20 May 1964

to

15 Mar 1965


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O/R 4/6

Diary of Councillor A. B. Barber for the Mayoral year commencing May 20 1964.

To be commenced on the above date, to March 1965

Wednesday
May 20 1964 I was made Mayor today. Bunty and John came about teatime and Joan was here some time before. Len and Nellie came at about 6-15. There were many greeting cards sent to us. I had been to the Town Hall in the afternoon and found the arrangements made by the Town Clerk and the Mayors secretary Miss Spalding these two are very able at this kind of organising and everything was well under control. At home Dorothy was going about her work evidently with the firm resolve to keep calm. She persuaded me (I was rather jittery) to try a short rest in the armchair but the visitors arrived just then. I retired to the front room and managed to look through my "Mayors response" again but finally reached the Town Hall at 6-10 for 6-45 and waited, getting more dry in the mouth every minute. However the meeting got under way to a literally packed to capacity Chamber and things got into swing. Dorothy looked wonderful and carried off the part with distinction. While I waited in the Mayors parlour J Bushell proposed and D. Williams seconded that I should be mayor and this was carried. I obviously could not hear what was said but their united efforts had succeeded in creating a warm-blooded and friendly atmosphere. I got my response off to my satisfaction and the rest of the proceedings were very formal and went according to the Town Clerks plan. All my Prince Eds Rd family were there looking very nice. Two Aldermen were replaced & this was the one part of the evening where embarrassment was some what obvious. Elections should be made by the voters via the electoral Register and not let the poor Councillors bear the brunt of changing their Alderman. I think Aldermen should face the public not the Councillors. The reception was splendid and the staff had gone to considerable trouble to ensure a success. This was indeed an effort. From the production of flowers to the arranging of them and the preparation of the assembly rooms things could not be bettered. Among the guests were the executives of T.U.'s and cultural organisations Prof. A.S.A Briggs was also present.

Thursday May 21
A quiet day to let the excitement die down
I had one meeting in the morning, the Lewes Exhibition Fund
Committee. Quite an interesting meeting, with me as a new
boy finding my position. I found this committee very
considerate to the applications to participate in the
fund and I think I can serve quite usefully as a
member. Cecil Hollis is the secretary and I glad to
admire his agility of body and his alert ness of mind. He
must be 80 or more.

Friday May 22 No meetings but we took things quietly having
to attend the Mayors Reception Ball and Dinner at
Worthing. Dorothy fetched her new evening gown from the
shop and & we both quietly got ready. It was my
first appearance in dinner jacket and wearing the
chain. I thought I looked alright, but I don't know.
Dorothy looked wonderful and I think passed the scrutiny
of feminine eyes with credit. The Town Hall was very
tastefully decorated, and it was a very nice time. We met
Mayors of Chichester Littlehampton Arundel and of course Worthing
I had my first ever dance afterwards. We met Mr & Mrs Elkin,
who proposed the toast, and will probably meet them again.

Saturday May 23
An ordinary Saturday. We went to the Further Education Centre
in the afternoon for the Federation W.E.A. meeting. Nothing very
noticeable

Sunday May 24. An ordinary Sunday morning but in the afternoon
we went to Malling for the Brownies Rose
service. R.H. provided a pair transport and we wore
our Gold Chains. Dorothy wore the dress she wore to the
Mayor Making. Spratt Hall drove us over and since he
was in our class at the Bells school nearly sixty years

It was very pleasant at the church
with the little youngsters & I thought
the Parson was very good for
this service

before there was much laughter between the three of us.

Monday May 25
I went to the Town Hall mayors Parlour at
9-15 a.m. The Secretary came down with the days post
There were no extra engagements but confirmation of the
Lewes Ch. F.C. on June 5. The Town Clerk has an idea about
making the chair higher and I now have the gown
shortened so I hope I shall soon be more comfortable. I
have decided to have the civic dinner and the Mayors
reception and dance as one item at the end of
October, and with the Town Clerk, have explored some
of the possibilities of this arrangement. There are quite
a number of the staff in the three departments leaving and
this seems to me a very serious matter. It is almost
impossible to compete in staff matters with other parts
of the country where housing is so much more cheap
than in the South East. However the Finance Committee
Chairman is calling a meeting for Monday next June 1.

Tuesday May 26
I went to the Mayors Parlour at 9-15. When Mrs
Bourne arrived we did the post. No extra engagements but
a letter from a Mr Patterson who wrote he had been
impressed with the newspaper account of the Mayor making
and what I had said in responding to the passing of the
resolution. A very encouraging letter. I went to the County
Court at 10-00 to be sworn in as J.P. and stayed for
an hour while three cases were disposed of. Then back to
the Council Chamber where Dorothy was holding the fort
with the Coffee morning in aid of the old Peoples welfare.
Pleased to see Mrs Turquand working there. We went
shopping and Dorothy gardened in the afternoon while I
did some writing and in the evening we went to the
Grange for the Philatical Society to present a cheque

worth £30 to the town. This is profit from their part in the "Battle of Lewes" Celebrations and was gained mostly by their production of the commemoration envelope. I liked these people and their society and I hope they will continue to flourish. Dorothy and I left at 9 o'clock and looked in a 5 Fisher Street for a drink and then home

May 27 Wednesday

A quiet day with nothing exciting to report. I attended at the Mayor's Parlour.

Thursday 28 May The same. The weather continues very fine and warm. Labour Party in the evening and a good attendence chose candidates to contests the seats made vacant by promotion to aldermen.

Friday May 29:

To the Mayor's Parlour and the usual correspondence to be dealt with. In the afternoon we were taken, as civic guests of the Master of Music to Mickelam Priory. We travelled on the coach that was sent to Lewes station to meet the guests who would arrive on the London train. The ride in the coach proved very pleasant and we were welcomed at the Priory by the Master, Mr. Stocks, and his daughter. There were many guests and we had tea after having a tour of the place. After tea we were guided to front seats in the beautiful old barn theatre and we much enjoyed a concert of folk songs etc by the Hailsham Choral Society. Dorothy wore the same frock and hat as she wore at the Mayor making ceremony and looked charming. Met quite a number of nice people and we were home by six or so. We were at the W.E.A. committee at Joan Liddles and did some work towards starting next sessions courses. At 8-15 we left and David drove us to Mountfield Rd school to attend a meeting organised by the Assn for the Improvement of State Education. This was addressed by Mr Willey, the Shadow M. of E. people buttonholed us afterwards and so we met the speaker and had coffee with some of the organisers of the meeting. A very interesting day.

Saturday 30 May

Nothing to write about. We were getting prepared for our "Falaise" trip on the morrow. Mary Harman came in in the evening and we chatted on various matters and Dorothy & Mary examined the clothes.

Sunday 31 May

Falaise trip today. This is the first trip of the renovated SS Falaise previously working from Southampton to France. She has been made over to a "drive on drive off" car ferry and there are hopes that her new trips between Newhaven and Dieppe will bring added tourist business to both the districts. On board were the Mayors of Hastings, Brighton & Lewes and the chairmen of the urban district councils Newhaven and Seaford, and many other notables. Mr Waddell the Town Clerk and Mrs Waddell picked Dorothy and me up and drove us to Newhaven. We were presented to many people and various officials of the French and British Railways. The band of the Royal Marines played and the "Normandy" folk dancers danced on the quayside. We went aboard and everything was superb in the organisation, the hospitality, free drinks, eats, everything! The weather was hot and the sea was smooth. We met ever so many people and altogether this was very enjoyable indeed. Dorothy wore a nice looking frock, and she was very happy on this trip. Tufton was aboard and, just as gushing as he has been since I have been Mayor I spoke on the quay but did not see him on board. We had lunch at Dieppe, as it were, informally; walking round and eating what one chose and drinking what

liked. There was a short ride on a bus between the quayside and the Rotunda where the meal was. An arriving back to Newhaven we found there had been a terrific downpour. Fine weather apparently finished. The T.C. took us home and stopped for coffee.

Monday June 1st

A straightforward day. Finance (& Extra) Committee meeting in the evening to deal with the staffing problems. Afterwards to Friends of Lewes Committee. This committee are worried about the power of the illumination of the second phase of the lighting system that will go through Southover High St. The protest comes from Lin Slater. (it would. He always protests about anything near where he lives but views changes to other parts of the town with equanimity!!)

Tuesday June 2nd

The usual duties in the morning and Hons Committee of the Hospital Board in the afternoon. This was most peculiar. Miss Raymond-Hawkins was made chairman under protest as she had apparently done it for several years. The work was as one would expect at a house committee but, at one point where rooms for domestic staff was under discussion, the meeting was turned into a battle royal between the chairman and the matron and the most interesting feminine battle of words took place ~~was~~ there was revealed to me the situation obtaining on this committee. The other members are the County M.O.H. Dr Langford, a Dr Palmer Commander Plant and the Rev. Webb. When the meeting finished it was suggested that I look at the new annexe and I was literally guided round by the matron. She never at any time ~~took~~ let go of me

Wednesday June 3

The usual morning duties and in the evening to the Building plans Sub-Committee and left early to attend the annual meeting of the Old Bapes Welfare Committee. It appears it is the custom for the Mayor to become president, take the chair at this AGM and give a few words. I had no time to prepare anything and the words I had been asked to say, i.e. thanks, news of various sorts from the council etc were already said by the Chairman Mr. Fairweather. I was not entirely happy about this meeting. However on

Thursday June 4 I had a fairly easy day except for receiving a request to propose the ~~toast~~ toast of the Lewes A.F.C. at the dinner on the next night resolved to write this and not try to learn it because of the figures and records etc that are necessary at such things. It was a good dinner and everything went well. I got the toast to the Lewes Football Club off alright on

Friday June 5th There was a good gathering in the Iron Hall Assembly Room. One of the Cars responded on and the Chairman Mr. Hillman. The main theme in the talks apart from mine was the controversy that is raging over the "Shamateur" at this time. The Chairman took the view that all players are players etc. I see his point but there may be weaknesses in his argument. This was a very pleasant evening and Dorothy and I enjoyed it very much. Dorothy made her first appearance in the new cocktail dress.

