling before I retired

~~Wednesday~~ Thursday December 18. Dorothy went to Patcham to look after the boys and she was driven there by Joan of Freyne who called about 9 a.m. I did some shopping, drew 2 weeks pension and purchased my usual weekly sherry at Unwins. I generally get my sherry there because they are nice friendly people and Mrs Wilkinson is a very good singer who is always willing to help in the entertaining of the Old Peoples and the various other charities there are in the town. I had received an invitation to be present this afternoon at St Annes C.S.N. school party (Dorothy and I went to the schools nativity play yesterday) and here (today) I spent a very pleasant afternoon and had tea with the school. I learnt more about the way the school is run, or I should say managed because I was in the company of one of the teachers a Miss Steiner at teatime. I have talked about the work done at this school by these women, so beyond drawing attention to Miss Watling and her staffs devotion to their work, I won't write any more. I walked home about 4-30, Dorothy arrived home soon afterwards and reported on how the boys were and cooked some sausages she had bought on the way home and, when we had consumed these sausages, we did not go out any more. That reads as though the sausages took away our powers of locomotion but I didn't mean that.

Friday December 19. This morning Dorothy and I did some shopping: the weather was very cold and damp and part of the time, before the shopping, we got on with Christmas correspondence. Met many people in the town all of them full of Xmas business. Having looked into the W. Ele. Shop, Dorothy decided to give a hand there this afternoon and so I went to the Bells school party on my own, after dinner, and I enjoyed the magic Hubert Caddy served up for the kids as much as they did!! I delivered a few Christmas cards and, later, Dorothy and I went to the Mayors party for the members and officers and we did enjoy the company and the hospitality of Reg Yarrow and Mrs Yarrow, the Mayor and Mayoress. This entry of today does read like a kids essay on "How I spent my day" but this is unavoidable, short of leaving it blank, and, after all, this is a journal. In one respect it is good: I am not supplementing the entry with my opinions on various matters, which I find I am in the habit of doing. I received the hearing of Tech Students appeal hearing for Monday

Saturday December 20 a straight forward Saturday morning just doing shopping and, while Dorothy did washing etc in the afternoon, I did some watching of wrestling on the television, among other things. A quiet evening. Holiday's time over. Lots of home work for Monday next

Sunday December ~~22~~ 21 Another very wet day. However that was a help rather than a hindrance because I stuck at the study of the agenda and reports that have to be dealt with at the joint steering Committee, made up of the B.C. and the Borough Council on Monday afternoon. There is a great deal to be got through. However, I had a look at the "Big Match" and watched West Ham beat the Spurs 2-0. and then got on with things again. I have only been for a short walk to Fisher Street pillar box. Dorothy and I spent a peaceful evening. BL

Monday December 22. Up at seven; a wet, blowy morning: and I took a further glance through the history of the "Student Suspension" case. It rained so hard that I had to 'phone Mr. Beck to send the car up and so I went down there in style. The erring student, a youth of almost eighteen, had spent most of his time being absent from College and so wasted an enormous amount of time (everybody's time). He was the type, one would judge from the weak face, who would be easily led away from the course set for him, (at his own request) and paid for by his parents. He would be easily led away, I say, not by worthless companions, but by his own way of doing nothing he could possibly avoid doing, unless it pleased him and nothing would please him for long. There was also in the history a mention of his taking of drugs. There was no doubt, as far as I could see (and I left the drug-taking out of it) that he lived in a kind of subjective world from which it would be a kindness to extricate him by shock so we upheld the suspension until next September, giving notice to the County Welfare ~~org~~ and the Youth Employment officer to enable him to get a job and advising the lad to do some ordinary work and do his further education at the Evening Classes if he wants to. I shouldn't imagine he really wants any further education anyway, he would surely not have absented himself from it if he did. He had with him a young girl student, who was the official of the Students' union, as an advocate, as it were and I felt enormously sorry for her. She could only plead extenuating circumstances (parent trouble and drug taking) for all his admitted backslidings and pointed out he was a kind boy at heart. I felt sorry for her because her efforts had nothing to back or support them. Major Knight gave me a lift home; and if it had not been for this I would assuredly have had a job to get home, lunch, and then get to our Council Offices by 1-30. As it was, I was home from the College in no time, Dorothy had lunch ready and I was in good time. At the Office we made some sort of plan

of the line we would take at the Steering Committee. The business here passed off very well and we did get some way towards "getting something to steer". I will write of the matters we got started later. Dorothy and I passed a quiet evening and I did not go out any more. Burly sent a hamper of viands and wine & spirits and that was very nice of her. She will be out of hospital at Christmas and we do hope that she will be able, through the precautions she and the hospital have taken, to bring things to a successful conclusion. I found there were some more cards which had been sent to us so I must get them answered tomorrow. It has been quite a hard day mentally but not much on the physical side when my car riding is taken into consideration. However, I will now recommence my procedure of Training. Frank gave us a L.P. record for a present and he also has one of nursery rhymes-rhymes for the boys.

Tuesday. December 23. I had a wakeful night: quite like old times before last February before I had some sleeping tablets. I therefore resolved to get some more today and, later on, applied for a prescription, picked it up this afternoon and have now been fitted up with the means to help me to sleep. Anyway I arose at 6 a.m. wrote up, read up some of Aristotle's Ethics, exercised lungs legs and trunk and went shopping, with Dorothy, on Christmas stuff. I also did some more pasting of Christmas cards and I am afraid I am not able to send any more, it's too late. I must return one to Mr. Reynolds because he has sent me a beauty, and I wasn't expecting this, not being Mayor. Since I first met Mr Reynolds by way of applying for a job, or rather, an opportunity to learn a job in the very beginning of 1943 we have each got to understand and appreciate the qualities of each other, and anyone who reads this journal will have learned how much I admire the humane & tolerant qualities he possesses: and I have been I.O.C. for the "Paper-workers" and consequently have had, at various times, to meet him and thresh some matter out that was only approachable by each of us from opposite directions. It is the sort, or kind, of setting where you can best learn about the best in your man, although I know a great many of my contemporaries would say "And the worst". However, my approach is always to expect the best because I look for it and then try to form a synthesis formed by the best parts of our differing points of view.

Wednesday December 24. A busy day, as one may imagine Christmas Eve to be. Dorothy went shopping early while I cleared up a bit and arranged the Christmas cards round the two rooms. I did not wake until the milkman came for the money, at eight am. so I realised I had spent a good restful night. So no exercise, mental or physical, on this busy day. At eight o'clock P.M. we went by way of Back's car up to 68 Prince Edwards Road and saw Winnie and Issy. Issy seemed rather depressed and Winnie

seemed alright and the place appeared to be in apple pie order. This afternoon Joan and Bert came over from Patcham with the two boys Mark and Robin, So we were pretty lively for a bit. Bert told me that, since leaving the Ministry of Overseas Development, he has kept pretty busy. doing a great deal more for the Coop movement. We spoke about the Coop and B.B.C disagreement which took place some time back and the effects it could have had on the movement as a whole and the effect it, in fact, did have. Frank came round and was great company for the boys and he, Bert and family left us at about five to go round to Frank's place before returning home to at Patcham.

Thursday. December 25. An extraordinary quiet Christmas Day for Dorothy and me. Phyllis 'phoned from New Zealand at about 7-30 a.m. as she is wont to do on Christmas morning, although it is not always at the same time. Dorothy and I went out for a walk (quite an unusual thing for us to do on Christmas morning, because, being Mayor or not being Mayor we have never had the time before) and we just followed our noses as the saying is and finally came home from Southover district via Keere Street and New Road. We had a light lunch and then watched a few "Christmassy" things on T.V. (circus etc) and then Dorothy produced a grand dinner of best steak. Frank came round and the three of us very much enjoyed the dinner. We sat in the front room afterwards and talked and I was able to grasp the wide experiences Frank has had of travelling and working abroad especially in the diplomatic services, what I might call, domestic side. Very interesting.

Friday December 26. Today followed the course that has become customary with us for Boxing Day. A visit to Patcham and to Joan and Bert's. Once again the quietness of this xmas was striking and this was partly caused by the absence of Bunty, John and Helen who were not able to come because of the expected baby, and Bunty only being allowed out of the hospital, where she is spending the last few weeks of her pregnancy, for a day or so. There seemed to me to be a great increase in the number of vehicles on the roads and the faster speed was noticable. It was not really surprising, then, that the news broadcast an increase, rather a bad one, in the number of casualties as compared with last Christmas. This is all very discouraging. There are road improvements continually being made and there are many new roads especially designed for safe motoring. There are wide, splayed corners to give the motorist better visibility. There are departments of the police given over entirely to trying to control the traffic flow and there are wonderful mechanical devices to assist in control On top of all this there are the motoring organizations. Yet the numbers of casualties increase. Before the final cause of the increase is gone into the authorities have pointed out that one thing is clear. The casualties have increased, not the number of accidents. This clearly points to the faster speeds, that I have mentioned I had noticed, see above, as being a very big factor in

this shocking increase. I think this is pretty obvious. The accidents are caused by cars colliding. The faster they are travelling the less time there is to deal with slight misjudements and the harder they strike each other, or other objects, the more bouncing off there naturally is. The only way to reduce bad accidents, in my opinion, is to enforce a very big reduction in speed. I have mentioned the matter of the increase in the number of cars; the other noticeable feature is the reduction in the number of people travelling by public vehicles. The buses seemed to be almost empty and, at Poole Valley bus station, which is usually a hive of swarming people and many vehicles, one was reminded of a deserted village or something I suppose all this is connected. People are travelling more by car or not coming out, at all events.

Saturday December 27 Arose about 6·30. Did 1964 journal, copying from the Notes of that year and did a short time, 30 minutes or so, on Aristotle's "Ethics". Dorothy received a letter from Len with regard to Bert, her other brother who is ill, and Bert's daughter Mary, who is seven or so years of age. Dorothy wrote, to both Len and Bert, suggesting that Mary come here and these letters are posted so we will wait and see what transpires: because there were a good many complications in Bert's domestic life, and because I did not consider it was to do with the purpose for which this journal was started, I have made no previous mention of these things beyond recording, when we visited Moreton a few years back, that we had seen Bert and the little girl. Now it may be a different situation so I may make entries about what transpires. Dorothy and I went out this morning and all the shops were shut except for Marsh the butchers and Dorothy purchased some meat for Sunday's dinner. I went to the Dripping Pan this afternoon and saw Lewes win over Carshalton by 2-0 but I left fifteen minutes before time and walked home and enjoyed watching quite a good wrestling bout. This evening we went to the Freynes and it was nice to see Joan and Janet both looking so well and trim, if that is the right word to use; I mean they have evidently persevered with their system of exercising and are now both doing well and looking well. We enjoyed our evening with the family and the dinner which was with it. Dorothy and I had walked up to Bradford Road and Ted drove us home. On reading this over it seems to me to be a record of the very good and full life, espesially as a good deal of it points to enjoyment from watching games and entertainments made by physical exertion (by others!)

Sunday December 28. Arose very late, for me. 8-30: lazy bound, but Dorothy and I did not retire until about one o'clock last night. I did some "Ethics" (Aristotle) and my P.T though, and so made a proper and orderly start to the day. Today however, has not been much to do with either uplift or work. I did go out and deliver the Local Labour Party stuff and found I had recovered my walking pace, which for some days I had not been able to maintain because

of getting tired very quickly. I think I must have had a slight cold or something. The rest of today I have done nothing productive or even worth recording. Dorothy has kept busy, however, cleaning, cooking and carrying out other bits of housewifery She says she must keep doing something but, to judge by some indispositions, however slight they may seem, which seem to hang about her, I think she should take things more easily Joan 'phoned this morning and gave a message she had received last evening from Len, who had been unable to 'phone us while we were at Heynes. Substantially the message was to let us know that Bert had 'phoned Len and "the problem" (see Sat 27 Dec) "was on the way to being resolved". Accordingly Dorothy 'phoned Len this evening and at the situation is still that we wait and see what transpires. A great deal of the television programmes are, naturally, to do with seasonal things (looking back on the year, looking back over the decade etc) inclined to be boring.

Monday. December 29. Quite a fine day but very cold indeed. I went out and walked down to Ruth's to purchase some of the "Staff of Life", and found that my walking had returned to its normal but I did not push things only tested. I also went out again to the library, taking the Tynan book with the Rhubarb (Pick up). I did intend to return two of Frank's this afternoon but had a read, and, before I had chance to go out, Mary and Ernie came round and so we had a nice talk (all four of us) and this was very enjoyable. Mary and Ernie both look extremely well, for one must take into consideration their bad health. By how Ernie looks now, one would never imagine the "heart-type" state he was in, and is still as far has one can learn about heart disease. There seems to me to be no doubt that, by carrying out his doctor's orders, and proceeding by way of "increasing-resistance he has stayed things at last. Good fortune to them both if he can maintain this apparent progress. This evening Dorothy and I had a read of a John Wain book, me reading aloud allowed and, during the evening, ~~were~~ we saw one television programme and in between S.O.P.A. A happy evening and quite early to bed to finish off a happy day. HW

Tuesday December 30. I dozed off again after my initial, usual and early waking and was roused by the paper being dropped in the front door. This sleeping so late must indicate a measure of contentment from the activities of yesterday evening. I went out shopping with Dorothy in the morning and later took some books back to the library and to Frank, to whom I chatted with for some time. This evening there seemed to be a promised of interesting programmes but they weren't very good; and a programme called "Man of the decade" finished up very disappointedly with Dr. Desmond Morris, the zoologist choosing a John Lennan, one of the 'Beatles' group as as his selection. While the nitwit, Lennan, talked on and on to us,

in a repititious way, Desmond Morris occasionally appeared and tried to reassure us that this was not really his choice of the man of the decade, he had only chosen him as a piece of history. To me, who has read some of Dr. Morris's work, it seems as though he has spent so much time studying apes that he fails to distinguish between the mentality of ~~the~~ ~~closer~~ creatures he has chosen to study and those of his colleagues the Sociologists, people, (ordinary people). An opinion poll, or rather, the results of an opinion poll was shown and it showed the late President Kennedy with more than double any other choice's votes, followed by a stream of people, with P.M. Wilson quite well placed in the table (and well above the Royal family). Needless to say, the "Beatle" Lennan didn't appear on the league table at all. He was probably under it, in the place for beetles. There was one redeeming feature in this programme, and that was Alastair Cooke's presentation of Kennedy. This as one would expect from Alastair Cooke, was exceedingly well presented. Mary McArthy did not do too badly presenting Ho Chi Min. but was not objective enough when describing what had happened in various situations. The result was that one could get the idea that America was practising all kinds of atrocities against a quiet, unassuming man like Ghandi who was leading a nation of believers in non-violence, using the weapon of passive resistance against an oppressor: when really, in war such as this one all sorts of dreadful things are done by both sides. Quite obviously, too, the Yanks could not have suffered all those casualties from some peaceful people

Wednesday. December 31 1969. Rose at 6-40 and "wrote up" etc: but nothing worthy of recording has happened today. Very cold, with signs of snow still laying about. I had a look into Baxters (works) which I had not done since before I had shingles and I was given a very warm welcome by everybody. What a nice lot of people they are! Unfortunately it was very close to the lunch hour so I could not stay very long. It is remarkable how many women there are who have returned to work there having left, married, had their families and are now back. Most of them worked at feeding in my ruling machine when they were fifteen years of age and had just left school. I stopped in this afternoon, rather lazily I'm afraid and, this evening we did not wait up to welcome in the new year.

Thursday, January 1 1970. I did not arise until nearly eight o'clock today. Could have got up more early but just laid there before realising how late it really was. Yesterday, at Baxters, I received a suggestion, which I could easily change into an invitation, that I help with the ruling machine at times. If, perchance, I did do this, I would not be able to lay in bed "With the sun scorching my eyes out." This thought, plus realising that ~~this~~ today is new years day, made me get up. Later in the morning Dorothy and I went shopping and we did some more this afternoon. In the evening we went to the monthly meeting of the L.L.P. Kate looked in this

afternoon and spoke about the further adventures of the inhabitants of Weald Court. Some poor soul there was found during the Christmas period, dressed only in her vest and wandering about the building. It is very fortunate for her that the place is so beautifully warm and this leads one to wonder what would have happened to her had she lived somewhere in a street and wandered out of her front door? She had also used the corner of the lift as, to use Kate's expression, the "Loo" There is evidently much more in housing the older people than one would think. It was quite nice to go to the L.L.P. meeting. Jim Bogden spoke and gave us some things to ponder over and perhaps use in the run-up for the General Election. His experience as M.P. and in the Defense Ministry made him an able teacher in these political things, and he is of the teaching profession anyway. David Williams was in the chair as Len Fox was away.

Friday January 2 1970. Rose at 6-00, and this enabled me to catch up some of my things especially the reading, so I am now making quite good progress in Aristotle: Ethics off. I walked up to St Annes and Western Road and delivered the Nat: Deposit Books and year's subscription. The benefits from keeping up our membership of this Friendly Society have been apparent during 1969 at all events. I went into Baxters shop and purchased a five year diary for Dorothy. While in the shop I met Alderman Miss Temple who wished me to understand that the report of what she said re housing at the Town Council meeting is not reported quite correctly in the local rag. I don't think a great alteration has taken place, most people would know the views of Beatrice and what she meant, but I do sympathise with her over things of this description. I looked into the Town office and saw Leslie Davey, the Deputy Treasurer and the recognised local historian. He had, from the town's strong room, the 1795 copy of "The History of Lewes and Brighthelmstone" "Into which are compressed the most interesting events of the County at large and" "the "Regnian Roman, Saxon and Norman Settlements" by William Lee. This book Leslie has lent to me and I am very pleased with it and it will be my reading for the time being. I see by a note on 2 of the cover that it was repaired in 1888 by Councillor Barber. That would be Barber's book binding establishment which used to be in the "Bottle-neck" and was afterwards joined up with Baxters. In fact Mr Reynolds (see T.T. Dec. 23 1969) middle name is Barber. So from many angles this book is of interest to me. Walked going through Fisher Street on the way back to Baxters, to pay for the diary (5 year) after Dorothy's approval of it, I met Dagmar Garm, one of the members of the Tuesday morning class, we talked for a few minutes and I think she may be a recruit for the short "Carritt" course that has been suggested, and will take place provided enough pupils are forthcoming. Visited the Library and fixed up next Thursday's visit to us by Eve Clarke and Colin came round at about 7-30 and drove me to the class on "Africa" Tonight the chief subject was to do with slavery and there was quite an amount of propaganda examples loaned by the "Anti-Slavery" Society. Apparently there is still a need for this society. A reminder that man is not yet perfect.

Saturday, January 3rd Rose at 6-00 so I am now getting into stride wrote up, but transferred reading to Lee's "History of Lewes" and I am finding this very interesting and needing concentration because of its eighteenth century writing. I will make it the first reading each day for the time being. Dorothy went to the W.I. Stop after we had done slapping and I finished it and carried it home. This afternoon to the Pan: Lewes v Ware. Left early when Lewes were leading 3-0; came home and watched wrestling and, later in the evening, we did not go to Jeanne's where a party was on because I do not want to get a cold I have had made worse or spread before I see Rigden on Feb. 4. or earlier if that is possible and I hope it is, for the C.C. and B.C. steering committee is to meet that afternoon. There was not a very good programme on either of the T.V. channels, so this evening it did not prove very necessary to glue the eyeballs to the telly. Poor Christine (This J.) is trying to get accommodation in Lewes. Seems to be an almost impossible task, all I could offer was Dorothy's suggestion of buying a small house, of which there are a few, one in this street and repair it. Unless Christine has saved a good amount though, because of her present position she may find it hard to obtain a loan. for I don't believe her husband could. However Christined seemed quite enthusiastic about the idea. KBK.
Saw Sheffield Wed knock West B. Albion out of F A cup 2-1

Sunday January 4. 7-00. This will show that I rose an hour later than I had decided to do. However, I went through all the rigmarole just the same, making first reading Lee's Lewes (see Friday and yesterday), and also did the physical part of the early morning stuff and used ten pounds with either hand. It was a beautifull, sunny day, very cold and very frosty. I walked over Willey's bridge and found there were quite a number of people about, enjoying walking in the sun. Coming into Spences lane I met Mr. Devlin, the Deputy Surveyor, who offered me a ride back which I accepted, having gone much further than I had at first intended. He is an attender at the Methodist Church and had taken some children back to Malling after their attendance at Sunday School. A very nice idea the Methodists have, for quite obviously the traffic would be against the likelihood of parents allowing children to go otherwise. I suppose it is also an aid in keeping the flock up to the numbers necessary, though there is a danger here that the kids might be like the young man in the Limerick's last line who "Only went there for the ride". I spent a fairly studious rest of the day mostly doing Peacocks "Nightmare Abbey" which I have to digest by Tuesday week for the Tuesday morning class. Quite a good deal of the reading was done aloud; poor Dorothy one might think, but she wants it and it does ensure more thorough reading on my part but not any "looking-up".

Monday January 5 1970: 7-00. Woke up and so on, then Lee's "History" and I reached the Saxon period before hanging over to P.T. A bitterly cold, frosty morning which lasted all day although the sun did shine as it did yesterday. I went shopping, to the Library and to the office where I confirmed with Joan B about our party with she and Colin and Eve Clarke: and afterwards I did not go out anymore, just doing some reading of Peacock's "Nightmare Abbey"; some essays of Priestly and so on. Not quite what could be called a lazy day but I should have had a further walk. Dorothy has done the washing and brought it back in frozen stiff as she expected it would be so the drying process has not taken place to any useful extent. During the evening we have looked at the television for the news and a short play of one of our favourite series, but, apart from this, our "Telly" is now well in its proper place during such periods as these days of cold weather when one might expect it to be used more. As far as I am concerned, and as far as I can gather, none of these modern means of communication will ever replace the written word.

Tuesday January 6 (6-00 Really, when I looked at my watch I thought it said seven o'clock, but when I got downstairs I found the time was six!) Toronto Terrace has been like a sheet of ice all day, so I only took a very short turn out; and Dorothy did her shopping in two easy stages. With regard to self-imposed tasks I have completed Peacock's "Nightmare Abbey" so I can attend the WEA Romantic movement course with an easy conscience next Tuesday. If I haven't got much from the book I have read it carefully, word for word. There are various bodies of people who are already demanding a bigger share of the national cake as soon as the country has got on an even keel: and they are demanding such hefty shares that, especially when their end product of their employment is of such a nature that it is something that, unless the workers in the export trade keep us going, we should have to do without to a greater or lesser degree. (their rashness is plain) The N.U.T. having made a negotiated settlement with the L.C.As, their employers, now want to break it and want a fresh rise: their only excuse for this being that other workers incomes have been raised so that the differential is narrowed. The National Union of Seaman, whose strike stopped the country from making a level or favourable balance of trade three years ago are now demanding an increase of fifty per cent!! Ah well. I attended the Library Committee this evening and it proved to be quite a pleasant little meeting, with most of the time spent on the what seems eternal question of the Library site. There was not a 100% attendance, I suppose the bad weather had something to do with that, but the meeting made its decisions on the next steps to take regarding the site and we must now wait until some answers are

obtained from District Valuers, Surveyors, and other unfortunate wights whose job it is to keep our ideas and policies into "Fact-fitting" proportions.

Wednesday, January 7. (6-00) cold and frosty again; consequently I was very glad that Mr Devlin, the De Boro Surveyor had remembered my telling him that the surface of our street pavement as well as carriage-way, was a sheet of ice and he had had it sprinkled by the time Dorothy and I went out shopping. I read some more of Lee's "Caves" and, later, some of it to Dorothy and some of Peacock: finishing "Nightmare Abbey" and commencing "Rocket Castle". Now that I have a better understanding of the subjects this author offers to his readers by way of the discussion groups he makes his characters attend, I get far more, probably the maximum enjoyment from this type of book. My day then, has left nothing to record although it has been interesting to me. Later this evening Dorothy and I saw two quite nice little plays on T.V. and then, quite late, I watched the wrestling and saw ~~the~~ Tony Charles, whose bouts are always to be enjoyed even his match by a knock-out

Thursday, January 8. A dreadfully cold, wet, sleety day and Dorothy very busy getting ready for the dinner we are giving this evening because of my birthday which is next Sunday, the eleventh. Eve Clarke, the Librarian has her birthday on the tenth and we invited her and Joan B. and Colin. Frank also came round but had to go early because of the dogs. We spent a very happy evening, Joan and Colin leaving at about 11-45 and Eve stopping with us for the night. I think she liked it here and has invited us to visit her flat in Hove one day; an invitation which we have accepted. I slept quite solidly until 7-45 which is unusual for me

Friday January 9. As will be gathered from the last two or three lines of yesterday's entry (which I wrote this morning) I was quite late rising. Eve was already up and we found the weather had changed to quite a warmish, rainy day. Dorothy speedily got breakfast ready so Eve was able to get round to the Library and not appear to be too late. After an ordinary day we went (D. & I) to the Annual Dinner of the Waterloo Bonfire Society; one of the more recently organized societies. We were invited to this function last year when I was mayor and, this year, we were invited again because we "Are the only beginners they want"!! Dorothy made a good

appropriate speech after we had enjoyed a good dinner of roast beef (The Elephant & Castle is famed for its roast beef) and we enjoyed a pleasant evening with this good company.

Saturday January 10. Dorothy was due at the White C. shop so she went off in the pouring rain soon after a late breakfast and, after tidying up a bit I went out to do my bits of weekly shopping. I collected the "Encyclopaedia of Plants" which we are making a present to John and Bunty and, this afternoon I attended the Constituency L. P. meeting. On arrival home watched a bit of wrestling: in the evening an instalment of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" which annoys me; I always was annoyed by the peopled of that class and period and can remember ~~ever~~ how, when reading the book during the 1920's, I was driven by the cant of the "good ones" into the arms, metaphorically speaking, of the "villainess" Becky Sharp. Later on ~~I~~ saw Chelsea lose to Leeds 5-2. a great surprise for many people

Sunday January 11 71 years old today. I went up to see sister Winnie but before then Kate came down with a present for me. She offered to come up with me to Winnie but I eventually went alone. Winnie seems very well to me but she was critical of a good many aspects of life! About the middle of this morning my voice grew raspy and by the end of the day it was almost completely gone. I expect it will gradually come back but it is inconvenient while it lasts. I met George Downey while I was on my way home from visiting Winnie. He is 81 this month and tells me he is not so interested in things. I have known him very many years but I have been more intimately friendly with him since he was in my section of the Home Guard during World War 2. A very reliable man he was too and today, as I was looking at him I reflected that George had had a trial for the Olympic Games of 1908!! More than 60 years ago. After reaching home I did not go out any more but endeavoured to coax this cold, or whatever it is, out of my system and I also worked at the agenda of the Highways which holds its meeting this ~~even~~ Monday evening. One really important thing has happened in the world today. Here is news that the Biafran leader Ojukwu has fled and that the Biafran insurrection against Nigeria is at an end. This situation will enable something to be done about the terrible conditions obtaining there. All those starving children and the thousands of people who have already died because one man wanted to be a leader of an independent state. ЄКБК

Monday January 12. I slept quite heavily and woke to find the throat no worse but the voice not yet regained and, as the malady, or whatever it is, progressed during the day I found myself unable to attend the Highways Committee. (After the care I took over the agenda yesterday.) I did not go out today but sent up to the doctors and

received some of my old "anti wheeze" pills. One grand bit of news. John Wartnaby phoned us that Bunty had a baby boy yesterday. (Born on my birthday). Dorothy and I are very pleased that the grandson has arrived safely and that Bunty is well. Now we have three grandsons and one granddaughter. Another piece of news of a more universal nature is that the Biafran business has really come to an end. In spite of all the attacks that have been made on our Labour Government, and a great many of these attacks have been supported by M.P.s who are Labour, the Government have been proved to have taken the right course: and, in the words of the man who was left to surrender to the Federal troops "Those who kept the wars going have now left us and we can now end it". Our own government, as represented by Mr Wilson, the P.M., on Panorama rather surprised the slick interviewers (the men whom I always think of as the reason for S.E. Tax) by giving the elaborate preparations that are already made to ease the famine situation. I think these interviewers, like most newspaper men who only want failures to report because that gives them news, were rather taken aback and, being flung back on the rest of the "amunition" in their bandoliers. which "amunition" was mainly to do with the economic situation, and the Terms of Trade now being very much in our favour, Wilson had quite an easy run out as a victor in the argument as to whether his Government's policies have been the right ones.

Tuesday January 13. I did not attend my W.E.A. class this morning because I still have the effects of the cold about me: don't want to pass it on, and anyway if one has lost voice and can't join in the discussion then it is not much use to attend. A dull day, mild for the time of the years. Dorothy went to Patcham to look after the grandsons, or; I should say, grandson, because Mark has now started school in the nursery class there is in Patcham. I rang up on St Johns Ambulance and so got in touch with Leslie who can pass on the news about Bunty's new baby to Winnie. I also rang Joan B; and tried to get Mary but could only get Ernie because Mary is not well. I am rather browned-off with stopping in but I must get rid of this 'flu' or whatever it is. I did some more writing and reading and tried to do a bit of "Looking-in" but there was nothing that could interest me except a short turn of acrobatics on the "Good Old Days" programme. We have not had any further message from John about Bunty and the baby so I expect everything is going well. Today I read some more of Lee's Lewes: hard work because it is the original book and uses the long s etc and is printed on yellowy, green tinted paper.

Wednesday Jan 14 We got news from John that Bunty is getting on well, has been up; and has fed the new baby.

so we feel happy about them both doing well. Mary Harman rang up today and she seems, by her voice and her manner, to be very poorly and towards a nervous breakdown. However her own doctor appears to have the situation well in hand so he may steer her past it alright. The head of the country of Nigeria, Col. Gowon, having brought his country to victory over the secessionist rebel Biafra state has given an interview on our television during which he gave some very plain, and, I think, justified words to various countries who have kept a rebel movement going. He had some hard words to say to the various do-good organisations on the same subject and he included the Church aid and made particular mention of the Catholic Church in this respect. In effect, he told the world, what Wilson did on Monday evening, that Nigeria is an independent country, but he went further and told those countries and organizations, who have whipped up such a feeling for Biafra and sent supplies which have prolonged the war, that they can keep their money and aid, their "blood-money". I must say I agree with him entirely. I suppose the "newshounds" who are the culprits in these "stirring ups" will make a big splash of protest against the Colonel for a day or two and will then suddenly drop the whole thing like we would drop a hot coal: and try and find a new stick with which to beat the Wilson government: because that has been the reason for all the fuss. It seemed a fairly easy thing for them to wax indignant about. Jeanne Jennings looked in this evening and we selected the tiles for the kitchen of the "House of Friendship". Later on I watched England v Holland at soccer (0-0) and some wrestling before retiring. The cold is gradually going. Christine brought me a book from the Library on "Prehistoric Art" which Betty had suggested I purchase with money she has sent as a birthday present. On Christine letting me give this book a cursory examination I think I'll buy something else. i.e. some other book.

Thursday January. 15. I have been out today and the cold is considerably better. Just a bit of shopping with Dorothy in the morning and round to the Library in the afternoon to return three books I have been nursing for some time. In "Early-morning-school" time I did some more of Lee's "Lewes" and a little of Aristotle's "Ethics" apart from this my time has been spent in what I term a lazy way. What with the break-into my physical training through slingles, and various other hold-ups, I haven't done any exercises properly since November.

