

Over Sixties Clubs: No. 10

—Bramham

THE old people of Bramham know that in times of need they can always turn to an organization which is aware of the value of practical help besides the need for social get-togethers.

The Bramham Welfare Association was formed within a week of a general appeal for the formation of old folk's clubs in the district and until now has been extremely active in a field too often neglected or ignored by other clubs—the welfare of all the village's residents of pensionable age. With the recent formation of an entertainment committee the organization is hoping to plug the gaps in its already comprehensive range of activities.

Soon after the appointment of a committee in 1961 social meetings were organised on a regular monthly basis. Those who decided to attend could always look forward to entertainment of some sort, a competition and a cup of tea and biscuits which cost them 3p. Outings in the summer have always attracted a full coach load and for the last five years over 200 have, together with a few under sixties, have enjoyed a summer holiday.

But this extensive programme of social meetings eventually had to take second place to welfare work. Besides welcoming all the over sixties to meetings, the committee wanted to do something for those who were perhaps bedridden or otherwise in difficulties. The financial pressure of this work meant that when the committee met every six weeks they had to decide what social functions they could afford.

Besides the proceeds of the teas and competitions, club funds are boosted by various efforts held throughout the year. The life savers are the Christmas Cheer effort which this year raised £100 from the sale of 2,500 tickets at 40p each, and the August bazaar which last year added £87 to the bank account.

Like the aged has been met to some extent by the shelter in The Square. The building was opened in 1959 after local tradespeople had handed together to erect a meeting place on land given by Lt. Col. and the Hon. Mrs. J. Lane Fox. The cost of the project was minimal because both materials and labour were given free or cheap. The old folk meet there every day for a talk and perhaps a game of dominoes.

Two big events which have been held every year are the Christmas and New Year parties. The first is centred on a huge Christmas dinner cooked by the committee and the second included tea, entertainment and a competition.

SOUND FOOTING

With the formation of an entertainment committee, the committee is hoping once again to

hold regular meetings and to improve existing social activities. The committee feels that the association has regained a sound footing since the re-organisation three years ago which led to the formation of another old people's club. This club caters mainly for the needs of residents of outlying areas although a few old folk from Bramham are members. Meanwhile the Bramham Welfare Association looks forward to a new lease of life.

When asked why he put in so much work and what he thought the old folk gained by it the chairman of the association and founder member, Mr. E. Bowman, replied: "I love doing the work and the pleasure of helping the older people. Welfare work is the foundation of the club's activities and I think one of the things most appreciated by pensioners is the visiting. We spend hours visiting." But the old people I spoke to at

the New Year party in the Village Hall, most of whom looked pretty hale and hearty, seemed to appreciate the occasional social meetings rather than the welfare work. A typical comment was made by Mr. Walter Lock, of Town Hill, who at 83 was the oldest of the 85 present. He had this to say: "It's a wonderful job they do. We have a very good committee who do all they can and we very much appreciate it. It's very nice to get together here sometimes and have a little sing song. It brings old memories back."

Those serving on the committee are: Chairman, Mr. R. Bowman; secretary, Mrs. K. Kendall; treasurer, Miss A. Lovitt; Mrs. M. Ellis; Mrs. M. Tindall, the Hon. Mrs. M. A. M. Lane Fox, Mrs. E. Woodcock, Mr. B. Caygill, Mrs. S. Young, Mrs. H. Goodwin, Mrs. S. Winterburn, Mrs. E. Ware, Mrs. I. Dykes, Mr. B. Benson, Mr. A. Tindall, Mr. C. Firth—R.H.D.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS are, left to right, back row, Mrs. I. Dykes, Mrs. K. Ware, Mrs. S. Winterburn and Mrs. M. Ellis; front, Mrs. M. Brown, Mr. R. Bowman, chairman, and Mrs. M. Tindall.