Saturday June 6th

This evening to St Marys Social Centre for the annual dinner of their football section. Mr Bassock, the

Chairman introduced me as Lewes' first Labour Mayor and he proposed a toast to the Corporation of Lewes very ably indeed. I was very satisfied with my response to this and can now observe myself getting more able at this sort of thing. I do want to have something to say at this sort of function that is original and has some meaning. Not the usual sort of blah that is common to speaking at civic functions. After all the first Labour Mayor should bring something with him. The other principal guest was Dr. O'Hara of the Sussex County F.A. Management committee. An amusing and witty speaker who besides some yarns brought good arguments on the opposite side to that of the Lewes F.C. chairman last night. The doctor takes the view that a professional footballer is entitled to be called a professional. It is his right and should mean that he is a good footballer. In short the distinction between amateur and professional should be maintained. This Social Centre (Late) has done a marvellous job and tonight I had a look~~s~~ round the building. I was very much impressed particularly with the new part and the use and work upon it by the younger members. I wish them all success. St Mary's saw about our transport to and from. A very pleasant time

Sunday June 7

The mayoral service was today. It had been postponed because of the induction of a curate on the usual Sunday and this had necessitated Mr Williams my chosen chaplain being away. The next Sunday had been the Calaise trip and so the service was today. There was a good muster of members of the Council and Mr Williams had really taken a good deal of trouble and so organised a really good service. It was quite enjoyable although the hymns were rather high pitched and so made difficult for men to sing. However it was a very good service and we afterwards went to the Mayor's Parlour and had some refreshment. Fortunately there were some coronation ales still there. The claps prefer ale to wines etc.

Monday June 8 1964

Nothing much happened during the day. There was a Highways committee at night. David Williams was made chairman for the year and Alby Marten vice-chairman. The usual business was gone through and the request that the new lighting system should be dimmer through Southover High Street was considered. It was finally resolved that we have a lesser power all through the stage. I doubt whether this would satisfy the original complainant.

Tuesday June 9. I went to the Mayor's Parlour at nine and phoned for the secretary at once and we got the correspondence finished with in time for me to make my first attendance as a J.P. at the police court. There were two courts sitting and I was sent with the chairman Tillyard. There were not many cases. Some to do with the failure to stamp insurance cards and some motoring offenses, lack of insurance cover, etc. I was finished in time to close at twelve, the nominations for the bye-elections caused by the making of two aldermen. They are. Briggs. Clifford Dann Co. C. C. Fuller Lab. Castle. Daly Co. C. Potter Lab. In Priory ward there was only one nomination. Green (Cons) so he is returned unopposed. In the evening there was the Parks committee Alderman Crees Vice. Chairman Shepherd.

Wednesday June 10.

After the Mayors Parlour for correspondence

There is nothing to report

Thursday June 11. a good quiet day with only the advisory committee of the Trustees savings banks to attend this afternoon. There was a housing Committee in the evening and Hayward was made Chairman and Willey Vice Chairman

Friday June 12
To the Mayors Parlour and after that a Mr Hilditch who is organising Branches of Oxfam. I have agreed to take the chair at an initial meeting but have resolutely refused to promise any "Staff" help. There was a phone call from the County Court and I went there alone with Mr. Grantham as Chairman we had to deal with a case of theft of tyres from a C.C. supply. The accused also turned out to be a deserter from the A.C.C. and we imposed a fine of ~~ten~~ 5 pounds and the army escort would come for him for deserting. This man had a very bad record for a man of 24. Our sympathy goes to his wife and children but this sort of case does cause me to wonder how girls marry these types

Saturday June 13. Arrange the meeting for the Army Benevolent Fund in morning. We were all set to attend the function at Tunbridge Wells Cricket Kent v Sussex. but had to phone them owing to torrential rains and we didn't go at the last. Dorothy did some ~~shop~~ washing of sheets and this evening we went with Mrs Ridyler to the Little Theatre and saw the "Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder. great fun. Met Mary and Eric there and Ernie looks ever so much better. This morning Cllr Yarrow came to the Parlour and we worked out the Army and Raiyal Sx Benevolent scheme

Sunday June 14
We had no official duties today and we just pottered about. Dorothy went to meet Joan and Bunty and with them go to welcome Frank. Dorothy and Frank then arrived home towards midnight. Frank looks well.

Monday June 15
No official duties after finishing in the Mayors Parlour There was a health committee in the evening and Geo. Barfield was made chairman with Gordon Hoyle as vice Chairman. There was one item I fought for at this committee and that was to raise the refuse collectors wage. This is not the best of jobs and if there are not suitable rewards the result is now quite obvious. There was quite a lot of opposition to this, generally it took the form of a digression which was work study, time and motion or whatever the appropriate jargon would be when applied to dustmen However the matter has been passed on to the finance Committee so I was successful so far as it went

Tuesday June 16.
Early to the Mayors Parlour because of the Court at 10-15; and dealt with all that was necessary at the court I was with Major Sidlol who is quite tough in his contributions when asked for his suggestions on sentences Mr Rigg was a very good chairman and I liked his management of these affairs very much. I was

to the Finance Committee meeting in the evening came
we managed to push the question's case a little
further. This meeting makes the record for length since
I have been on the Council (10 years). This was because
of the discussion on the salaried staff that I have
mentioned earlier. This late sitting has been worth it for
June May 26 we have made big efforts to resolve the staff problems. and
it does seem as though our efforts will be successful.

Wednesday June 17

To the Parlour in good time. Armitage looked in
and brought all the bye-elections stuff I have to
sign. After Mrs Bourne had left I finished these and
took them to him although there is no hurry before
Monday next. It was a good job I did because I spoke
to Armitage which delayed me a bit and the Town Clerk
came in and I went into his room and discussed the
previous evenings discussions on the salaried staffs and their
gradings. We both agreed that the resolutions on this
matter were to the good. While we were there the Mayor's
secretary came in and announced that a man wanted to
see me with regard to the starting of a branch to do with
helping the distressed countries. I would have preferred him
to see me tomorrow but finally agreed to see him now
with the Town Clerk. He was representing yet
another new organisation after the fashion of "Oxfam"
"Freedom from Hunger" "War on Want" etc etc. This man
was a usual type of salesman and could have been
selling insurance. The T. C. was rather a broken reed
as he was liable to be drawn into rather general
arguments as to the sense of sending help abroad.
I saw this would lead into a position whereby Leeds
would put down as a town that was against
helping the backward countries. I therefore cut in and
broke up the discussion saying that Leeds were already
committed to this cause. Vide other organisations. I
really think there sort of charities must be made to
amalgamate. The man then left us apparently to see the
Rural Dean. This evening there was quite a nice little
ceremony for the prize-giving of the road safety committee's
cycle trials for the children. Cllr Yarrow took the chair
and opened the proceedings at seven o'clock sharp after
we (Dorothy & I in full regalia) had taken our seats. I said
a few words followed by the Chief Constable, Mr Breffit
who presented the prizes. I can't speak too highly of
the efficiency of the road safety committee and they have
roused enough interest in the children to make them who
are older still take an interest in the organising. It is
clear that the road safety committee will continue to work
well

Thursday June 18

I got late to the Parlour owing to various causes but
there was not a great amount to deal with and accordingly
I had a pretty ~~soft~~ soft day. I visited the Library in the
afternoon and noted how busy this now is. It is extremely
difficult to 'Browse' there because one has to keep shifting out
of the way of people who are trying to get to the bookshelves.
I suppose we shall overcome this one day but I can't see
any chance as yet to develope our library site

Friday June 19

To the Mayors parlour in good time Phoned for Mrs Bourne and we got through the signing of documents including the drainage at Mountfield Rd flats and the steps of land at ~~Bot~~ Bognors Down. In the afternoon I had a look at the baths and the start of the footpath and bridge to Malling. Dorothy came with me and at the Brook Street recreation ground we were stopped and complaints made about the amount of paper lying about in the ground. Had a quiet evening

Saturday June 20

To Mayors Parlour and collected Badges and the documents relating to the arrangements that have been made for us today. We did a little shopping and Dorothy bought some mackerel for a light dinner. However Jimmy Whittle phoned that Denah Stock had booked in on her way to Kland from India. Since we had the southern area British Railway sports to attend at 2-30 and the 4/5 Sussex to attend at London by 6-30 I thought it better that Jimmy fetch Denah to see us right away and this was done. Jay and Robert came round also and we had a nice little get-together in mid day. Denah is very well and though 15 years older than when we ~~f~~ last met her and looking it nevertheless is still very nice and lively and evidently well able to hold her job down at Lahore university. This visit was a very pleasant surprise for us and when they went at about 2 o.c. we had not much time to get ready for the above mentioned sports and none at all for the mackerel. However we hastily got ready Dorothy in a white hat and the ~~f~~ white Joans coat and we set out knowing we were already late. Still luck was with us and we met Horace Layzell at the bottom of the road and he gave us a lift to the Dripping Pan right on the dot of 2-30!! The Railway people met us at the gate and a toddler presented Dorothy with a beautiful Bouquet. We were welcomed by the President of the area. We were very much impressed by the effort that had gone into organising this event. I wish them the very best of luck and I hope they will gradually work this into a national affair with the areas competing in the finals We left there at 4 and had a taxi back Home and got ready for the above mentioned 4/5 Sussex party. We had a cup of tea and a biscuit (still no mackerel) and the car came for us sharp on 5 oclock. I had changed into my dark suit and Dorothy into her mayor making frock and turban hat. We had no traffic troubles and ~~as~~ we arrive 30 minutes too early!!! It proved to be a dampish evening and since this was on the lawn at Cissbury, Sinden with apparently no chairs, it was somewhat amusing to observe how the women who wore the pointed high-heeled shoes had quite a job to prevent themselves sinking into the sod as it were. There was plenty of the "Royal Sussex Cup" to drink, a good display of the regimental silver and some music by their band. We chatted to a variety of people of the army officer type and with the Dutch military attache. The only other Mayor was wanting. We left there at eight had a good run and so arrived home about nine and quickly scoffed the mackerel!!!! We then went to bed.

Sunday June 21

A quiet day. ~~At two Dorothy left to meet Frank at London airport.~~ In the morning I showed Frank the Town Hall etc. and had a walk round the town and on

Monday June 22 There was nothing to report to do with my duties. Election Staffs sworn in in the afternoon

Tuesday June 23. I attended the Mayors Parlour and we quickly went through the work. There was a request from Lord Mervile enquiring about the Wrestling club. I must try to find out something of this enterprise. One Magistrates Court was to be held in our Council Chamber. There were two lists and I hoped to be placed upon the first one which had cases other than motoring offences and I was lucky. There were a wilful damage a drunk and disorderly, an attempting to defraud. and a breaking and entering. This was the most interesting list of cases I have had to deal with. In the case of fraud the defendant pleaded alcholism!!