Friday January 16. I think I am better altogether now and have been out without the great tiredness of chest etc that seemed to overtake me yesterday. Dorothy is well and went down to the shop this afternoon. Some of the L.P. Group were to meet here, as I had arranged with Frank Hayward the other night, so, to make sure I could offer them a sherry, I got an extra bottle this morning and I had a chat with W & D. Cripps * he

seemed pretty het-up about the case of the Labour M.P who is held in custody on an "Official Secrets" charge. Wally is conservative. I made a good start on a letter to Bunty now that things seem to be going on alright and then had my first haircut since November. The Labour group met here this evening owing to a proposal, or a suggestion, from the Tory group that we put forward a nomination for a Freeman and they put forward three names. We concluded that we could not be involved in such a way of choosing ~~a~~ Freemen. To be a Freeman is an honour accorded to a person for services to the town, popularity in the town etc. or to National figures, not because he is Conservature or Labour. Once the proposal of doling out this honour, or honours, according to the strength of a party on the Council, is accepted then the pride in it, the honour is gone.

Saturday January 17. Up at six am. I thought it was seven, that's why. However, it gave me the chance to do a bit of writing and then to tackle a bit more of Lee's "Lewes" where I came across this. Lee is writing of the Papal indulgences granted to one of the Earl Warenne. Lee's first gives a hefty list of all those who 'suscribed' and then writes. "Thus was this nobleman furnished with ten draughts on the pardon office in Purgatory to the amount of one year and 28 days ... while the obscure sinner was left to stew his destined time in that fruitful hot-bed of Papal imposture. Though its golden plants have at last been withered by the rays of unclouded reason, and philanthropy exults in the emancipation of the human mind, it is to be wished, however, that Deism usurps not the abdicated throne of superstition". It seems that Lee's is even taking a swipe at his eminent contempary Thomas Paine and his Deism. I looked into Mary Harman's bookshop for, since it was open I judged Mary would be there. She was and, for the sake of the shop, it was a good job she was in attendance because there was quite a number of customers and prospective customers. She is very poorly and seems to dwell on the theme that she has not made the best of her life. Quite obviously very depressed and she said she could not concentrate and could only dust round. Apparently Dr Rose has her case well in hand. This afternoon I did not go to watch Lewes at the fair and we watched Telly at the evening time. By the way, when I write Lee's "Lewes" it is the editors or publishers name I quote. The author is anonymous M^c OF

Sunday January 18. A wet morning. I posted Bunty's letter and did some reading. That is almost all. Dorothy and I both consider that more walks must be taken at evening time.

Monday January 19. The traffic problem, or situation, has been improved in Lewes since the opening of the new road last

July and the different one way systems. No doubt more noise is noticed in some streets along which the vehicles now go, but both for pedestrians and motorists it is much better in what were very bad places. When the job has finally been completed by the addition of a by-pass road to the south we will, I think, feel the full benefit. I walked up to St Annes Crescent this morning and through the new County Hall precincts and back on the south side of the High Street quite a comfortable little walk. I met Len Willey whom I have very rarely seen since he left the Council. He told me this morning that all his time is taken up with increased T.V. work among other things: and I expect he also spends a good deal of time belonging to the Spiritualist Church which he took up before leaving us. Later on I met Gordon Hole, one of our Council members who was unseated last year. He may stand again this year with David Williams, in the Castle Ward. That is only "may stand" however. I next met Peter Morris, the T.C. and was able to gather something of the situation regarding the appointing of Freemen of the Borough. I had to purchase some steel wool for Dorothy and I did get some in Parnsley's, but some with a bigger gauge which I took home, ~~because the gauge was too big~~ being a bigger gauge than Dorothy required, ~~being too big~~ I returned it after lunch. This afternoon we attended the Old people's club at the Quakers and enjoyed the Annual tea-party. The Clerk has been told about us as we were made very welcome by the Friends and the old people. The Mayor and Mayoress were present. and there was a little concert afterwards to which Mrs Wilkinson contributed some of her songs which we all enjoyed. Reg (Mayor) asked me up to the Parlour on the completion of our stay with the old people and we (he and I) talked of the making up of Freemen. I told him of my group's opinions and what my own views were and we parted on as both understanding the situation; so I hope things will go alright tomorrow evening. From the Parlour I walked through the Town Hall to the "Backstage" room where the Visiting Committee of the C.P.W.C. were holding a meeting. How these women work, as do a great many more people in the town to make life more comfortable for unfortunate people. It reminds one of where the town's honours should be distributed.

Tuesday. January 20. I went to the W.E.A. class this morning and enjoyed the continuation of the course on the "Romantic Writers." We spent most of this morning's time on Peacock so it was a good job I had read some of his work during the time taken by the Christmas recess. Dorothy attended her committee meeting this afternoon (the C.S.x. Committee for old people's welfare) while I went to Baxters to spend some of my birthday present money on some books. I must do this very gradually. The weather has been mostly wet and so I did no walking other than was necessary for there and for the Finance and Management Committee this evening. This afternoon I

met Joan Liddle, who I had not seen for some time. She seems as jolly as ever, and we renewed invitations to call on each other. The Finance committee continued its usual way, although, as I have pointed out before in this journal, the reduced membership of this committee since we have adopted some of the Maud report recommendations, make it seem strangely "minor" or "sub"

After the particular business was dealt with there were recommended to the Town Council the following names for receiving the honour of Freemen of the Borough of Lewes. The Local M. P. Sir Tufton Beamish, myself, Mr. Parrish and Dick Whittington. I am the only one of these whose is actually on this Council at the moment and there was Mr. Reynolds of Baxters who was nominated by myself but this did not go any further. Three members gave it as their opinion that the list should not contain the name of a serving ~~m~~ member. I don't know what prompts this opinion or how this should apply to the Lewes Borough Council only. Something seems, to me, to whisper that this is not done with yet, I mean that more will happen either before or ~~after~~ at the relevant Council meeting.

Wednesday. January 21. I had a walk this morning by way of Phoenix Causeway to Malling Street and got a loaf at Reths. Dorothy wrote out a missive containing what my "assetts" were to give to the T.C. regarding the Freemen business, he wants it for the scroll. I took back Lee's "Lewes" to be returned to the strong-room and borrowed the Library copy to continue my read of this history, and I also glanced through the agenda and the Borough Surveyor's report for an extra meeting of the Highways and Public Services committee which was held this evening. This meeting was held to brief the Borough's members of the Steering (Joint) Committee and to go through the Surveyor's report. Unfortunately there were no members presenting themselves apart from the 'Steering' members. I don't know why this was, because the notice of meeting contained an invitation to all members of the Council to attend. They must have all overlooked it. However, we went through the business thoroughly, and perhaps it did not take so long as it would have had all been present. When I reached home I found Dorothy had got all the washing out by about seven and now it started raining so the Spartan woman went out in the dark and wet and gathered it in again. A good job she keeps so well. Saw two wrestling bouts later, a mediocre show from the Midlands. This morning Dorothy and I discussed the Freeman business and decided to go on with it as yet.

Thursday. January 22. I had a talk with Peter Morris, the T.C. regarding the Freeman business and he, like me, is not very contented about the way things were done. Still one

can only see what happens at the succeeding meetings at different levels. I went into Baxters to pay my football money and had a talk with the Managing Director Mr. Reynolds; we spoke of the works and how long he still has before he retires. I came out with one of the firm's calendars, beautiful productions but I notice that Royles name is now on them instead of Baxters. When Mr. Reynolds retires I wonder if the new managers will be so welcoming to me. I suppose not. Like all processes that make for greater progress (in production), when introduced, cause many little losses in human values. However, I don't suppose the employees of that time will have noticed that a change has taken place They grow up among all these changes and are used to the fact the of impermance. Things, especially in the industrial sector, change at an evergrowing pace and I imagine that, at bottom, the young people have not the feeling of stability that we had in a job or a firm. At four o'clock or thereabouts, Dorothy and I went to the corn exchange where the Old Peoples club, the "Good companions" were holding their annual party. I met Gwen Sadler Dorothy Cripps Elsie Piper and all the other people who help Violet Richards to run this club and party. We enjoyed a good, high tea which included fish and chips and there was a concert afterwards. Dorothy and I reached home, taken by the Mayoress Mrs Yarrow at about 9-30 and later we washed up the "plate" and the glasses Dorothy had lent and retired. It does seem, to judge by the news, that the pres

is still, against all reports of the facts obtaining in Nigeria, (Biafra is no more), continuing the campaign against Federal Nigeria. The newshound of today, as I have written before, doesn't want hope or success to report, he only wants despair and failure, which he obtains by taking very isolated cases and calling these general.

Friday January 23. I arose at about 6-45 and did what has gradually crept into being usual for me, that is, leaving out the bodily exercising which leaving out has become usual for me since the bad time I ran into through the attack of shingles before Christmas. I went to Ken Day's shop to ask him if he would stand in for me at the steering committee (Joint of the C.C. & the B.C.) I found Ken is not in a very fit state and is under observation by the Doctor so I did not worry any more about finding a substitute for February 2nd when the joint committee meets. I have been told that I should keep my appointment at Dr. Rigden's clinic on that date. I went to the Council Offices and asked Armitage to cut me out of it on that date. Saw about a suggestion of Elsie Pipers re Weald Court with the Housing Manager who told me all the side doors are locked at night and I came home. This afternoon Dorothy went to the W.E. Shop and I attended a sub-Committee of the Library which has to deal with the Pairy Exhibition next Monday. On the way there a woman

stopped me outside the office of the Housing Manager and said that she had had yet another interview with the Housing Manager about getting a Council flat. She had for 30/- per week 3 rooms and a kitchen but she had to share a bathroom with two older people. I remembered she had called on me a year or so back and I had put her name forward but found it was already on the Housing List. In view of her saying today that she would "end it" I don't know really what she meant by that; and saying that my sister Hale got her flat under age etc because of me I reported this case to the Housing Manager. He told me that this lady is a frequent visitor to the Housing office, she was adequately and relatively deeply housed already but she was on the Housing list and would be housed in her turn. I suppose these things are happening to Councillors who select the applicants for housing but I have never been on the Committee, except as an ex-officio member when I was Mayor, and have never had any say in the selection of tenants. Two or three people have told me lately that they have heard the yarn that Kate got her accommodation through me but they have taken no notice of it. I feel rather sorry for Mrs Charman (the lady in question) if she feels she wants a Council flat but I had to agree with the H.M. that her present accommodation was adequate and cheap and she must wait until there are some more vacancies. We were invited to St Mary's Social Centre Pantomime "Mother Goose" but did not enjoy it much because we could not see. There were heaps of kids with their parents who were obviously in the same plight and I felt very sorry for them. Mrs Richards came with us so I felt sorry for her and Dorothy too!! Bert Penfold called at teatime and asked me if Dorothy and me would judge the childrens dress show (Waterloo BS) tomorrow afternoon. Of course I agreed we would do so but bang goes any football or wrestling for me! Graham Mayhew rang up and congratulated me on my name going forward as Freeman. I didn't know this was public knowledge yet but he told me the notice of meeting was hanging on the notice board! So all I can do, I suppose, is to sit down and await what happens.

Saturday January 24. We had two things of note to carry out today. Judging the Children's Fancy Dress Competition for the Waterloo Bonfire Society in the late afternoon, and attending the Annual Dinner of the Borough Bonfire Society in the evening. We did our best to make a good judge of the dresses, and, at the Borough Dinner, Dorothy made a good job of proposing the toast to that Society. We spent a pleasant evening and met the President, Mr Ivor Thomas, who was at one time very much a Lewes man but who has been gone from here for some years. At the Social evening which followed the dinner, Dorothy and I had a few dances, the first for many months

I looked at the notice board to see if what Graham Mayhew appeared on there but the rain and wind during Friday night had battered the bill beyond all recognition !!

Sunday January 25 I went up to Winnie's and found all well Jay has been home but has now returned to work; and Leslie had been on night duty and had not yet woken up. There was a terrific downpour lasting all the morning but when I delivered the A.G.M. notices for the L.L.P. this afternoon, the rain had ceased. While there Virginia found from her paper that Lewes have drawn 1-1 in their senior cup game against Horsham.

Monday January 26. I used my white, light overcoat today and found a great improvement in my walking. The weather is now very warm for January and I went via Brooks Street and Phoenix Causeway down to Ruths and purchased a long loaf. I should record that I did the agenda ready for the Council meeting before going shopping, because tomorrow we are going to Hurst Green to have our first look at the new grandson. This evening I went to the Town Hall but only Nellie Fitch turned up for the group meeting. I went on to the meeting of the Steering Committee (House of Friendship) and that meeting lasted an hour and thirty minutes. I had thought of going on to the Priory Fund meeting but decided I had had enough of meetings and I went home. Dorothy had gone to the Grange so that we were represented at the Coop Party Wine & Cheese party and its A.G.M.

Tuesday 27 January. Dorothy and I went to Hurst Green. This is the first time we have made this journey since the line between Lewes and Uckfield has been discontinued, but we arrived there alright and saw the new grandson: A good looking baby of two weeks old who slept quite contentedly all the time we were there: except for the period when he was being changed or fed etc. Bunty is in splendid shape, and this is very gratifying. In spite of having just moved and work going on, most days, with decorating, repairs etc she is very contented. Helen has developed a good deal since I last saw her and is now very jolly and, no doubt, a very good companion. She brought in some of the children from next door, after being with them in their house most of the afternoon, and so we also met the mother who appeared to me to be a good "modern" type and who, no doubt, will be a very good neighbour. Dorothy took the makings of lunch with her and prepared lunch and nursed the baby and was happy to find things going so well. We arrived home before eight and found a letter from Bert on the mat. He has made arrangements about his executor and his daughter Mary: altogether the letter was a relief about the child etc, but there seemed a tone about it that led one to believe that Bert is now prepared for, and expects,

the worst, although, as he says, "I've not given up yet".
We must make the journey to Preston to visit him

Wednesday. January 28. Although I tend to stop
longer in bed these winter days, I am beginning to
pick up the threads of my previous first procedures
on arriving. I have written of my neglect of physical
exercising a few days ago; and of how my early-morning
read and general progress has been all over the place since
the shingles which I had at the end of November. All this
is gradually being put right and I hope I'll soon be
back to my old way of spending the first hour or so
of the day. I did some shopping in the morning and wrote
and read, while Dorothy did a bit of gardening, in the
afternoon: and, this evening there was the Council meeting.
Quite a number of matters cropped up. John Buckwell was
successful in moving the reference back of the clause that
recommended threats of eviction if tenants refused to
move into smaller housing units when ordered to do so
because of under-occupation. There was a successful
reference back of a recommendation that the church be
rented a house at Landport so that a curate should live
there. I had received a 'phone call on Monday from the rector
of St Johns, Michael Loughton asking if I would support
such a motion. I told him I support or don't support
a thing according to what effect the debate has on me,
and this in turn depends on the amount of valid proofs there
are that it would be a good thing for the town.
At the meeting this evening Councillor Mrs Holton, a young
conservative member who is a recent addition to the
town's population, moved that the Housing Committee's
recommendation (that the rector's request be turned down) be
referred back to the committee and this was carried
by 11 votes to 9. This seems to me the most silly
thing the Council has ever done: moreover, this member
used the very words the rector had used to me, on the
'phone, even to his words that if we had houses
for district nurses there should be a house for a curate!
Seems to me almost as bad as comparing a witch-
doctor to a medical man. The Freeman business was
carried afterwards

Thursday January 29. This afternoon Dorothy and I had
been invited to the "Hospitality" club's annual party so
we attended and were received by the crippled members
and the sterling women who look after them. Refreshing
to be among such guardians of humane values. The Mayor
and the Mayoress were present and gave us a
lift home. I did not attend the L.L.P. meeting
this evening as it came on to rain very hard at the
time. Geo. and Lucie Benfield visited us this morning and asked me to
appeal for help at the forthcoming Callaghan meeting.

Friday January 30. I drew pension and did a

few odd jobs, which included two or three things at the Town Hall Offices. Visited Library and received the book of which Eve Clarke had said complaints had been made. I will read it when I can make time. This morning I saw Rodney Armitage, the deputy Town Clerk and we had a chat on sundry matters. I always enjoy spending a few minutes in his office because he is, as is to be expected, very knowledgeable about the work of the town and, in addition, has a good grasp of Social History and the various theories of political? government. Rodney and I see "eye to eye" on many occasions and this condition is helped because we are of an almost equal height, at least, we would be were it not for my bent spine. So the term 'eye to eye', besides being true as a metaphor regarding our views on life, is true in physical fact. I made my apologies in advance for not being able to attend the C.C.–B.C. joint steering committee next Monday (it is my day to visit Dr. Rigden) and now Hen Day has everything tied up to represent the Borough in my place. Dorothy went to the W.E.A. shop and I worked in the afternoon and Colin drove me over to the W.E.A. class at the Grange this evening. Quite an interesting talk on Kenya, backed up by a film.

Saturday January 31. Shopping this morning and Dorothy at the White El. Shop. Those women who work there are doing a marvelous job towards the "House of Friendship". I saw Mary Haman in her bookshop and she seemed pretty well. Met several people about the town who congratulated me on the "Freeman" business: included among these is Mr. Wilkinson, of the wineshop, I had already purchased the loaf so we are set up for the weekend with bread and wine. I went to the Dripping Pan this afternoon and saw Lewes draw two-all with Horsham in the Sx Senior Cup tie. A fine game. We spent a quiet evening.

Sunday February 1 1970. I have not been out today but have found plenty to get on with in the way of clearing some of my clerking out of the way. Among the mail which has arrived, during the last few days, there are a number that contain congratulations to Dorothy and me. I have also done some reading aloud and so we have started on a book by John Updike called "Couples". Not a bad tale either, though, to older people like us, very forthright (cont.)

Monday February 2. The chief thing today has been my visit to Dr. Rigden's clinic. This was important to me; and, because of it I have left out my attendance on the Steering Committee (See T.T. Jan 30) The Doctor was very complimentary about my state of fitness and about the "Freeman" (bestowing of) and I have not to see him again for a year, glory be. I mean, of course, glory be that my health has advanced so much as to make it unnecessary to attend his clinic. I am pleased to meet him

in person any time for he is a good man who must have an enormous amount of good work and living to his credit. This morning I called at the Council offices and saw the Deputy Town Clerk and had a talk of it and about. and, this evening I read aloud to Doroth. There is a disturbing element about, because I keep thinking of the law-breaking campaign that is threatened by the farmers if they don't get their way in regard to the Price Reviews. These farmers, who one hints of considers as quiet and naturally philosophical, watching the soil, communing with nature and what-not, are quite evidently no better than prep-school boys when they can't get their way, and when we take off the romantic, rose-tinted spectacles ~~with~~ with which we have been regarding the farming world for so long. For a body of people to throw all "operative ideals" to the winds; to throw out their leaders on no other grounds than that these leaders wanted to negotiate in a civilized manner; in short, to try to intimidate the rest of the community to pay still more, in subsidies, towards their keep is, as far as I am concerned, unforgivable in people who are supposed to be adult. Allow no one to speak to them, in pain of being hit by missiles, indeed; thank goodness the number of farmers that do this sort of thing must be only a small percentage of the whole number; however, that doesn't excuse it.

February
Tuesday January 3rd. Dorothy went to a meeting of the "Shelter" Committee while I attended the W.E.A. class which I enjoyed very much. The classes in this course now seem to have settled down into what, I consider, the way they should. From such a talk and discussion I can feel, as I leave, that I am enriched: and it seems to me rather nice that such a ninety minutes or so can be made from a poem by Shelley. While Dorothy was at the White Elephant shop this afternoon (she had to attend for one or two reasons) I looked into the Station Street Old People's Club for a short time. All seemed to be well although I am given to understand that Mrs Turner, because she is leaving the town, will not be available as the Chairman much longer and the Secretary, Mr Uphill is in the middle, as it were, of a multiple kind of illness so it looks as though, besides a new chairman being required for sure, a new secretary may be wanted. I paid a year's subscription for Doroth. and me and booked us both for the Annual Party, then made my way home. The rest of today has been spent reading aloud while Doroth. did her ironing! By the way, there was not much mention in the "Times" of the N.U.F. demonstration yesterday and when I looked at the T.V. news ~~yesterday~~ last evening there did not seem much to justify the terrific "Eye-witnesses account" and blow-by-blow account that was hysterically radioed yesterday by the B.B.C. radio. There needs to be a sort out there, it seems to me.

Wednesday February 4. I did the usual early morning work, including the physical and then attended the Library Committee at 9=15 a.m. This meeting was called because the C.C. need a quick answer to whether the Borough wish to purchase School Hill House and, this morning we decided we did not want it for a new Library, at all events. I saw Jack Buskwell and Bill Evers before the meeting, and Bill spoke to the meeting at the beginning, and before leaving us, of his experience of the said house and its doubtful chances of being turned into a Library without a considerable amount of structural strengthening. We finally decided against as I have written above. I took my accumulation of borrowed books, some from the Library and some from Frank back to it and him. Frank looked pretty well and spoke of a visitor from up Little East Street he had call yesterday. Dorothy and I went for a walk this afternoon round Landport, and this made a welcome change. The weather was brilliantly sunny all day until we arrived home from Landport and then the rain came so we were thankful to get home just in time. Spent some of the evening reading aloud 'Couples' by John Updike and later watched the play made from the experiences of Siegfried Sassoon during the 1914-18 war. I wonder how many 'present-day' people watched this, and what conclusions they came to regarding the state of society of those days? I wonder how many with a Marxian approach used it to bang their inherited theory of the dialectic on to it. Its effect on me was, I found, the realisation of the completeness of the change in social attitudes that have taken place since

that time. Whether this is caused by the dialectic "Synthesis" as Marxians claim I don't know. I do know that life is much better for people now than it was, and that this change for the better has been fought for, it is not, as they would claim, the fore-ordained, inevitable march or movement of a process.

Thursday February 5. It has been a dry day, though much more dull and cold. I received a letter from a Mr Kennath Flint who, at 45½ years of age has reached the conclusion that his "metier" is really teaching and he is sure that he has a place "Somewhere in the academic world." Needless to say what he wants is financial help and for me to use my influence and so help him to obtain it. The man has two children still at school and has given me some idea of his income and yet he has enrolled himself in a full-time two years course at the Tech: this two years being only preliminary to taking on a teacher's training course. I asked Mr. Parrish, the Chairman of the "Lewes Exhibition" trust and he did not seem very optimistic about a grant: and I can't honestly see the use of this man having other peoples money spent on him, or his own for that matter, it should go to his family's education. Anyway, I have referred him to the Exhibition secretary. I had a look into Baxter's and saw several of my erstwhile colleagues and had a number of suggestions etc and one request from Eric Basham re the proposed Congregationalist chapel or Sunday School. I'll do my best about this. Next to the Quakers I like the

congregation lists. Well, pension has been drawn, and various other things done that I do on Thursdays and this evening we continued with our reading if.

Friday February 6. Slept pretty heavily and woke up, or got up, rather late. Did a bit of physical but no time to be really thorough. We went out shopping quite late in the morning, having read the "Times" obituary on Bertrand Russell. I owe a great deal in enjoyment of life to Russell's books and to those tutors who first guided me in the direction of, at least, trying to take a look at philosophy with Russell as an explainer of methods and history. This afternoon Dorothy and I, as Managers, attended the meeting at the Fells school. We found it still going happily along. This is the only way to describe this school. Happy. We had not been indoors many minutes after the leaving the meeting when the Rector, Michael Loughlin, who is chairman of the managers, by the way, called on me to give me further information, (persuasion?) to do with his idea of a Council house for a curate (see T.T. Wed Jan 28) quite a pleasant discussion but he was no more convincing than before. He, quite naturally for a parson, starts from the premise that the people there, all of them, would benefit from somebody settling all their family troubles. No doubt everybody would be glad were all their troubles smoothed away, but Michael insists that this is the job of the C of E parson, and to be successfull he must have a man living down there and this man must be one of those who lives in a Council House. I think all this is a rather laborious and long winded way of prevaricating, because it appears to me to be that which he wants to be done. So he works along the lines that a hall is not needed and he didn't even mention the church itself as a building, and the churches job is now to have somebody who is a Council House tenant whose job is to go round to peoples homes and smooth out their troubles. Substantiation "con" or "trans." is not a particular issue any more apparently: but there are plenty of smoothers abt of troubles who work hard and effectively already, and do not find it necessary to have a Council House before they can do their self appointed job properly. Quite obviously this is something to try and keep the C. of E. alive with. and I don't think ratepayers, who include in their numbers many different religious sects and many more who, as it were, are not to do any with any sect, should be called upon to pay for the rented house of one of them. This evening Dorothy and I went to the band concert in the Town Hall. Given by the band of Pingmer school this was first class: and, of course, when I say that I am looking beyond the 'music' part, about which I am not very well equipped to judge though I thought it very good indeed. What appealed to me is the ernest way these boys and girls tackle their job, their smart and neat appearance, their self-discipline and their discipline as a collective thing and I very much appreciate all to do with this concert. Well done the staff of Pingmer school. While I was at this concert a

woman who I had not met before called me Mayor and then told me she always connected me with being Mayor because I "was such a gorgeous Mayor". I thanked her, particularly mentioning her choice of adjective and she insisted that was how she would describe it!!!

Saturday February 7. I haven't done anything that calls for writing down today. One might question whether I ever had anything worth writing about, but this journal is for my perusal so the value of what I write, whether exagerated or deflated, is to do with myself and the writing is quite a discipline anyway. Just some shopping this morning, mostly done in the rain, and finally the rain made me stop away from the football, although it stopped before the match started, it came down in very heavy showers later so there would have been a good deal of discomfort. Dorothy went to the White Elephant club and I worked up and saw some wrestling (quite good, scientific stuff) so I didn't miss the football all that much. For most of the evening we read aloud.

Sunday February 8. We, Dorothy and I, took a walk over Phoenix Causeway, up Cliffe High Street, Friars Walk and so home. There was quite a cool wind blowing but the short walk was quite enjoyable. Read, mostly aloud for the rest of today because, although we were going to the Theyres' razors drove making it unnecessary. so the p.m. part of today has been rather different. (Sr. Ex. J.)
Dorothy's Birthday

Monday February 9. Did not rise until the Town block struck seven and then I got on with some writing, and reading ~~reading~~ of the more heavy variety before doing a bit of physical training. I also resolved to start today to work up a few words for Feb 27 when Callaghan will speak at Lewes on behalf of the Labour Party. I am hoping this meeting will proceed in an orderly manner because, as I have mentioned recently in this journal, the members, perhaps I should say some members, of the National Farmers Union are bent on going round the country stopping meetings, & breaking the law in other directions and say they will continue to do so until they get their way, to ~~the~~ by way of an increase in their subsidies to the tune of £130 m. It indicates the type of mind, low-standard kind, which increases its demands in an effort to frighten the government and the people, and backs up its demands with the threat of violence that is implicit in protest processions of heavy machinery, and at the same time makes a great show of "conspicuous consumption", so making a picture of banditti instead of an example of civilised producers of food. The Teachers are the same, insofar as they make a demand, refuse to discuss in the way of negotiating, at all, in the meantime threatening all sorts of dire consequences if all the rest of ~~the~~ society, which has to earn the wherewithal to pay its teachers, does not pay them what they demand. I was measured for a suit today, so I suppose I shall feel the same uneasiness as I always feel when waiting to see if a new suit is going to be a success. Went to W.E.A. Committee this evening at Hilda

Chandler's house, where we dealt with the Branch matters. Meanwhile Dorothy had attended the meeting of the "Friends of Hellingly Hospital," so, between the two of us, we have played some part in the town's life this evening.

Tuesday February 10 Attended W.E.A. Class on "Romantic Poets" and the tutor made quite a good opening from which developed some good discussion. Dorothy went to the Wells School as a Manager and, while at the school, enjoyed the scholars pancake making. She also attended the W.Gl. Shop this afternoon while I went to the old people's club at the Foresters Hall. Dorothy had received some news by telephone, from Ken which was not good about Berts (her Brother at Preston) state of health so she decided to stay at home this evening, while I went to the Wallands School. What a busy life we lead! Later on I decided not to attend the Wallands school but to stop at home and attend to my neglected Callaghan speech because the Wallands school meeting is going to be duplicated. This evening, then, I have done this speech while Dorothy has tackled the extra writing made necessary by the turning in Berts health. However, the day has been pretty full from reading and exercising early this morning to the writing of this journal this evening.

Wednesday February 11 I didn't rise until eight: just stopped in bed in a lone-idle fashion until then. I don't, as some people do, feel guilty when this happens but I do feel as though I have allowed myself to slip behind schedule as it were, and I am quite certain that my keeping will has developed from that schedule or schema. On a fine and frosty morning, then, one feels well, and watches the reports in the "Times" about the great discussion re the Common Market: which discussion has now reached the stage of a kinds of assessment of the results of joining from a cost point of view (and I observe that within the last short sentence I have squeezed in five "ofs") The debit side seems to be the only side yet assessed, so one can't deduce any thing until the credit side is shown. and it appears that this is harder to show because the benefits are almost invisible, or there are no benefits at all (all this according to your bias of for or against joining the Six). Later on these benefit points will be published and everyone will have a golden opportunity to see if he can reach the golden mean! I walked over the Willey footbridge and called on Ruth for a long loaf I have not been over this bridge for some time now and I was able to see how far the tipping had progressed in reclaiming the marshland. This evening I went to the Evening Institute Committee meeting while Dorothy, on behalf of the W.E.A., attended the meeting organised by the Rotary Club. The aim of this meeting is to assist in the rehabilitation of people who are suffering from mental trouble. There is a great effort being organised on a country wide basis. My meeting, to do with the Further Education [illegible] of the L.E.A. went off alright. I think I shall be of some use here and

I certainly feel more quickly at home on these bodies than I used. I looked in at the Labour Club and had a brown ale and paid my yearly subscription. Bernard Walker was behind the bar and I had a chat with him and Joyce, his wife. Their's is a nice family and it is a pleasure to talk with them. In the entry for yesterday I ommitted to write in that I had seen Bob and Mrs Tapp. They are arranging their holiday, which they have saved up for, in Vancouver. Good luck to them both; I think it wonderful that things, that is, living conditions, have undergone such a change that people like them, or us for that matter, can afford to make these adventurous moves late in life

Thursday February 12 A shockingly wet snowy and very cold day. Dorothy went to Rotterdam to look after the grandsons while Joan went shopping. I delivered the Friends of Victoria Hospital collecting books and drew state pension and went out later to buy some sherry and after these two excursions, stopped indoors until Dorothy came home when we went to the Theatre and saw a performance of "Events while Guarding the Bofors Gun". There have been various comments about this play mostly, as far as I could gather, against. I noticed the place was pretty empty too. However, I enjoyed quite a lot: and Dorothy and everyone of the small audience seem to enjoy it, so what would you? I never condemn a play on the words used if they are the words used in a comparable real situation. It's only situations I might object to and then if the play was a bore or banal. Actually the situation the Lance-Corporal found himself in in tonight's play, I found myself in on more than one occasion in Galway in 1918; and in my case the situation was real, with a rather hostile population, + some Sinn Fein prisoners, which all made up the situation of that time. The situation then, was worse for me than the imagined one in which the corporal found himself in this play. and the language and conversation is not so bad in the play as it is in real situations. Why then does it shock people? I think it doesn't. They pretend it does and so cling to their inheritance of hypocrisy and prudery because they don't like to let go of these two 19th century qualities (sic)

Friday ~~January~~ February 13 A fine day after our dreadfulness of yesterday's weather. Dorothy went to the shops and I polished round a bit and did some personal shopping. Went into Mary Harman's bookshop and found her looking much better almost her old self. This afternoon I set to work on the Callaghan meeting speech and am beginning to see my way clear about that. Tonight I attended the W.E.A. Africa class. So much for the programme; to go more into detail I saw Devlin with regard to the apparent leak through the surface at the top of our hill, saw Peter Mowat (T.C.) with regard to an insignia on the scroll of Freeman doings. He, and the Mayor

later, suggested ~~to~~ a little boxing ring but I have 'phoned Joan Liddle to find out some idea to do with the W.E.A. The boxing was Brother Cecil's, not mine, although I was, as one might say, in the game.

