

1967

Elderly people now have their centre

ELDERLY people living in and around Tenterden will have their own meeting place as from Thursday. It will be at the Youth Centre, Highbury Lane, and will be open each Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

Light refreshments, at a small charge, will be available, and committee members of the recently-founded Tenterden and District Association for the Care of the Elderly will be in attendance to advise and help anyone with problems.

On Thursday the Mayor and Mayoress, Ald. and Mrs. Noel Winter, both of whom played a large part in the formation of the association, will be present to welcome visitors to the centre. Refreshments on that day will be free.

A spokesman for the association said this week: "All elderly people in the borough and the district are urged to make use of the centre. This is one way in which the committee can get to know them and their needs, and it will also be a place where they

can relax and meet their friends."

The association also announced this week that it has been possible for them to obtain special cheap rates at the local cinema, The Embassy. Admission to Wednesday afternoon matinee performances will cost holders of pension books one shilling instead of four shillings.

Agreement has also been reached between the proprietors of the cinema and the association that people over pensionable age who do not hold pension books will be admitted at the same reduced price of 1s. provided they obtain a pass from the association.

Latest time for admission to matinee performances under the agreement is 3.30 p.m.

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Tell them any secret wish

DO you have a secretly cherished wish? If you have, Tenterden Rotary Club, the Lions Club, and Tenterden Youth Club want to hear from you.

May, to them, is Wish Month, and it could mean someone's secret will come true.

The idea, aimed at the elderly, the handicapped and the housebound, began with the Rotary Club, who then asked the Lions, the youth club, and pupils at Homewood School, to join in the venture.

"Anyone with a secret wish," explained the Rev. Victor Perry, one of the organisers, "is asked to let us know about it, and we'll see what we can do about making it come true."

Special forms will be made available, and each wish studied. "The sort of thing we are aiming at is where possibly an old age pensioner would like to redecorate a room, take a trip into town, or anything like that, but cannot afford the bill or do the job themselves. In cases like that we will be able to help in some way."

So remember, if you have a secret wish, get a form, fill it in, and maybe your wish will come true.

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Trio that finished the 50-mile walk

THE KENT MESSENGER'S 50-Mile Walk did little to dampen the enthusiasm and energy of 13-year-old Michael Mason, of Wittersham. On Tuesday evening he represented his school, Homewood, against Rye and Cranbrook Grammar Schools, and won the 880 yards sprint with a time of 2 minutes 33 seconds.

Second-year pupil Michael lives at 9, Lloyds Green, and is keen on energetic sports. This was the first time, however, that he has taken to walking distances.

"It was a bit tough," he said this week, "but I managed to do it all right."

And to show he had completed the walk, Michael has a certificate . . . and the remains of two huge blisters on his heels.

A veteran of the K.M. Walk is Mrs. Nell Bishop, of 30, Pittlesden, and she too has a certificate to prove her 50-mile endurance. This was her fourth "walk" and, as on previous occasions, she did most of the journey barefooted.

"I had to put my shoes on twice," she said. "because heavy rain was making walking a bit uncomfortable. I'm not sure the exact time I took to complete the distance, but I do know that this was the fastest time I've put in yet."

Like Michael, the Margate to Maidstone trek had little effect on this 51-year-old mother of five. On Saturday evening she was ready for duty behind the bar of the White Lion Hotel, Tenterden.

Tenterden Youth Club are £15 better off, thanks to the efforts of founder-member Alan Gralinge, also of Pittlesden.

Before setting out on the walk, 20-year-old Alan found eight people who were prepared to pay him so much a mile completed, and the young cabinet maker was determined to collect as much money as he could for the club.

By the time he reached Lenham, Alan's legs were beginning to feel the strain. Then he found a stick which helped support him until he reached Maidstone.

Kent Messenger 12 May 1967

Tenterden Youth Club