Wednesday ~~Tuesday~~ June 24. Mayors Parlour and to Brighton in the afternoon for the Bowls match. Beautifully warm weather and a nice quiet afternoon for Dorothy and me at Preston Park Lewes won by eight points. We had a very good tea and the town Clerk had to rush us back to be at the monthly Council Meeting by 6-30. He had to stop at Houndean Rise to change and we had approximately 3 minutes to go when we stopped outside the "White Hart" and ran across the road into the town hall. This was my first full Council meeting as Mayor and since there was no time to cool down, it was uncomfortably hot in the regalia. Although there were comments on every report and three refences back (all defeated), the meeting only lasted about an hour.

Thursday June 25.

The bye elections took place today. Bill Tully retained the Bradge Ward seat for us defeating the Chamber of Com. man by over 220 votes. The polling in the Castle ward was not so good and our candidate, Ray Potter, lost by 60 votes. This is a blow for us but on the whole series of events we have gained one seat and now have a mgority of two instead of one. The General meeting of the Local L.P. is next Thursday when I expect there will be an inquest

Friday June 26

This was a quiet day. To the Mayors Parlour in the morning and dealt with routine matters and in the evening to the meeting at the Grange dealing with the future existence of the International Friendship League (Lewes Branch). It was decided this could still continue to exist but would have to be 'programme-adjusted' to fit in with altered circumstances. I really can't see any room for this organisation in the scheme of things nowadays but no doubt various good works with an international bent could still find use for the branch. A woman from Barcombe gave an interesting talk mostly on Southeast Asia. She had a good collection of coloured photographs and there was included in them the journey back across the Pacific and through the Panama Canal.

Saturday June 27

This morning we went by car to Crowborough to visit the Horder Centre for Arthritics. We found when we arrived at the Centre that Bunty was already there and we met Miss Bochenet the organising secretary who is herself an almost life long sufferer from this painful complaint. We also met a Doctor Guild Rabe who is the Medical Officer for the centre. Two very able and dedicated women and I must do what I can to help this cause. We went all over the existing buildings and were much impressed by the research in ingenuity that is being put into the work. We had sent our car back so Bunty took us back to Lewes and then carried on to London. In the afternoon we

put on our badges and went to the fete and sale of work at the Society of Friends. I had not been to any of these events for many years and I found the Quakers had greatly increased in numbers. We had tea and Tom Gearing showed us over the building which has been renovated and the old Quaker dullness removed from the paintwork etc.

Sunday June 28

Two events today. The St Johns day Church Parade which meant taking the salute from the St Johns Ambulance Brigade and then attending their Church Service. Dorothy was not able to get back from Ringmer in time so Joan came over and gave me support. We all went to tea afterwards at the South St. S.J.A. depot. All these little functions are really rather enjoyable. Dorothy enjoyed the Rangmer (Keystone) business very much and arrived home later with Frank and Vladimir, each laden with purchases

Monday June 29

A quiet day at the Parlour. I went later to the County Town Art Galleries with Frank and he bought two pictures. I was rather astounded at the price paid for one of them considering it was on a rather scruffy scrap of poor paper and quite obviously could not last long. However this is none of my concern as long as the buyer is happy who would complain. To Chalk Garden in the evening

Tuesday June 30

A quiet time at the Parlour. I am reserve for this week on the bench and he need not attend. The Bells school Chairman came about staffing questions and as the Justices were in my Parlour I had to receive him in the Mayoresses Parlour. Later in the day we went with Frank to Alfriston and had a good lunch at the 'Star' and then walked over High and Over to Seaford. A pleasant day out. Pat Collins came in the evening for instructions on Saturdays Garden Fete.

Wednesday July 1.

I had met Miss Thomas regarding complaints of N.H.S. and I made an appointment for this morning at 10. I went out and owing to a combination of circumstances which is part of a Mayors life I was very late in meeting her. However Miss Thomas was very good and had got on with some work and did not complain about my lateness. A lucky get off for me. She wanted to show the trouble taken over the indisposition of her friend by aquaintances and herself and they were not satisfied by the attention offered by the doctors in charge It was the Castle Banks firm. I told her I could give no advice on what to do in the case of a panel patient being charged a fee, and, since she was anxious to draw the attention of the Minister to the circumstances the best thing would be to get into touch with the Member Col. Beamish. She agreed to do this. In the evening I went to the committee of the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign.

Thursday July 2.

Quite an event in our lives to day. We were invited to lunch and look at the Phoenix Iron Works. This was very satisfying to me who spent so much hard labour and sweat under the old regime there thirty or so years ago. The lunch was at the 'White Hart' with three directors and was very good indeed. It was also very interesting to notice how the works has changed. Emphasis is now placed on the C.E.V. side instead of the cast iron side. From our

conversation before lunch I gathered that the last of the Evers (who we used to call 'young John') had let the works go in favour of the estate. Consequently there was a good deal of leeway to make up and as many of the houses had been sold there was no where to house key men when they did get them. This was a very interesting day.

Friday July 3.
a quiet day as regards Mayoral duties.

Saturday July 4. We attended and opened, the St Pancras R.C. fete at the Grange. The weather just managed to keep fine and, as far as we could gather the fete should be a success. Met a good many people there and it was quite an enjoyable afternoon. We left at ~~for~~ four fifteen and were driven home returned the skin and were ready when Mr & Mrs Waddell came to fetch us ~~for~~ to go ~~to~~ to the High Sheriffs (Sir R. Bougley) at Rengmer Park. This was a very good affair and one was constantly meeting fresh people. Great trouble had been taken to make this party comfortable evening to a green coloured matting on the lawn that was inside a huge Marquee. I met Mr Stevens, Mayor of Bexhill and the only other Labour Mayor in Sussex. Mr Waddell drove us back and had coffee with us. Ashrang and I have arranged to see him tomorrow

Sunday July 5.
I motored down to Tarring Neville as arranged last evening. This was, no doubt a lazy way of doing it. Dorothy decided to get on with some work at home. I found Ash's wife (Dorothy) and she was very glad to see me and took me to where Ash was milking. I had a very pleasant day ~~at~~ at this farm and went home quite late, first calling in the "Jolly Sailor" and seeing Mr. Sims (the ex-mayor)

Monday July 6. After attending the Mayors Parlour there was a quiet day. Dorothy went to Joans School at Elm Grove and helped at their Sale of work

Tuesday July 7. After attending the Mayors Parlour there was a very quiet day. This was my reserved day on the Bench so I was not very busy. In the evening I had Library and Selection Committees to attend. Tom Jones at Curzon Brighton

Wednesday July 8 Mayors Parlour. There was also an at home & coffee morning at Rodwell. It rained very hard and we decided not to go. In the afternoon the Bells infant school was opened and we inspected their work. We were much impressed by a new hobby of the children. Printing linen

Thursday July 9 Mayors Parlour. At 2-30 pm gave welcome to the French Schoolboys from Blois.. Frank came and was a great help. In the evening there being nothing on we three ~~at~~ went to the Odeon and saw the film "Bargee" (The local manager let us in free)

Friday July 10. Another quiet day with hardly any Mayors mail. The excitement must have worn off and every body is apparently quite happy (or resigned) to having a Labour Mayor.

Saturday July 11. At 10-30 the Army Benevolent meeting was held. Reg Yarrow was secretary as the leader of the Mid Sussex Area. There were five of the heavy stuff. I found it is easy to be chairman in ordinary affairs with these people although there is the danger that my intellect might not be working on the same plane i.e. we may possibly not be using our brain as the same tool by them I mean the five against me and me
In the afternoon we were taken by car to St Marys social Centre Sports at the Nevill Crescent ground. I must continually show my admiration for this body of people. I don't think it is possible to find a community centre, voluntary, with no big wigs in it that has been so successful. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Sunday July 12. Bunty came home and took we three to Joans and then took Frank back to London ready for him to return to Detroit next day.

Monday July 13. We went with the Sussex Mayors Assn to the pavilion at Brighton. Brighton Mayor was the host and there was a reception and lunch. There were the Mayoresses as guests and after lunch they looked at the Regency exhibition while we attended the Mayors quarterly meeting. All this part of the proceedings took ~~place~~ in the Pavilion which is very luxurious inside. There was not much of note really to record of this ~~meeting~~. ~~For~~ In the afternoon we were taken to the Sussex University and shown over, after which there was a good tea and a talk on the work by Dr Fulton. It was a pleasant day and we got back in time ~~for~~ me to see a Mrs Rees who is applying for permission to build a house in the backland of a garden. I ~~then~~ went from this appointment to the Highways and Town Planning Committee where this application was presented. This committee meeting took from 6-30 until 9-45. I was glad to have a beer with John Perkins and Alby afterwards.

Tuesday 14 July. A busy morning. To the Mayors Parlour and Mrs Bourne being on holiday there two weeks to the Town Clerks office. Nothing much there but it is my month off from the bench I had a case that had been remanded, I had to attend the renewed case. He was fined £2. and had to pay 18/- costs for smashing a light and generally threatening about in the National Assistance office. Since he is on the National Assistance any way I can't see we can punish him much. The 2/6 per week we ordered him to pay will not hurt him much. In the hunt

afternoon we went to Hove where in a old peaples nursing home a Lewes lady had reached the age of 100 years. We had to wear our chains and be one of the family party. This is my first experience of gatherings to celebrate events of this sort and I found it quite interesting although I don't know what it would be like if the old person were not so able. We made this journey both ways by car and I went to the Parks committee after tea.

Wednesday July 15. A quiet day regarding Civic Business There was a Theatre Club meeting in the evening with readings and sections from Dylan Thomas. The club is very good indeed and there are plenty of good people with fruitful ideas always making themselves useful. The marquee and the lights outside on the waste ground was a fine idea

Thursday July 16 Mayors parlour first thing. There was a Priory preservation committee on in the afternoon but although this would have been my first one of this committee I had to miss it and attend the Garden party at Buckingham Palace. This was quite an interesting experience. It was a beautiful day with a very hot sun. Dorothy and I had good seats and in the shade. It was this last factor that made the day because, as we discovered when we afterwards walked across the lawn to the tea marquee it was a scorching afternoon. Our seats were also reasonably close to where the royalty past by on their way to tea. Dorothy met the Mayor of Southwark and fetched him and the Mayoress over for a talk. You could almost pick out the Civic Guests by their lounge suits.