Saturday, February 14. Bitterly cold morning. Went with Dorothy to her shop and found, waiting for her, quite a load of things given for sale; and quite a number of people came in as soon as she opened the shop. Gwen Sadler came in at dinner time so there were two there for the afternoon. This is quite a job and all the women who serve there are entitled to the greatest praise and the gratitude of the O.P.W.C. This afternoon I went to the Annual General Meeting of the Constituency Labour Party where everything went off in good style. This party is much better now that Newhaven and Seaford are back in. It makes for very much greater strength than we had at the last four General Elections. This evening we stopped in and looked at the television for awhile: nothing of much value was shown and, as has been very evident to me of late, the B.B.C. is not much better, if at all, from the Commercial networks. However Bk

Sunday February 15. I ~~awoke~~ very early this morning but did not get up until a quarter to seven and finished recording yesterday's journal and did a bit of the C. Speech and a bit of reading of Aristotle's ethics. Didn't go out today

Soon after breakfast there was a 'phone call from "Cousin Doll" (T.S. last July) telling us that she and a Dr. and Freda Vacher would be calling on us this afternoon. Mrs Vasher is Cousin Dolly's sister and they are both Dorothy's cousins on her mother's side. So we stopped in and they arrived at about 4-15 pm. Tall people, the Dr. and his wife, easy to converse with, but the visit was too brief for us to really size each other up!

Monday February. 16 A hard day. Technical college board of Governors in the afternoon and Public Service and Planning this evening from 6-30 until 10-45. A very long meeting but estimates for the coming year were dealt with and a good many other matters. I can't record all my doings today because that is a long day and so I must work in on other recording occasions. What I am pleased about is my being quite able and lively at the end of it. These proofs of my general fitness are always pleasing to me. Will fill in any details on another occasion.

Tuesday February 17. Dorothy at the White Cl. shop this afternoon me at W.E.A. this morning and Station Street ~~of~~ old people's club this afternoon. Dorothy has a bad cold which appears to be developing fast I hope it is soon over. This evening we, the six aldermen, met to select a mayor, or, rather a nominee to recommend to the Council as Mayor. It didn't take long and we decided on Mr Jimmy Green. I am sure it will please him and his

and his wife, who is also a Councillor

Wednesday February 18. The economy has made another great leap forward and this time, all the press and other media of communication are acclaiming it. There have been advances every month for six months but I don't suppose anyone will behave any better from a political point of view. The Conservative party have shifted their attacks from condemning the Govt. economy wise to condemning it because of the increase in crimes of violence. I think the sentences on those people who commit such crimes are much too light: and it has been pointed out by many authoritative sources that crimes against the person seem to be punished much more leniently than crimes against property. I attended a meeting, held at Mr. Granthams house, this afternoon; the aim of the meeting is to form a branch of the organization which researches, or raises money to research into the causes of Rheumatism and Arthritis. We agreed to hold a meeting at the Town Hall about this. Today I got a motiff which can be used as an insignia of the W.E.A. and can be put on my Freeman's scroll. Joan Liddle kindly found it and brought it round and I was able to take it to the Town Clerk at once. This evening I went to the meeting of the "Friends of Victoria Hospital" Committee, after looking in at the appeals committee of the A.P.W.C. mine's a busy life! Anyway, I saw some good wrestling at 11-00 P.M.!!

Thursday. February 19. Joan gave Dorothy a tin-opener, a good one that has to be affixed to the wall. The cold spell having passed, allowing me to get to the wood and the tools that are in the shed (and in confusion), I resolved to fix the tin opener. I was practically the whole morning doing this. Couldn't find the rawplugs: went and bought some: couldn't find either of my rawplug tools so, in the end, I had to make the holes with a bit I have nearest to the size required and that is too big for the rawplug! The tin-opener is in place but I shall have to do it again because the turning of the handle, when the tins are being opened, is sure to work towards loosening things. Anyway, that, and to do with that is how the day has been spent although I have drawn my pension and visited the library. I ommitted to record that, on Tuesday, John Buckwell resigned from the Council. John is about 70 and has decided, to use his own words, "To make room for younger men" I was at school with John and have known him always, as it were. He was our first Labour Councillor and has served the town well for 23 years, (12 years as an alderman).

Friday February 20. Although I haven't mentioned it for some days, I am going on with the physical exercises and, in consequence, I am keeping well. Dorothy went to the

shop this morning and this afternoon while I did various odd jobs at home and some private shopping. I did a bit of foraging round to try and obtain some material for Dorothy for her talk, on "Old people's welfare," to the Cooperative party meeting on next Monday evening and looking through old numbers of the "Times" took some time (!?) I am glad 6 record that, by this evening, Dorothy's cold seemed very much better. I saw Mary Harman today and she seems to be keeps better: not the same woman who told me a week or two back that she was afraid of losing her reason. I missed the African class this evening mainly because I thought it time I went to the Labour Club and saw Alby. He is well and will be at the 'Coop' Party meeting next Monday.: he will also be a steward next Friday evening

Saturday February 21. Dorothy to W. E. Shop. Me to shopping Met Ken Sadler and tried to persuade him to join our short Philosophy course which we hope to start, with Michael Carritt as tutor, between Easter and Whitsun. I did not see Lewes play and I heard they were knocked out of the Sx Senior Cup by 2-1, their opponents being Littlehampton! Dorothy and I did not go out this evening

Sunday February 22. I went to 68 Prince Edwards Road and saw Winnie and Leslie. All is going well with the various members of the families that make up our little clan. On the way home I met Mick Elphick whom I have not met for some time, although, when I have been visiting Baxters, I have met his wife Sheila on occasion. They both worked with me when they were a boy and girl of fifteen and I was fourty-four. Nice to see Mick again. He drove me home and looked in to see Dorothy. Dorothy has been doing the preparations for her talk to the Coop Party tomorrow evening so we haven't been out any more. B.L. I seem to be developing a cold. I shall be annoyed if it doesn't go some way towards clearing up by Friday, when I have a short speech to do at the meeting when the Home Secretary, Mr. Callaghan will be speaking

Monday February 23. I looked into the office after going to Ruths for a loaf. Everything, including the South St breakdown work is going along alright. I had a look down there after going to Ruths. Here is an appalling noise made by the tools. I considered on this noise as a nuisance on the debit side; and the traffic being shut out as something on the credit side, for the people who live in South Street. Beg power driven tools do make a noise but they enable work to be done very quickly. I think two days to repair this fracture in the sewer. Dorothy went to the Coop Party meeting where she had to give a talk on 'Care of the Elderly' or a similar title. I stayed at home and did

some getting ready for the Callaghan meeting on Friday.

Tuesday February 24. I missed the W.E.A. morning class and did some useful things towards getting my "Homework" under control. Finance and Management Committee this evening where the new rate was recommended Of course it is to go up, in keeping with most things nowadays. The weather has turned somewhat warmer again.

Wednesday February 25. This journal, I see, is becoming but a brief account of what I am doing each day but I have no time at present for it to be otherwise. I got the Children's Essay Competition entries from Miss Clarke at the Library and made a start on them. Tonight was the meeting of the Steering Committee of the House of Friendship. After I had reached home Jeanne Jennings, the Secretary of the Old peoples Welfare committee informed me that she has Drs. orders to drop this job! We'll have to find a new secretary and I am very sorry about this and I must see what happens tomorrow morning when I shall meet some members of the Steering Committee to go over the house

Thursday February 26. I forgot to record that yesterday, Mr Webber called (see T.T.) and gave me his scrapbook to read. This is very nice of him and I must tackle it as soon as I can. I went to the House of Fr. and met the members and we looked over the place and several suggestions were made. Thank goodness Ken Sadler is the Chairman of the Committee and is very knowledgable on matters to do with contracts of a similar nature to this. I missed the Hospital Committee (House) this afternoon. I didn't think it wise to attend with this cold. For the same reason I missed the L.L.P. monthly meeting but I did complete the judging of the children's essays so my time was not spent in idleness. It will be necessary for Dorothy and me to be on the platform at tomorrow's Callaghan meeting so I must do something towards shaking off this cold.

Friday February 27. Dorothy went to the white d. shop this morning while I went over the Ho of Fr. with Mr Fuller, the Architect, Jeanne Jennings and Ken Sadler. I have to admire the grasp both of them have on the matter: Jeanne because she has been the one to do the detailed work of the whole of the business from our side and Ken because he is the professionaly competant in such matters. I am now much more aware of what is taking place and so I am more at ease about everything. This afternoon Dorothy went to the old folks thing at the Ed Centre (one of the members birthday parties) while I had a rest and got ready for tonight's political meeting. This went off very well indeed and the Home Secretary was at the top of his very good form. The prospective candidate Quenten Barry, and Mrs Boyden

were very good and I did my part in a manner that gave me satisfaction and my nose didn't bung up until I had finished! We, Dorothy and I, went down by Beck's car and Webber gave us a lift back. There was not a great crowd in the School Hall so perhaps it was too far away. Anyway, all went off alright and I think the Constituency Party is happy. I certainly felt, politically, more full of go after listening to Callaghan than has been the case for some days.

Saturday. February 28. A bitterly cold wind rather spoilt my programme for today, because, as will have been seen from yesterdays entry, my cold lays heavy upon me. I'm not grumbling: I got over last evenings public hall speaking without too much discomfort or embarrassment. However, after a bit of shopping with Dorothy I retired home and spent the rest of the day indoors, though not in "Deerance Vile" because if it was not against my will; I am just making sure I get through this winter in better style than last year. I know I am much more fit than I was then; it's just a wariness I acquired after the illness. B.O.S.

Sunday March 1 1970. March the one and a step towards warmer weather. To celebrate, I suppose, for I can't find any other reason, I did not arise until eight. When the weather really does make steps towards being brighter, then I have quite an amount of things to catch up on. I walked down to the "Snowdrop" and saw Alby and had a drink and a chat, mostly about Council matters. This afternoon I looked through the agenda of the Council meeting which will meet on Wednesday.

Monday March 2. There were two simultaneous engagements this afternoon, one at Granthams for Arthritic Research, and one at the hospital, where the next phase of the work of the Friends of the Victoria Hospital was looked at by the architect and members of the Committee and the Hospital board. I 'phoned apologies for absence to the Arthritic Committee and walked up to the hospital and, when that was over, Don Arnold gave me a lift back. This evening there was our Labour Group meeting to attend and we gathered at Mrs Fitches. When I arrived home I received notice of what was resolved at the Arthritic meeting, both from Mr. Grantham, the temporary Chairman, and from Miss Vinall the temporary secretary. Later on still Len 'phoned to Dorothy that her brother Bert had died so we are rather subdued. To face the situation objectively, the facts are that it is practically impossible for us to attend the funeral service because of the distance: and Len has bronchial difficulties although he is nearer to where it may take place. Bert lived at Preston but has died in Liverpool. The only person in Lancashire is the widowed daughter in law Rita, we are waiting to learn from her what

arrangements there are. I read some of my older Cole books today

Tuesday March 3. I have been pleased with my reading of G. D. H. Cole because it has been yet another proof that my progress in education is effective. I now get much more from the books than the bare information of the subject and so I am happy and wish I had really learned, instead of just read, earlier in life. This afternoon Dorothy and I went to the Station Street Old peoples' Club and spent a nice time at their Annual Party. We met many old acquaintance there and listened to quite a good concert, and we also danced together and I had one with Dorothy Gaston. I met Ernie Trask who was an iron moulder at the Phoenix Iron works with me years ago. He is about four years my senior and I believe he is still doing a half-day in a foundry at Rawlaver, why, I don't know and can only conclude that he likes it! We reached home soon after eight and did not stir out any more. The weather has been bitterly cold anyway. (I attended the W.E.A. class this morning at Prince Edwards Road.)

Wednesday March 4

Another very cold day with sleet and snow. I went to the Lewes Exhibition Meeting this morning, where among other things the Flint case came up (T.J. Feb 5). Quite a pleasant meeting. After an afternoon at home I got ready for the Council Meeting. John Buckwell received a parting present on leaving after serving as a member of the Council for twenty-three years. The Mayor made a nice little farewell speech and John made a suitable reply. Maurice Breese was elected an alderman in his place and I am pleased about this. It was budget night and the forthcoming year's rate was approved after some discussion. There will be an increase of 5½d in the pound after making allowance for the Treasury contribution of 5/8d in the pound. Our Conservative controlled Council now finds it is not so easy to keep rates down, as they have always promised, and at the same time they find it is extraordinarily easy to spend money that is an abstraction, as it were and the ratepayers, having elected the Conservatives to be in charge will have to foot the bill. Owing to no building or other ratepaying projects having been brought to completion, the increase in the income from a 1d rate is the rather laughable sum of £1¼ !!.

Thursday March 5. All day we were at Patcham with the Joan and the boys. Quite an interesting time. Both Mark and Robin are very forward for three and two years of age and it is very jolly to be with them. Joan has her hands full but she seems to cope very ably. The weather is still cold so we went down by car (a luxury we can afford, we find, and which makes life a lot more easy). On the way back we were due to stop at the University and meet Hilda Chandler and Dagma Gann to attend a lecture given by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Asa Briggs, on the Education Act of 1870. We were warned by

our care driver that a rough time was expected because there is this unrest that keeps on being worked up among the student population; at the present moment it is "Secret Files": a more romantic excuse than the usual crap for these hoodlums to behave like hoodlums about. When we arrived there we found the main hall, where Asa Briggs was to speak, was crowded, probably by the hoodlums who had got there first, and we had to go to an overflow meeting which was also crowded, but which had a big television screen on which we could see the speaker and the Chairman. For a very long time it was impossible for the lecture to take place because of the noise in the main hall and, even in our hall there was plenty of ~~insane~~ shouting of inane remarks and very audible insane laughter over nothing apparently. Eventually the lecture was delivered but the damage was done. All this is very disheartening to people, especially to those who have really spent a considerable part of their lives making it possible for these students to receive this University education. I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that a minority, whose minds ~~are~~ still seem to be at kids' level, and whose manners are non-existent, since they seem to have no ~~minds~~ ideas beyond the subjects which they must have had crammed into them to reach the University; this minority are running and ruining all that has been built up and I think the majority of the students, who are very decent, well mannered people, show a lack of wits and spirit to have their good names of student so lowered that one local authority has cut the grant to the University already.

Friday March 6. As an antidote to the disgust, caused by the events of yesterday evening, a journey to Rawhaven Evening Institute Centre was very effective: and this visit gave one a feeling of warmth and enthusiasm for adult education that is needed. To see all the people at the Centre, each eager to learn the subject they had chosen: the friendly atmosphere and the amount of equipment provided for the use of people who are willing students, made me feel better again. The visit was arranged by Miss Bond the Lewes E. I. secretary and we were driven there by Mr Linden, we meaning Barry Palmer and me. Mr. Loloare met us there and Mr. Usherwood came in later. A very pleasant evening.

Saturday March 7. I took the children's essay entrants back to the Library but was unable to get the next batch because Miss Hight, another of the judges, had not completed them yet. I ~~don't~~ think the work is not so high a standard as I have seen it but it is quite interesting and one can judge the benefits (or handicaps) that arise from the new I. T. A. teaching. Dorothy went to Brighton with Jeanne Jennings because Jeanne had 'phoned yesterday and it was obvious she was in need of company. This rather upset (or I should say, altered) today's programme somewhat but it was

obvious that some companionship was called for: and, in the case of Jeanne, Dorothy is the one to supply it. We have not done much else today. I did not go to the football because my cold, which I have now had for some days, is not improving to my liking and it is time for me to keep out of the cold winds

Sunday March 8. Chief event today; Joan & Ted Freyne and Mary Harman came for a meal and a chat this evening. Very nice, with our old friends it was like old times and the "chat" developed into an evening of good and amusing conversation.

Monday March 9. We did various jobs and journeys but my cold made me feel none too good. The executive meeting of the O.P.V. Committee, of which I am chairman took place and went off quite smoothly, much to my pleasure because I did feel seedy and I had no sleep at all Sunday night. Dinner time today I got prescriptions from the Doctor (via Peggy Neighbour) and had a sleep this afternoon which did me a world of good. At the meeting Jeanne told of the necessity for her to give up the job of secretary because of the state of her health; we shall find difficulties in replacing her. I was uncomfortable with my cold at the meeting but got better when I ceased home.

Tuesday March 10. I had a splendid sleep last night and felt on top of the world at the Assize Service. Indeed Reg Jarman, the Mayor, who was at last evening's meeting, expressed surprise at my rapid recovery from what he saw me looking like last evening. I had a good chat with Professor Asa Briggs, the Vice Chancellor of the University, mostly on the scenes at his lecture which I have described in this journal for last Thursday March 5. Like me, he finds the behaviour of many of the students inexplicable. He managed the meeting with the students, which took place after the lecture, quite well and was quite heartened by having a young fellow come to him, after the turmoiled had died away, and ask what books he could recommend to study on the subject of the Lecture (the 1870 Education Act). The rest of the Children's Essays arrived so I spent all the rest of the day working on judging them, and this evening in reading aloud from a book entitled "The Worm in the Bud" by Ronald Pearsall. (K.E.Re.) This ~~th~~ study of Victorian times shows great research ability and a good fair-minded way of sorting out what has been discovered during the research: but I have made a pretty extensive study of that period and have noted the puritanism with its corollary "Laissez Faire" style capitalism and can see how people (in about two decades) can be conditioned into believing the filthy attitude to sex was real and eternal. How could they help it when their spiritual guides and many of their scientific guides (doctors of medicine) took the line that this was so.

Wednesday March 11. Joan 'phoned yesterday that she would need to go to her dentist owing to a painfull toothache so Dorothy went to Patcham to look after the boys. The trouble has turned out to be an abcess so poor Joan had put up with a good deal of discomfort during the last few days. We hope it will soon be better. Dorothy said she looked much better at the end of the day and Bert came home early, so I hope Joan had an easier time. While Dorothy was at Patcham I looked into the office about the 'Briggs" planning application, and while there I learned that Joan Bourne has had to go to Brighton Hospital with, as far as I could gather, a recurrence of her complaint, which we had all hoped was finished with. I don't know much about this as yet so I will get into touch with Colin: I have got to do that in any case over a different matter. I delivered the judged children's essays back to Eve Clarke at the Library. This evening the General (quarterly) meeting of the C.P.W. Committee was held in the Council Chamber. and everything passed off successfully, much to my pleasure. We now have to find a new secretary to replace Jeanne Jennings which is not much to my pleasure but I hope we can do so in good time because Jeanne's health depends on her relinquishing some of her very heavy commitments. Dorothy was present and the Sadlers gave us a ride back

Thursday March 12 I arose quite early and got somewhat into my old curriculum. Finished fastening the tin opener on the wall and did various other little jobs. Our Joan's toothache has got a bit better. I went into the office(?). Nothing to record

Friday March 13. Had a 'phone message from Colin B regarding Joan B. He has nothing much to report as to her progress but she is coming home and the results, or conclusions from her examination will be known in a day or two. Went to WEA (Africa course). otherwise nothing worth recording

Saturday March 14. Dorothy tried out the Hoover cleaner she has bought from the W E Shop and is quite happy about. I went to the paper shop and, coming home via Nicholas Lane I looked in to see Mary who greeted me with the sad news that she was feeling as though she was relapsing into her ailment of a few weeks ago. However, she soon agreed with me to banish the idea and we chatted about books and our meal and the talk at home the other night with Ted and Joan Joyce and she seemed happier then. I attended the Constituency L. Party this afternoon, Dorothy and I went to the Scouting Assn Annual Dinner this evening and it-

was a very nice occasion: we met quite a number of people and enjoyed the meal. Maurice Breese drove us home. I had seen him before this morning over the Mrs Briggs conversion application and he, as chairman of the appropriate committee, is going to look into the matter

Sunday March 15: A nice sunny day and Dorothy and I went for a short walk along Offham Rd and Landport Estate. I have done some reading aloud to Dorothy on Victorian sexual mores according to the conclusions drawn from research by Pearsall (T.T. March 9)(B.K.) Also saw quite a good Frost programme.

Monday March 16. Got in touch with Mrs Jeffries of the C.C. old peoples Committee and have agreed to meet her tomorrow. She has some enquiry with regard to housing I think: anyway, I forgot I have the W.E.A. Tuesday class tomorrow and, in the afternoon, the judging of the Children's Essay Competition. I must see Mrs J. early or get Doroth. to apologise for me. I had a haircut this afternoon and then went to the office and had a jaw with Rodney. R. just back from a course at Sheffield, Rodney is very well. I missed the visiting Committee of the O.P.W.C. this evening and we had a quiet read at home.

Tuesday March 17. This morning Dorothy and I saw Mrs Jeffries at Sussex House and I grasped what she wanted with her Housing List enquiry. It is a matter of having a comprehensive list of people, (especially the elderly) who are, or could be, in need of housing: and for the Housing Manager to have the information provided by such a list whether they are on the housing list or not. He will then always have a broad view of the situation in the town and this would be of help in making up the main and allocation lists and would draw into co-operation the various visiting bodies there are in the town. On leaving Mrs Jefferies, Dorothy and I looked in the town office to see how Joan B was. She has to visit the specialist again in April and then I hope she will be clear. It was most fortunate that Doroth. and I did look in because Joan B was able to help with some important information about the proposed "Flag Day" which Dorothy is organizing for May 9. Joan B got us into touch with the C.C. and over there we went and made all arrangements of legal things watertight. So, I missed my W.E.A. altogether but I am very glad because it has smoothed out Dorothy's work. Hilda rang me this evening regarding the class so I have promised to attend next week. This afternoon there was the judging of the Children's Essay Competetion. Eve Clarke and Christine from the Library; Barbara

Willard, he invited author, wife Miss Flight and I from the Committee, forgathered in our front room and thrashed out the final placings of the entries in two and a half hours. I hope others will appreciate the care that has gone into this judging: and I hope the kids are not too disappointed when some of them find their work does not secure a commendation.

Wednesday March 18. An ordinary sort of day: started some digging this morning. This evening the meeting of the Council in Committee took place to decide upon our attitude to two alternatives to the Maude report on Local Government Boundaries. I, and my colleagues were in favour of the full implementation of the White Paper on the Report but we had been defeated at the previous meeting that was held to discuss this matter. The two alternatives were one put forward by the E.S.B.C. that they and the W.S.B.C. form the two unitary districts made by the whole county; and the other alternative was put forward by the Southern Boroughs, which, to a large extent, followed the White Paper but was not so big a unitary district. Since we had lost the White Paper proposals I thought it best to propose we back the Southern Boroughs and this proposal was carried. I fully expect, however, that the White Paper will be adopted after the next election.

Thursday March 19. I have suffered from a stiff neck for a day or two. I hope it leaves before long. Shockingly painful. The "Africa" class took place at St Swithuns Terrace this evening and made quite an interesting evening. It is a good job it has shifted to Thursday as the L.L.P. has a wine and cheese evening tomorrow.

Friday March 20. Neck slightly better but at the L.L.P. wine and cheese evening a Mrs Molly Gilbert insisted that I should try to ease the pain by the use of her lamp and she very kindly went and got it and drove us home. I haven't used it yet and I know that it can't help my ailment which is caused by an arthritic spine, but I will gladly give it a trial if the pain becomes acute again. I think, indeed, I hope the party was a success. Mr Barry, the candidate spoke and there was a better atmosphere which was engendered by the result of the Lyrstone bye election. Mrs Gilbert drove Dorothy and me home with the lamp.

Saturday March 21. First day of spring. Rather so. I'm getting quite an old man in my waiting for the warmer weather. I did a bit of shopping but for the rest of the day nursed the neck a bit. If anything interferes with my exercising etc I soon feel a loss of buoyancy. Saw some wrestling: went to Library, watched

the television programme this evening but there was nothing to enthuse over. C.O

Sunday March 22. A nice morning: Dorothy and I walked up to Prince Edwards Road and saw Winnie, Issy and Leslie. All are well and everything seems in order. We made a walk of it and came home via the St Annes Hill and New Road. My neck was now better and I did some garden digging quite comfortably.

Monday March 23. Started on my P.E. again, restricting it to gently limbering up and I was delighted to find things were getting comfortable again. Walked down to Ruth's end purchased a loaf and then, this afternoon, Dorothy and I went over to Fairholme and the "Grange" to the A.G.M. of the Grendreda Housing Assn. I had to propose the receiving of the Annual Report since I am now a vice-president and also on the Borough Council and I did this satisfactorily, as far as I could judge. This evening there was the C.P.W.C. Steering Committee of the House of Friendship to attend and the business was carried through in quite good style. I had to admire Ken Sadlers work on both these things I attended today, especially his Chairmanship of the Steering Committee

Tuesday March 24: Dorothy went to a "Shelter" committee this morning, while I attend the W.E.A. "Romantics" class. All went very well at my course and I have been rude enough not to ask Dorothy how her meeting went, but I expect I would have heard had anything extraordinary happened. I had lunch at King Henrys Road, it being the last day of the course. This afternoon Dorothy did some of her writing of circulars to do with the House of Friendship flag-day and I visited for a short time, the Station Street Club of the Fed. of Pensioners and the Library and I did not go out this evening; rather a lazy evening really and I shall soon have to focus my mind on the "Freeman" speech. There is no doubt that time can be wasted looking at "This or that" on the telly. However, the same wastage happens if one is reading this or that for an evening. I wonder why time wasted by reading is not so generally condemned as is time spent watching television? Intellectual bias and snobbery I expect!

Wednesday March 25 Dorothy went to Peacham to look after Joan's boys and I went to the presentation of the Children's Essay Awards at the Library. This was held in the Council Chamber and, just before it started, Dorothy walked in, having got there after all. A very pleasant little function which I enjoy each year, especially when, as is the case this year, I have judged them. When you have judged an essay, it is nice to observe

what the writer of the essay looks like. This evening Dorothy and I went to an exhibition of photographic slides by the Lewes Camera Club, the proceeds of this show was for the House of Friendship funds. A first-class affair and I found everyone there very friendly. Later this evening I watched some exceptionally good wrestling televised from Nottingham.

Thursday March 26. Maunday Thursday and a fine day. Some work done in clearing the compost heap and starting it off fresh and Dorothy "did" the kitchen and the chinese matting which covers the floor of the kitchen. We also did some shopping this morning; and went to the L.L.P. meeting this evening where a really good talk and discussion took place on the Arab-Israeli situation, the speaker, an Iraqui, giving us the Arab point of view and dealing with the questions and discussion very ably. A nice meeting.

Friday March 27 Good Friday. I did some more straightening of the garden etc. A very cold day though, as I found when I went to the Pan this afternoon and, for a while only, watched Lewes Reserves before continuing the short walk I took this afternoon. Judging by the television news, plenty of people are doing plenty of things besides commemorating the crucifixion of Christ; but plenty of people are also doing that. It is peoples own choice on how to spend today. Dorothy and I had a quiet evening and then she crept in with me. S.f.C.

Saturday March 28. Shopping this morning and to the football this afternoon. Anyone who reads this journal will notice that I have dropped mentioning my early morning programme and this is because I do not carry it out with the faithful regularity as I previously did. It is all to do with rising later in the morning, I think; or perhaps it is because I am getting older. It'll have to be watched, anyway. It was Letchworth Lewes played today and the score was still 0-0 at the time I came away. Dorothy and I spent the evening watching the T.V. with Dorothy getting some of the tokens ready for the St. W.C. collection day, which is on May 9. Raining hard tonight

Sunday March 29. Rain had cleared when I came down and a fine day was indicated. Dorothy and I travelled to Peltham comfortably by bus and the two boys greeted us enthusiastically, as they usually do. We spent an enjoyable day, most of it amusing the boys and, after lunch Bunty, John & Helen arrived, bringing with them the baby Charles, so there was a family gathering and very nice that proved to be: especially as it was added to by Norah. Bunty's family all look very well. Charles is growing big very fast and Helen is growing up very fast and at four years of age seems nicely sophisticated when one has been playing with the boys! Robin gets the idea of singing and worked really hard to take a leading part in the songs but Mark's interests are

plainly in other directions. Bunty left soon after five and Dorothy and I left at 7-40 by bus and were home in ample time to visit Frank before we finally reached our house. Joan is very well and is coping with her family work very ably. I notice she keeps a very equal balance (a balance that the boys can observe) in her dealings, or attentions, to all the children. This should inculcate into them, or I should say into each of them as they grow older, a balanced outlook, because they will know that they are not neglected, and, equally, they will know that they alone are not the centre of the universe. Each of us, when infants, have this idea, or illusion and our teachers have to make us discard it in as gentle a manner as is possible One very important opportunity is when several children are together

Monday March 30 Easter Monday and Dorothy and I went to the "Gardeners" Arms and judged the Easter Bonnett competition. Cold showery weather but we were in warm bright company at the "Gardeners"

Tuesday March 31. Attended the Library Committee this evening and we got through some business after a fashion. I am convinced that it is more by the direction of the officers that we make any progress in some directions. Certainly not by the ability of some Chairmen.

Wednesday April 1. 1970 Joan's house at Bitsham is being repainted and in consequence, there is a good deal of keeping doors open and what-not. Joan decided, therefore, to bring the two boys over so we have had a lively time! Joan and the boys look remarkably well and the boys can travel along quite swiftly as we discovered when we took them to see my sisters Winnie and Issy.

Thursday April 2. The boys came over again today but I did some work towards the Arthritic Research Branch. I also did some reading to the boys and they and I are generally getting to know each other. 9B V/H

Friday. April 3. I did some destributing of A-Research etc today. I ommitted to record that I learned from Joan B yesterday that she is having a rather worrying time with the diagnosis and prognosis of some trouble she has. She is having various tests and I do hope the results are favourable when they are known. It must be a very anxious time for her and Colin. I had been asked to enquire of Mrs Elvey, the wife of the prison governor, if she would be willing to help with the work of a branch of the Arth Resh: but I found that she is also poorly with a danger of a nervous breakdown; I also saw Mrs Briggs with regard to her application for home alterations and I have made an

arrangement, a firm one this time, that she and the Chairman meet on next Monday evening. Still on my way I signed an application for passport form for Bill Ainsworth: thus I had quite a busy "Aldermanic" morning. Dorothy went to the White Elephant shop this afternoon and I did some homework on the Freeman Speech. I did go to the Library and on the way met Dorothy Gaston, "cringing" out of the rain in Holden's doorway, upon my joking about this she speedily decided to walk and not wait for a 'bus and she was soon striding along in her usual smart fashion. This evening Dorothy (my Dorothy) and I spent a quiet time with 'telly' and she doing more preparations for the flag day on May 9. We saw some quite funny little shows and the evening was nice and restful.

Saturday April 4 1970. I arose a bit more early than has recently been the case and did some writing and some reading. Dorothy and I went shopping in the morning and this afternoon I went to the fair where Lewes beat Aveley by two goals to one and thereby disposed of one of their promotion rivals: but this evening was the event towards which Dorothy and I were looking with some interest. The Wivelsfield wrestling club were going to give a whole programme towards the A.F.W.C. House of Friendship and right royally did they carry out their promise and we were given £58. 8-6, or thereabouts towards the fund and we enjoyed an very exciting evening. We took as our guest Mrs Bowes-Lyon because she is generous to the old people's clubs and had shown great interest in the wrestling when speaking to me at on the occasions when we have met at little functions. She thoroughly enjoyed herself this evening.

Sunday April 5 Today is the 44th anniversary of our wedding. Time marches on. Went for a walk with Dorothy this morning, to Montacute Road, where the treasurer of the House of Friendship Appeals Committee lives. I wanted to hand him the cheque for the wrestling clubs contribution, which I had received at the show last evening, but there was noone at his home. I spent the rest of Sunday in what has become my usual way, reading and viewing and some writing: there seems no incentive to alter this kind of programme while the weather remains so cold. It has been sunny today though.

Monday April 6. An appalling wet and cold day for the time of the year so I did some indoor clerical this morning and went to the office this afternoon where I had a chat with Rodney Armitage, and this evening attended the Public Services Committee. This lasted three hours! Lucky job it is now divided into two meetings as it used to be. I found that Maurice had attended to the Briggs Planning Application case & he told me

that things were now in a kind of programme so we can settle ourselves into trying to reverse the previous decision of the Committee and so make a start on stopping the rot which could end in the motor-car taking full precedence over human ~~f~~ beings

Tuesday April 7. Quite an uneventful day. I had a look into the Station Street Old Peoples Club this afternoon but did not stay more than an hour. Really it was quite nice outside and I am not so old as to be beyond enjoying a walk. When I reached home I did some reading from Aristotles Ethics and from Liebnitz and I did not go out this evening. The violence in Ulster is causing trouble again: the kidnapping (in South America) and the murdering of perfectly innocent representatives of other countries has worsened, the hijacking of airliners and other examples of carrying out the "Deed" as well as using the "Word", wrongly interpreted, is rapidly sending all peoples' minds to the idea of preservation of the built up civilization and so I can see a very hard bash-bash taking place before long. The Local Election series has started in England with the C.C. elections and there are signs that the trend to the "Right" is being maintained. The inference is obvious

Wednesday April 8. I attended the Committee meeting of the Friends of Lewes Victoria Hospital this evening. The members are very pleasant, capable people and I always enjoy working with them. Watched a bit of wrestling when I arrived home. Life is one round of pleasure! You can switch on to plays films discussions football or what-have-you without going outside your front door. How good or bad for one this is I don't know. I do know that several people who one would have thought, were "wowsers": now secretly watch boxing and horse-racing etc. besides watching films which they had always considered you shouldn't. I mean that wowsers held that films, like all stage plays were intrinsically evil and should be avoided. As far as I am concerned anyone is entitled to hold such weird views if he wishes ~~to~~ but the trouble is that such people consider they are chosen, by the god of their idea, to make everyone conform to what might be called the wowser way of life. From all such may we be preserved.

Thursday April 9 I had to served on a selection committee at the Wallands school and this took three and a half hours so I missed a House of Friendship Steering Committee. I had had enough by the time I had finished the selection.

Friday April 10. Went to the committee to set up a branch of the Arthritic Research. This was held at Mr Grantham's house and took a good deal of the afternoon. I have mentioned this body of people early earlier in this journal and will mention them again when the Branch of the movement we intend to set up is actually in existence. This evening we were guests of the Mayor at the Lewes operatic Society's production of "South Pacific", which we both enjoyed quite a lot. This was the first time the Operatic Soc have moved away from the Town Hall since ~~they~~ it first presented an opera. We hired a car for each way but we could have had a ride home by the courtesy of Eve Blake.

Saturday April 11. We arose fairly late to a very fine morning and Dorothy had to go to a coffee and Bring and Buy morning for the Friends of Hellingly Hospital. I went to Ralls for a loaf and did a bit of clearing up and watched the cup-final this afternoon. Leeds 2 Chelsea 2.
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Sunday April 12. I have not been out today: a continuous cold, heavy rain has made outdoors very unpleasant so I have caught up with a few things indoors. Graham came this afternoon and gave me some canvassing to do for David Williams and Gordon Hoile's candidature, I think I can be of some use in that direction. Now that the G. C election results are known, it seems to be plain that we are coming into our own again, albeit rather slowly.

Monday April 13. I went to the Town Hall offices in the morning and to one of the classes in Michael Barritt's Course on moral values. ^ this afternoon. This is the first attempt of the branch on this course for a long time and I am very pleased, both with the attendance and the response of the people present to ~~the~~ take part in the subject. I don't know exactly how many were present, but there were quite a number I know and among them was Mr. Anderson who came to Barritt's classes in the early fifties. It was also very nice to meet Barritt again, working on his own job and on his own subjects. This course will take in a good deal of philosophy and that will be all to the good. This evening I did the Clubs Committee of the C.P.W. ~~This evening~~, a meeting which did not last long. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present the budget tomorrow, and, since we have made such giant strides towards reaching and keeping, solvency, there is considerable speculation on what easements he may make. We shall learn tomorrow and I hope he keeps his anti-inflationary measures strong enough to keep us solvent.

Tuesday April 14 The three American astronauts who are on a journey to the moon have had trouble with the machine and are to endeavour to return to earth by Friday; a very bad situation for them and there

is only a fifty-fifty chance of the machine managing a return! The Chancellor has presented his budget and, while it only "gives" to the lower income groups, it does takes the form of being a very sound, balanced affair and the very first thing it is aimed at is the maintaining of equilibrium. This was what to aim at too, and an immense amount of good will come from today's effort to cease the "Stop and Go" method which the Conservative Chancellors made so familiar, and change it to "Go and Pay as you go". I did some shopping in the morning with Dorothy. Her toes, because of a late flowering chilblain are very bad; and she finds it is very painful to walk. However, she went shopping again this afternoon and I attended the Finance and Management committee this evening. Things were fairly straightforward here and I reached home at about 9-20. Graham had called on us and we had a chat for an hour or so. Graham is developing very rapidly now and is of a good deal of use to the Labour Party locally.

Thursday. April 16. Dorothy attended the "Shelter" luncheon with Kay Gibbard and they both seemed very happy about the running of the affair and also the guest speaker Des. Wilson! I did a bit of the canvassing of "missings" through not being at home when the candidate called. I included a look in at Wally and Dorothy's

Cripps and had a short talk. He is now much better again and he looks surprisingly well for eighty-four. This afternoon Kay stopped with us for some time so there was an opportunity for a talk. The achievements of man over his environment is now being demonstrated by the steps being taken to bring back the "Space-craft" to earth. This is actually being carried out by controll and directions to the crew from Earth. To use an old cliche, "One's mind boggles"!

Friday April 17. We attended the Mayor's Reception and Ball this evening and had some dances, ~~and~~ some talking, and, generally speaking, a happy time. Dorothy wore her original blue evening dress and looked very attractive in it and was in good spirits, her toe having got considerably better. Met various people, and, at our table there were the Mayors of Worthing and Hove with their Mayoresses; Joan B, who now seems to be in better health, and Colin B.; and Dick Whittington who, as a proposed Freeman, is a colleague of mine. Dick had to dance with the Mayoress because His Worship the Mayor, through playing some Association football on one day some weeks back and then playing Rugby the next day, all this in the mistaken idea (I think it is a mistaken idea) that the charity for whose benefit these two games were played would benefit by his being included as a player. Poor Reg has been limping ever since!! The Mayoress of Hove (we have not her ~~the~~ Mayor

before, is a hopeless cripple from ~~sept~~ sceralis (?) and was present in an ~~in~~ invalid chair, poor soul, I felt very sorry for her. (and for him to the extent that I'd let him down very lightly when he attempted to be clever at the expense of my political ideas which are well known ~~among~~ in this sort of circle) a poor type for a position which ~~tales of~~ it is taken for granted, has, as its aim, a unifying influence. The Mayor of Worthing I had met before and I enjoyed my talk with him this evening. He is a licensed victualler and looks the part, being rather plump. I already knew he had been a wrestler and, tonight, I learned that he had been up to area championship form, and only the 1939 war stopped his career in that year. Foolish man to carry the "corporation" he does carry. One would imagine he, like me, would know enough to stop any chance of developing a "tummy." This has been a good evening; and, when Joan and Colin bore us home at 1-30, the evening was complete.

Saturday, April 18. Passed the usual Saturday morning with shopping and so on and I went to the Dripping Pan this afternoon to see Lewes F.C. make sure of the one point they needed for promotion to the premier division of the Athenian League. Joy and Jimmy Whittle invited us to their home for the evening because Dinah Stock was to be there and so we enjoyed a pleasant re-union. Dinah looks very well still and is ~~quiet~~ quite as lively in conversation as she was. It was pleasant to meet her again although I don't need to remind myself of the effect her movement, the W.E.A. and she had on our lives in the early 1930s

Sunday April 19 Chief event today, after doing some tilling of the soil in the morning, was the Coop Conference this afternoon. There was a nice young M.P. who spoke to the conference & who we had met before (Joan Evans) He is the member for the Hardley division of Birmingham: and he spoke very well and enthusiastically on behalf of the Labour & Cooperative Parties and I am sure he has done some good: the cause is now on the up-and-up according to opinion polls

Wednesday April 22. I am writing these entries retrospectively, as it were, because, for various reasons, I have been unable to get them in at the end of the appropriate days. Still nobody will mind if the items are not mentioned at all! There was quite a good Council meeting this evening and we, of the Labour Group, were defeated in our attempts to "Refer Back" various items and, I am afraid, that is so much the worse for the town because the items in question are pushed through because of the Conservative party strength on the Council but these items emanate from the Chamber of Commerce, and

the members of that body have, in one connection or another, a financial interest in these particular items.

Tuesday May 5. Today I was made an Honourary Freeman of the Borough of Lewes. There were four of us received this honour and I am very pleased I was included. Joan, Bunty and the grandchildren came but, unfortunately, because of their youth, the three boys had to be taken out by Joan and Bunty who thus missed the ceremony, or partly missed it. I think Helen enjoyed most of it, and since everyone then went to the Grange gardens for tea, and the weather was really beautiful, the children enjoyed their day out. The whole affair was extremely well arranged by Rodney Armitage, the Deputy Town Clerk and he deserves praise for the efficient way things were carried through. Both Joan and Bunty seem to be in very good health although they are both busy: in fact, Bunty had a clinic she had to finish before arriving here; and from the hospital to her home, pick up her children; drive to Lewes; have quite a busy time with the kids while at the function etc; and then to get back to Hurst Green, dropping Joan and her family at Ditchling on the way. all this, I should think, is indicative of a very "well" body and mind. Moreover, children are not just made to disapear, under threats of physical discomfort if they make a noise, nowadays; so it reflects all the more credit on the parents of today that they seem to deal with everything while at the same time "educating" their offspring into a life that is real. Since making my last entry in this journal lots of things have happened in Lewes (and elsewhere of course) and Dorothy and I have kept pretty busy. She has kept well except for "Chilblain" (yes, that what we call it) but otherwise she is well and has done various public jobs, including a talk "On Being a Magness" very successfully. Today she looked very attractive the function. Joan and Colin brought Dorothy and me home and stopped awhile for a "coffee in peace" after all the excitements of the day.

Wednesday May 6 Another beautiful, warm day. I did a little more Electioneering, not much because polling day is tomorrow. The opinion polls which are published show that Labour is now 1% in the lead!, in the district Council elections that have been held Labour has already made great gains. I take we can do the same here in Lewes tomorrow. Frank looked in this afternoon, during the course of his deliverying polling cards. He is very well. This evening Dorothy and I stopped in and Dorothy rested from her work in the garden.

Thursday May 7. A tough, vote collecting day and we, of the Local Labour party have emerged victorious, to use a romantic phrase. The result here, two gains and two held more securely, makes us all very happy while the gains over the rest of the country, it seems to me, show that people are being glad to have their Labour Councillors back in charge. The twaddle and useless chatter that is carried on, by the commentators, in a non-stop gabble of repitition while election results are being broadcast, betrayed a hint of the kind of excuse that will be made in several quarters to explain this turning to Labour. I say "betrayed a hint" because these young and brash "Loobelays" have to keep talking, because they take the place of the music which used to be played between declared results, and since they are paid to keep talking and giving what is called their "opinion" (of all the impertinance), they say the first thing which comes into their heads. I understand that in Ireland, in the last century where a wedding or a similar event was taking place, and the participants could not afford a whistle pipe or whatever as man could be hired to "la la" various tunes. He was called a Lulla-Lulla man and I think, since the B.B.C. apparently cannot afford to play good gramaphone records during the broadcasting of the results at election times, they should employ a "Lulla-Lulla" man. He could not be so dull as the commentators and certainly not so repititious. It will be noticed that I am so annoyed by the noise of the "Loobelays" that I am carried away from rejoicing in our victory!

Friday May 8. Dorothy has been making the final arrangements for the "Flag-day", which she is organising to take place tomorrow, in aid of the House of Friendship We both went to the Labour Club this evening to see how things were. Here, and indeed, in most places where I have been today, there is satisfaction at the result of the municipal elections in Lewes. The fine weather continues.

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Saturday May 9. Both of us rose early and Dorothy soon got on parade and had her troop of flag-sellers deployed and into action. Curiously enough, for this happens each May when she has this job, the hot weather desapeared and a cold, easterly wind made standing about very uncomfortable. Mrs Richards and Dorothy stuck to their post at the Town-Hall door and we finished at about 1-30 p.m. I had to get to the Tech. for the W.E.A. one-day school but did it alright and the lecturer gave some good talking points on both Israeli and Arab side. I must confess that the more I see or learn of these "Bush-fire" places, the more I realise how hopelessly subjective it seems to wish

a United Nations or a League of Nations to be effective in affairs of this nature. The pact which could have been forced upon the area when the Israelies simply wiped the floor with all the opponents (the "Pax Israeli") in fact) would have saved untold bloodshed and would have removed, temporally, at least, the worlds most dangerous threat to the war of anihilation, i.e. W.W.3. This evening Dorothy and I went to the Labour Club where we joined with many other election helpers in a little celebration over our victory of Thursday. Very nice; and Dorothy had made some nice things to eat and plenty of them.

Sunday May 10. I went up to 68 Prince Edwards Road and saw Wennie and Lesy. Lesy is well but Wennie is in a bad spell because she says she should have had a separate invitation to the Freeman Business last Tuesday. I did my best to smooth things down and had a talk with Lesy and Leslie; but Wennie having had her few words, withdrew and I did not see her again on leaving, although we shouted good bye to each other. I suppose this sort of thing occurs a great many times in most families, or among siblings anyway. so I ought not to worry unduly over it, but I am extremely sympathetic to both my sisters, who are senior in age to me, because they are of the bogey "Victorean Edwardian" period and all the women like them of that period of stupid repression, and, as if that were't enough, all these women were handicapped further by the nation losing 1,000,000 potential husbands and fathers. This mention of the first war period brings me to the 5th Sx Old Comrades parade I attended today. As would have been gathered from the early books of this journal, I have a sentimental attachement to these old warriors, veterans of the first war; survivors of the ghastly May 9 1915. and pig headed obstinacy of an English high Command which was reserved for English Arestocracy and which, in consequence of this, was known as the "Donkeys". A Mr. Webb, who is the Rector of Barcombe, and of my age or older and so is of the period of these veterans, preached a so-so sermon to suit the occasion and we, (councillors) had tea afterwards in the Corn-exchange. This evening Dorothy and I went for a walk, intending to cross Wille Bridge and come back via Phoenix causeway. Along by the Pelh we met Mr. Webber and a visitor to his house and we accompanied them back to his home, which was across the river anyway, and we spent quite a pleasant evening there mostly talking "of things and about". very nice. Webber's friend could be quite a philosopher

Monday May 11 1970. I attended the meeting of the Wallands school managers this afternoon and we dealt with various matters. I am thinking of packing up this

particular school committee because it is rather extra for me. However, I'll see what transpires. Evelyn phoned and then came down to take Dorothy to the "Tea." where the A.G.M. of the Friends of Hellingly Hospital was held and I think this meeting was quite satisfactory for Dorothy, I mean in the sense that she was glad she had gone and that everybody was glad to see her. I was also glad that Evelyn had come down to fetch Dorothy. I think she has a good deal of worry and although I gather Evelyn is well off, still, worry is worry. Anyway, while they were at the meeting, I had the Labour groups at home and we made some moves towards getting going again.

Tuesday. May 12. I had quite a good walk, delivering the thanks to those people who had collected, on Saturday, for the "House of Friendship". I don't know if I have recorded the amount raised but it is £76-16-4. A really worthwhile effort. I also delivered the "Councillor's Preference Sheets" ready for the Selection committee which met this evening. I hope each of us in the Labour Group have our wishes granted. Today I mowed at the lawn; I say "at" here because the mower is not in very good condition and I finally went to Harper & Cedes who will send Jack Plummer round today to get it put in order. Dorothy did the washing & although the fine, warm weather occasionally gave place to showers, I think she got them all dry enough for her to iron this evening: during which time I had the "Telly" and a read

Wednesday May 13. Gradually I am getting back into my old way of rising, writing and reading then exercise. I am rising in good time, although not so early as I used: although I don't use any sleeping tablets now. I had better abandon that subject because I have already written down qualifications about things in the shape of two "although" jockeying for position in a short sentence. I do not suppose that this would be noticed nowadays because some of the "New Authors" contributions to various things I have read are the most amazing bundle of words I could possibly imagine: and betray a refusal to learn from, or accept as authorities, the natural masters of communication through the written word. This, of course, is only the usual "Trendy" way of doing things and it is evident in all forms of "Art". I don't know whether it is to be called subjectivism or anarchism or what, but the ideas, or lack of ideas, from the empty heads of these writers want ignoring and it is easy enough to give up trying to read such confused rubbish when one learns by an experience or two that there is nothing at the centre, so why laboriously peel it. (Like Peer Gynt's onion). Jeanne sent the proofs of the Annual Report of the C.P.W.C. for me to check and this I did and then walked over to her home at Malling and dropped them in, not finding her at home. I met her while on my way home via Malling Street and chatted for a

few minutes before returning home. I had sausages for dinner, Dorothy having gone to keep an eye on the grandsons while Joan does her hair appointment. In today's "Times" most of the front page is used up with the news confirming, by way of a third opinion poll, that the Labour Party is now 7.5% in the lead. This is most astounding (and heartening for people like us.) It is astounding when the fact that the Conservatives had a lead of 4.5 less than a month ago is taken into a/c!. The discussion is now on "What time will the P.M. have the General Election?" Of course, it rests entirely with Mr. Wilson, but all the editors, journalists, commentators and others have seized on this opportunity to give their opinions on when it should be. The opinions of such people are worth no more than anyone elses opinion, but the opportunity to earn their daily bread and something extra is too good to miss and their job is communicating through newspapers or some form of wireless: herein lies the only difference between their opinion and anybody elses, and they grab the chance the difference affords them. I saw Wally & Dorothy Cripps and he complimented me on my efforts at making a speech at the Freeman Ceremony last week. Very nice of him to praise my efforts: because, as I said at the ceremony, I am unashamedly uplifted when I am praised, and to uplift one is what genuine praise is all about. Dorothy came back from Joans in time to get me some tea and at eight I went to the Council Chamber where the Mayor was to hold a party for the Football (Assn) Club, on account of its successful season. This party was much the same as I, as Mayor, gave, five years ago at the end of a very successful season. I enjoyed tonights party very much indeed although there is now only one (Andy Lawer) of that previous, successful team now playing for the Lewes Club.

Thursday May 14. I have been reading G. D. H. Cole again, the book he wrote in the late 1930s and which he brought up to date after World War Two. In the thirties I was given a good deal of Coles wash to read by Dinah Stock and, after the war I attended a weekend school where he was the principal lecturer. One might say, then, that I am acquainted with his works! but I find I can still get a good deal of pleasure from his heavy stuff, like "The Meaning of Marxism" which I am doing now. With my more able reading of nowadays I thoroughly enjoy my sessions with this analytical study; and I am sure that I do myself good with it. However, this digression over, I must record that I carried out the rest of my early-morning programme and proceeded with the physical side. After I came out of the bath and rubbed down Dorothy came in to enquire regarding a tummy slimming exercise in which she was interested and which I was able to advise her about and we, as it were, mutually decided to have a kind of lay-in and this we did to our mutual satisfaction!! Anyway, my early-morning endeavours on my own account, plus our united endeavours on a "Pair Bond" basis, ~~xx~~ made

a very satisfactory start for the job of dealing with the work of the day. Seventy-one and seventy w! At the office I found Rodney had 'phoned for me regarding the selection committee to engage a new Town Clerk. With the removal of Dr. Nicholl from the Council by the election, a vacancy has occurred on this committee and it has been decided that I be the replacement. I also learned the findings and recommend-ations of the selection committee (re Council Standing Committees) and so I learnt that things are satisfactory from our group point of view. At four this afternoon Eve Clarke came and picked up Dorothy and me and took us for a ride round the country. This was something I really enjoyed because I hadn't had the chance to ride round, and through, the spring greeness for a long time. Everything looked very beautiful and orderly, therefore peaceful. Eve took us to her flat in the northern part of Hove and gave us a good meal, when we had finished the ride round the country. She has a nice flat on a modern estate of small blocks and it has very many advantages for any woman in her position which is Librarian to our public library. (T.J. Jan 8) Eve is a good looking, compactly built woman who, as her profession would suggest, is a good conversationalist and good company. We spent a happy time at her home and then she drove us home at about 9-30. The latest opinion poll suggests that the marginal constituencies have fallen into line with the rest of the country!!

Friday May 15. I went to the Wallands School this morning to serve on the selection committee I called to choose a teacher for the nursery class which is being started in that area. I was glad to be called to this committee because, as will been seen in this journal, the first steps ~~taken~~ towards this provision of nursery classes was taken at a meeting held in our front room and this meeting was called by me in response to a request by a Mrs Stall and a Mrs Rea: these two, Nellie Fitch and me, making up the meeting. The three ladies have worked very consistently since then on the idea of pre-school education, many people have joined them, much money has been raised and by September next the class will be in being. a good effort by all concerned: and an intimation of why I made an effort to get there this morning. I walked home at a good round pace to make some exercise, (out of what so could otherwise be mere perambulation) in spite of the fact that it was pouring with rain and has continued to do so all day. The rest of my day has been, of necessity, mostly indoors.

Saturday May 16. After the usual way of spending Saturday morning I went to the Constituency Party meeting this afternoon and Dorothy and I went to Jan & Colin Bowmer's house this evening. Colin kindly came and drove us up there and back when the evening was done

Poor Joan is waiting to go into hospital for some wretched complaint that needs an operation and she and Colin are having a rather worrying time. All one can hope is that the complaint, whether as bad as diagnosed or not, will be cured by the operation and the treatment. Joan is quite cheerful, or gives the impression of being so. While in the Victoria Hospital, where she was observed for awhile, she was in my ward of last year.

Sunday May 17. I had a look through the papers of the applicants for the post of Town Clerk of Lewes, which post will need filling when Peter Morris leaves us to go to his new town clerk's post. One of the applicants is Rodney Armitage who is our present deputy Town Clerk and who has been with us for ten years. However he is the only one of the five shortlisted applicants who has not law degrees: and though I should be content to farm out any work that needed law qualifications, I don't know what the other members of our selection committee, which meets on Wednesday, will think about it. Dorothy and I had a short walk this morning and 'gardened' this afternoon. Later on Grahame came down apparently looking for possible candidates for the Priory ward possible bye-elections. He came down later bringing with him one of our members, Mrs Molly Gilbert and we had a talk on some aspects of Local Government as applied to Lewes. When they had gone there was one of Sheridan's plays "The School for Scandal" on the telly but I went to sleep through all of it! The truth is that the sort of play which depicts those sort of people, whether Restoration, eighteenth century or nineteenth and Edwardian just are not my cup of tea. Why keep showing such unreal specimens of humanity: and that they were real in their period is no excuse for giving them this brand of immortality. There were plenty more real people of those times of whom we hear nothing because some strange beings have decided that these unreal specimens, or plays about them, make up that mysterious abstraction which is called "Theatre". But to make an abstraction a thing is not my idea and so I fell asleep and so, in spite of having seen the play before and and read it, it still is not important enough, in my estimation, to warrant my remembering what it is all about.

Monday. May 18. Nothing of importance happened to me today but at teatime it was announced that the date of the General Election will be on June 18. So, here we go. I hope we manage to carry the day again. More of this in a day or two. This evening I went to the meeting of the visiting committee of the C.P. Welfare Centre

Tuesday May 19. Another fine day. Looked into the office and saw Joan B. who was looking quite cheerful. I also saw Mr. Armitage and, later, Eve Clarke, and we spoke for a moment or two on the impending General Election. Eve, I think, will possibly vote Labour, but one ought not to speak to public servants on the lines that will make them commit themselves to one side or the other. Their job is to serve the community and, anyway, their job is quite arduous enough: after all, quite an amount of their efforts are trying to make people, whose heads are full of ideas or ideals, as I think is the term used, see an objective situation. I think this is the hardest job of the Local Government officers and I don't envy them the job. I think the most important virtue they possess is patience, and if they don't possess and any other virtues, for that one alone there is a spot reserved for them in the Elysian fields.

Wednesday May 20. What is always known to some weight or other who is to be Mayor as the greatest day of the year, and indeed I have heard the greatest day of their lives. Today was Mayor making day and Dorothy had to go to Paterham and I to help select a new Town Clerk. Dorothy was excused the worry of my lunch because we, of the "Town Clerk Selection" Committee were lunched together in the "Bull House Restaurant with the five applicants for the post. Late in the afternoon the choice was made and a ~~the~~ new Clerk was engaged. I wanted our deputy to have the job but was outvoted. However, we will observe how much difference comes about arising from today's choice. I walked home and Dorothy arrived soon after I had reached 9 Toronto and we both got ready to attend the Mayor-making Annual General meeting of the Council. This followed the usual pattern and Councillor Greene was made mayor of the Borough of Lewes. It was nice to see David and Gordon back again, but, to me, it was not so nice to observe the weak chairmanship shown by Jimmy Greene as mayor. A very mild request to fill up the gap on the Management Committee, (which gap was caused ~~by~~ by the voting going against our retiring Aldermen) by the inclusion of Alby Martin (15 years unbroken service and just returned by another big majority) was allowed to develope into quite a partisan affair and the amendment to put Alby on ~~the~~ to the Management Committee was defeated. There will be some battles in the near future. The reception was not bad, rather jolly in fact, or so it seemed to Dorothy and me. The speeches were the worst ever but Jimmy made his by reading quite a well composed paper which had not much matter in it. Reggie's, of course, was up to standard Eve Clarke gave Dorothy and me a lift home and

we were glad of this because Dorothy's toe is still bad, and the three of us had a little chat and a coffee before Eve left us for her home at Hove.

Thursday May 21 1970. I arose quite early (5-40) to find the promise of a good day from a rather grey early morning; but there were some showers later in the day. I drew my pension and went shopping with Dorothy; really, because of the brisk, cold wind and the showers, today has not been very profitable outside. This evening we went to Kay Gibbard for dinner and enjoyed the good meal and the pleasant evening. Kay's garden looks to be in very good condition, I am judging by the nicely kept lawns and the flowers, not the vegetables which I did not examine. Southease looked to be just as beautiful, with its winding lane and green growth, this looking very bright and attractive with the recent showers. It seems to me quite a lonely life that Kay leads but actually, with her work and the quality of her neighbours and the village life, in which she takes a great interest, I may be wrong.

Friday May 22. The chief item of news today, or what is selected for us as the chief item, has been the cancellation of the cricket tour which was to have been made by the South African team. The M.C.C. have at length had the sense to cancell it at the request of the Home Secretary. It is, maybe, unfortunate that the business has arisen during an election period and some of the Conservatives, notably Hogg and Heath (Hog on the heath). Two rather querulus and rather ignorant men have also appeared on the television as representatives of the M.C.C. and they also have made childish complaints. They omit to mention that the South Africans threatened to cancell England's last tour unless a coloured man was dropped from the England team and, to the shame of the people of the class who govern English cricket, that coloured man was dropped. I have nothing to report regarding my own activities today, tomorrow will certainly be much more lively because Joan is bringing the grandsons over! S.C.I.D.!

Saturday May 23 A beautiful morning when I arose about 6-30. Now that some weather has come it seems quite truly "Good to be alive" and I have come into my own again as regards to "wellness". I saw Mary this morning and she made me a present of a book by Havelock Ellis called "Manners, Morals and Men". I have not read any of the essays contained in this book before and I know I shall enjoy reading them and that I shall profit thereby: and what greater contentment can Havelock Ellis wish for than that his works live on and give pleasure and learning to people like me? Joan duly arrived with the boys and a very lively and happy time resulted because, to me, the boys are growing very rapidly and, in addition, they

are getting more used to me. Dorothy and I went for a walk this evening, up Bell Road, which was very pleasant and spent a quiet evening when we returned home.

Sunday May 24. Fortunately David Williams 'phoned this morning to enquire if the Mayoral church service was today. On looking we found this was today and Dorothy and I just had time to get ready by the time David came for us and drove us to the Catholic church, for our new man is a catholic (Roman). The service was, I suppose, quite pleasant and rather different to the first one I attended here on my first being elected to the Council in '54. but, like in all these things, of whatever denomination, I am rather apt to keep apart. This morning there was Mass and all these people coming up to receive the Sacrament created a rather unreal feeling in me. Nice for people, like children, to pretend; to eat the body and drink the blood of Christ and probably does them good but the R.C. church insists that it is the "body and blood" of Christ that their flock are eating. The evidence of reason, of taste, sight touch and smell are to be disbelieved and I can't really think that all those people really thought or believed that an astounding piece of magic had taken place when all their senses told them it hadn't. This morning, while yet I thought I had the day clear, I had put some jobs to do but the Church had to take priority. Consequently, I am still all behind with my various jobs. Notably collecting and distributing for the L.P. Dorothy and I had another walk this evening, up to the Freynes. Saw Jonathan and Janet and "Uncle" Paul. They all seem to be well and Ted is having another go at an examination he did not get through two years ago. Good luck to him: he tells me he is just on fifty years of age.

Monday May 25 Today is the "postponed," Whitsun Monday, bank holiday, and we had a visit from Bunty and John and the two children, Helen and Charles. John and Bunty are very well and Helen is a lively and very bright little girl of four. Charles is now about four and a half months old and he continues to make great progress physically. It seems hard for me to think of him as the little six-pounder he was at birth. Bunty is doing very well with her family and, for me, this weekend with Joans boys on Saturday and Bunty's two children today, has been quite a holiday time. Dorothy was busy this morning, making quick preparations for them and, this evening, I read aloud to her while she had a go at altering my trousers. I know this seems as though I take it easy while Dorothy does all the work but that is just how it is; Dorothy wants to do the trousers. We are both keeping very well and, in physical condition I am extremely well, while Dorothy's toes continue to give her

some discomfort, although she is quite happy while gardening and so I hope that it is only some kinds of ordinary shoes that make this discomfort. She is very well otherwise. Younger and more active neighbours than those we have had for years are now moving into the houses round about and these last two mornings the place has been quite a hive of activity with men hammering etc it is quite like old times and Sunday mornings of the "Forties" The weather has been very fine for all the week-end.

Tuesday. May 26. I find it a most extraordinary thing that, when I have to attend a meeting of committee that is supposed to have its detailed happenings private, somebody or other can generally tell me what went on in spite of them not being in attendance. I was reflecting on this because R. A. saw me yesterday and was very anxious for me to know how grateful he was for my efforts on his behalf last Wednesday. No doubt someone mentions this sort of thing and no harm is done but I do take such great care myself that I don't let it be known in what terms a committee-man presents his views when it is a matter that ~~is~~ could, in the nature of the discussion, as in the last Wednesday's T.C. selection committee, need to be fairly personal. In this case Mr Armitage is rather pleased with the efforts made on his behalf and knowing this has done him good: but supposing it were the other way round and the critical parts about him were repeated? This would be a most unkind and, therefore it is not very wise, for ethical reasons, to repeat things from committee. I attended the planning committee this evening and we dealt with the Building applications. Reg Yarrow is made chairman (in his absence) and Franks vice ch. and he took the chair for this first meeting of the new municipal year. The proposed recommendations regarding some of the Town-Planning points look rather attractive to me. I am glad I shall be on the Council for three more years at least. While I spent the evening at this committee Dorothy went to the A.G.M. of the Friends of Victoria Hospital so we have both carried out our duties to the community. Dorothy has also narrowed the legs of one of my old fashioned pairs of trousers today, done the washing and when I arrived home at about 9-30 this evening, she was doing the ironing. Her time is more filled than mine!