All the others wore morning suits and grey top hats. I don't anticipate I shall ever be whatever it is that makes men dress like that to stand about on a scorching hot day. I don't know if it is fashion ~~or~~ or sheer bloody ignorance. I know I should be exceedingly uncomfortable not to mention ashamed. Still the people who hire their suits out have got to live. We walked back to Victoria and were home by eight. I had to miss the Housing Committee meeting

Friday July 17 was a quiet day as on
Saturday July 18 there was only one duty to do, attend an at-home at the Mabel Lester home for blind elderly women and on
Sunday July 19 There were no Mayoral Duties

Monday July 20. Mrs Bourne the Mayors Secretary was due back from her weeks holiday today but was obliged to be off duty through an indisposition. In the afternoon Dorothy and I welcomed the French students who are touring the district I noticed there was no welcome for these visitors from the keepers at the museum. There was a Health committee in the evening

Tuesday July 21 A quiet day as regards Mayoral duties The Justices borrowed the Council Chamber in the morning because of the assizes in the County Hall. The Finance Committee met in the evening and decided to set up the sub-committee to engage the new Town Clerk as Mr. Waddell leaves in October

Wednesday July 22 A very busy day. The post was bigger again and, having dealt with that there was the Exhibition fund committee. I had already been to the Housing Manager regarding the Blaker-Haggett affair. This was something I had become involved in. Rowena Bengham had asked me what could be done to prevent a woman and her daughter being evicted (Blaker). I saw the Town Clerk and the Housing Manager and they informed me nothing could be done and that the woman was a trespasser in the cottage. Nevertheless the Council had a cottage that was in process of being conveyed to us and they managed to obtain a stay of execution of the eviction until we could put her in the fresh cottage. Things remained like that until today when I had to see the housing manager and ask when the conveyancing would be completed as the appellant was now being turned out and had no where to go. So after the Exhibition meeting I had to go to the top of New Road and let the appellant know that Blaker could go into the cottage probably this weekend. So that was all smoothed up. We went to the Mayor of Brighton's Garden party in the Pavilion after dinner and had a very pleasant afternoon. Met the Mayor of Hove and some of the Brighton Labour Councillors. We made the journey each way by car and arrived home about six and Kay Gibbens had a meal with us. I went to the Annual General Meeting of the Lewes A.F.C. at the Foresters Hall at eight. They have made me a vice president

On Thursday July 23 I had the usual mornings work and a visit to the A. G. M. of the East Sx Assn for the disabled. I was much impressed with the machines demonstrated there. Typing was being done almost by remote control. The boy using this machine had no use at all of his limbs beyond a slight movement of the first and second finger of the left hand. With these two fingers he manipulated a contrivance which apparently sent power along a thin cable to the machine. He told me that this typing could also be done by the "Blow & Suck" method when any one has no movement left in any of the limbs! Some of us don't know how lucky we are, when one remembers that ~~was~~ a slight at birth can leave any baby in the same plight as the lad who showed us this machine. I think also that the people mostly women for obvious reasons, are doing a useful job.

On Friday July 24 There was not much to do commonally In the evening we went to the I.Y.L. meeting and social. This was not too well attended and at the E.C. meeting I think it is pretty plain that most members were in favour of closing down. I don't think there is much need let alone demand for this organisation Since the second world war the whole outlook on foreign travel has changed and any body, almost can travel abroad. without the need to be corsetted by such bodies as the I.Y.L. For the true work of the League as implied by the designation perhaps there is still need but I don't think there is any body of people that is big enough and nationalistic enough to cause any danger as bad as the attitude between the wars which the I.Y.L. was formed to combat.

Saturday the 25 July and
Sunday " 26 " found us with our first quiet weekend with no duties for some time on Sunday we took a walk to the Snowdrop at

midday and had a drink with Alby and I asked him about the questions that had arisen regarding housing for Phoenix iron works key workers. Alby is quite willing to meet the management of this firm. In the evening we walked up to the race hill and looked in on the gearings on the way back.

Monday 27 July was a quiet mayoral day. and on

(Mrs Nye of St Pancras)

Tuesday July 28 we selected the new Loan Clerk Mr Morris previously at Chichester seems very able. When he has been here some time he will doubtless move on. But the other applicant older and who might be expected to stop did not meet with our requirements

Wednesday July 29 was a quiet day from the point of view of Mayoral work but there was the Council meeting in the evening. This did not last long and several duties were carried out. These were the reports of the Committees approved. I presented the Wedgewood Ware that Bank had given and generally speaking every thing was in applepie order.

Thursday the 30 July. I did the Parlour duties and then went to the Rotarians to lunch. These are very kindly and courteous blokes and the lunch good and Mr Jay's (planning officer) talk on the Govt. paper on the drift to the S.E. was ably done. During the years I have listened to various talks by him both Council and private, I have grown to admire his work in this direction. One can detect however a repetition of certain words or phrases which because they are used at different periods of time, does betray his reading at any given period. It used, about 3-4 years ago to be "a priori" there have been others and today it was "rationalistic". In the evening Dorothy and I went to Joan Liddles to the W.E.A. committee called to get next sessions classes started I met Michael Carritt earlier in the week and he came and had a look at the Parlour. I must try and remember to find a blaze for him to take now that he is recovering from his lung operation.

Friday July 31. We had to attend the Mayor of Bexhill's melodic party today. We started at about 5 by car and we were driven by Sprat Hall again. It was just the mayors of the Sussex towns at dinner and a splendid Halle concert afterwards. We spoke to Barbarolli and he is interested in Saveny our town from Vandals, road hogs and motor boat makers even to the point of offering to come and lie down in the highway. The Mayor of Penrith is Allen Stephens. He is like me, a Labour Mayor and was the first to phone and congratulate me on being made Mayor of Lewes. Dorothy had a new frock on that was acquired that morning and she looked a treat. We arrived home after the party that took place when the concert was finished at about 1-15.

Saturday August 1.
No Council duties. Kate brought down a present for us of a tea set. My family are being very

or the idea of it

kind. I suppose my present position in the town has filled a gap in their outlook and, any way, the present show a far deeper feeling about my work in local Govt. than I thought existed

Sunday August 2. I took the photos up to 68 because I forgot to give them to Kate yesterday. Winnie and Issy were also at home. After Kate had gone with Dod & Lelie to Seaford I had a chat with the two older ones. Issy was amusing about her day trip to Paris. I am glad they are both so well off compared with their younger days. When I reached home after coming via High Street Mary and Ernie were at home. Ernie seems ever so much better and is walking on an increasing scale to cure if possible or at least to strengthen the weak heart. He certainly looks very much better and informs me that the medicos say there is nothing wrong with him now. We chatted for a while on the methods of increasing resistance to various ailments. Dorothy and I mended the two old deck chairs after lunch and later had a quiet time

Monday August 3. This was a beautiful morning and I was very relieved because of the fete to be held at the new recreation ground at Landport. This fete proved to be a success because so much work was done by the organisers, although starting so late and still resolving to hold the fete on August Monday, that work had to be squeezed into a very few weeks. A Mrs Nancy Skinner the secretary of the joint committee was a very able organiser and was a tower of strength to the committee. I was glad to see so many Councillors there and my family was represented by Issy. They had previously given all the threepenny pieces they could collect. John & Bunty also turned up and patronised the stalls and the sideshows so I can say that the Barber family, besides opening the show, played a part towards making this first venture a success. I am not in favour of baby shows as I learnt from this fete that these are practically impossible to stage properly i.e. on merit without the right previous organisation. Dorothy wore her garden party frock with white hat and sandles and we both managed to negotiate the rather dangerous ladder (sloping treads) that led to the lorry that served as a platform. Mr Barnwell, the station master and his wife also came on to the platform and both the ladies received a bouquet from a little girl. These bouquets were made from a free gathering of flowers from a lot of gardens in Landport. A very nice idea I thought. It does make more people to have an interest in the show. We then walked round the field and judged the baby show and children's fancy dress. Mary Hawes was at the fete and came home with us afterwards so there were six of us at home for a little refreshment before going to the various homes all of us looked as though we had been in the sun all day

Tuesday August 4. There is much publicity about the 1914-18 war today because this is the fiftieth anniversary of its start. I went to the Bench today after attending to the Mayoral matters. Among other ordinary cases was a case of dog biting postman. This was an interesting case and the

defendant a professor (I don't know of what) who lived in an isolated house approached by a drive a hundred yards long. The postman turned into the courtyard from the drive and the Alsatian leaped at him and bit his arm. The professor and his housekeeper were sitting in the courtyard and soon had the dog under control and the bitten arm tied up. The defendant was also charged with not keeping a dog license. This was the first time I have insisted on my view by pushing it forward and when the bench was going to dismiss the case without retiring I insisted we did retire. and this was done. My interest in this case was caused by the defendant having a barrister who, in poise in steadiness under fire. and in being first plain "sensible" compared very unfavourably with the postman. I was over ruled in the retiring room by 3 to 1. The case was dismissed. The defendant was fined one pound for failing to produce a dog licence which the defence said was a misunderstanding between the prof and the housekeeper, each thinking the other had got it. On the bench discovered that the unconscious speck of snobbishness they had in their system had let them down. There wasn't a dog license for the previous year and it was also known that the defendant expected to have an order to kill put on the dog. He knew the offence was bad enough to have an order to keep the dog under control. I had the satisfaction of hearing the Chairman tell the other Justices "The Mayor was quite right after all".

Mr Reeves wants to take a portrait of me as mayor. I had written him that the job has gone to Meyer and is now hanging in the Mayors Parlour but he has written that he wants it for his complete collection of Lewes Mayors. I have told Mrs Bourne to arrange this for him.

Wednesday August 5. Ordinary work at Mayors Parlour and then a quiet day until the evening when I went to the "Lewes Arms" to make a presentation to an old man named Tucker whose eightieth birthday it was. This was quite a pleasant little affair and resolved itself into a very nice evening in this pub.

Thursday 6 August. Mayors Parlour in Morning. Bateman's in the afternoon and commencement of efforts to see if my lenses can be improved. In the evening to the Dripping Pan to inspect the possible "aids to Visibility of non payers" caused by our making pavilion car park. Saw practice match from Committee Room window. Dorothy accompanied me and mentioned how nice these blokes are. I am going to see if we have any suggestions tomorrow.

Friday August 7. A very quiet day. I did leave word with the Borough Surveyor regarding the Football Clubs complaint and his department will investigate various possibilities. In the afternoon Dorothy & I walked over to the Malling Estate and back.

Saturday August 8 One important function today. Elphick's show. This was quite a nice show and there was a lunch at the White Hart which was very nice indeed and I met a good many people of the gardening and Rotary interests including Parky Weaver of the BBC. I had been asked to say a few words but there did not appear to be time before we had to go back to the show. However, later in the day Mr Elphick

apologised for not calling on me. If his dog not worry me in the slightest and I can use the preparatory holes for the opening of the Horse Show in Leptember. Dorothy wasn't in todays proceedings but has the Rodmell show to open next Saturday. Today there were many heavy showers and the temperature is down. It does really appear now that we are at the end of our good weather

Sunday August 9. Dorothy and I went over the Chalkpit and down into Land port at Offham. ~~We~~ We haven't been over there for some time and are much struck with the amount of overgrowing. Quite obviously people don't use their legs so much. And along the Lower Offham Road on the way back we found it so overgrown that I really lost myself as regards my position in the road lengthwise.

Monday August 10. To the Mayor's Parlour and received Mrs Day on behalf of the Dancettes Orchestra. Also had Chester in to discuss the possibilities of the Orchestra being in the organ loft for the Dinner and Ball on Oct. 23. The conclusion was reached that it would be better to have the band on the floor. I looked in the Library during the afternoon and found it more busy than ever and during the first four months of 1963, 6,000 Issues up. We shall have to expand or burst.

Tuesday August 11 was quite a busy day. First in the Mayors Parlour came a plumber who came under the impression that Mayors made a practice of finding partners with a view to marriage. His unhappy young man has had his wife leave him a year or so ago and they are divorced. He wanted to meet somebody with a view to marrying again!! I did my best with this request and pointed out to him that mayors did not do this matchmaking except in special circumstances such as when somebody writes from say the colonies and wants a partner from a special area. It seems strange today that a man of thirty three, with two small boys should be so out of touch that he couldn't "get to know" any body. I told him it was extremely unlikely that I should know any woman to whom I could recommend him, although I would help him if I could. This wife leaving her husband and two children, reminded me of the Ruth Barnes case that happened on my round before the war. So that was all I could do to help him. ~~I left him~~ After he left I went to the police court. As distinct from the usual list of motoring offences there were two or three cases but not of outstanding importance except to me ~~for~~ I am fond of "watching" ~~to~~ all concerned. The accused the police the lawyers barristers etc. and I find this is very interesting. We dismissed the case that took most time before it came to an end & as it was entirely unnecessary. A matter of scratched paint and slight dents on a car, and all the expenses of best defence etc. It did seem that the questions were put and framed as though to catch a great con man or something instead of what it was, a bus travelling at two miles per hour to get through a narrow lane (which was caused to be a narrow lane ~~through~~ by parked cars, just scratches a car and the driver is summoned

for failing to report an accident. It was very plain to the bench that he obviously didn't know he had touched anything with his bus. I went to the Library in the afternoon. Eve Clark, the Librarian saw me and pointed out that there was an increase in issues of 6,000 ± during the first 3 months compared with the corresponding period last year.

Wednesday August 12. Rather an uneventful day as regards mayoral business. The first letters to the Sussex Mayors have gone out (about the banquet). I think I had better answer the toast "to the County Town" myself. In the afternoon a Sir Charles Stapley called to the Mayors Parlour. His work is to do with booking up the Kennedy Trend. He is a tall, willowy and rather languid man. He had spoken to the Mayor of Hove before coming to Lewes and had discovered that Lewes had some (Penn) connections with Harvard. I told him we had closer associations with America through Tom Paine. Sir Charles had apparently never heard of Tom Paine. Of course neither had he heard of the Penn connection between Lewes and America until he was told by the Mayor of Hove, but to me, it seems almost unbelievable that people of this strata of society had never heard of Tom Paine. I met him again and he was just on his way to see Bull House so I accompanied him. On our arrival he recognised the place as somewhere where he had had tea!! Not having heard of Paine he obviously ignored the lettering that used to go round the fascia. I say "used to go" because this fascia is being painted with the rest of the building

Thursday August 13. Not much in the office. Dorothy came up and with the aid of Mrs Bourne we sorted out the list of people to have Town Christmas cards. Mrs Bourne told us that when Alderman Hayward was Mayor the list numbered fifty. As Nicholls, Farrow and Dumbrell followed on the list has grown and on one occasion had gone up to 600!!! In the afternoon Bert Bram and Joan came over and we went for a walk up to the Golf course and round the top of the Coombe. I forgot to mention two lines above that we cut the list down considerably. Bert mentioned that my name should be in full on the board I must see about it

Friday August 14. The weather boarding to repair the shed arrived quite early so I was as quick doing the M. parlour business as possible. They were repairing the window with broke the other day. So it was a good job I had decided to get away quickly. I found the old wood in the extreme parts of the shed are constructed is all dry rot so the repair job was perforce to be more complicated. However I have managed to clear the place and will have the new weather-board on in a day or two. I have been to the timber yard and bought new quartering and some selignum so I can stay the rot until I get some time to rebuild. This morning I asked Mrs Bourne to find out the cost of altering the name on the plaque.

Saturday August 15 I got on with the shed in the morning and in the afternoon we went to Rodmell where Dorothy had to present the prizes at the village show. This show was very good indeed and there were plenty of interesting sideshows etc. Dorothy wore her light flowery frock and looked very nice and quite

the part. Her short speech before presenting the prizes was ideal and delivered extremely well. We saw Kay Gilbert and Stathy Underhill. They had told me they think Dorothy's was a good speech indeed and very fitting to the occassion. Spratt Hall came and peteted us home at 10.30 thirty and we didn't go out any more but had a read.

Sunday August 16. I work on the shed all day and in the evening we went to the Treynes for a meal. The boy Patrick was a bit of a nuisance. Ernie and Mary came in later but nobody stopped very late. The conversation was on cooking all the time. ~~The boy was a terrific pest during the meal, & quite apart from the fact that he had a heavy snorking cold.~~

Monday August 17. It was a quiet day in the Mayors department. I received an intimation that the Civil Defence man, Garforth wanted to see me regarding the C.D. in Lewes. I am on the bench tomorrow so I have had to put him off until the afternoon.

Tuesday August 18. To Mayors Parlour and then to Police court. Among other cases was one of driving cars at excessive speed ~~through~~ in Newhaven. This turned out to be a fairly clear case of using the road for a race track, and, having found both guilty they had to pay heavy fines. This has got to stop and for my part any fine cannot be too heavy. Once the competitive idea gets hold of people in power-driven vehicles any thing ~~will~~ may happen. Once racing begins all else, save beating somebody, is out of the partakers heads.

Wednesday August 19. Garforth, the C.D. man came this morning. He had a long speech about the need for more wardens. He said the experts had decided that Lewes should have 232 wardens. and a man at Kingston ridge, a company director had drawn up a plan with a view to "Shocking the people of Lewes" into doing their best to make up this number. He Garforth described this plan but I had to stop him as the first result of the plan it seemed to me would be to ~~create~~ try to create a condition of hysteria. However I said I would look over the "coggage" he brought with him. I cannot however put my name to the letters copies of which he brought with him, the Company Director of Kingston ridge had suggested. The latter apparently did not want any reimbursement for his part in the campaign and had offered to canvas to get wardens. I think the solution is to take him at his word. Any body who can draw up a plan like the one mentioned above would surely be very capable of prepsuading people to join the wardens by a personal canvas.

Thursday August 20. There was nothing much in the way of Mayoral duties. At Mrs Bourne's suggestion I decided to postpone giving an answer to Garforth until I have examined the books of our own C.D. committee and, (taught of by myself,) some advice from members of my own group. Such as Davies

Friday August 21. Still quiet. No doubt this is because it is holiday time. I have looked at the old albums which contain pictures of interest to the council. Reeves now has my pictures in his shop window so I hope he is more happy. We have no engagements this week & I have asked Mrs Bourne to put last weeks picture of Dorothy and Conrad Wood into the album. This is a very good photo of Dorothy presenting prizes at Rodmell Flower Show

Saturday August 22
I did not go to the Mayors Parlour but went about the town and to the County League football match in the afternoon. Lewes beat Boxhill 6-0 in this first ~~by~~ League match of the season.

Sunday ~~Monday~~ August 23. A quiet morning but to Joan & Bert's in the afternoon to see Patcham play cricket at Hove. This was an uncomfortable afternoon for me because my eyes were bad and I could not see the ball at all and the players only very poorly. The deck chairs were made with plastic canvas seats and it was very difficult to sit without sliding about. Why I do so much getting about and being uncomfortable with an arthritic spine I don't know. I used to ask myself that question when in the Home Guard twenty years ago. The answer must be conceit. However we walked back to London Road and caught a bus to Joans home a patcham and I soon felt better.

Monday August 24
To the Mayors Parlour first where the first thing was a phone call from Garforth enquiring my decision regarding the Civil Defence recruiting campaign. I put him off until Wednesday because I have come to a decision. I will send copies of a personal letter to him. These are for the Civil Defence Headquarters to send out. The speeches will have to be circulated by the C.D.H. as the shopkeepers are going to be. Armitage came in with Mrs Bourke and showed the draft letter which I have agreed and that must be the extent of my canvassing on this matter. Cox looked in later and we had a chat and a drink. He looked very well and seemed quite fit. He was pleased with the parlour and left at about 12:45

Tuesday August 25. After the Mayors parlour I went to the Bench. It was nearly all motoring cases and not of much interest. I found it as a matter of interest that this morning's court which could be called a motoring court, confirmed what I had already discovered, that the motorists who come there because they have committed offences are almost all habitual offenders. This is especially so with regard to exceeding the speed limits. One feels quite sympathetic in some cases but after the decision has been made as to whether they are guilty or not, we are told the past record and they are frequently very black

Wednesday August 26 Nothing to report and not much mail.