Thursday Wednesday May 27 1970. Another fine morning. ~~It~~ A treat to rise early and look at the garden. The news is not good though, what with the American troubles and now its economic recess. It does seem that, wherever our Labour Government is doing well, some other country's affairs upset things! It happened before, 19 years ago, at the time of the Korean war, and on many occasions with the

troubles of smaller countries. However, my particular cares are, and have to be, my imediate concern and I attended the Hse of Fr. steering Committee this evening. One often thinks how nice it would be to take life in a manner that doesn't add cares to it. No doubt all people who spend their spare time doing public work get this feeling on occasions.

"I prudent? I, that might have lived unvexed
By public cares, one man of many men,
And with the wisest shared the common lot.
Yet do we rather honour the proud fool
Festered for ever with a thousand cares"

Thursday, May 28 1970. Mrs Sayers, who organizes the chiropody service of the Old People's Welfare Committee asked me to call this morning, so that she could explain the workings of this service as she wishes to give it up and concentrate her efforts (which are considerable) on to the Hse of Friendship. so we are to hold an E.C. meeting next Wednesday. Perhaps Mrs Sayers may even take on the General Sec. job instead, because Jeanne must give it up for health reasons. I also did some issuing of postal vote application forms today, on behalf the the L.P. This was rather interesting and I met some new people. The neck has become stiff again so I must see the doctor tomorrow and we missed the L.P. meeting this evening

Friday May 29. The fine weather is keeping with us but this morning the sky clouded over and there were some light showers, very slight. Because of a stiff neck I went to my doctor and received some tablets that may ease things a bit. He also gave me some sleeping tablets at my request, although, as he pointed out, I had not taken any for some weeks, eight I think. Dorothy looked at the local paper and received rather a blow on reading of the death of Bill Mills, a police sergeant neighbour of ours some thirty years ago: during the war years in fact. He was one of the best and a splendid neighbour. That is another of my generation who has gone and I had great regard for him. After finishing his time in the force he lived at Newhaven where Dorothy and I saw him a few years ago. Because of the pain of the neck I have not done much. At news-time (six p.m.) the announcer said "The General Election is now on" and, within an hour or so two Tory canvassers had called, and, with an air of "Hail fellow well met" were soliciting on behalf of the plum-in-mouth Sir Tufton!! I must do these streets on behalf of the Labour candidate tomorrow and try, while doing them to undo any good the Tory cause may have picked up!

Saturday. May-30. The morning started off very fine and my neck seemed a bit easier, but I rose at five-thirty and carried on with the usual programme for mornings: leaving out, of course the physical side

went shopping with Dorothy but I was not too happy. and Dorothy didn't want me to do any carrying, so, apart from two other slight ventures out, I have been a bit of an invalid In one of the opinion polls the Conservative party is given as two points above Labour this evening. We shall see on voting day what the country really does. I nearly wrote "does think" as though a country can think. But Pollsters and newspaper men and all the odds and sods of the newspaper and communications business are not so careful in what they write or how repetitious they become. To them the country is some vast animal, or at least an organism which is alive in itself; instead of a number of individuals who live under the some conditions and have the same operative ideals as each other. These "newshounds" want it both ways. they claim that the country is some vast organic affair on some occasions and on some other occasions they should say that each individual is free. Newshounds watch carefully what is happening and then sell the most popular line or viewpoint. Over a number of years I have watched carefully and I'm afraid I can't find much room for them. If they reform themselves I have no doubt there is a place for them in a free & pluralistic society but, by their own definition there is no need for them in their organic state.

Sunday May 31. Neck still painful: I think I'll adjust some things I do and try to find out the cause of this periodic bogey. Dorothy and I went for a walk to Malling by way of Willey bridge and back by Phoenix causeway and, apart from doing work about the place, we have remained at home reading etc. Graham Maylew came down this afternoon and brought me some canvassing cards and some other electioneering stuff, and so tomorrow I'll be under way. The next opinion poll gives two points more to the Conservative Party than to the Labour Party. I received the local party news from Graham, how the decision to fight the Priory ward for the Borough Council bye-election was made etc. Apparently a fairly uncomfortable meeting but one in which, when it is considered calmly, the flap came mostly from the same two people as it has on previous occasions and for different reasons and the inference to be drawn is obvious

Monday June 1 1970 Another fine, hot day. Dorothy and I went to the exhibition which marks the commencement of the conservation and town centre week of the Joint Steering Committee and I was able to introduce Dorothy to Mr. ~~Dale~~ Walsh, the new Town Clerk. This was held in the front room at the Town Hall and, as could be imagined was mostly photographs of "existing" and drawings of ideas of how things should be in the future. This afternoon I attended the Area Planning Committee of the County Council: none of the

applications for our deliberations were the concern of Lewes Borough Council so I had a fairly easy time. Quite obviously, I can't make complete judgements on things I don't know about, and I have to try and obtain a kind of synthesis from the points put forward by the District Councils which are immediately concerned with the particular applications and the observations of the County planning officers. Many people imagine one is on this committee to represent the wishes of one's district council but this is not the case. One is a member of the County's Area Planning Committee. This evening I did some canvassing for the Labour Parliamentary Candidate and I must record that nearly all those whose door I knocked were very much in favour of the Labour Govt. being returned on June 18. Dorothy went to a meeting of the Friends of H. Hospital and was pleased with the way the new vice-chairman steered the committee: she was more happy with this committee than she has been for some time. Mr Wilson, the Prime Minister, gave a good start to Labour's Election Campaign. We were both home in time to hear this masterly effort.

Tuesday June 2. I went and hurried Harper & Cedar with the lawn mower and so got it delivered and nicely overhauled and I did the neglected mowing this afternoon. Did some more canvassing too and found just as much enthusiasm. I also attended the management committee of the House of Friendship, and heard the Tory election effort when I got home. On the day as a whole I have not much to record. I was up very late and so missed all mental and physical exercises: and the thing about which I might have had something to write, the Further Adult Education meeting at the Croft was postponed this morning by 'phone to me.

Wednesday June 3. I did arise early this morning and so atoned for my sluggishness of yesterday morning. The fine weather is still with us and I hope it keeps on until election day and then we, of the L. P. at least will know that we received an equal opportunity, weather-wise, of getting our supporters to the poll. Dorothy went to Patcham to be in charge of the grandsons and I did various things about here in Lewes, including the executive committee of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee. A pleasant meeting, held at the House (208): we made ready for the A.G.M. which is next Wednesday. We have various talent-spotters about but we still haven't found a nomination for the secretary post. I found, on arriving home, that Dorothy was back from Patcham and we had a quiet time for the rest of the evening. Beyond getting a few bills round I haven't

done anymore election-wise. In the country the hustings are continued: with Heath, the leader of the Conservative party, apparently abandoning his role of candidate for the post of Prime Minister, and taking up the role of court jester, something he's even more unsuited for. & I have to reflect, while watching his antics, that he was the first Conservative leader to be democratically elected by the members of his party: and this first venture can hardly be called a success!

Thursday June 4. Grand weather continues and to go into the garden early this morning was a great treat. Dorothy has been using the hose during the dry weather and, as a consequence, the garden looks and smells very nice in the early morning. I went to the Borough Surveyor's office on behalf of Bill Ainsworth and this afternoon I did some canvassing in Paddock Rd. and in New Road this evening after I had finished Talbot Terrace. It does appear that there is a good deal of enthusiasm for Labour and the Prime Minister, and I hope this is pretty general. As far as I can gather the only nuisance that most people are angry about are the student types who keep up a kind of chanting and try to stop anyone speaking. Of recent years there has been a sort of trend towards what some young people of the student type call anarchy although really it is a kind of pose that the person has no time or use for anything as everything must be smashed up and a fresh start made. There should be no use in the world for any authority including the authority of any masters or teachers of any description. I have written of this "Word and Deed" before in this journal and I only mention it now because the followers of this "subjectivity" keep up a continual chant of "That is irrelevant" whenever any matter whatever is being discussed. As I have written before the basis of this kind of sheep-like following of nothing is really a lazyness which allows one to think he knows everything and nobody must know better. Really, at the head of these types is a little dictator.

Friday and Saturday June 5 and 6. I have kept up the work on the election. The campaign is working up locally as well as nationally and a rather extraordinary thing is that locally we appear to be doing better as regards enthusiasm from outside the party than I can ever remember. I hope this continues. I have kept on canvassing and it is quite an enjoyable job. I haven't come across any body yet, of any party, who is quite happy about Mr. Heath! The only time the Tory party has democratically elected a leader was when he was elected and now none of them appear to have much enthusiasm for him!

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wed.

Saturday June 7th 1970 I did Weald Coast and found the occupants of this "Labour's Pride" in good shape. I have been very busy and two or three days have slipped by without me making an entry in this journal and it is now Wednesday evening but I will endeavour to bring the journal back to some sort of order. The election goes on with the advantage still apparently with Labour. The doctors are refusing to issue certificates to their Panel patients. These doctors don't seem to know that the basic Panel patient is a doctor's meal ticket. The whole trouble seems to be that the G.P.s don't want the young doctors in hospitals to receive any increase in salary unless their (the G.P.s) is increased in proportion so that the differentials will be kept. The Newspapers are not being printed because of the wage dispute and the basic cause of no settlement being reached, is the extremely wide gap between 25%, the claim; and 5% the offer. Really some overall authority is required who will, melodramatically speaking, bump the rivals' heads together and make them start from 10% instead of 2½% The disputants would then grasp the fact that the longer under the gap at the start, the longer the negotiating time required, and the longer the time the more the "spectator-victims" get fed up and cry "to hell with you both" Dorothy went down to look after the boys at Patcham on Tuesday and I went down in the evening and we came back on Wednesday morning. I missed the meeting of the Lewes Exhibition Committee by mistake this morning but did the C.P.W.C. A.g.m. this evening. We have not yet decided on a secretary but I do not regard the situation as critical yet.

Thursday June 11 1970: The hot weather continues and I was kept round the Labour Election Committee rooms most of the day. There were three or four varieties of 'flap' during the morning but all were gradually smoothed out and I went canvassing along St. Johns Terrace this evening. An interesting situation has been caused by the fact that there are no newspapers and all news about the election is by television or radio and the bookmakers odds on an L.P. victory are now 1 - 10 (ten to one on), while the popularity gap between the two leaders has widened still further with the Conservative well down below: I hope this position between the two leader-men is like it until this final week is over. I should be very pleased indeed for us to win again and, after all, in the course of nature I shan't see many more General Elections

Friday June 12. Went to the meeting called by the body called the "Council of Churches." This meeting is really called to enable the three Parliamentary candidates to answer questions from the public but in reality it is something that is arranged to give the impression that this body is a like body and into things

However the Conservative Mr. Sir Fulton Beamish, excused himself on the plea of having already a full programme, and that left just the Labour and Liberal men and I found the Liberal man very poor indeed. The Labour man was quite efficient but even this was rather handicapped by the circumstances of the rules imposed by the Church people.

Saturday June 13. Dorothy and I had a day off and went on an outing, arranged by the Ex Mayors' Assn, to Hampden Court. We both enjoyed this and it was quite nice not to have to worry (think!) about arrangements. Arrived back home about 8-30 – 9-0s and now gather the printing strike is over.

Sunday June 14. I bought a Sunday paper today, the "Observer" just to mark the end of the printing dispute. 1/3 for something that was rather more than 4/5 advertisements for which the proprietors are receiving revenue!! The opinion polls on the election show a steady rise in favour of the Labour party in the "marginal" constituencies but a drop in the parties popularity in the country. Of course, these polls only indicate possible trends.

Monday June 15. There is absolutely no mention anywhere, in the press or the other means of mass communication that there was ever the poll showing a drop in the Labour Party's popularity in the country as I described in yesterday's entry. Whatever will these boss-party men get up to next. In my opinion, to start things of this description and then to try and dissolve them into thin air, as it were, so thinking that the men and women they are trying to kid have the minds of babies, is about the last stage of infantile reasoning: and these editors and newshounds think they have the wisdom, as well as the right, to advise us on how we should cast our vote!! I walked over to Winterbourne Close in an effort to see a possible "candidate" for the post of secretary to the S.P.W.C. but had to leave a note in her door, and have arranged to call an E.C. on the 25 to deal with the secretarial post. The Local L.P. had a good public meeting this evening. Quite a crowd of people and quite an orderly and enthusiastic gathering, very orderly. I was glad to note that the young man I canvassed last week and who, in a way, made some of the cause that made me write as I did last Thursday (June 4) turned up this evening and volunteered his services

Saturday June 20. I have been very busy and, in consequence, I have not been able to make a record

each day in this journal. However the election is over and the Conservative Party, under the leadership of Mr. Heath will now form the Government. With every opinion poll giving an almost daily result; and always forecasting a Labour victory, the people who run these polls will have a very hard job to justify their use as discoverers of 'trends'. I am disapointed at the result of the election. Every prime minister, when he has just been elected, knows he can only work within the limits imposed by the objective situation when he takes over the running of the country. On this occasion Heath will find everything fine for, owing to the work put in by his predecessor, the economy is in a far better state than it has been for a great many years. There are a good many things that are rather sticky, the colour question among them, but by and large a strong economy is a great help in disseminated(?) a country's influence. That is real power politics, things that are backed up by power to pay through industrial potential. I went shopping with Dorothy this morning and on arriving home we had the Treynes, Ted, Joan, and Janet call on us. They are all looking very well and Kate, who also looked in, seems to have got over the worst of her leg trouble. All of us expressed our disapointment at the result of the election and we, Dorothy and I are to go to the Treynes for supper tomorrow when there will be more time to talk. This afternoon Mr. Webber, also is the prison officer I have mentioned before in this Journal, called for D and me this and took us for a really delightful ride round the country and Brighton; so we were able to see the country and the town when the conditions (weather etc.) were at their very best. I enjoyed this trip immensely. Dorothy and I walked over Willeys bridge and back over Phenix causeway this evening. Starting at nine pm. and back by 9-45, is not so bad.

Sunday June 21. The fine, warm weather continues. Passed an ordinary kind of Sunday; I also saw the final match of the World Cup competition, between Brazil and Italy. The former won by 3 goals to 1, but one could see how lucky they were to beat England by one goal to nothing in an earlier round. I don't think Mexico is a good place for good football, Players seemed to me to be mighty lazy.

Monday June 22. The thing I shall always remember about today is the long committee meeting this evening. The building applications section of the Planning committee took quite a considerable time and this was followed by the time work-study section of the Management committee. 6-30 until 10·45 Lord save us!

Tuesday 23 June. This afternoon I was visitor to the Bells school and found every thing alright-

There is no need for me to remind myself of the difference, or perhaps I should say the change that takes place in child education, or the much better environment for children to be in while they are at school. I did consider today how relaxed and, at the same time, how attentive they were to whoever was addressing them. In our time you kept your hands out of sight behind you, and this must have helped to give a teacher the impression that she was addressing row after row of dummies! Nowadays the kids sit in natural poses. One has only to imagine an interested child, perhaps with chin rested on hands or in any other natural and easy position and compare the picture with one of the child who is forced to sit with his hands behind during all of a lesson. I know some bodily discipline is required to be taught, but within this framework of rules (or mores), a very great deal of freedom is necessary. Thus discipline gives him respect for others, freedom gives him respect for himself; and very valuable to society is the young woman who is charged with the early training of children and who can attain this balance. I went to the branch of the Arthritic research Council this evening and found it was going well and has now sent a donation of £100 towards research. Down with old 'Spondy'

Wednesday June 24 till Tuesday June 30. I have not been able to make a daily entry in this journal during the past week yet quite a number of interesting things have happened. Still I have, at length (in both senses) got my occasional letter sent to Bunty: that is one bit of neglect rectified. On Wednesday 24 the Council meeting was held, and, in spite of great struggles by the Chairman of the Management Committee, who had called a meeting last Monday to approve of the Works Study arrangements, which meeting had not finished until 10-45, the Council referred the recommendations back. Probably this will do the "whig-fud" good. On Thursday I called a meeting of the E.C. of the O.P.W.C. and we appointed engaged a secretary. I am very relieved indeed and so is Jeanne Jennings, who has carried the job through so ably, but who must now take life more calmly on account of her health. On Friday there were some important jobs to carry through. Dorothy went to Joan's to help with the preparation of a party for the lads of the Coals which Joan and Bert were giving in the evening and I joined the party after I had attended the prize-giving at the Lewes Tech. I must mention that the speaker was Cecil King, whose claim to fame appears to be his dismissal from the editorial staff of the "Daily Mirror" and a worse speaker or speech for an occasion of this

description I have not heard. How do such people manage to get into these positions where they are thought to be worthy of giving advice on life to the public at large. It can't be their intelligence or wit; I hope it is not lack of intelligence or wit among all the rest of us. I suppose really we are all so very sportsmanlike that we let the beeil things of this world get away with it. Joan's party was a great success and the fine weather, the big square rooms and the garden gave the sixty guests ample room and comfort. All the rest of this week I have been doing things roand about the garden and house; mended the bank fense and so on. On Sunday we were at Freyners to dinner and we enjoyed the hospitality and the company of Joan, Ted, Paul and Jonathan very much. I am gradually finding out things that occurred during the Election which, being so busy I missed noticing as they happened or perhaps I should say, I had no time to think about them. One of these things is the work of the Lobby for the introduction of Commercial Radio in this country. The outlook (for those who are against this) seems very much a retrogressive one.

Wednesday July 1 1970. Late last evening the rain came and this morning I woke up to find everything freshened up and Dorothy delighted that her garden, of which she has made a great success this year, looked so well. Dorothy had a trip up in Abinger place last week and has consequently been feeling a bit stiff for some days. She appears to be getting over it now and is quite happy in the garden, pottering roand. This afternoon we went to the Mabel Lister Home for the elderly blind women and left there at about four to go to Southover School, where we had been invited to judge the small kids fancy dress competition. Going to this school is a new departure for us and we met several new people including David Adland, who drove me roand "whipping-in" on polling day: he fetched us from the blind people's 'at home' and drove us back to our home after the school function was done. We had a short rest and then I went to the Mayor's Parlour, where there was a party and presentation to Peter Morris, our departing town clerk. Peter is going to be Clerk to the Chipsingham R.D.C. and we are all very sorry to lose him. During his six or so years with us he has become quite a part of the community life in Lewes. Because of this sending off of Peter Morris I had to miss the Management Committee of the House of Friendship. The front bank fense is now repaired and the repaired section painted; and I must get the other sections painted. Life is not idly spent.

Thursday July 2. We went to the Technical College this evening, the occasion being a meeting of the local Assn for the Advancement of State Education which meeting was addressed by Sir Edward Boyle; and a man named Redfern who is to do with (of all things), the National Assn of Manag. Governors and Managers. Every ~~corporate~~ public body seems to be forming groups to, as it were, protect and further the interests of the work they undertake, and all these bodies form a number kind of pressure groups. This one, represented by Mr. Redfern has the appropriate name, made up by its initial letters, of NAGEM!! (God bless my soul) The new Government must be shivering with fright. The Assn for the Furtherance of State Education is doing a very useful job in this district and, a while back, Dorothy was on its C.C. Dorothy has been gardening again today and appears to have recovered from her fall in Abinger Place.

Friday July 3. I did the usual p. and m. preparations and painted a further section of the front bank fence. This evening Dorothy and I attended the Annual Dinner of the Lewes Football Club and a very pleasant evening we spent. It was enjoyable to be present at a public function of this nature again. I sat next to Mrs Turquand at dinner and learned how her late husband had to manage on his own ~~to~~ during the six years of World War 2, while she was being Mayoress to "Daddy" the late Colonel Crisp. It appears that "Turk", her husband, had to manage as best he could; but, because he was a member of "one of the better clubs at Hove" and had one or two other advantages that were the perogative of the rich, he was just able to manage, apparently. I knew he had "won through" because I have mentioned in this journal, once on my first mayor-making ceremony; and once on Baker's mayor-making, how extraordinary 19th century he was in his outlook. It was a good job for his "Old England" that the bulk of the population also managed to pull through. The only drawback was that this "pulling-through" process was made much harder by the number of people who had to be kept on the best that could be found. As well, the circumstances have changed now and people are ashamed to let it be known they live in that ~~conspicuous consumption~~ fashion even if they do: and after all if you can't mention or make your consumption conspicuous, of what use is it in the ~~Waugh~~ world of "Toffs and Toadies" also a world that is rapidly disappearing in that form. We met a great number of people and we were made very welcome by all. We had two dances also and we appear to have retained our cunning and agility in this respect. We reached home at about 11-40 p. m. Very nice time

Saturday. July 4. Nostalgic sort of date. Brings up all kinds of liberal sounding memories: and, until World War 2,

the date was still in songs. I got up at 5-30 to find a good day although there was a dullness about that didn't seem to bode good for the rest of the day: however, it has been a fine day. Went shopping with Dorothy in the morning and we met Ken Sadler, among other people. He told us he really does feel better now and we are very glad for his and Gwen's sake. Dorothy has been gardening for most of the afternoon and I have tidied up the grass and so on. It looks very posh out there now. Our new neighbours, next door the Goldsmiths and over in Pelham Terrace, the Blands have settled in; at least I hope they have. I expect there's a great confusion when one moves. Fortunately for me, I have never been through the experience as a grown-up and I don't suppose I shall now. Mr. Bland of Pelham Terrace, (see above) told us he meant to stop there now until he dies. This gives me, his neighbour, a sense of permanence and as he is quite a young man and will doubtless be there for many years. a "quiet evening

Sunday. July 5. I saw my two elder sisters, Winnie & Issy this morning and they are both well. The house looks very snug as far as I could see, but Leslie was away at Worthing. This afternoon Graham Mayhew paid us a call and we spent a pleasant hour or so in the garden, for the weather continues to be hot; and our garden is a very pleasant place. Graham, as can be expected, talked of the General Election and some of his work as an agent. This evening I received a 'phone call from Councillor Franks apprising me of an exhibition which can been seen tomorrow evening at the School of Architecture at Brighton. I think I will go. It is tomorrow evening and it will, at a later date, be transferred to Lewes.

Monday July 6. I attended the above-mentioned exhibition and I like it very much. It is a plan for the town of Lewes and appears to be a synthesis of the ideas of the pupils at the school. It is nice to know that people do continue to work towards an end and to have such ideas to leave posterity as this work shows. The description of the whole work, or what is generally called in Town Planning circles, an analyses of the whole work was given and I must study it. I travelled to the School in Peter Mowat's car and he also took Beatrice Temple. Seeing that it is the last few days that Peter was to be with us, we stopped at the "Newmarket" and had a drink. It is very hard indeed, although I see the old "Newmarket" in my head, to compare it with the new house. Here we have, in less than fifteen years of my lifetime, a complete picture of the sociological change which has taken place in this country. Now that the highway which I remember so

well, is changed into a dual-carriageway motor road it is difficult for me to remember the exact spot on which the old "Newmarket" stood. Before the last war (W.W.2) one might occasionally see a car standing outside the old house, but very infrequently. Moreover, I can remember when that vehicle would be a horse and cart or a four-wheeler cab if I go back a few years more. Now rich looking cars, about twenty of them, stand in the spacious car park. Inside the furniture is good stuff in a good, big room. Many customers are present, even though it is a Monday evening: and they order, not pints of beer or ale or anything with an ordinary name, but "Carlin Black Label" or "Export" or other names for beer which they have been taught to use by the Commercial Television and other advertisers of plain Beer or Ale. I suppose this is the kind of scene which inspired Galbraith to notice the effect the "Hidden Persuaders" have on the "Affluent Society".

Tuesday July 7. Dorothy and I went to Newhaven today and took a walk out to the end of the Breakwater. a very enjoyable outing really, though marred a bit because poor Dorothy had a bad toe and had the wrong footwear in the way of sandles to soothe it. However she stuck it out pretty well and I was able to make mental notes of the rapid change which has taken place in what was my old "debit" run on a big bicycle. Here again are signs of the affluence that has come about, and here again are plain signs that, having got various things, many people are using these things purely for the sake of using them and not for the pleasure it actually gives them. Fairly crowded sides of roads down to the sea, all dust and discomfort, but the proud owners have taken their tables from their car, laid it with their lunch even to the cruet and the other accessories (which, in the old days, might be fetched out at home and might not) switched on their transistor radio sets (about six different programmes mingle round a boat from other peoples' parties) and there they sit, unable to hear any music, the dust even pouring on them, unable to speak because of the noise of the different radios and the traffic and looking oh so serious that I hope they were really considering if it was all worth it and whether the Commercial Television has been telling them the truth. This evening I attended the Library Committee and a pretty lively meeting it was too. It is a matter of O. and M. on a library such as ours and the new site etc. All old stuff but calling for action now, and it is time people who are in charge of certain departments of the Council should realise that a Library is not a Pork butchers, even though it is possible for any library to gather some tripe.

Thunderstorm last night with heavy rain

Wednesday July 8.: Today Dorothy and I went to Brighton: but before I record our doings of today I must make mention of the travelling arrangements by public transport and the way the consideration of their passengers by the Southdown 'Bus Company has deteriorated. Not only is the fare increased but 'buses have been taken off with no apparent chance of waiting till the next one because that may not run. To get back from Newhaven yesterday, in anywhere near the time we had arranged, we had to return by train, although we had purchased return tickets by 'bus. There is a good deal behind all this apparent lack of care, but I think the greatest cause of it is the "one-man" working of the 'buses which, in its turn was caused by somebody's "O & M" or "Work Study" Methods or something. Perhaps, some day, those people who are so great on working out how, by using human beings to prove the correctness of some abstractions, money can be saved, will learn the error of their ways. But I said enough about this re. the Library and the suggested application to that of O and M, yesterday. This morning we went to Brighton. ~~and~~ Dorothy bought some new sandles and we had a look round the shops and some districts of the town which I had not looked at for some time. I was interested with the amazingly close proximity of new modern types of buildings, huge affairs, with tiny "two small roomed" cottages made in the part from all kinds of odd material. I don't know how long it is proposed to leave these instances of different ages side by side but the fact that they are side by side draws one's attention to them ~~-~~ and one can admire the mathematical correctness of the big blocks and the ingeniousness of the old cottages. When we reached home I finished painting the "front-bank" fence and Dorothy did a bit more to her garden.

Thursday July 9. Woke up this morning to find it had rained heavily most of the night and was still tumbling down, but we went to Brighton and had a walk along the front (westward) as we had promised ourselves and the weather was fine again almost before we started anyway. Dorothy wore her comfortable sandles and so was much more comfortable and her walking was much improved. One could observe the difference in the shops at Brighton when compared with those at Lewes. Shoe shops are a good example to take because there are literally swarms of them, "nestling cheek by jowl" and competing like mad. In Lewes there are only three shoeshops, shortly to be two. In Lewes, if a shop opens up anywhere near a shop selling similar goods, the "original" shopkeeper expects the Local Authority to do something towards stopping the newcomer offering stuff for sale near them. At Brighton all kinds of merchandise is sold next door to shops selling the same article. This may be a wasteful and fierce way of dealing, as a

socealist I think so; but if it is to be private enterprise and prices being kept down by competition, then let us have it, not pretend. Some mothers from Landport called on us after we had arrived home. They are keen to stop their children being transferred from the Pells school to the Wallands school. We are both school managers and we have advised them to do best of our ability. We are keen to keep them at the Pells but it is a matter of room. The school has not rubber walls. I will see what I can do tomorrow when they send their written case.

Friday July 10. Did M. and Th. stuff. Went to the Town Hall when miss Vinall plied me about A.R.C. arrangements for a carol concert; and saw about that: drew pension and went shopping with Dorothy, collected the letters from yesterday's Mums and we both wrote the acknowledgements and later in the day, I walked to Landport and delivered them by hand. Before doing this I went to the Pells school and learned more of the position from Mrs Chandler and it seemed more hopeful that some arrangements might be made for the children to stop at the Pells. Dorothy went to Seaford this evening to a meeting of the newly-formed Labour Women's Council and brought me home a prize she won: A beautiful little sword-paperknife, with a gilt hilt very finely moulded and a beautifully finished steel blade. I am very pleased with this and, quite apart from my pleasure at owning it as a gift from Dorothy, I think it is a treasure.

Saturday July 11: A beautiful, warm day. While out shopping with Dorothy, which, generally speaking, means a kind of progress, very slow, along the High Street while we meet people and speak to them; we met Eric & Joy Cosham and Eric asked me if I was making my way to the wedding? Thank goodness he did because I had temporarily forgotten Norah's Wedding. However Dorothy and I went to the Registry Office where the wedding was to take place, in time to give Norah our good wishes and I was very glad to have done this because she was so glad I had turned up, and this second wedding is a great decision she has had to make after ten years or more of widowhood. I am sure she will go on alright now and that her various family ~~trouble~~ problem will be resolved. This afternoon I went to the "Eastgate Baptist Chapel" where there was a dedication service on the occasion of the opening of the new school hall. Their old hall had to be demolished because of the new Phoenix Causeway; hence the new hall. Of the Town Council who were invited, only the deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Miss Temple and myself put in an appearance. The attendance should have been better than that, because, after all, if you have been

elected to be on the Council, then you should do your utmost to attend events that are to do with the organizations which make up the community. A man preached at this dedication service and I was rather amazed at his attitude (which, by the way, was in line with other ministers from whose works he quoted) that, as scholars and men who seek after the Truth are apt to shock the Baptists and other Christian sects when the findings of their labours are produced then ~~they~~ their findings should be ignored. Happily nobody seemed to be aware of what the preacher had said and so people will be able to accept the myths and the truths with equal enthusiasm, and the preacher will be happy that he has had a good preach while nobody will feel that they have not had a good dedication service. So bless them all.

Sunday July 12. I have not been out today because I have started on the repairs to the "low-lash" little garden wall Really I have only got as far as demolishing a section of the old wall as yet. Fine weather and I'm getting quite sun-browned. Did some reading and had an exciting courtship of Dorothy!

Monday July 13. I went out and ordered some concrete, and, this afternoon, I mixed it and made a foundation for part of the wall. I flatter myself perhaps, but this foundation looks to me to be a very good effort. At all events I was very tired in thighs especially, as I walked up to the Public Services and Planning committee afterwards. While I was doing this concreting, Dorothy answered the telephone, it was a call from Mrs Deacon, one of the young mothers who called to see me the other day (J.J. Thursday July 9 and on). Dorothy says Mrs Deacon was very happy and excited and gave an account of what had happened at the meeting of the mothers and the representative of the L.E.A. Everything has resolved itself as we had hoped and all are happy (Hooray). This news gave me a good lift as regards my tiredness and I went to the P.S. & Planning Committee (see above) much more refreshed than I would have done. This committee wound its way to the end with the majority backing up the "Guest" plan even though, at the last meeting they had called it "a non-starter" Some of them seem to have altered their minds because Guest was present this evening! I had an opportunity of seeing our new Town Clerk at work and I am very favourably impressed. He very quickly grasps the direction in which an action may lead us and advises accordingly. We have a good man there, I believe, judging by this evening's committee meeting. There was a short meeting of the selection committee earlier this evening. I tried to get Ally on the Management Committee but I was defeated by 3 votes to 2. Dr Nicholls was given the job. Ah well, so much the worse for the town I suppose he will attend a few meetings for the full time these take; a few for a part of the time taken and quite a number he will miss

altogether!

Tuesday July 14. Heavy rain when I woke and this went on for most of the morning. Consequently I did nothing towards the back wall and did a few outside calls i.e., to the Town Office, to the library and so on. On the National level the Jersey strike is settled and the threatened Dock strike is "postponed", whatever that means I gather from the televised news that most of the dockers don't know what it means either because they are continuing their strike! This afternoon Dorothy and I paid a visit to the Pells Infants School for the open day and met some of the mothers I mentioned yesterday. They are all happy at the outcome of their efforts. Later this afternoon I read aloud to Dorothy and finished the Angus Wilson book "The Late Call" and then made up the first of the Hospital Friends collection returns. Not an exciting day but I did deliberately take things a bit carefully after my exertions on the wall. I can't lump hundred-weight bags of cement about now, I find, with the ease I used to do.