Thursday August 27 Nothing to report from the Parlour. We went to the Golf Club at their invitation in the evening and had a very pleasant social time

Friday 28 also nothing exciting happened. In the evening we went to the Theatre at Glyndebourne. Bill Trees gave us the tickets he had had presented him but was unable to use. The play was "The Taming of the Shrew" and was by an Italian company who were very ~~the~~ good indeed. The language difficulty was overcome by means of little transistor sets which could be hired for the duration of the play for 2/6. I got the W.E.A. printing from Baxters in the afternoon and intend to get some of the notices for the next session round on Sunday.

Saturday August 29. I took a holiday from the Mayors parlour for today and went to the football at the Dripping Pan in the afternoon. The reserves were playing Shoreham Reserves and a draw was the result. I notice the extra screening is down and I understand it was attached to the wrong side of the chain link fence.

Sunday August 30. I got up late but got the W.E.A. stuff round as resolved We had a quiet time in the afternoon and went to Jean Jennings with some W.E.A. Bills in the evening

Monday August 31. Mrs Bourne the secretary on holiday. I went to the office and collected the C.D. letters (see August 24). These had had to be completely typed afresh because of the inefficiency of the C.D. authority and its organisers. However the letters were all freshly done and I had the job of signing sixty of them all over again. The secretary had discovered when the list of people to whom they were to be sent was given to me for approval that fifty per cent of the names were either dead left the district or grown too old so we sent it back and had the C.D. make up a new list which Armitage has since showed me for my approval

Tuesday September 1. This is my month for being on the reserve for the Justices and consequently having not been called I enjoyed a day free of the bench. The holiday season is still here and there was not much to do in the way of Mayoris work. I did a bit of pottering about and in the evening Mrs Bourne and her husband came down and we four spent quite an enjoyable evening

over

Wednesday September 2. This was a much busier day.
After the Mayors parlour Dorothy and I attended the coffee morning which was held in the Council Chamber in aid of the Cancer Relief Fund. There was the usual bring & buy stalls a raffle and eighteen pence to enter the chamber. The chamber was packed for almost two hours with people constantly coming and going so quite a lot of money must have been made. I know nine pounds was made on the raffle alone. I'm glad this was a success because the women who run these things are doing quite a useful service and after all these things need organizing. Much work is put into them and although I have seen sneers in the National papers at the idea of the "Coffee morning" calling it a snobbish set up, yet I think, if it is "snobby" quite a useful purpose is served by it. Dorothy followed her usual custom, when attending these affairs as Mayoress, and took a pot of her jam: and as usual this was bought up into about three seconds. This is very good jam and the people in Lewes who attend these affairs are resolved to be "with it" as regards olde worlde and home made etc. In the afternoon we attended the Statutary General Meeting of the East Sx Assn for the Blind. This was held in the County Council Chamber and again as always when I attend Kindred functions I was struck with the efficiency of the organization. I am beginning to see now why when the Government or the Local Authority take over or suggest taking over a service, there is always quite an outcry about taking away the chance for people to do Public Voluntary service. I think it really is a hangover or legacy from the days when there were a number of middle class women with time to be filled in and they used to do these jobs. With the compromise solution to the problem of what to do with these quite genuine and efficient voluntary workers, which is the Local Authority taking over the organization and delegating it to the organizers I think we have the right answer. The volentary workers still run the show. The LC give an eye and guidance and so we have the happy position of everyone being pleased. But wait everyone won't be pleased until we have made sure of the welfare of all the work i.e. the crippled person or the blind person or whatever unfortunate people the organization was formed to help. I think the happiness of these people is very well served by the compromise solution and I think these could well continue in this fashion, but only so long as the chief concern is the welfare of the unfortunate recipients and is not the happiness or otherwise of the workers who are doing this because they have the time the money and like doing it. The chairman a Mr Sadler I met for the second time. He is a good fellow a rebel engineer who is well up in the Railway World and worked years ago for the Great Eastern. Kind and polite he is a good person to have at these meetings soon putting everyone at their ease. We had tea afterwards in the Tatler tea rooms and two of the blind people entertained us with some songs at the piano. We saw Lewes play Haywards Heath in the evening

Thursday September 3. There was not much on today and Jean Jennings came with the two boys and Mandy in the afternoon.

Sept 4
Friday was also very light as regards town

work

Saturday September 5 A quiet day. The Merediths came in the late afternoon to stay until the same time on Sunday. Also the mother took letter to me that of course is quite obviously in bad health and Hazel looked quite well as usual. Nothing extra on Sunday Hazel gave us a ride round Barcombe etc

Monday September 7 I went to the Mayors Parlour and told of my intention to have the Councillors to the Civic Banquet Mr Waddell was back from his holiday and while sympathising with my aims was uncertain of the financial possibilities of this. Mr Brown the treasurer thinks it is worth trying provided I make some enquiries among my fellow councillors first. I have seen some of them already and they appear to be quite willing to come.

On Tuesday September 8 I got over the work at the parlour and in the afternoon showed Charlie Stephens the Council Chamber etc. He had not been there before in spite of living in Lewes for about 65 years. He was very knowledgeable about all old Lewes things. We had a walk round the Grange Gardens which were looking very well indeed and just a stroll along Southover High Street In the evening I had the ~~St~~ joint Library and Establishment sub Committee. This was not as successful as I had hoped. The Library staff is not to be strengthened. Only one junior but will be able to extend the period of extra help for four months. I am not too pleased with the attitude of several Labour members whenever Library business crops up. To be anti-library is known to be the attitude of some councils but never a Labour controlled one. This will one day have to be pointed out to them and also perhaps this attitude of some should be made known. From this meeting to the Council Chamber when a meeting was held to wind up the Battle of Lewes affairs. This was done but it was quite late when I arrived home and read some of Kathleen Nott's book before retiring

On Wednesday September 9 I had a fairly quiet morning and in the afternoon Dorothy and I went for a walk over Southover way and through the Priory grounds and then spent half an hour or so in the bowling green where a match was in progress. We talked to Mrs Reed and several more people. Dorothy spoke to me about joining the bowls club. I think she is getting keen on the game and I think she got to like it at the Castle Green when she had a few goes earlier in the year. In the evening I had to attend the meeting of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee. There was a radio to be given to the Committee. This was presented to an old person and it came from a Radio firm at the time of the flood (1960) and was being handed back to the committee by the executors of the previous beneficiary upon his death. I was glad to see Mrs Clark (Kim) is assisting the O.P.W.C. as a secretary. The meeting did not take over long, about an hour.

Thursday September 10. After the morning work which was not very heavy, Mrs Bourne told me she had attended the hospital on the previous day and there was

the possibility of her going into hospital for a thyroid operation. This is a blow for her for quite apart from the work which she enjoys there is the loss of her outdoor pursuits, mostly tennis. It ~~is~~ could be a blow to me as the Town Clerk is leaving and the Banquet etc is coming off. We must hope that the x ray results prove satisfactory. In the afternoon I went to the House Management Committee at the Hospital. As I believe I recorded earlier in this diary they are rum meetings. Miss Raymonde-Hawkins gave me a lift back home and stopped for some time having a yarn. I went to the Grange in the evening to a meeting of the Collectors and E.C. of the Local Labour Party. This was a very nice meeting and the fellows were getting into their stride for the General Election which the commuter Hausmm can't put off for much longer. I did not get on with Kathleen Nott tonight because we were in next door for a while and brought their "Argus" with us when we left them. On the way to the Grange early in the evening I met Dick Whittington who confirmed they would like me to propose the toast of the old 5th Sussex. I shall be glad to do this although I have a commitment later that evening Oct 17 at the Co-operative Party reunion

Friday September 11. A quiet morning. The Secretary and I have arranged to go over the Banquet business next week. The rest of the day was fairly quiet but I unfortunately over looked a Friends of Lewes committee meeting in the evening

Saturday September 12. Beyond a little shopping this day was devoted almost entirely to preparations for and visiting the Bochenet Rainbow fair at Crowborough. Miss Raymonde-Hawkins gave us a lift both ways and ~~we~~ stopped for a cup of tea after we got home. The fair was in two big marquees joined together on the half wall by a short canvas corridor. There was matting on the floor and the place was rather airless. There were plenty of people and money was being raked in on draws raffles etc but I don't know how much was being sold on the stalls. I met the doctor Miss Peake and also Miss Bochenet but beyond some sort of confirmation of the meeting on November 3 they had no time to speak of anything but the "fair" they were both very excited over it. We had a short look at the prototype bungalow and Ray had taken notice of anything in the "fair" which could be of use. I found R. H. a fast driver, I don't know how fast because it is a journey where a speed cannot be maintained and I could not see the speedometer She just struck me as an able and fast driver

Sunday September 13 Was a quiet Sunday at home

Monday September 14 A Miss Salisbury called to the Parlour to see about the possibility of starting a branch of the organisation "Lepra" As the name implies this is to do with the relief and curing of Leprosy I have agreed she have the Council Chamber next January. In the evening was the Highways and General purposes. I understand the Wells footbridge is within sight of completion now and this will be a good job for everyone and especially for anybody with children. They can go from one side of the river to the other without needing to go via Malling street and the Cliffe High St. I think these meetings still are too long for the amount of work that gets done. However now that we have a majority, it is just as well that it is plainly seen a discussion takes place

Tuesday September 15. To the parlour and to work on the banquette arrangements. Had a letter as Mayor from a Mrs Davies. A rather muddled letter but I had better go and see her. I had better do the job of Mayor as thoroughly as I can. In the evening to the Parks committee where I made sure to ask about the Wells repairs and the Baths kiosk and parking. The repairs are shortly to be put in hand and a notice regarding the parking of cars displayed. I observe the Borough Bonfire Society want the Mayor and the Mayoress to open the fair in the Corn Exchange on Saturday. This clashes with the cup tie I should like to have seen. At the parks committee they were persuaded to ~~not~~ recommend 5% towards screening for cup ties in the Park. I hope the Football Club appreciate these efforts.

On Wednesday September 16 Mrs Bourne and I continued with the arrangements for the "Dinner and Dance" In the evening Reg Farrow and previous members of the "Round Table" came to the Mayor's parlour and we made preliminary arrangements for a "Wine and Cheese" evening in aid of Miss Bockenek's Border Centre for Arthritics. A good lot of fellows who really set about doing the job. We shall probably do the Arthritic Centre a bit of good.