Wednesday July 15: When I had taken the Hospital Collections to the Treasurer of the "Friends" I conceived the idea of calling on the works yard and finding out if I could purchase some bricks there. Mr. Russell has promised to find some but I have been thinking, if I have to wait while some old ones are found, the gaps in my wall be be in existence too long: Accordingly I am now thinking it may be wiser to purchase some new ones and then the urgency will be dealt with. The used ones from the works can be used ~~as~~ when I have not the same urgency of rolling earth to contend with: it must be borne in mind that this is a retaining wall that needs repairs. This afternoon we went to St. Annes School (C.S.N.) for their annual Garden Sale of Work. I have written about the work of this school, and the good women who carry out the work, in this Journal Dec 17-18 1969 so I'll not mention it again now. At 7-30 I attended a meeting of the Management Committee of the House of Friendship. I remained there for an hour and a half and the necessary ~~business~~ business was still not finished when I came away. Ken S. was in the chair and he does not look so well as he used. However, he dealt with everything in his usual firm yet tactful plus friendly manner. One of the best. The C.P.W.C. are fortunate to have such men as Parlett, Jefferies, Gomer and Ken on this House of Friendship Committee.

Thursday: July 16 It has been a fine day from the weather angle. Dorothy and I went up to Dorothy Naylors for coffee, at eleven. Dorothy (miss) Nayler is a woman who is a few years older than me and who is, generally speaking of the small L. Liberal set, or group which make up the quite numerous middle-class people of the Town, or account for quite a sizable chunk of it. However, she as one of the townsfolk is very useful in her sphere and manages

quite a lot in spite of a bad back, a small and very slight build and other handicaps that beset people who are alone. She does quite a lot for the Theatre Club among other things.
Friday July 17. I made quite good progress with the preparatory work, (foundations etc) of the wall and I saw Mr Gordon to confirm about the bricks. This job is now becoming clear to me and so I am enjoying it: but I quite anticipate that the weather will break up before next Tuesday, which is the day I hope to obtain the bricks.

Saturday July 18. I ~~am~~ forgot to record yesterday that Rodney Armitage, our deputy Town Clerk was taken to hospital ~~on~~ on Wednesday evening with, apparently a heart condition. I have 'phoned the Hospital and learnt that he is under observation and that is as far as I know. Dorothy and I went shopping this morning and this afternoon she went to the House of Friendship while I went to the Constituency Labour Party meeting. This evening there was a party, given by Mrs Berstle, the Head of the Wallands School, on the occasion of her retirement and this party was very enjoyable. There were a number of people, mostly of the educational world, present. School Managers, teaching staff, school domestic staff and some L.E.A. people. The deputy D. of Ed. and his wife gave Dorothy and me a lift back.

Sunday July 19. It has rained for most of today, so, even had I got cement and bricks I could not have carried on with the wall. I did, however, manage a fast walk this afternoon and I went via Willey's Bridge, Spencers Lane and back over Phoenix Causeway in just slightly over thirty minutes, which must be rather good time and, anyway, got my walking into order again. Yesterday Dorothy enrolled us both into the House of Friendship and I see our numbers are 80 and 81. This indicates a pretty good rate of recruitment, because the House has only been enrolling about three days. I have not done a great deal today, owing to the rain, but I have made a start towards overhauling my workshed and tools, albeit I have some-what neglected reading and so on, and, as far as I could see by reading the television programmes in the paper there was nothing which appealed to me on the 'telly'. I must beware these lazy spells.

Monday July 20: I went to the Town Hall Offices this morning and was very glad to see the Deputy Town Clerk was there. He was not working and may not start this week, but it is nice to know he is well as far as the fears that were caused by chest-pains are concerned. I believe he has to have another examination before he comes back. I went from there to Baxters and met some of my erstwhile workmates. I met Norah (see Sat July 11) and her name is now Mrs Whitfield. I repeat: I hope things go alright for her now. Norah has had quite a big share of tragedy

in her life; both from the point of view of the pre-
marriage family set-up and also in her short marriage.
There was a meeting of the Visiting Committee (C.P.W.C.) this evening but
I did not attend and I did some reading. Dorothy has been
repairing two pairs of my old trousers so I shall be better off
for the part of my day that requires older clothes, the wall-
repairing etc. She is an expert mender and so on as I believe
I recorded in this journal a few weeks ago, on the occasion
of her altering my old green suit so ably that I am able to
wear it to some quite important functions and it looks smashing
as the saying is. This business of my new suit in the spring and
the attendant manoeuvering of clothes, and repairs to clothes, has
made me consider the progress (real progress, i.e. towards the better)
in the material of which garments are made; the better tailoring
that is now the thing, that is, the better pattern of clothes,
especially trousers which makes them so popular a garment even
with women. The material is now light ~~wool~~ in weight, washable,
and keeps its shape so that the smartly creased trousers you buy
remain smartly creased trousers, even after washing or the completion
of building walls while wearing ten years old trousers. Scientific
discovery has done quite an amount of good besides all the
not-so-good things that people are more apt to mention when
feeling cynical. I am quite sure that, if the account was balanced,
mankind would be found to have gained a great deal on
the credit side. Pam Helly paid us a visit this evening,
and very nice it was to have this visit. Like old times

Tuesday. July 21. The fine weather continues although it is not so
hot now. My bricks and mortar etc have not yet come so I am
rather disapointed. We must have the wall up before long
because, as I have mentioned before, it is a retaining wall
and it won't be long before an avalanche starts, bringing
with it Dorothy's good-looking row of spinach! For some
careless reason, when I recorded yesterday's doings, I omitted
the fact that Joan came over with the two boys and
we had quite a walk with them over Willy's bridge to
Malling Lane and then round the Pells on the way back. Both
boys are doing well and enjoyed themselves while here. Today
Dorothy went to the General meeting of the County Old
people's Committee ~~in the~~ afternoon and I attended the
Management & Finance Committee this evening. Things went quite
smoothly and David makes a very good addition to the
Committee. We dealt with the things to do with the report of
the Work-Study Sub-Com. in a way that was as satisfactory as
may be to me, notably the report on the Library. This part
was withdrawn, much to my satisfaction: so once again I have justified
my existence as a Councillor, or as I should say now, as a member
of the Council. There is one suggestion, brought forward at
this evening's Management Committee, that will have to be watched
very carefully. It is to do with boating, which seems very nice,
but the suggester is thinking in terms of almost a Marina!!

Wednesday July 22. I went down to the Cliffe and saw about the mortar; later on in the morning it was delivered and I made a kind of modified start with such bricks as I had, which did not amount to many. However, there is a start and the before-mentioned, possible avalanche has not occurred yet.! Bending down on this sort of job is very painful to my back. A woman rang me because of some work being undertaken in the house next door to her in Church Row, so I spent a good deal of time over it and then I asked the new Town Clerk, Mr. Walsh, what his advice would be as to her best way of dealing with the nuisances that have arisen through this building and alterations. He was very helpful and I was able to have a talk with him about various matters and generally get to know him. I already have written of his capabilities at Committee work and I am equally impressed with him when calling for his advice on a more personal plane. He had come to the same conclusion as me about the suggested boating (yesterday's notes) !! This evening I went to the "Grange" and very much enjoyed the dinner which the Wallands school staff gave in honour of Mrs Reeche's retirement. David had made me his guest and drove me home after the party was over. At the table I sat beside Mrs Ridout, the wife of an erstwhile workmate of mine at Baxters and two teachers, Mrs Maillatt and Mr Cordrett and the four of us had quite a talk on various matters. David Williams shares the caution of some other members of the Council regarding the ambitious nature of a Council member to whom the name has been given "The Whiz Kid". I learned of this as David was driving me home and while acknowledging some qualities the "W.K." does possess, I agree with David. Moreover, the ambitious person in public service circles must always be observed to discover real reasons for actions he may take. This reminds me. On an occasion when I was leaving the C C and B.C. Steering Committee some months back I overtook Ken Day and another of the Conservative Councillors in St Andrews Lane. Upon my apologising for accidentally breaking in on their conversation, Ken Day said. "That's alright Charlie, we were discussing "Dennis the Menace" that's all." In short they were discussing the "whiz Kid" mentioned above and, since he is one of their number, it is evident that they also see the shortcomings of their colleague.

Thursday July 23 1970. There is nothing of importance to record. I have been out clapping, during which expedition I met the lady from Church Row who had more to tell me about her troubles. She had also 'phoned me again yesterday. I am, generally speaking, very troubled when I have these complaints: it is very difficult to obtain a clear story from somebody who is so troubled by a thing, quite apart from the nub of his or her complaint, that they lead you all over & the place with long tales regarding things that are irrelevant, and indeed, sometimes inaccurate. When you question them about points they make, to try and obtain positive evidence, they immediately come to the conclusion that you are "On the other side" !! Mr. Mcleod's death has caused a good deal

of speculation about who will succeed him as Chancellor of the Exchequer; the dock strike threatens the very life of this country: the threat of world war via "Bush fires" such as Palestine and Cambodia grows more dire every day: but one has to go about at home, trying to settle such tiny problems as arise, like this unfortunate lady from Church Row. One also finds oneself being rather unduly pleased at the settling, successfully, of smaller matters. The pavement in New Road, which I have been on about, is made up fresh: I feel quite elated!!

Friday July 24. At about eight a.m. Dennis Wren and his mate from the yard arrived with the bricks and took away my surplus hard core. Glory be. A rain storm came on and it remained wet until about one and then cleared up, enabling me to get on with the wall, which, by this evening, looks as though someone is building a wall. During the wet time Dorothy and I went to a coffee morning in aid of the 'Arthritic Research' and met many of our acquaintances.

Wednesday July 29: During the five days that have passed since my last entry, a gap that has been caused because of pressure of things that have needed to be done by me. I have made a start with the Hospital Friends collection; the L P collections; and various jobs, not to do with the gathering of money, I have carried out. One particularly nice occasion for Dorothy and me, Bunty came down on Monday with Helen and Charles, who are both in good health. Helen is now a very nice, companionable little girl of five. She has a really good sense of humour and, I should say, is of a high degree of intelligence. It was a very enjoyable visit. I have almost finished the wall, had the L. G. meet hear on Monday evening when we thoroughly examined the agenda of the Council meeting which took place this evening. I should say tonights meeting leads the list of meetings which could be called "Candidates" for the title of Fred "Karno's Kouncil." I was pleased to see I had two Conservatives vote for my reference back of a motion that parking be allowed on one side of Cliffe High street. All four of the other people who are Labour Councillors made a very good show. I think the laxness of the meeting was caused by poor chairmanship. If the Mayor had not allowed so many interuptions against me in the first part of the meeting, no doubt better order would have been kept. This is the second meeting of the civic year and the conduct of it was much like the first one, which was held on June 24 and to which I have made reference.

Thursday July 30. I'll carry on with my daily entries and, if I remember anything of importance that has taken

place during the time I have not made an entry, I will work it in where I can. Today Dorothy went to Joan's all day, receiving a ride down and back from our new neighbours ~~on~~ de Blands, on the Pelham Terrace side. I don't remember if I have mentioned them before but they are a man and wife of early middle age who have arrived recently and whom ~~we~~ we have got to know. Rather jolly people who are obviously, by an entry I observed in the Parish Magazine, quite willing to do their part in a community. Dorothy found the two boys and Joan in good shape and she arrived back home at six o'clock, while I was doing some Hospital collecting. This morning I had a talk with the Town Clerk. The more I meet Mr. Walsh, the more I am impressed with his powers and methods of reasoning. I made a small advance in my "Friends of Victoria Hospital" collections and then went to the L.L.P. meeting. A very impressive meeting for a local Party. Many people were present and, besides a good attendance, there was an attention to the detail work, which was encouraging, and a presentation to John Buckwell, which was very pleasing to us all. John made a nice speech in reply and some members, including me, had a few words to say

Friday July 31. The chief thing I have to record is that I have made a great advance in the erection of the wall and it is now almost completed. I had to finish because I had no more mixing stuff left and, the man did not arrive with the new order I gave to the shop this morning. In passing, I think it is worth recording that, to give this order, I had to go to the shop which is in the Cliffe High Street, and with the very prominent notice of my attempt to refer back in Council the parking business, in the Sixty Six, I expected some criticism of my action from the members of the C. of C. whose businesses are in that district (not of course from the shop I was doing business with, obviously!) I received none, however and no remarks except a call of "Up the Workers" from the butchers as I went by. I have not done much else today except for one annoying experience. I thought I had a Management committee meeting of the House of Friendship. I didn't consult my diary and found on arriving at the House that there was no meeting and so I, rather relieved at the prospect of a quiet evening, had a drink with Abby and Marten and Mally Gilbert in the Labour Club, then went home and thoroughly enjoyed the telly programme, "Hark at Barker". It was not until later that I realised the Committee Meeting was to do with the Committee of the Arthritis and R. Rheum. Research Council. I always feel very annoyed at any of my things being missed and this was so plainly caused through my not consulting my diary

Saturday August 1. 1970. Another beautiful, hot day. Dorothy and I went out shopping and, during this expedition we learned from Eve Marcus that Ernie Mann is ill again and in hospital in Beckingham; and poor Mary is very worried. Dorothy went to do her stint at the House of Friendship this afternoon and, during the time she was there, I fixed up the kitchen tool hanger by raw-plugging it on to the wall, did one or two more little things and watched some wrestling on the television. Later on I went to the Dripping Pan, being given a ride there and back by a neighbour, Frank Butler, and saw a training match between Lewes and an Arsenal team. A very boring match as far as I was concerned and Mr. Butler thought the same: I'll say no more about it. A good job Dorothy didn't come with me! It was gone eight o'clock before I arrived home and the rest of the day was spent in reading. The cement arrived today so I can continue with the wall tomorrow.

Sunday August 2. Very warm again: as I made the almost final moves in the wall operations, the sweat dripped from my forehead and I was not using a great deal of movement! Ken Sadler arrived at eleven, as he and I had arranged, and we had a talk over the House of Friendship Committee, of which Ken is the Chairman. Gwen is not too bad, he told Dorothy and me, but was rather worried over the nose-bleeding ~~yesterday~~ which Dorothy had described to me when she reached home yesterday. I kept on with the wall and when I decided to say "Hold-enough" Dorothy and I had a read, on the lawn, some more of a book by Angus Wilson. Frank came in at about six o'clock looking very well, I thought; and his two King Charles spaniels are as lively as ever. It is rather a business keeping dogs properly these days, what with the traffic etc. One can only do it as Frank has to manage, within the limitations imposed by this motorised age. This applies to many activities besides keeping dogs or other pets, it applies to the whole of the living of our ~~age~~ times and it there are not only limitations. This scientific age with its resultant mechanical inventions creates opportunities as well as limitations.

Monday August 3 1970: I arose at six and, as may be easily guessed, examined the wall. I was pleased with what I saw and decided to do some collecting for the Friends of the Hospital but I was **not very successful because** so many people were out and I finally decided to turn it in and come back this evening. It seems to me to be a sign of these times of plenty **of work for most people**, school meals, women going back to work, and, in turn, women doing housework for those who have gone back to work: that collecting, or doing anything similar from ~~day~~ **door** to door, has to be organised

under an entirely different system. Anyway, I went home and got on with the wall and collected quite well this evening. I practically finished Sun Street, a street which is always one of my favourite, whether I am canvassing politically or for any other cause. Good "working class" inhabitants who mostly know me. Again, a sign of the times is apparent in Sun Street and houses are being acquired and brought up to date, only sometimes by the original people. A change gradually takes place all over the town and some of the mean little houses in mean little streets have become posh little "middle class" cottages and have lifted the streets into quite fashionable places. Keere Street is the classic example in Lewes. A very steep hill down which is built, ~~on~~ each side, some very small working-class dwellings of the early nineteenth century type. The street is extremely narrow and cobbled, a factor that had a lot to do with its sudden rise in popularity as a fashionable place in which to live, because "ye olde-fashioned" is a cult that has developed into something like laughable dimensions of recent years in Lewes. At the bottom of the hill there is quite an imposing house and this was taken by Mrs Bowes-Lyon, who I have mentioned before, in connection with the Old people's welfare and who is related to the Queen mother in some form. Both these things have caused Keere Street to be upgraded to a remarkable degree and the little houses, where, formerly, people like me used to live, are now being sold at anything round the £5,000 mark, and this is indeed laughable. It is possible to hear people speak to each other in the houses across the other side of the street when it is quiet at night I am given to understand. Anyway to get back to Sun Street I had quite a number of chats with people who know me there. I also spoke with one whom I have known, as a daughter of an acquaintance, since she was a child. She has some leg injury and beyond saying the usual good morning I have never spoken with her before. I found out from our talk this evening that she really studies hard in an effort to be better "Educated" and works hard at a very community worthwhile job, cooking for children who are handicapped by chest troubles and are in a convalescent home at Seaford. This Miss Sears is a niece of Leonard Sears who joined the army with me at the age of eighteen in the first world war

Tuesday. August 4 Dorothy and I walked over to Winterbourne Close this morning evening. Dorothy for the exercise and I, in the main to get some idea of what the coming meeting of the O.P.W.C. would be dealing with at the quarterly meeting: and the new secretary, Miss Boxall lives at Winterbourne Close. (see this journal June 24). Dorothy and I are both impressed with Miss Boxall and we are sure she will make a good contribution to the Assn. as Secretary. We enjoyed the walk over there, I got [illegible] the things I wanted to learn about pretty clearly in my mind, and Miss Boxall gave me a ride back home

Wednesday. August 5. I did St Johns Street in my hospital collection programme this evening. While doing it, David Williams came up to find me. He had a letter from a firm of solicitors (he, Arnold is solicitor to Mr C Barle) and a paragraph in their letter to him says that I signed, as witness, the will of the late Mr. Barle senior (father of the above C. Barle) without actually witnessing the signing by the now deceased. Now I have acted as witness for David Williams on a number of occasions: I can't remember being a witness to this particular person's signature. If I have witnessed in this case, I am certain that David Williams would have made sure I did observe the deceased man sign it. I am sure of this because on no occasion has he been so unprofessional and, indeed, he has always taken me in his car to his client's place, so on grounds of probability, alone one can be as certain as possible that, if I witnessed the signing of a will I did so in actual fact. I made quite a good addition to my collecting and it is very nice to know that I am beginning to "see daylight". Anyway, as a bit of relaxation, I saw a very good wrestling bout between a Russian and an American, a bout which was both fast and skilful.

Thursday August 6. Joan and her two boys, Mark and Robin and a friend and her two children, a boy and a girl Clara and David Perkins, were driven over by Mrs Perkins today and visited our swimming baths and as so we had quite a lively time. Four nice kids, extremely lively. So lively in fact that, as Dorothy said, "she was never sure whether there were four kids or five! When they came back from the baths we had tea on the lawn, the grown-ups admired Dorothy's gardening and my wall building, and the kids had a fine old run round. A very pleasant afternoon

Friday August 6: I collected along Abinger Place this evening; but quite a number of my clients were on holiday so I shall have to go most of it again. This morning I walked over to Winterbourne Close &

saw Miss Boxall the new secretary of the O.P.W.C. and arranged to have an executive committee meeting and I also recovered my pen which had been dropped in her car: it will be remembered that Miss Boxall drove Dorothy and me home on Tuesday evening Anyway, as a result of my call this morning, an E.C. meeting will be called.

Saturday August 7. Shopping etc this morning. Dripping Pan this afternoon for another practice match. Life is one round of pleasure, or so anyone who reads this can be forgiven for concluding. Mr Frank Butler, who lives next-door but one to us, kindly gave me a ride there and back so my afternoon's watching of the football did not cost me much in energy!

Sunday August 8. Dorothy and I walked up to Prince Edwards Road and visited my two elder sisters. Winnie did not seem quite in tip-top health, but one cannot really judge during a short visit. Issy looked very well and "serene" to use Dorothy's word. This afternoon we spent in the garden and, most of the time, I was reading aloud "No Laughing Matter" by Angus Wilson. Dorothy is enjoying listening I believe.

Monday August 9. We did various necessary jobs in the morning, and carried on the same as Sunday in the afternoon, making the most of the continuing warmth and sunshine. This evening I went to the Pan and watched a most enjoyable practice match; in which Lewes beat the professional Brighton team by four goals to two; and that after being behind by two goals for most of the first half. Lewes, who, last season, won their way into the premier division of the Athenian League, seem to have a rosy season ahead of them and I look forward to seeing some good matches.

Tuesday August 10. Dorothy suddenly suggested we go somewhere for a walk; so we went by bus to Brighton, and then walked out to Black Rock and I took notice of all the changes that have come about since, at the age of 13, I would walk with Bert and any other boys who cared to accompany us from Lewes to the Aquarium at Brighton and then along to Black Rock, play about, fish for crabs etc. and then walk over the hill, dropping down into the Lewes Road on the N.E. edge of Brighton and walk home. This walk, leaving out all the play, was all of twenty miles and we sometimes did it two or three times a week. I noticed this morning that the pleasant country walk to Brighton is no more: a huge, double-carriage-way motor road takes the place of the pleasant country road, (not lane) along which we used to travel at quite a speed, giving oblique, forward passes to each other across the road with an old lawn-tennis ball. Along the seafront (going eastward to Black Rock) there would not, as a rule, be many people because there were only the Bank-holidays for the working "classes." Today, a weekday, there were plenty of people, plainly

enjoying the different conditions which obtain today / Good old Keynes). An interesting day made more so because a man, a Pakistani who was accompanied by his wife and two little boys, asked the way to St Pauls Street: and, since St Pauls Street, one of my playgrounds when I was five years of age, is a turning off Lewes Road which we would pass on our way to Lewes and home, we accompanied them to the 'bus station, and from thence to St Pauls Street by 'bus, exchanging addresses etc en route. We left them within a few yards of their destination so we were of some service. We spent (D and I) a quiet time for the rest of the day, reading aloud in the garden: still on Angus Wilson's "No Laughing Matter"; Dorothy is enjoying this book immensely.

Wednesday August 11. I looked into the Town Hall offices and saw Rodney Armitage, the Deputy Town Clerk. He is now well although he gave me the impression of being still annoyed and rather puzzled about his short illness: and, after all, who would not be. Sudden rather dreadful pains in the lower chest on the left side, a whisking off to hospital, x-rays etc. Under observation in the hospital for some days and then, apparently, no diagnosis. Dorothy went to look after the grandsons while I did hospital collections etc. She found the boys and Joan quite well. More reading this evening.

Thursday August 12. Among things I did today was buying a bubble for the plumb part of my spirit level and fixing it in myself. I felt quite proud when this delicate operation was completed. While I was thus occupied Hilda Chandler looked in and reminded me of the Henry Collins memorial fund and I will see about that tomorrow. This morning I drew the State pension and looked in at Baxters works. All is running smoothly there and I saw those who remembered me (this is a time of mobility among working blokes in the printing and kindred trades but there are still some people who were at Baxters when I was) I also had a chat with Mr Rooker (Boy) the second in command, and Mr. Reynolds, the Managing Director, so my old company was well distributed, in an egalitarian fashion, among the workers!! (Printers, Bookbinders and Bosses) I am always attracted to some chance of using alliteration. After Hilda left this afternoon, Mrs Earle appeared and Dorothy and I had to console and listen to her troubles regarding a will. (See T.J. Wed August 5) I hope she and her family can come to some agreement and I am rather surprised that the son hasn't clear the matter up in the most obvious way already. This evening to the Committee of the Friends of Victoria Hospital A good meeting. One thing drew my attention above anything else though. The practitioners are raising a fund, country-wide, towards General Practitioners Hospitals, whatever that may mean. I hope it merely means towards keeping

small hospitals like the Victoria at Lewes, though this is something which, apart from Lewes, could be argued against pretty strongly.

Monday August 17. Life has continued as usual. I have made some attempt at rounding up possible subscribers to the Dr. Henry Collins memorial but I have not been successful at finding them: perhaps because this is the holiday season. Dorothy and I, with me reading aloud, have finished another of Angus Wilsons books, "No Laughing Matter" and we have enjoyed it a good deal. Lewes F.C. have won their first match, away to Wembley by 2-3. This sort of form was showed, as I wrote last Monday, in the match against Brighton. I have got all my collections for the Wiz Hosp. Friends in and am now just waiting for two of the woman collectors to complete my part of this year's campaign. My last entry contained some record of the Committee of this body and I hope that the two collectors who are yet to do their collecting will show that the enthusiasm for this cause has not waned but one should be able to gauge how parochial this enthusiasm is. The designation of this association is The Friends of Lewes Victoria Hospital. The accent is on the Lewes.

Friday. August 21. This week has gone forward with nothing too extraordinary happening; that is locally to affect me enough to make me write about it. All the big things that are happening in the world will be well recorded without me offering to help through this journal. I can only contribute, with any knowledge of the subject, on what happens within my range i.e. the Borough of Lewes: that is why I confine myself to things that are very near to home. Strangely enough, it is my experience that most people are the opposite. They talk of or write about the big things of the world, even though they have, possibly, no knowledge of the country and, sometimes, no knowledge of the existence of the country or place which is the cause of the big news. I was a pupil one week-end at a school under the tutorship of the late Professor G.L.H. Cole. At the end of the Sunday morning session at on top level negotiating there was no discussion and we accordingly had an early lunch. At the commencement of the afternoon session the professor said. "Now this morning we talked about something with which you local T.U. men are all familiar and to arguments about this you should be able to give useful contributions: but none of you were helpful to this class which is to help in the teaching of negotiating about things of which you know a good deal. This afternoon we are going to talk about the very top level of negotiations; dealings to do with countries other than our own among other things. All these things are something you cannot know anything

about. Nevertheless I'll wager that there will be your views and opinions given; there will be your contributions even if you have given no previous consideration to the subject at all". Professor Cole was very right. The pupils were very vociferous in giving their advice, and generally condemning the work of the Labour Government, at that time manfully struggling without the ghastly problems the war had left with us. That is why I confine my writing in this journal. As regards local Council news then, there is none because of the recession time. But local matters I do know something and I have made my contribution to the present-day history of this town: so I'll confine this writing to the events I know something of. Anyway, this journal only had one excuse for its existence in the beginning, to record my doings as mayor. I think it is quite excusable to use it to record my doings as me: but there is not excuse for putting big chunks of general news in. That is already done by the mass-media (God save us). But for the sake of my argument we have had the general news, whatever the bolshiness of the mass-media and I therefore see no point in people, such as me, recording it all again.

Friday 28 August. This has been a week of local happenings. Two people who have been into local life have died. Rupert Christmas, who was buried on last Tuesday, was one who I knew pretty well, working as he did at Baxters. Ten years or so younger than me he was one of my "Teuries", as the saying is, and Rupert was always willing to enter into discussion on any subject where he was able to. A trifle "Romantic" from a patriotic or nationalist view point, but one of the best as one got to know his ways and one could get fond of him. The other death is Bill "Knocker" White. He was one I did not know until quite recently. High up in the world of the Labour Party, on the agents and organizing side, he has lived in Lewes for some time: and he was of immense help to us in winning our four seats at the May elections

Wednesday September 9. I have been obliged, for various reasons or causes, to leave out of my curriculum the writing up of this journal. I have been very busy in my early-morning reading time on the "Strategy for the South-Eastern Region" which I have to read and pass on to other members of the Planning Committee. This book of hypotheses of events and how they should be prepared to deal with the situations that will possibly arise is quite interesting to me, because I have interested myself in the planning side of local Government. Nevertheless, in spite of my interest in "Planning": and in spite of my socialistic and ethical principle of aiming to leave the world a better place than I found it, I find myself in danger of losing interest in how the people will manage in the year 2,000 say. I seem to be in danger of taking the view that, in the

ordinary course of nature, I shan't be here. Now I have analysed this feeling: it is against the feeling that has been natural to me since my father told me of the man who proceeded with great difficulty, over very rough ground, on an important journey, and, having reached his destination, reflected that a great many more people had to make this journey and he therefore did what he could to make it easier for them by finding ways of removing the obstacles that had obstructed him. As a result of my analysing of this "I shan't be here" sort of feeling I have come to the conclusion that it is not caused by the slackening of principle. It is just a kind of fear for the situations that may arise in the future and which are beyond my ability to grasp. Two meetings this week have confirmed that my analysis has been correct. Things I did not want to do, mainly because I hadn't found time to prepare myself for them, and had rationalized this impulse towards laziness by somewhat questioning their importance, have now taken place. I have worked hard to make up for my idleness and so carried through my important role and the projects are going forward: and I have been rewarded by watching and being able to codify? temper and guide the enthusiasm of many good people who were present and were willing to have a go at doing things. I think it was H. G. Wells who wrote to the effect that the grandaddy of all the bad things in life is fear: and I am now sure that the way to deal with this old man fear is training and preparation and then the application of that training to the objective situation. I will accordingly keep up this journal, there is plenty to record, from air piracy in the world of jet air-liners to progress in the matter of old people's welfare. These last two days have been occupied, as far as public work is concerned, with the Old People's Welfare Committee work. The Day Centre (House of Friendship) is now in actual being: the first General meeting of its members was held yesterday; and the quarterly General Meeting of the 4 main Welfare Committee was held today. The Borough Council is still in recess so I have not been busy in that direction, other than being of service when required. In the "private sector" I've done quite an amount of bricklaying in the garden during these few weeks and Dorothy has the garden in very good shape: we are proud of the garden from an aesthetic point of view but also from the productive angle. Before I retired this evening I saw some quite good wrestling

Thursday September 10 1970. A very wet and a south-westerly gale blowing like hells bells for most of the day. An old friend (of Dorothy's) who is from Yorkshire and whose maiden name was Ivy Stredwick, called in to see us this morning so we were engaged for some time instead of getting on, but it is very nice when old acquaintance took us up. Ivy spent a good deal of time telling us of the state of her health (aches and pains every where poor soul, besides some arthritis in her spine). I'm glad my way of living, as far as the attitude of mind to all the discomforts caused by my totally ossified spine is concerned, forbids me doing anything, or saying anything, except glory ~~and~~ in, and boast of, my wellness, which I have gained by learning,

training and application of my efforts, plus wanting and willing to my physical condition. I have carried this so far now that I am sure it would be impossible for me to slip and complain of an impaired opinion to anybody who plainly had one too. Dorothy and I did some shopping but we have not done much else; the weather has been too bad. Made good progress reading aloud Zola's "Earth". What a ghastly account, or I should say, what an account of the ghastly greed of small ownership and what an account of the results of that extreme end that the cult of "family" can lead to?

Friday, September 11. There seems to be some movement towards negotiating between the various governments of the West, who have nationals among the passengers on the hi-jacked planes now in Jordan, and the perpetrators of this hi-jacking. It seems to me a grevous thing to negotiate with people of this type, but it is also a very hard decision to be made by the governments concerned if (as should be the case) the hi-jacker's bluff was called. It is rather dreadful to have all those hostages lives at risk; it is almost certain that the threats would be carried out. A mentality that can do this sort of thing, especially when it is backed up by a stupid thing called nationalism, has to be considered very carefully before steps are taken to destroy it. But such steps will have to be taken or the blackmailing demands will become greater. I went and drew the pension this morning and went into Baxters to see some of my erstwhile workmates and I paid my football competition fees In the shop I saw Margaret Crawley. At the same time I noticed a book on brass-rubbing, quite a big, well bound book and I wondered that anybody could be so concerned with the subject as to buy a book of this sort. Margaret told me that there are a number of books published about brass-rubbings; this was only one of them and that the sale was fairly brisk, so much interest appeared to be taken in this subject that she had decided to read one and "gen" up on the subject, thus knowing something of the wares she was employed to sell. Just one of those little things one comes across while going about: a woman equiping herself to do her job because she has discovered an ever greater number of people are getting interested in such a quiet, harmless thing: evidence that not all people are going berserk on sex, violence, and all the other things that so many people, whose job is in communications, keep telling us is becoming our only interest. I wonder if these mass-media--helots will make as great play with this increase in the interest in brass-rubbing as they do with other kinds of rubbing?!! I should say the answer is no. This afternoon I took back my two library books and this evening Dorothy & I were driven to Newhaven by the Bennetts in company with Mrs Fitch. I like Mr & Mrs Paul Bennett and Nellie Fitch. Paul is secretary of our L.L.P. and Nellie is one of our councillors who succeeded her late husband as a councillor for the

Bridge Ward. This outing of ours to Newhaven was the occasion of a buffet supper, at the "Sheffield" hotel, held by the newly formed Labour Women's Council. Quite an enjoyable evening; with a young woman from the Southern Regional Committee of the Labour Party to speak. We arrived back home at approximately 10-30, having enjoyed our evening out; and the supper was good of its kind.