Thursday September 17. A quiet day and nothing much at the Parlour. All the "free" invitations for the Banquet are out and some have been returned. I hope a good many of the paying guests answer in the affirmative.

Friday 18 was also quiet. In the afternoon I attended my first Fire Brigade Committee at the County Hall. This is quite a good Committee. Mr. Greatrex was the Chairman and he was very able. I don't know how, being blind, he would manage in a meeting where several wanted to speak at once but ~~he~~ in this particular meeting he was very good indeed

Saturday 19 September. After we had finished the shopping etc. we went to the Whittles where Robert was holding a reception after his wedding on School Hill

This was a very jolly party and we met a whole host of younger people. There were also some older people television who one felt one ought to have known but didn't. We left there at one o'clock and not far from the house, 30 South Street a van travelling northwards and too near the kerb struck me on the elbow with the door-handle. This was quite a blow and I felt the stiffness and tenderness for some days. The two men in the van came back full of apologies and fortunately no damage was done to me. Reaching home we got ready and proceeded to the Boys Exchange where I opened the Autumn fare of the Boro' Bonfire Society. This was a nice event and the members of the B.B.S. who were present were very friendly. Dorothy was presented with a nice ~~bouquet~~ bouquet. I left after going the rounds of the Hall and having a go at different money-raising stunts here and there, and went to the Dripping pan where I was in time to see the second half of the F.A. cup tie Leeds versus Redhill a very enjoyable match with a 2-2 result.

On Sunday September 20. ~~We~~ we had a quiet time at home and caught up with some jobs

Monday September 21. Did the Mayors work. Not much of it. I had the Health Committee in the evening and after leaving this I went to the Civil Defence Room where I "opened" the room, gave a few words, presented a long services medal and then hurried to the WEA opening meeting on Archdeacons. The more I consider the C.D. Structure, the more I am convinced there is room for improvement especially at the top. Admittedly its an unpopular organisation but there are others that are more unpopular yet win through and they win through and grow to be quite powerful organisations with no money given them, no free buildings and no paid organisers. I think the C.D. should face up to the fact that the people who do the work are unpaid and the people who order the workers about are extremely well paid in spite of the fact that they have good incomes already. Perhaps a redistribution of the money that is paid in salaries would make a world of difference

On Tuesday Sept 22 There was nothing particular. Work still going on with the Banquet and the Bochenet affairs. I went to the finance committee in the evening and afterwards to the W.E.A. class on International Relations. This ~~week~~ like all this week are opening classes for all the whole courses. This is the second this week that is under the strength I have hoped for.

Wednesday Sept. 23. This morning there was a coffee morning in the Council Chamber in aid of the C of Es children's homes. There were many people there but I have ~~spoken~~ written of coffee mornings some way back. In the evening I went to the opening class of the WEA Drama course. There were only a few present and Miss Robinson took over while I went to the new election committee rooms to the adoption of Reg Frith as the Labour Candidate. This was carried out and I noticed there was much more life and enthusiasm than there was at the previous election in 1959. Fifty pounds was handed over from the M.U.R. and forty pounds from the Y S

On Thursday Sept. 24. After the Mayors parlour we had to attend the commemoration Service at the girls Grammar school. Quite a nice service with singing from the whole school, the two choirs and music from a kind of percussion orchestra. The sermon however was punk. ~~I went to~~ We had to wear our chains etc and we met an old lady of 74 who was still secretary of the old Girls assn.. In the afternoon I went to see the WEA Sociology class opened. This class appears to be good and looks as though it will go alright. The discussion should be good but there is a danger of leavening the lesson to make vague assertions about abstract things by two of the members. However this is under the tuteneage of a very able man and he will no doubt guide things along. The same tutor takes the evening of the same day class on the Interpretation of the New Testament etc.

~~Fri~~

Friday Sept 25. We had a quiet day and there is nothing to report.

Saturday Sept. 26. We had to open the Horticultural Show in the afternoon. Dorothy did the speaking very ably. We had to go then down to the Co op Horticultural show where Dorothy presented the prizes and we then went back to the show in the Corn Exchange for their prizes. I was impressed at the Coop Show by ~~a~~ a woman whose family of several children were showing various things. I had a talk with her and I admire her method of helping her kids along. It is quite evident that they won't find life boring

Sunday Sept 27 A quiet day at home.

Monday Sept 28 Ordinary Mayors work with a visit from student nurses in the afternoon. I went to the Labour Group meeting in the evening.

On Tuesday 29 Sept. To the Magistrates Court after the Mayors Parlour was finished. With the exception of a few rating cases the agenda was full of motoring offences. Three of these were offences by adolescent motor cyclists and one could not help but pity the extreme ignorance of this type of adolescent that these represented. In the main todays cases were uninteresting. In the evening I opened a meeting to start a branch of the Oxfam movement in Lewes. I think this will be a success, although I am really staggered as usual when I meet charity organisers, at the weakness in their approaches. They simply go from town to town and bother like me start them going and then women like Pat Collins keep them going. A rather good group of people volunteered to form a committee and I think a branch will be formed

On Wednesday Sep 30 There was not a great deal in the daytime but in the evening was the monthly Council meeting. This was the last night of Waddells Town Clerkship and I had asked David to say a few words which he did very ably. Afterwards we went into the Mayors Parlour where I gave hospitality There was a brush during the Council meeting between David Williams and Len Willey. during a discussion on the reference back of an item in the supplementary Leaving report

on the Barons Down development. Len moved the reference back of the recommendation that the land be sold to private developers. This was lost but the thing about this debate which caught my attention was the able and clear way in which Len put his motion and his words in favour of his reference back. David although a solicitor did not manage half so well in his opposition to it. He used many emotive terms and words which could be used to make one dislike the reference back I was rather surprised. However when Len wound up he was just as able and appeared as cool as when he moved it. Well done Len. an example of perfect debating behaviour.

Thursday October 1. We are not selling many tickets as yet for the banquet and ball. perhaps things will liven up later. I went to the Sociology class in the afternoon. This is going to be very interesting. The tutor is very able. After tea we went on invitation to the Grange where there was wine and food in aid of the Friends of Hellingly assn. The entrance was 4/6 (we went on invitation) There was a terrific amount of "snack food" there and my word, don't the people (who could be classed as up-stage) eat. There was a concert by a soprano who took us through a year with songs readings and recitations and this was all very well done as far as I am qualified to judge. Dorothy in her mayor making get out with the navy light coat on, presented the prizes for a raffle they had and she looked very smart doing it.

Friday October 2. Quite a quiet day after the parlour work. I had a Pells school managers meeting in the afternoon which took an hour or so. I visited the Election committee rooms in the evening.

On Saturday October 3. We had to be at St Mary's Social centre for the concert at 7-30. They kindly offered to send Mr & Mrs Woodhead for us at 7-15. We asked them to send the car to Westgate St. as we were to dine with Lord Longford, Reg Fitch and David Williams at 6-30. We came out of pipers passage to cross the High Street to Bull House and Dorothy slipped on the pavement and came down on her knees. This could have been very dangerous as the pavement is very narrow here and traffic was roaring by at the time. However there was no damage except for a damaged, new pair of stockings and a bruised knee. David and Longford arrived after us and Reg Fitch was definitely late, so Dorothy and I had to leave in time for the 7-15 Woodhead car. The St Marys concert was very good and St Marys were very nice. I had to say a few words from the stage. I find it so hard to think of new terms with which to express my admiration of this Social Centre. It is administered by very able people.

On Sunday October 4 We had two Church Services. In the morning we went by car to Mallery to the Harvest festival. This was a nice little service with a mixed choir. The church was very well decorated and children who comprised most of the congregation, brought gifts of produce etc which were received and stored away by two choir boys. I wasn't so struck on the

sermon but as Dorothy said the children were not taking any notice so no harm would come to them through pondering over it. It was the Girl Guides and Brownies Service that we had to attend at St Johns in the afternoon. This church was also decorated for Harvest Festival and since it was mostly children there was a similarity between the Services but the St Johns Sermon was better. We spent a quiet evening at home

Monday October 5 1964. After the office work I walked up to St Annes Church where the assize service was held for Judge Sachs. This was my first time as mayor at one of these functions. Everything went alright and the Judge complimented me on our beautiful town. At 12-15 Dorothy and I were guests at the High Sheriffs lunch. This was at the White Hart and about twenty people were present This was a good experience and we met and talked to a good many of the interesting people who were there. Afterwards we went to the court where the rather dry introductory business of making the charges in a conspiracy to defraud case ~~was~~ was going on and we listened for an hour or so. Later in the day (at 7-30) we went to Malling House which is the Police headquarters to a sale of work in aid of one of the police funds. Mrs Yarrow gave us a lift back.

Tuesday October 6 1964. After the office work I went to Brighton where I joined the Water Undertaking Committee and their guests on a tour of the pumping stations. This was an extremely interesting day and it was quite an

eye-opener to inspect this aspect of local Government and to see the smartness and cleanliness of the machinery and plant generally. We had lunch in a tent at Balsdean which was really splendidly arranged and served by the students in catering at the technical College. The last call of the day Portslade showed us some really wonderful work in 19th century cast iron work in the way of fittings, stair treads etc. There is also a remarkably fine example of a beam engine which still works. The whole thing was marvellous. Dr Catton our M.O. who was present gave me a ride from the pavilion to home. W.E.A. International relations in the evening

On Wednesday October 7. After the Parlour work there was not a great deal to do of the "town" work. During all this period I have been doing what I could to help in the election campaign. At 7-30 I had the regular Bocherel committee meeting with the members of the round table and we got further advanced towards the wine and cheese evening and the meeting. Again I am very pleased to be working with these fellows. If this wine and cheese evening is not a success it will not be because these members of the Round Table did not put their backs into it.

On Thursday October 8. There was not a great deal of work at the Parlour. We are continuing with the work of the B. & Bath.
Friday October 9 the Same

On Saturday October 10 There was not much in the Parlour. A letter from Zepa Guinsborough enquiring if one could come in after the Banquet because of another civic event. Also there was a reminder of the Old Comrades Assn of the 5th Sussex. In the evening Miss Raymond Hawkins call for us with Packard and took Dorothy and I to Rayfields for coffee and sandwiches and afterwards to the Hippodrome where seats were booked for us to see "Oh What a Lovely War" I have seen this three times now and I find it is still just as funny and as moving. Perhaps this is because I am getting old and fixed in memory on the most salient features of the most impressionable period of my life. It is also very nice to leave the theatre and come home comfortably by car!