Saturday. September 12. Arose about 6 a.m. after a very wakeful night and did writing, reading and exercise and made myself feel very well. I don't know if we are having rainy periods or sunshine periods but the rain pours down every little while and the sun pours down every other little while, and in consequence Dorothy and I had to go dodging between intermittant showers which didn't have long enough periods of sunshine between them. However, Dorothy went home with one load and came in later with the rest of the shopping. I feel rather worried about Dorothy because, although she is apparently well, her feet, she says, are always cold: and, after all, we have had, and are still mostly having, a very warm summer; even though we are halfway through September. These last few days, because of the S.W. gale have brought the temperature down. Dorothy went to the House of C. this afternoon and so was able to show Joan and the two boys the House, when they came over to report to we grandparents upon their arrival home from their Isle of Wight holiday. Actually, I believe the eldest, Mark's first concern was to take an inventory of all the possessions, in the way of toys, because when they reached home, where I was, he imediately wished to see the various things they keep here. Joan said he did the same thing when they reached their home from the Isle of Wight. Dorothy and I stopped at home this evening and, after sleeping through most of a film on the television, I saw the "Match of the day" programme. The hijackers have blown up the jet aeroplanes which they had pirated. Most of the hostage passengers are freed, however, and some, who the pirates evidently believe to be of some importance, are still held captive until the guerillas are freed. The U.K. Government, I understand, are to free the woman hijacker who has been in custody in England. I don't know how far all this is weakness; or good negotiating in an objective situation, the chief points of which we ordinary people don't know: but I do know that it has to do with something which has got to be stopped. No doubt we shall all learn something more of the terms of the settlement, more of who shall bear the costs of millions of £s lost in the destroyed 'planes and, most important of all, what steps are going to be taken by the Government to prevent it being repeated. It does seem to me, at the moment that the Israelis, who are the chief target of the Arabs, have not yet lost a 'plane; they know how to deal with people who can't be negotiated with as they proved by the way they dealt with the attack on their plane last Sunday which resulted in one pirate being shot and one captured instead of them two capturing the 'plane

Sunday. September 13. Dorothy and I walked up to 68 Prince Edwards road this morning. Leslie was at work and Issy was at Edmondsons, so we only saw Winnie. She was getting on with the washing etc, and the house looks very clean and comfortable. Winnie has relapsed into her old way of grumbling about the shortcomings of the other members of the family but, in health, she appears to be quite well. I am slightly uneasy about her relationship with the other members of our family but, from experience of other families I know that the development is not unusual. The difference seems to me to lie in the fact that it is impossible for me to reason with Winnie. However, I'll just have to deal with the situations as they arise. Dorothy and I walked home by a different route from our journey up to 68 Pr. Ed., to make an round walk and, on our way, had a talk with Miss Patrick, an elderly woman who is quite a dear; and who claims to have been Dorothy's teacher when she (Dorothy) was in the baby's class. Miss Patrick lived with her Mr & Mrs Langridge. Soon after reaching home we saw the rain commence and it has kept on for the rest of the day. Frank paid us his customary Sunday-evening visit. He is looking very well; so are his two King Charles spaniel bitches which have become as much a part of Frank's make-up as the white coat that he gave me has become a part of me; and people know me by it!

Monday September 14. In case I haven't noted it in this journal, Dorothy and I received a 'phone call from Colin Bourne who told us that Ken Day had died at the Sx County Hospital. Another good man of our generation gone. What with business worries, including a fire at his shop, extreme bad health, which included kidney and heart trouble besides the ordinary pressures of life, poor Ken had quite a time in the last two or three years. He was very friendly to Dorothy and me, and, when it was needed, he was most generous with his help, either by assisting materially or, when that was not applicable, by giving considerable backing, which to me on the Council has been much appreciated. A man who helped the community privately when it was necessary and did his share also in that direction through the various organizations to which he belonged. This morning I arose rather late after a very good night's rest and got on with my programme, leaving out, of course, such things as exercising because of my lateness: and indeed, Dorothy arose first and made the tea! The exclamation mark is not because Dorothy made the tea, but to show the unusual lateness of my arising. I went to the office at the Town Hall and made sure of the Friday evening booking of the Town Hall for the preparation of the Old P W Committee's fair on November 14 (Saturday). Having done this and confirming it to Mrs Jeffcis I went out into the raining High Street, met Charlie Stephens and passed the time of the day as we went some way together while hurrying home. He and Vera are well. I had

already done the agenda for this evening's Public Services meeting so I had a fairly soft time for the day up to this evening: and then the Public Services committee did not take very long and was quite a pleasant affair. I had a look at "Panarama" and the news on the "telly". Still mostly about the hi-jacking, but as is usual during these last few days there appears to be no progress made as to how to deal with this pirate situation other than the Israeli method. As I have written a day or two back, Israel is positive in their methods and, if we view things so far, their pragmatic approach has proved right. I suppose pragmatic is the word here, if "Right" is to keep your aeroplanes by defending them then they are proved right. The rained has continued.

~~Monday~~ Tuesday September 15. I arose at six and noticed the rain had ceased at last. It came on again at times later in the day but not so heavy and so continuously. This morning we went to Hilda Chandlers for coffee and to meet a Mr & Mrs ~~Mundell~~ Stranell who have recently come to live in Dewer and who are interested, indeed are old members of the W.E.A. They seem to be very decent people and we are to go to their house next Sunday evening. This afternoon Dorothy & I did some shopping and this evening I attended the first meeting of the Hoare of Friendship management committee. It was a matter of starting off this newly formed committee and, except for the election of its officers, the business was a matter of making up a programme of uses: a curriculum for various of the users of the club to be able to choose. I don't know how successful this will be but I feel certain success, ~~in~~ done, will be in a large measure. When I reached home I found Dorothy had washed all the stuff which was waiting to be washed and I immediately began reflecting on the change in this "Washing-day" part of life that has taken place. The women of today just do it as soon as they have enough to do. The dry-spinning machines are an enormous help in doing washing in this piece-meal way as far as Dorothy ~~has~~ is concerned but she does the washing by hand; yet there is no whole day work and flap among women now-a-days. Most of them have a washing machine and this enables menfolk to render some assistance on occasion and, indeed, I know men who do it all in an hour or so. We saw Britten on the "Telly", a very enjoyable programme & equally so was a "Room in Town", one of the Armchair Theatre plays which gave one to ~~reflect on~~ consider the possible sequel to the easier methods of house-work I have mentioned above and the chance that this sequel should make for garden-of-Eden conditions in marriage, and therefore much improvement in reduction of "Broken Marriages" that so many people who wish to be known as moralists, are always warning us about. These people never produce any idea which might add to happiness in any department of life. They only concentrate on what they can stop people doing.

they always exist to subtract from life and they never add to it. I am not suggesting that broken marriages make life better; I am drawing attention to people who always use such marriages, those that are broken for whatever reason, as a stick to beat the rest of the population for its assumed sins. In reality, of course, where two people are incompatible, it is better they part than be unhappy for the rest of their lives, and there are many particulars in all the walks of life where it is far better to judge on merit than to have one universal law, when we are dealing with that part of human life that is private. People who are such wowsers would ban television plays such as the one we thoroughly enjoyed this evening.

~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday September 16 On two days running I have inadvertantly put the wrong day-name in and had to alter it so rather disfiguring this diary. It has been a much better day as regards the weather and I have been able to mow the lawn and so greatly improve the view from where I write this. I did some shopping with Dorothy, took a subscription to the Henry Collins Fund, from Peter Sharpe up ~~to~~ to Hilda Chandler. Saw about the correction of the drive-in-slope at the rear of the House of Friendship and various other jobs, especially this evening while Dorothy was attending the first lecture in the First-aid course which she is doing in connection with the Local Emergency Volunteers. Later I saw a play, "The Mark 2. Wife" on B.B.C. 1. and, later still, some good wrestling

Thursday September 17. I drew my pension and looked in at Baxters, where I saw Eric Corbam and had to a talk with him regarding the Congregationalists' planning application for their ~~shed~~ hall. I told him that Mr. Franks would advise him on a cheaper way of dealing with the Planning Authority's wishes regarding materials for the building. After dinner, which I made very light, I walked over to Southover Church for Ken Day's funeral service. Afterwards Colin Bourne drove me to Brighton for the cremation. I have written about Ken before so I'll not write anymore now beyond that I was invited, by the widow, Gladys, to a cup of tea with the family afterwards. The Church Service, conducted by Mr. Hurd, was very well done; there was a big congregation which showed Ken was much appreciated in the town. R.I.P. after all his worries of later years. Dorothy was painting the outdoor W.C. when I got back and, ~~as is usual~~ she got me the dinner we had not had when I was going to the funeral which was very nice. As is usual when she is doing her decorating work, she kept it up for quite a long time. I hope we have no more of the very late turns!!

Friday September 18. I walked round doing shopping and council work this morning and during the course of this walking and working I was given the opportunity, through a complaint, of ~~buildings~~ stealing light, ~~of~~ looking round a house in New Rd. I found the complaint did not stand up to the proof of the

position of the offending building; but there is quite a serious lack of light through or, because I should say, of the steep bank that is behind the houses and the trees growing on top. There could do with some care, (pollarding?). I often have there sort of complaints by housewives but this one took my attention because of the house. This house, one of a row of tiny cottages, very respectable dwellings of very respectable artisans etc when I was a boy living on the opposite side of the road, but very tiny and cramped, is like a palace inside. Altered structurally to make all the ground floor rooms bigger plus all kinds of improvements, it is a splendid example of the march of civilization towards better things. People are ever so much better off in all sorts of ways. Traditional streets can be kept by "rearing" houses to make them like this one. I reflected that we are winning in this direction, there is only one bogey which will have to be dealt with, and that is the situation that has been allowed to develope by way of the motor car. This afternoon I walked down to Ally's and dropped a note in his door regarding a housing committee question I had received from Frank Hayward. This evening Dorothy was taken to a H. of H. meeting at Hellingly and I attended the W.E.A. committee meeting. I think we both enjoyed our respective meetings.

Saturday September 19. Kate looked in this morning and eased my mind considerably when she told me that Mr. Warnell had seen her regarding changing her tenancy at 'Weald Court' for a flat in Blois Road. Having known of this possibility (the using of Weald Court for people older than Kate) for some time I was

* Kate is not worried about this, and did point out at the time she would be willing to change in the should the necessary situation arise.

rather concerned: and there are four tenants concerned so there was a likelihood of me spreading despondency if I had mentioned this trend in Housing Committee; there can be no worse worry to hang over your head when you are getting
* on in age than losing security of tenure. Dorothy and I did shopping in the morning and Dorothy went to the House of Friendship in the afternoon. Again there were practically no "comers in." Evidently most clients and members have other ways of spending Saturday afternoons. Hen was not in attendance because poor Gwen has had a fall and bruised her face considerably. I hope she soon gets over it. They are such grand people and to fall when you are over 70 is no joke; and is worse when you cannot give a reason for the fall. However, to return to the recording; while Dorothy was at the 'House of Fr.' I made a start on my further issue of repairs to my dwarf walls; looked at some quite good wrestling and "looked in" during the evening. Late tonight, on the Thames Weekend programme I saw some of the dance sequence from "Oh Calcutta" I have mentioned the people, ("wowsers") who want to stop other people living and never add anything to life in between (see Tuesday Sep 15). This film confirmed my opinion because they have made a fearful fuss over the nudism and gymnastics in this play. I can truthfully say, having watched the relevant parts tonight, I have not see anything more graceful and pleasant to watch, or more solemn than this piece of film of Oh! Calcutta.

Sunday September 20. I did the L.P. delivery this morning. In the afternoon Bunty came over with her family and we were very pleased with the progress the family is making. Went to the baths with them this afternoon! John and Bunty are very well; and Helen at 5 years and Charles at 8 months are both making good progress in their respective age worlds. It was very nice having them. This evening we were the guests of our new friends, the Stronells at 91 Edwards Road and we spent a pleasant two hours or so, with Hilda and Margot Chandler also present. I will write more of the hosts when I can do them justice by knowing them better. They are Labour Party people; keen on adult education and willing to discuss various matters and, I have no doubt, we shall see quite a good deal of them.

Monday September 21. I went to the Town Hall and saw Mr. Rouse, the Borough Surveyor, regarding trees at the back of New Road (see T.T. Friday Sep. 18). While there I also mentioned the Brook St Rec and I gather the Round Table are proposing to offer an adventure playground here (at Brook Street). I dealt with the W.E.A. A.G.M. general M and by booking the Lecture Room via Joan B. who, by the way, now seems to have recovered from her malady and is now, as far as one can judge, very well. I went home and made quite a good show at the dwarf wall steps and, this afternoon, had my hair-cut and, vide 'phone calls from Ken Sadler and Mrs Franks, fixed myself up for a committee meeting (Fire of H. on Friday at 6 p.m. I have also made great strides with the reading of the three reports for the Steering Committee, a joint affair with the Borough Council and the County Council, and read to Dorothy for a short while. (The busy life I lead!)

Tuesday September 22 1970. I went to the Town Hall office, to Baxters shop, to Hilda Chandler's house re W.E.A. A.G.M.: and thence to Ruth's shop for bread. I have sold five of the "puzzle" letters the Arthritis Research Board are putting out by way of a money-raising competition, and I spent the rest of the morning doing the steps in the garden. This job is beginning to take shape now. I had a bit of a change this afternoon and visited the Station Street Pensioners Club and I thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided there by a man and his wife, who came from Brighton. Very talented people and very generous people to come and give their valuable time to the pensioners. I saw Dorothy Gaston and had a talk. She told me that Wally is "getting slower and doesn't hear very well now." It is something we must all face, if we live to eighty four. (Might be lucky and retain our faculties, wrote Charlie wistfully!) I must say I am thankful; at my age & my body is in wonderful condition, but I am only rising 72. I ignore my impaired spine by means of keeping my critical attention on the rest of my physique which, by reason of my endeavours is kept in splendid

shape. My eyes are of course as they are but I treat them the same and keep them working on what I want to do (which, of course, is to a large extent reading; because whether for pleasure, or learning educationally, or reports or agendas, reading is the chief use of my "peepers"). This evening I attended the Management and Finance Committee and we dealt with a number of things. I didn't stop all the time but came away shortly before the end, having considered I have had a pretty busy day from the mental point of view. I found Dorothy had finished her busy day of decorating the outside bar, ironing and cooking and was snatching time to look at quite a neat little play. I saw its finish with her.

Wednesday September 23. I attended the Steering Committee this afternoon. This is a joint committee made up of our Borough Council and the County Council and its work is to deal with Lewes town's matters, especially the development programme. I mention it here because, in addition to it being one of the things I did today, and it being of considerable importance, it is also an example of what I have quoted in this journal (Wed Sep 9): a reluctance to get on with it through laziness and, once I had set about it I enjoyed the meeting. This feeling, in one's salad days, could be put down to fear, the grandaddy of all this—or the reasons for this kind of feeling; later on it only comes when one knows one is unprepared and I accept that now, but wonder if it is not a sign of getting old. I don't really think this; I am in much too good a shape, mentally as well as physically, for this to be the cause. I took Mr. Franks into Baxters after the meeting so he was able to talk with Eric Coxham re the Congregationalists building, so one extra thing I have accomplished; and through this lunch I was able to have a talk with Franks and I think we now understand each other better. I am quite certain that this last few minutes with him was profitably spent.

Thursday, September 24. Hilda Chandler came in this afternoon and we settled on my duties as W.E.A. class secretary during the period she will be on holiday. I must find time to look into the other classes as well, since I am Branch Chairman. This evening was the monthly meeting of the Local Labour Party. A man named Jones, who has worked with our Joan at Brighton, gave us a talk on current strategy etc. and we also began to form a panel of possible candidates for the next municipal elections.

Friday September 25. The very fine, warm weather continues and so, today I was able to do a bit more to the dwarf steps. Dorothy has commenced doing the living-room, but there is no muddle or flap because of the modern, clean, non-drip paints and combined with her acquired skill and methods gathered through experience. I went to the extra committee meeting of the Use of Fr. and it was decided how to carry out the opening ceremony: so everything is now set for happiness among the ladies on the committee; and tranquillity for we males because the females are happy. Ken Sadler and Mr Jefferys

are two of the best and they are equally helpful. Dorothy and I watched the telly when I had been fed and, later on, had an exciting quiet time. We saw "Dads Army" and this programme, perhaps partly through a sort of nostalgia, was very enjoyable. B.L.O.S.

Saturday September 26. The weather most fine all day. Stopping, bricklaying, and football in the afternoon while Dorothy went to the House of Friendship. She told me there were two arrivals this week. During the stopping we met many friends and acquaintance so going stopping was as pleasurable as ever. Frank Butler, our neighbour next door but one, gave me a ride to the football and the same little group were in the stand. This evening I read aloud a bit of Eyserch, we looked at a bit of telly and, generally speaking, had a quiet time. B.K.O.S.

Sunday September 27. A quiet day. Finished the dwarf wall steps: Kate came down this morning and I am pleased with her attitude of mind regarding the possible move. Dorothy has made progress with the decor etc.

Monday September 28. I had a stroke of luck; in that Eve Clarke phoned me and wished to have five more copies of the competition letter which is being sold in aid of the Arthritis Research Council. This order put me in good heart because I am not a good salesman; as was said to Dorothy by the Manager of the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society many years ago. "Your husband is a nice little fellow Mrs Barber, but he is too softhearted"! I spent the rest of the morning and afternoon doing agendas etc., and presented myself at the Building Plans committee in the evening (at 6-30). At eight o'clock Nellie Fitch and I saw the close of this meeting and made our way to here where the Labour Group went through the agenda for the Council meeting on Wednesday. It was practically 10-30 before we were finished.

Tuesday. September 29. Tired with my luck at disposing of the Arthritic forms yesterday, I set out this morning resolved to sell the rest, there were only four left. I was reasonably successful and I now have only one left. Did some at the office at the Town-Hall where I enquired of Mr. Devlin re the threatened strike of Municipal Workers. I will return to the latter body later. I next went up to New Road where Mr. & Mrs Cripps live and sold him a letter, so now I am sold out except for one copy. Wally Cripps got me to signs his pension form. Dorothy, his wife was not at home, being attending, I gathered from Wally, a coffee-morning. I found out later in the day that this was at the House of Friendship, where I should have been myself! People who run these things will come to the conclusion that my promises are like pie-crust, but it is my memory and lack of care that are the faults, not my word or promise. This afternoon I went to the Station St Federation of Pensioners Branch again and enjoyed a concert

where de chief singer was Mrs Nella Wilkinson, whose husband keeps Unwin's wineshop. They are bod very nice and kindly people and ele is an exellent singer of ballad-type songs. Dorody continued with her decorating and the living room will be looking very smart ere long.

Wednesday September 30. The first job to the Mayor's parlour where the meeting of the Lewes Exhibition Fund was held Readers of this journal can now note that my concern about this committee, i.e. its de softheartedness of its members which seemed to me to let quite well salaried people to get away with almost any claim, has now, seemingly, change: and today we were much more enquiring into such things that it usually are to do with claims of this nature. There was the Town council meeting this evening and it was followed by de first of a "Forum" where the public were able to ask questions of the Chairmen of Committees.

Thursday October 1 1970. At six o'clock this evening I attended the meeting of the House of Friendship Committee and here an amount of work was cleared up. I followed this by going to de "Grange," where de first of Michael Carritts' classes on "Philosophy" and "Man and his Society" was held. I enjoyed this. It can be seen from this journal that I have got rather behind with my dates. This is obvious by reason of the fact that it is degenerating into a record of where I have been; not even what I have done where I have been or who was present. I'll catch up on my dates and once again give a more interesting account.

Friday. October 2 Dorothy to Brighton (Patcham) to look after Joan's boys. I went down at about tea time because I attended the Manager's meeting of the Pells School. There is not much to record today really. I had a ride down because of the uncertainty of the 'bus service and Dorothy had one this morning because it was important that she arrived in time, in the dry, and fresh for a day's care of the boys. Mark and Robin greeted me very warmly and I did my best to help keep them amused until their bed-time! We stopped there over night because Joan was not due to come back until after midnight. Dorothy kept her ear 'opened' in case the boys called out (they did this twice but were no trouble. Bert came home with Joan: he looks very well. Dorothy and I left at about 11-5 this
Saturday October 3 morning but we were more than an hour getting home. The service does seem to be in a pickle but I expect it will straighten out in due course. While Dorothy went to do her stint at the House of Friendship I had an enjoyable afternoon at the Dripping Pan and saw Lewes beat Hayes 6-2 in the Premier Division of the Athenian League. This evening Dorothy and I stopped in, had a look at the "telly"; had a read B.K.'s

Sunday October 4. I walked up to 68 Prince Edwards Rd this morning and saw Winnie, Jessy and Leslie. I think Winnie and Jessy both look very well, and indeed Winnie seems to be much better when not on her own. Leslie is well though carrying out a pretty full job on the radio, telephone and deployment of the C C Ambulance service. When I reflect on the later years of Doll-Dolls life I seem to be more sure that she had some knowledge of the state of her health; but kept it to herself. She was certainly very quiet and very helpful in all sorts of ways to a good many people. I made some preparations to getting on with the building of the final piece of wall-building but the rain came.

Monday October 5. We went to the Assize Service at St Annes this morning. Quite a number of people present but not up to the usual number. Moreover, I have learnt to think of this service as one that is rather different from the rest of theological(?) businesses one attends in company with other civic people on such occasions as one's duties make attendance necessary. The form of the Assize Service, besides its strictly legal impression, and its bidding prayer by the High Sheriffs Chaplain, made for me, a rather quaint and interesting ceremony. This attractiveness seemed absent from today's service and I think it was mostly because the rector of St Annes is playing on what he also noticed and so has helped to make cheaper. He also had the job of reading the bidding prayer so the powerful (and quite musical) voice of the rector, by dominating all the service, made one feel the whole thing was rather monotonous. Dorothy got on with making a report for the "Friends of Hellingly Hospital" which she successfully presented this evening at a meeting of that body; and preparing a speech for the British Legion, which she has to deliver on Wednesday. I cleared up several little matters at the Town Hall and did some writing this evening. So have I been able to catch up with the days this journal is meant to report and tomorrow I will be able to start on level terms with time at last.

Tuesday October 6. The strike of municipal workers, which is now gathering momentum, looked as though it would take effect at Lewes today so I made my way to the Town Hall to try and get information about the emergency measures that may become necessary; and I found that there was no effect in Lewes as yet; that measures had been planned and would be put into operation should it become necessary through a change in the situation. I told the Town Clerk that, though I am a member of the employing Authority and, consequently took my share in the setting up of emergency services, yet I am quite sympathetic to the claim made by the workers and I think £16 weekly is nowhere near a beg enough wage for the dirtiest jobs, which are the ones, which, if left or neglected could have dire results on the health of the community. Dorothy carried on

with her "speech" building and also made some preparations for the fitting of our new boiler, which fitting takes place tomorrow. I attended the meeting, called by the L.E.A., of governors and managers. Quite a decent meeting but one which only, as far as some of us were concerned, confirmed that ~~what~~ things we already did as managers were the right ones. Ally and his son-in-law looked in this evening re support from the Exhibition fund for Ken who is working towards being a civil engineer. It is nice to meet a young man who is having a go at training for a useful job and I hope the Exhibition will help him on his way. As yet I have not been able to find the time to look in on the other W.E.A. classes: and I should do this as Branch Chairman. From reports, I gather that all are going on, two very successfully and one not so promisingly. I must make sure the Carritt class keeps on. This gives me great pleasure and, after all, ethics is the most important thing in life which is to do with other people and philosophy is a great help to life in the round.

Wednesday: October 7. 1970. During the last week or so I have been catching up with this journal and, with yesterday's entry, I finally succeeded. This allows me time to make mention of myself as a person and not, as I've been doing recently, as a collection of events that somebody "attended". I have recently got into my stride again with exercising. A man named Mervyn Beale kindly said to me, as Dorothy and I crossed the High Street last Saturday. "Have you been having some treatment? You seem to be ever so much more upright lately".

Things like this meeting do me a power of good and I was very pleased. The thing which is to be bourne in mind with regard to exercises such as mine, is that one is exercising to improve one's body: not competing with anybody: least of all one's self. The warning advice "Don't overdo it" must be kept and ~~as~~ regard paid to it, particularly as age keeps taking toll. So when, as I have just written, "I do my exercising," it must be remembered that I try to strike the golden mean when carrying them out. I did a small amount of skapping this morning; and, this evening, went round to the opening ceremony of the "House of Friendship". This went off very well indeed and everybody seemed quite happy with the result of their collective labour. Dorothy did not come with me: she went to give her talk to the Women's section of the Cliffe British Legion. In this she was very successful and the members enjoyed her talk very much and she seems to have made quite a hit. I notice that the members of most "Women's" organizations like to have Dorothy speak to them and I believe that "working women" get some satisfaction (being mostly diffident about speaking in public themselves) from listening to one of their own standing who can do public things. Mrs Moss gave me a ride home, and, as I was just being dropped at the bottom of our street, Dorothy came hurrying down to go to her Br. Legion meeting and Mrs Moss most kindly gave her a lift down to the Cliffe. I did some writing and, later on, when D. arrived home, I saw some Association Football and some wrestling on the "telly". "It's a wonderful life". The wrestling, by the way, was very good indeed; Tony Charles v Pat Roach

I always think of the latter as "Hal" Roach, such an impression on my boyhood mind did the man whose name that was make with his silent comic films!!

Thursday October 8 1970. The new boiler arrived today and the fitter from Davies, so, most of the day work, has been going on. All this evening I was at Barrett's Philosophy class which, on this second gathering, gathered fourteen people as compared with eight last week: this class is going to be a success I am sure. I am very happy about this: I have always considered the chief work of the W.E.A. is to build up, among the working people or others whose education has been lacking, a leaven of people who will provide a balance, or help to make a balance, a "Reason's Regulator" among people, because it is quite certain that what with the more free society, the increase in leisure and the rapid rate of progress with scientific discoveries and consequent mechanical inventions, change becomes more rapid than ever. If the results of this progress in material good were useful, the rate of change needs a good deal of adapting oneself to the changing situations. When the mass media is used to persuade people to put useless things first it is time we started thinking more carefully: The W.E.A., therefore, I consider needs always a class of people who want to learn about life, liberal studies etc. Without such people the movement becomes just another body ~~of people~~ whose members discuss various kinds of antiques, or Elizabethan drama or or other subjects which are passed as the whole of culture, but which are really only a small part of culture though it is quite necessary to a full life.

Friday: October 9. The fitter finished the installation of the boiler today. There is now only the stuff to be carted away which, I expect, the firm will do tomorrow. I went into the Town Hall and saw Joan Bourne, the Town Clerk (Mr. Walsh) and the Deputy T.C. I had already spoken to Mr. Walsh about the threatened strike if the Mope men are called upon to join their colleagues over the rest of the country, and I had learned about the contingency measures which have been arranged. What I wanted today was to sound the possibilities of calling for a meeting of the Council because, in the case of Leeves, I think we can allow it. I'll write upon the development of this proposition as it takes place. I was to attend a meeting of the A.R.C. this evening (Architic and Re Council), and I received a phone call from Dagma Gann that she would come and give me a lift to the meeting: so she did and also a lift back. The committee is a hardworking one and in the time since the Branch was formed, last April, has sent a sum to the H.Q. of the national organization, in the region of £300! It was unfortunate that this meeting lasted rather a long time, but it is nice to be a member of a group that really sets to work. Dagma drove me home a short while before ten. Ivor Grantham's hidden word competition has already reached the sum of £54-10-0!!

Saturday: October 10, 1970. Quite a nice, fine day with regard to the weather: rather warm if anything. Dorothy and I did the shopping this morning and, this afternoon, she went to her job at the House of Friendship; and I to the Constituency L.P. meeting. This evening Frank came round for supper (fish pie) and the three of us then went to the Little Theatre where we saw "Lock Up Your Daughters". The club has made a good job of this, and it was pleasant, for Dorothy & me in particular, to see this again after about ten years. It was at the "Mermaid" we saw it, but so much time has passed that there was plenty of pleasure for us in the songs and situations. (not to mention the postures) A very nice evening from fish pie to refreshing play. I saw Mary Harman this morning: she seems to have improved in health a great deal and looked quite her old self; and she is coming round ~~this~~ tomorrow (Sunday) evening. There was nothing world recording at the Constituency meeting. The Southern Regional organiser, Mrs Butler, was there to give some information concerning the new boundaries of the Constituency. As far as I can see these are the same as obtained from 1948 for a few years, and as far as I can recollect we used to have the same results as we have now. So, except for a change of landscape and a change of faces we shall be, roughly, the same types of people who will face each other at the next election.

Sunday. October 11. Up at the time that has become usual and back on to the physical syllabus (the current one?) I did a bit of tidying up round and about my indoor and outdoor workshops. Early this afternoon Bunty 'phoned and then came over with her family. John and Bunty are well and Helen & Charles still making great progress. Mary Harman came round as was her intention, (see yesterday's entry). The weather has been fine all day and, while not particularly bright, it has been warm. Bunty and family left before seven before Mary arrived and, owing to various matters we were rather late starting our evening meal which, as is Dorothy's wont, was an excellent one. Mary gave us some idea of her feelings during her recent near mental illness (see T.J.) There is no doubt that she passed through a wretched period and she seemed glad to try to explain to us how she had felt and how much better she really is now as I have mentioned in yesterday's entry. We talked of a good many things and Mary left at about 10-30. So, I haven't been out other than with the children this afternoon to feed the ducks and visit the playground over Willey Bridge. I had almost forgotten to write in this book that Miss Baxall, the Secretary of the Old Peoples Welfare committee, looked in this morning; she asked me about postponing the "Stallholders" meeting for a week (until 27 inst) and I have agreed to get into touch with Mr. Fairweather & Mrs Jeffris about this and I must deal with it the very first job tomorrow morning.

Yesterday

Monday October 12. A Bunty made a comment on the analysis of "School Managers", their origins etc, which has been evident down this way for some time: but her comments reminded me that I have not yet dealt with the matter of me and the Wallands School. This was another matter which would have to be dealt with early this morning and is an example of how things get missed, because the next meeting of the school managers is today week and I have to do car-parks on that day. My first call today was to the Secretary of the C.C. old People's Committee, Mrs Jeffris to do the jobs I had promised Miss Boxall to do, by postponing, for a week, the Stallholders meeting. I also called into the Town Hall about the School Managers meeting I have mentioned above. Here I spoke with the T.C. and Rodney and the latter will deal with the manager's part and he also advised me to hold back for a day or two regarding my proposal to call a special meeting regarding the N.U.P.E. strike. I got on with some wall-building this afternoon and made quite good progress with the foundations of the last "span". This evening Miss Boxall came round for me to approve the draft copy of the minutes from the recent quarterly meeting. For the sake of brevity it will be more convenient if I write of her as Kate B.

Tuesday October 13. I did some delivering of notices for the stall holders meeting for Kate B. and found many of them were to people who had moved etc so I hope she has a more up-to-date lot in the remainder of the notices. This afternoon I carried on with the "Garden Brickwork" and made reasonably good progress. This evening Dorothy and I had a short walk and delivered a few more notices and, on our return home enjoyed a short look at the television play and spent the rest of the evening with me reading aloud one of Richard Aldington's books. "All men are Enemies" His author's works always appealed to me in the "Thirties" and it is very nice to look at them again and be able to look back on the England of my boyhood for Aldington had a good deal to say of the years before 1914 and then the first war and the interwar years. His outlook in his tales I always approved of. The play we watched was had set in a maternity hospital. I didn't notice who wrote it but it was quite interesting and showed what a frail craft and yet a craft that manages to weather the seas of marriage matrimony, is marriage. We retired at eleven p.m. The new boiler does a splendid job but today there has been no necessity to light it: the weather is extremely warm for October and the heaters are now turned off again after being on for only a few days. This weather is useful for "me and my wall"

Wednesday. October 14. Another fine day, although not as bright as yesterday. Dorothy and I went shopping in the morning and I ordered some more cement etc. This shopping in Lewes on a fine day is a very pleasant affair: with everyone greeting their acquaintance and going about their businesses. This afternoon I worked round a bit, and made a call on the Library, Mary Harman's bookshop (she was closed) and then to the wineshop. A man who was evidently helping in the shop asked me if I still had my insurance book!! I left that job at the end of 1942 and I have done 21 years at Baxters and then catered for nearly seven years. Evidently he was doing as I sometimes am in danger of doing, speaking to a person on the basis of an association of ideas connected with that person, without thinking of what is at the moment. This evening Graham came down to try to make me buy some books of draw-tickets for resale. Later on we (D and I) saw a bit of television and read some Richard Aldington, watched one wrestling bout and retired 10 to 12. Quite a nice full day. Dorothy has affixed her draught excluding foam rubber strips and I have mowed the lawn

Thursday. October 15. I delivered the L.L.P. stuff that Graham had given me last evening and I also dropped an O.P. missive into Mrs Smalls house and then made my way to de Montfort Est and thence through the town High St drawing my pension from the Post Office en route. I went to Mary's bookshop again and on this occasion she was present and gave me the old, nicely bound copy of John Stuart Mill on "Liberty" and I am very pleased with it. Anybody who reads this journal will have gathered long ago that I am keen on the works of J.S.M. On reaching home I found Dorothy happily working in her warm kitchen and it does seem as though her attempts at "thermatic Sealing is going to be quite successful. Colin kindly came for me this evening and gave me a lift to the W.E.A. at the "Grange" A pleasant session, with much discussion during the second half, on the possibilities of instincts, acquired characteristics etc; which allowed the ladies of the class to plunge into ~~long~~ discussion on the early feeding of babies. When I arrived home (by Colins car), I found Dorothy had watched the programme of the late Chancellor, Mr. Macleod. and was interested in the fact that he had suffered from "Ankilosing Spondilitis" like I have since 1934-35. I wonder how many people who are not my imediate acquaintance have noticed that I can't look up without leaning back, and I can't do a great many movements that are natural. I know by the pictures I have seen of him that his ~~is~~ was in a very similar stage to mine, and the less people have noticed mine, the more proud I am, or pleased I am, that I have made such strides towards well-being by my own efforts. by way of knowledge of physical exercise plus persistance in the application of that knowledge. (See this journal re some writing on ~~Hatt~~ wanting + willing and increasing resistance) ☞ See over leaf for order of this

1. The body must be strong enough to obey the mind. A good servant must be strong.
2. In course of time intemperance can destroy the body. Fasting and penance can produce the same results by the opposite means. The weaker the body, the more imperious its demands; the stronger it is, the better it is able to obey the mind
3. There is no grace in discomfort; languor is not refinement, there is no charm in ill-health. Suffering may excite pity; but pleasure and delight need the freshness of health.

These general rules, plus the before mentioned P.C. knowledge of 'Tactics' have been of enormous help to me resisting the attacks of what I use to call old 'Gordy'

Friday: October 16. It has been another fine, warm day. The mortar came while I was out so I shall be able to proceed with my work at the back as soon as I can gather enough bricks together. I spoke to Bill Tickhurst as I was doing the front bank and he thinks he might have some but he has disposed of all those he had when he demolished his shed. I went to the office this morning and made sure of the procedure concerning the withdrawal from the managers of the Wallands School; and some writing, some reading and some odds and ends have filled today as far as this journall is concerned. This doesn't seem much but there it is.

Saturday October 17 1970 A chill, misty morning developed into a beautiful, warm Autumn day. Dorothy and I did shopping in the morning, the usual Saturday mornings affairs, and this afternoon, she did her stint at the House of Friendship while I went to the Dripping Pan and watched a good soccer match in the F.A amateur Cup Competition between Lewes and Reigmer. This very enjoyable encounter finished up with the score at 2-2, so both live to fight again next Saturday. There has been no advance made in the two chief items of news, that is, the Canadian kidnapping affair and the threatened extension of the "Nupe" stride. Perhaps, after the weekend, we shall learn more of any progress in the negotiations that both these events need

Sunday October 18. I did quite a lot of work this morning in preparation for the Public Services and Planning committee which meets tomorrow. This afternoon Dorothy went to a committee meeting at Hellingly (being given a lift there by Mrs Tripp). and I had a fairly soft afternoon. Miss Bokall (Kate B) brought round some circulation stuff and I did most of them this afternoon. Here is bad news from both things I mentioned yesterday. The kidnappers have murdered the Canadian political hostage and, at home, the "Nupe" stride is being extended

Monday: October 19. Quite a rough start to the day's weather there was wind and aplenty in the morning. Fortunately it

cleared up by the end of the morning, and this afternoons "perambulations", by the members of the Highways Committee, round the car parking places was carried out in brilliant sunshine This afternoons operation was quite enjoyable. At the end of our inspection we had tea in the Lecture Room and then carried straight on with the "Town Plan" and the reports of the Joint Steering Committee and finally finished some time after ten p. m. That is to say, this meeting part of the proceedings lasted for almost four hours. It has been and afternoon and evening which, in my opinion, has been very well spent; and I have now a much clearer idea of the future of the town, both from the short-term and long-term angles, and, moreover, I have a better knowledge of my colleagues, of all parties, than I had before. Of today's work I have made my point regarding Castle Bank and Precincts Traffic and this should now be a very straight-forward job; ending in the vicinity being a much greater though quieter amenity. I have one regret: I have not been able to attend the Use of W. meeting this evening, but first things first. Dorothy told me that David W. had ~~ignored~~ to ask whether I was going to resign from the Wallands School Managers (see T.J. Friday Oct 16) so my absence must have been noted there

Tuesday October 20. This morning I paid a routine visit to the Tuesday morning W.E.A. class, on American literature, which is held a Dagma Garnis house at King Henrys Road. Quite a well attended class. ~~With~~ Because of the indisposition of the regular tutor, her husband took her place and ~~was~~ did very well, I thought. He did not look particularly well himself, really. However this mornings class was dealing with one of the works of Henry James. I have not read it and I can't form any bond with James by way of his work anyhow, so for me, apart from my observation of the pupils and the deputy tutor, this visit was a bit of a bore. I had a fairly lazy time this afternoon and this evening I attended the meeting of the Library committee. I am pleased with the results of our deliberations at this meeting and I hope some good will come of the "Opening" hours and the "New Building" extension: both of which matters took up a good deal of our time; time which, in my opinion, was very well spent. I was not able to see Eve Clarke about the W.E.A. Philosophy course books and I finally walked home with David Williams and left him at his door. David is now extremely busy so I did not go in to his house and I went home. I must say I was very pleased when Eve called, having taken Miss Temple over to bellringing at Southover Church. Eve stopped with us until about ten o'clock, Dorothy and Eve and me had a chat except for thirty minutes of "Cribbage" which was very enjoyable. If circumstances had been such that I had stopped at Davids I should have missed this. Not to mention Eve's visit!!

Wednesday October 21. I woke very early this morning and finally got up at six o'clock, wrote up, read up and exercised and so felt very well. Today there has been an easterly wind blowing all day which has caused overcoats and scarves to be fetched out. This afternoon I wrote the addresses on the L.L.P. notices which were sent round to me to deal with, and went out and delivered them. I took a good deal of time over this, going into my sister Kates flat at Weald Court and finding her very well. Nothing has been done yet about the suggested moves; but I gather she won't be too sorry if her place is changed; a good deal falls on the fitter people there and emergences do happen when the warden is not available. and Kate is always eager to help. I delivered what I had to deliver at Weald Court and made my way round that part of the town where I deliver notices. There is a fine, close-boarded fence at the bottom of Little East Street and I was much concerned to find two men screwing a very large, black on white printed notice board there. This is a bad move and I have no knowledge of permission being given for such a notice to be placed just there, so I went to the Town Hall and spoke to Mr (Rodney) Armitage, the deputy town clerk and he speedily took steps to enquire into the fixing of the board. I had already been to the Library, seen Eve and obtained some of the books for the class tomorrow night. When I reached home I found a "deputation" from the House of Friendship committee who were wishing an ~~com~~ E.C. of the O.P.W.C. to be called to sanction, or make, an application to the Borough Council for a grant, or loan, towards carrying on with the upper stories of the Tee of Tr. The rest of this building will have its job to do in augmenting the income besides making room for further old peoples care. The deputation was Ken Sadler, Mrs Maureen Franks and George Parlett. The result was that Ken came back at six and drove me over to Winterbourne where I've saw Kate Boxall the general secretary and obtained cards, list of addresses of E.C. members, etc and we came back home and wrote out the notices of an emergency E.C. for Saturday next at 5-30. Quite a busy day and I didn't go out any more this evening. Dorothy has been doing some decorating in the dining room and is getting along with the final parts, those to do with the window sashes.

Thursday. October 22. The cold, easterly wind has stopped and life is that much more comfortable. Did my early morning stuff and, during the morning, carried out some shopping. When on my way back I looked at the fence in Little East Street and found that the large, white and black board I mentioned yesterday had been removed. Evidently my intervention had been timely and successful. I looked into Franks house and he told me they had taken it down immediately. The firm, which is to do with antiques, now has a fresh name and I would like to know under what conditions the permission for this ~~fr~~ small works was given: I am

under the impression that there were conditions to do with length of time and "applicant only". This afternoon I went to the library (I had received a 'phone message that "Death of a Hero" (Aldington) was now ready for me) and from there to Baxters where I find the disappearance of the staff as I knew it goes on apace: but, strangely enough, the girls who came to me years ago on their leaving school at age 15 and who left, got married, raised their families and now find they now have time to come to work again are all back and happily working at their old jobs ~~here~~ Their age now being round about the forties! Consequently the place still has a homely, familiar ~~&~~ look to me. Colin Bourne 'phone that he would not be able to attend the class (Barrits) this evening and he was not the only one absent, for we only mustered twelve. I hope we can keep going. This course is a philosophy one, but since the theme or title is "Man and His Society" the Tutor finds it necessary to introduce a good deal of psychology and biology into it. I want him to get on with philosophy and he is going to do this next week. I have written that as though he changed to philosophy next week because of me; but that, of course, is not the case.

Friday October 23: I went to the office at the Town Hall this morning and, later, up to Wilkensons. Saw George Downey, who was going to see Charlie Day; and I looked into Castle Terrace and saw Wally Cripps. Now these three men, whose names I have just written are each of them over eighty years old! They are also all old Lewesians and are those who were young men when I was 12 years old or so: consequently to me they are an important part of Lewes. Dorothy has been painting and is making a great success of the dining room. Tomorrow is United Nations Day and the various Heads of Governments are at the Headquarters of the U.N.O. All the peoples of the world, if the press and the broadcasting people are to be believed, are looking to these Headquarters for guidance and positive moves towards the furtherance of peace: but, until all the nations accept completely similar ethics, or standards of going on, I don't suppose there can be much real progress; and, after all, the hijackings and the political kidnappings show a necessity for the clearing up that is needed in some countries to be carried out very quickly.

Saturday October 24. I ~~rose~~ at about 5-45, which seems to be gradually becoming my usual time, and I did all my preparations for the day including the dumbells at ten pounds on each hand. The new boiler is doing really fine work at both hot water production and the warming of the house. It has a tendency towards the fire going out but this will be overcome as we get accustomed to doing the damper and draughts etc to suit the stove: and even the going out is balanced to a certain degree by the remarkably easy lighting and the equally remarkable speed with which it does the work of heating water and heating the house. Dorothy is very pleased with it and is sure that the going out business will be

overcome. We did some shopping together this morning and Dorothy went round to the Hse. of Fr. to do her Saturday-afternoon stint, and I went there at 5-30 because a meeting of the O.P. welfare Committee had been called to discuss the matter of what grants could be applied for at Borough Council level and so on; this was a good meeting, and things are now more clear and as a direct consequence of the meeting I am to see the Borough Treasurer on Monday morning. He would like to have all applications in before November 3 and naturally our big venture of putting the upper floors of the "Hoverse" in order cannot be decided in a hurry. There are other minor applications which need to be in by that date, so I have asked Mrs Franks the Hse Management Committee secretary to be with me. Dorothy and I stopped in this evening and I read some of Aldington's "Death of a Hero". There was not much to interest us on the television and it says something for the writers of the twenties and thirties, such as Richard Aldington, that it would have had to be a very especial T.V. programme to tempt us away from the book. (B.K.by.S.) Perhaps the author can be blamed for belabouring some points, but those who can remember the times and the "mores" thereof, can sympathize with him in this matter.

Sunday October 25. A fine day and Dorothy and I had a decent walk this morning. Not much else to record. I watched some football this afternoon West Ham v Crystal Palace, quite an interesting match. I used to favour West Ham in the days of their centre-forward Puddefoot (that was in the early twenties!!) Of course, I never saw them play because they were too far away and there was no television. Quite a lot has altered during my lifetime and it is no wonder that things and ways of life have changed because the natural laws, or principles of nature are gradually being disclosed to mankind. Man marvels as he discovers these secrets but whether he be deeply religious in the Christian sense or has a rationalistic attitude he can now look at things in a more objective manner than ever before. B.K.F. Dorothy and I have got far through "Death of a Hero" and we also saw the film of the sinking of the "Titanic". A very well-done film. The "Titanic" disaster took place in 1912. With the above mentioned scientific discoveries that have been made since that date, it would have been impossible nowadays for any potential "rescue" ship to have missed the "Titanic" distress signals. L.C.D.

Monday October 26 I had received a message that Mrs Franks, the Secretary of the Hse. of Fr. Management Committee, would not be able to see the Borough Treasurer with me on this morning and I had according thought of seeing him tomorrow. However, I spoke to him this evening and, if Mrs Franks sends the application forms for the minor grants the Hse of Fd. Committee requires, the bigger things can wait. I had thought this before, and Mr. Jefferies, the O.P.W.C. treasurer will be more happy with this arrangement. I feel

much more with the situation now. This morning I went to the Town-Hall and saw the deputy Town Clerk for advice on the course of action to take with regard to the indiscriminate parking of cars in our little street and. I think we made some progress in considering ways and means of ameliorating this nuisance theoretically: practically, I saw one of my neighbours whose milk float is one of the chief offenders and he has already, by tonight done something about it. I went to the P. Services and Planning Committee this evening; and here quite an amount of good work was done on various matters ~~to do~~ with the current works to do with the town and the future planning and land use. Altogether then, I feel I have had (mentally) a satisfactory day: from smoothing over things that cause disagreement among neighbours to playing my part in Local Government at work. Dorothy attended the Lab. Party meeting this evening and did a good job towards the choosing of a candidate for next May's elections. Tomorrow is Joan's Birthday and she and the two boys are going to visit us. We look forward to this.

Tuesday October 27. I arose at a quarter to six, having been awake (quite comfortably) for quite a time and "Wrote up and read up and exercised up". Later in the morning I went round to the Hse of Fr. and saw Mrs Franks regarding the information I had from the Borough Treasurer last evening. Later on Joan and the two boys arrived, and indeed, they were at home when I got back. The rest of today has been occupied chiefly with the boys and this evening I went to the Autumn Fair Stallholders meeting.

Wednesday 28 October 1970. I went to 208 School Hill first and then up to see Mr. Jefferies, the O.P.W.C. treasurer. He considered the best thing to do regarding the Management Committee's applications to the Borough Council is to ask the secretary to send in the application for the minor grants and we'll have an E.C. regarding the bigger loan or grant. I have accordingly put this into operation and, having done this I got on with the wall in the afternoon: and this evening Dorothy and I went to Park Road where we had supper with an old friend of ours, Mr. Parsons, who is now 95 years old. Lottie, his housekeeper, had prepared a really nice meal and our host, despite his years, having good hearing etc., ~~at~~ we spent a very happy and lively evening. I have possibly written of Mr Parsons before in this journal so I will not do so now, but he is very interesting and, if on reading through, I find I have not written about him then I will do so. Ninety-five is a very grand age and a man of Mr. Parsons's mentality, in charge of all his mental faculties, makes somebody to listen to who has a vast amount of knowledge and wisdom which he has gathered over his long life

Thursday: October 29. Dorothy went to Patcham and I did a few jobs, like delivery Autumn Fair posters. I got rid of about ten; and I loaded in on Wally's Dorothy Crippe and

they put one up as also did Baxters, Knewins, Coop and Library and Mary Harman. When I got back I found Davey's man had arrived for the remains of the old Boiler changeing so it was a good thing I came in just then. It left me with the job of clearing up but I am very glad the stuff is gone and the place where the old shed used to stand is now scrubbed out. This afternoon I mowed the lawn: it is strange that the grass is growing at a terrific rate when it is remembered that we are within a day or two of November. Dorothy arrived home just before seven, having done some shopping at Brighton and then been to Patcham with Joan and the boys. I hope she was not over-tired because the looking after children nowadays, owing to one or two factors, but let us mention only one for the sake of today's entry in this journal, is very much altered and is very much more tiring. The one factor I will mention is the balance of respect that a child has to grasp. Respect for himself and respect for others. Respect for himself is gained by giving him the greatest freedom possible in an objective situation. Respect for others gives him a sense of security when young and gives him a comfortable feeling of having time to adjust himself to a situation. Time to learn in fact. The thing is that the parent or teacher (or Dorothy today) who is in charge for the time being has to teach the child how to reach this balance between freedom and authority and a very difficult and tiring job this is: I went to Barrett's philosophy class this evening; Colin drove me there and home afterwards. This class was a very interesting one and I enjoyed the talk Michael gave and the resultant discussion and arrived home in good time. Dorothy was looking at a television play and I saw it out with her, reflecting on the great change, in my opinion for the better, that has taken place in sexual mores during the last ten years or so. In this play the man and woman who were lovers were going to bed and the woman, in various shots, was completely nude, and the man, while having his hand under the bedclothes, was plainly seen to be caressing her. So do we see things in our homes now. Things that are true, that allow the beauty of the human body to be seen, and in my opinion again, are far more healthy, that the violence that has always been allowed in books and plays. ~~He~~ next We ~~of the~~ human, ~~race~~ who are adult people, must protect our right to approve of the acting in this play from the Mrs Whitehouses of this world.

Friday: October 30. I have not a great deal to record for today Dorothy and I went shopping together this morning, during which, by the way, we met Mrs Richards and Mr Parlett who were in Mount Pleasant. Mrs Richards told me that the lady who had damaged her car at our entrance to the Use of Fr. from East Street had sent in a claim for £9 for the said damage and the claim was sent to Miss Boxall, the Secretary of the O.P.W.C. The Borough Surveyor had had the offending ramp seen to for us. The weather has been reasonably warm today, so Dorothy and I

have been able to do our various jobs, but the wind gradually change from a gentle breese to quite an uncomfortable blow so I did not finish off the piece of wall as I had intended. I must be getting soft! We watched "Dad's Army" this evening and read some of Richard Aldington's "Death of a Hero," whereby we, quite unconsciously combined the worst of the first World war with the more light-hearted parts of the second World war. I have often considered that it is impassible to compare these two wars because there is no "Like with Like" about them. Two or three things account for this difference, all of them, I suppose, caused by changes taking Place in the twenty or so years which was between them. One, of course is the changes in the tools of war; two, these changes enabled another very ghastly change to take place, the bombing of people of either sex or any age from the cradle to the grave: and, three, the change from a nationalistic cause to a cause that has ideology tacked on to its nationalism. I consider ideology or nationalism, both of which demand the ~~reg~~ relegation of reason to second place behind emotionalism, are each bad enough: combined they make for the greatest catastrophies. I am quite certain that the first war; which people were bidded to fight on a cause of pure Nationalism, would have made people forswear war for ever, but with ideology tacked on there was nothing else to do but carry through the 2nd war. One other reflection. If the attitude of what used to be called the "Upper Classes" had not been changed so that by 1939 they realised that people who worked were the same species of human beings as themselves, I am not so sure that the second war would have been carried to its successful conclusion at all

Saturday: October 31. A day that has been sometimes wet, and at all times very windy. We did shopping and I did my paying of the papers. I saw Mr. Fairweather of the O.P.W.C. who had, apparently, recovered from his fall. I did want to have a few words with him regarding the Autumn Fair but was unable to do so because Mrs Patsy Spicer came by and she had not seen Dorothy or me for a long time and Mr Fairweather moved on. I must try and catch him at home. Dorothy went to the Hse of Fr. this afternoon and I did a bit of polishing. Unfortunately Miss Boxall (Rate B) delivered some stuff and a note for me and went on before I knew and so once again today I lost a chance of ~~learning~~ learning things regarding the Autumn Fair. This evening Dorothy and I walked up to the Church Room ~~Est~~ on the Downs Est. to be present at the Nevill Bonfire celebrations. Quite a big procession and we were fed with "Hot dogs" very nice too. We walked back and so we have done our walking stint for today. Tomorrow I must see Winnie, and Issy if she's at home to learn how they are getting along. Life is pretty full. During the coming months I must drop some of my commitments, else I seem to have no time for some things

Sunday November 1. 1970. I arose at six, having been awake for some time, and wrote up. I am gradually getting into one of my periods of having a great deal to do. These periods seem to come in cycles and, since they are preceded with necessary study or reading of reports and so on, I get the feeling that I have an immense amount of work to carry out. Indeed, I sometimes get an idea that I'll retire from some of my jobs and have more time to read, and to write this journal. One banishes this thought because, among other things, or reasons for keeping on, there would be nothing to write in the journal! I walked to Mr. Ed. Road and saw Winnie, Issy and Leslie. My two sisters seem quite well but they, like me, are getting on Winnie 76 and Issy 73. Leslie told me he would probably keep on with the ambulance job after his retiring age. Sunday has passed off in its usual quiet way and Dorothy has reigned upon the fine weather to do her washing and has completed it, sheets and all, right to the ironing! I suppose that the now defunct "Misery Martin" would say ~~etc~~ Dorothy was a back-slider because of this Sunday ~~work~~ work. What people who were too credulous when we were young used to put up with. Nowadays, of course, there is washing hanging on lines of a Sunday all over the town so the spirit of Misery Martin, fortunately, does not live on and nobody blesses his name

Monday November 2 1970: Went to the office to enquire about the ownership of a short flight of steps at the back of Lacerter road. On leaving the office met Mr Parlett and saw Chester Council so was able to satisfy myself on some aspects of the coming Autumn Fair. I have done some reading up for the Management and Finance meeting tomorrow evening. Later I took the Richard Aldington books back to the Library. We have enjoyed them very much and something can be learnt from them. Dorothy went to a meeting of the Hellingly Hospital Friends this evening. ~~By the way, the Finance Committee had a very long meeting, 4 hours.~~

Tuesday November 3. I have been forced to take this journal for a day or two and am writing now at the end of November 5. As one would see at a glance of the above entry for Monday, I did start writing Tuesdays events on Monday, so does memory play tricks if one is anxious to catch up on something of this nature. The chief thing for me ~~today~~ yesterday was the Finance meeting, a long one but useful work done. I have mentioned before that the genuine public spirited councillor soon becomes a "municipal Socialist and this was proved again at this meeting. Tory councillors seemed most eager to knock out the private enterprise florists in the town by entering the floral decoration business! Quite an amount of useful work was got through at this meeting

Wednesday ~~Nov~~ 4. Shopping etc. Over to see Kate B. to return file and address book. Walked over there

and back again with Dorothy, whose walking is improving again. I hope the coming winter doesn't bring a crop of chilblains and spoil it for her.

Thursday November 5. I went to the office, I walked through the bliffe High Street to purchase a loaf at Paith's, and I pottered about generally at home until 6 p.m when Dorothy and I went to the Borough Bonfire Society start and Dorothy judged the ~~fat~~ children's dress competition. This was a really good bonfire night: I think one of the most impressive I have watched. We saw all of the Societies processions. I mean we saw a procession from each of the societies in addition to the great United effort. When we reached home we had coffee and some cake with my sisters Kate and Betty and Miss Compton, who is a friend of Kates. When they had gone Dorothy and I watched a television play by Dennis Potter which was evidently designed as food for thought. It was to do with an angel calling on people, but, as far as I could gather, it did not give credit or blame to pro or the anti partisans of the thinking on this superstitious subject. All the characters did and said some good things and some things which could not be considered so good

Friday November 6: A lazy day really. Dorothy, as is her wont, has been busy all day but I have dodged the further work that is waiting to be done in the way of wall building, because the Mayors Banquet was this evening, and we were all ready and the car had arrived to fetch us at ten minutes to seven. The banquet followed the usual course of these events and we had quite an enjoyable time. Met the Member Sir Tufton Beamish again and his wife; and all the people who are usually to be found gathered in the Mayors Parlour or the Council Chamber before such functions as this banquet. I sat with Dorothy at the top table in company with the other Freemen of the Borough; and we talked with Mr & Mrs Sheppard, the Youth Employment Officer and his wife, on one side and Dick Whittington an ex-mayor and a Freeman on the other. Dorothy felt a bit poorly halfway through the meal but this did not last many minutes and she was soon herself again. The speakers were a privy-councillor Judge; a television commentator named Cliff Michelmore and our deputy Mayor John Tilbury. The first two made light speeches, short and humorous and Tilbury proposed the "Guests" quite ably, I thought. After this there was some singing in duets by two people called Joyce and Tony and the evening finished with a mingling of everybody in the Corn-exchange where there was a bar. Mr. and Mrs Houghton kindly gave us a lift home at midnight. These banquets are becoming quite milestones. They mark off the years as regularly as Bonfire night now.

Saturday November 7. It was a shame that this morning, it was raining very heavily, I arose at six but forgot that Dorothy was on duty for "Poppies" at eight and I did not wake her until twenty minutes to that hour: so the poor girl had to hurry over getting reddy and having breakfast, all the time knowing it was awfully wet and cold outside. However, the rain ceased, the wind dropped and the job was done and then we both went shopping and Saturday passed in the usual fashion.

Wednesday November 11. I have been pretty busy and have not had time before today to make any entries. On Monday I attended the Board of Governors of the Technical College in the afternoon and this took rather a long time. I had a good fast walk down there but the long meeting made me very glad to accept the offer of a lift by Mr. Boyce, of the East Sussex Engineering Company, and he drove me to the top of our street. After tea the Labour group gathered in our house and we went through the Town Council meeting agenda. This meeting took place today (Wednesday). On Tuesday there was the meeting of the W.E.A. Branch and all went off well. Pam Franklen is going to assist Miss Chandler with the secretarial work and I am Chairman again while two newcomers Mr. Stronell and Mr. Chisholm are respectively Treasurer and delegate to the District Council: all looks well for another successful season. and, on the financial side, we are £120 to the good; this is amazing and is, in no small measure, helped by those 'women who lend the Branch their rooms for class meetings. Today the chief thing was the Town Council meeting. We of the Labour group have been successful in warding off the attempt to build houses on Bridge Green. A strange exhibition was provided by some members of the Conservative group. They had first developed the idea of this building plan, been over to Bridge Green and told the people it was a Labour idea and then, this evening, one jumped to his feet and moved the rejection of the recommendation to build and their man who is the Housing Committee Chairman accepted the rejection: the whole of this was evidently to get credit for throwing out this unpopular idea without giving the Labour members a chance to speak. However, owing to the amount of good work put in by David Williams, we were able to come out on top with them having to apologise for inadvertantly leaking committee proceedings: although "Inadvertantly" is hardly the correct word. There was a presentation to Chester Crouch, who is retiring from being Mace Bearer and Town Hall Keeper for forty years and, after our meeting this evening we had a small party in the Lecture Room and I did not attend the public forum afterwards because, after all, only Chairman are needed there and I have had a very busy time with meetings. Eve drove me home and stopped for a coffee with Dorothy and me. We chatted of various matters (including pugilism!) and we all three did not make more than a mention of the policy of "public squalor" which is proposed by the Tory

Government. It was pleasant, I found, to relax a bit. We left at about 9-45 I think. Later on I saw two particularly good wrestling bouts.

Thursday November 12. After an ordinary kind of day Dorothy and I went to the Town Hall where the Annual Dinner of the pensioners of the N.U.R. was held. It is very kind of their committee to invite us each year and we enjoy this function which we have attended regularly since 1964, very much. The gathering is of people who are mostly local and who are mostly round about our age. In short, they are people that we have known since we were all young; people who, in the 1920's, had to fight strikes to stop wage cuts in those tough times, and who, to a large extent, made up the Labour Party locally and used to be the sinews behind the electioneering fighting of those days. We met the assistant National Secretary of the N.U.R. and the South-Eastern District organiser, talked with many different people, listened to a concert and had a couple of waltzes together, so we had a good evening.

Friday November 13. Dorothy has spent most of today making cakes for the Autumn Fair which the Old Peoples' Welfare committee are holding tomorrow at the Town Hall. The other Dorothy Barber, widow of my brother Ted, looked in this afternoon and she is well, I am glad to write. Indeed, she is far better than I have seen her since he died in 1966. I suppose, even with people of our age, time is a great healer of emotional and mental wounds. I have not anything to record that is about me and mine. Of course, great things are happening, such as the burial of de Gaulle, strikes and industrial troubles, wars on a small scale and rumours of wars; in fact, great dark things are going on but we don't hear of any nice things and these far outweigh the bad things. But then, the "Mass Media" johnnies only report bad things so, as far as we know, only bad things happen in the world. It is a good thing that most people are now inclined towards the view that "You can't believe all you read in the papers". Our local paper, by carefully committing the sin of omission in todays issue, have carefully concealed all the part played by Labour councillors in the discussion which I recorded on Wednesday, and so anyone who reads this weeks issue will come to the conclusion, (or they would do if they were one of the rare people who still believe the newspaper) that no Labour man spoke at all, or did anything to bring this matter to light.

Saturday. November 14. All today's time has been occupied by Dorothy and myself at the old people's fair (see yesterday's notes). The Fair, carried through today by the many people who have worked so hard to make it a success, has now now finished and I should imagine it will be found to have been as successful as other years. At any rate we can all relax for a while now, and carry on with our other

work towards helping the elderly; for which cause this Fair today was organised. When Dorothy and I arrived home we did not go out any more for the rest of the evening. I saw Hale at the Fair and she is moving to Landport. I think this will improve her housing position. Weald Court has been a nice place but, as she says, it is really for old people and she does not consider herself old as yet. Moreover, if necessary, Betty could step there for awhile.

Sunday November 15. Bunty, John, Helen and Charles came over today. All seem to be keeping in good health. It was nice seeing them all and to see the progress made by Helen and Charles

Monday November 16 This evening. I attended the meeting of the Building Applications part of the Public Services Committee. We dealt with the usual list and when this was finished, I dropped down to the Backstage Room. From there I returned to the T.C. Committee Room, where the Management Committee, on "Establishment" business, dealt with the matter of upgrading the Parks Field by our three chief officers. I voted against this, but, as can be imagined, I was the only one who did and the upgrading was carried