On Sunday October 11. Mr Armitage from the Town Clerks department had been invited to have tea with us. They arrived in the afternoon. That is Mr & Mrs Armitage and their two children a girl of eight and a boy of two or so. A nice family. The boy is too young to judge but the girl is very able and ~~so~~ intelligent. We enjoyed their visit very much. While he and I took the children to feed the ducks at the Wells I noticed there was considerably progress made with the repairs to the Wells walls and also the foot bridge over the river was progressing.

Monday October 12. There was not much in the office. Tickets for the B & B. are now going better. The election work is cleared now as regards delivery. All that remains is to see what effect we have made on the people who will record their votes on Thursday

Tuesday October 13 I did the parlour work and then there was the Magistrate's court which was held in my Council Chamber. With the exception of two cases they were all concerned with motoring offences. I do not find a lot to interest me in such cases. In the evening was the ~~W.E.A.~~ Library Committee and I chose then to spend the numbers at the W.E.A. International Relations class instead of the final political meeting

Wednesday 14 was a very wet day and I did not attend the first meeting of the Oxfam committee. We are all hoping the weather will clear up for tomorrows polling else it will be all up with Labour's chances of forming a government.

Thursday October 15. Polling day. I finished the Mayor's work and then went up to Bob Tapp's house which was a committee room for that region of the town. The members seemed to come in fairly consistently. I think there will be quite a big poll. I worked there again in the afternoon and in the evening I went to the main committee rooms in Fisher Street. There have seemed to be more helpers today than usual. There were three young people I noticed helping in the Fisher Street room who were visitors. Two girls from the Manor School and a young man quite obviously a student from somewhere. To have young visitors to the town helping is very nice and encouraging. Dorothy and I sat up very late listening to the results coming in. Till 12 o'clock there was definitely a swing to Labour

Friday 16 October. We went to bed at about 1-30 this morning after Joan had phoned to say Beat was safely in at Eastham Lodge. Labour had quite a good lead. In the morning we went and watched the counting of the votes. We also were on the County Hall steps with the High Sheriff when he announced the result. We think the result here was rather disappointing. The Tories dropped 2,000, to 26,000 but we had also lost about 500 so our position is not improved much. However a dent has been made in the "Solid Sussex" stronghold at Kemptown, Brighton where the Labour man is in albeit by only seven votes. In the evening we went to the Ball arranged by the Lewes division of the East Sussex Police force. We were very well looked after here and altogether we had a nice evening among very kind people. However I don't know whether I spent perhaps too much time with Mr Gallgher the Magistrates' Clerk but he was very interesting. Labour has now an over all majority in the House of commons but it is fairly obvious that it won't be more than Six

Saturday 17 October. I went to the Parlour in the morning but nothing much turned up. In the afternoon to St Marys Hall where the Congregationalists were to hold a Sale of work to be opened by the Mayoress. Dorothy did this very well indeed and we had a look round and bought a few things. We returned home and I rested until I had to go to the 5th Sx old Comrades Assn dinner at 6-45. This was a very nice occassion and like all such affairs, very moving at times. Whilst I was standing and proposing the toast to the association I could notice how old we of the first war time are getting. It was nice to see so many of the survivors of the battalion had turned up, because they come from all over Sussex. At 5 to nine the car came for me to go to the Co-op reunion at the Town Hall. At this function their were very many people and also three of the candidates from Sussex seats. I was presented with a huge cake made by the Cooperative Bakery. We had to leave it in the Mayors Parlour till I can get it conveyed home. It weighs thirty Pounds app.

Sunday October 18 A quiet day

Monday 19th A quiet day after the Mayor's work was done. In the evening was a Highways, Works & Town Planning Committee. Nothing much arose.

Tuesday. October 20. Today I hurried through the work and was excused from the Bench to attend the Sussex Mayors Meeting at Arundel Castle. We travelled by train to Worthing and by car to Arundel. We were the first to arrive and were given sherry and as the other men in chains arrived we met several by now old aquaintance. Presently the Duke of Norfolk who was host arrived and, after a while announced that he would have Arundel to sit on his right and on his left he would have Lewes!! This was quite a good lunch and when it was over we soon set about getting the meeting over and then joined the ladies in a tour of the castle. There are some old parts to this but a great deal is quite modern. Stevens the Mayor of Bexhill gave us a lift back to the Lewes Town Hall and so we concluded a very interesting outing. The Duke showed a good deal of interest in the general trends of development in Lewes and was impressed and pleased with our stand on the road. In the evening I attended

the Parks Committee which finished at 4-30 and gave me the opportunity to go to the W.E.A. International Relations course. Talking of the Parks committee I am very pleased with the work progress at the Pells. Bill Rees I think is doing pretty well as chairman of the Parks Committee. Dr Collins was beaten for the Lewisham seat by only 200. odd votes, by Christopher Chataway and so has now returned to the Class.

Wednesday October 21. This was a fairly quiet day. In the parlour Mrs Bourne and I are still working on the Banquett. This does entail a great deal of work what with arranging the seating and so on, but Mrs Bourne seems to be getting more relaxed about ~~out~~ it so I presume she can see daylight, as the sayeng is.

Thursday Oct 22 was a similar sort of day. Dorothy had to go to St Mary's Centre to start a new club for the teaching of safety ~~in~~ methods to the children who are up to 7 years old. I went to the Housing Committee meeting in the evening

Friday October 23 This was the great day. The Banquet and Ball was today, & so everything has had to take second place to this great event. Anyone who thinks I stress the importance of this too much doesn't realise how important it is that, apart from the idea people will have of the local Labour Party, and of its members ability to do things, there is the test to be put to me mostly, and the family. Of course Dorothy and the girls were sure to manage alright but I was not so sure about myself. After all this was the Civic Banquett and I had the job of responding to the toast "The County Town". I wanted to do this mainly to help myself to a ~~test~~ physcological lift but also to prove to the aldermen Groups of Parrish Woolmore Bakey and co that beside the ordinary working men they themselves are very poor in achievement. And in the event of anyone thinking this is petty and it may be then I'll remind them of the efforts made by these three people to keep off Labour men from all offices and certainly Mayor. Their power which they considered a divine right had been taken away last May and on October 23 by this banquet they will have to sing very small. Professor Elkins proposed the toast in ~~fact~~ probably the best speech heard ~~there~~ at this type of thing and my luck and voice being good I made quite a success of responding. The staff backed up well and the room was cleared in a very short time and dancing went on until 1 a.m. People told us and we felt anyway that it was a great success. Bunty & John came home to stay the weekend and I felt quite happy about the whole thing

Saturday October 24 Did the usual work in the morning. The Town Hall staff were clearing up for another dance tonight. Bunty and John drove me over to Malling to get information about the N.S.P.C.C. A G M next Monday when I have to be chairman. Having got the information from Jeanne Jennings we returned & went to the Pelham Arms. We had a surprise when somebody greeted me with a cry of "Why hers Charles". It was Peter Smith who is staying at St Michaels Rectory for the duration of the Theatre Clubs production of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle". In the Pelham he was in the company of the Heathfields, who

seized the opportunity made by our arrival and Peter's recognition of us, to beat it so I guessed Peter had bored them. He did us too and he came down at lunch time to see Dorothy. I went to the football in the afternoon and John + Beryl, Dorothy and Peter went to Seaford. for Dorothy to do some shopping. Peter has had another car accident since we saw him last and tells us he has doctor's orders not to drive any more. I consider this is not before time for although he is a good driver he was, even before this last accident, very erratic and made some odd mistakes.

Sunday 25th Oct was a quiet day at home

Monday 26 October. Not much in the morning but in the afternoon was the A.G.M. of the N.S.P.C.C. Did this alright. It was just to take the chair and give a few opening remarks. I feel this was an association that has its uses though they are declining. The branch itself is a rather snobbish affair I should imagine. This afternoon there was a council chamber full of mostly women and there were present Lady Dorothy Macmillan, Lady Gage and Lady Shaweross besides the Bishop of Lewes. I was interested to notice that of Lady Dorothy and Lady Shaweross that they are not as capable of making a speech as Dorothy (Ex Mayoress) They both read rather awkwardly from notes and their delivery was not too good. Lady Shaweross finally tore up her notes because "Every thing has been said" and finished in a rather fumbling fashion. All Lady Macmillan had to do was to give me a vote of thanks for presiding and she read every bit of it and her delivery was not too good. Went to Health Committee in the evening

Tuesday October 27. Worked in the parlour and went to finance and general purposes committee in the evening. I can foresee some excitement at the coming Council meeting over an application ~~to~~ to introduce more gaming machines into 57 High Street. However, I'll write of that when the time comes

Wednesday October 28 Work in Parlour in the morning and in the afternoon (5-30) to the Annual General Meeting of the Savings movement where I had to preside for this meeting. It went off as may be expected with a presentation to Mrs Colwell for being secretary for so long I sat next to a typical type at tea-time who said he was so pleased that the new prime minister (H.W.) was going to keep the working man in order. I had to tell him to keep him quiet a few things about there being the greatest need in the world for what he called the working man and the very slight need (if any) of money speculators like him who was not even up to listening to H.W. intelligently. ~~H~~ I left when the meeting was over and met Dorothy and we went over to the Brewers to attend the Annual dinner of the Lewes Ladies Bowling Club. This was a very jolly affair. I only had to say grace and give the Loyal Toast and Dorothy had to present the prizes which she did with a very able little speech. There was a jolly party afterwards.

~~Wednesday~~ Thursday October 29. In the evening we went to the Improved Building Society Headquarters for cocktails. This was quite an interesting event we afterwards went to the Labour Party Meeting

in the Town Hall but this was just finishing and we didn't have much chance to speak to many of the members. We went home and from there over to the Grange to see how the "Translation" course was getting on. Its a good job the Mayoress and I keep pretty fit.

On Friday October 30 I didn't have a very busy day and was too engaged in the evening to attend the Stallholders meeting for the O.A.P. Autumn Fair &c

Saturday 31 Just the Parlour of any importance

Seenday November 1 A quiet day. To Unitarians in the morning

Monday November 2 The Mayors work in the daytime & the Round Table Bockeneck meeting in the evening We consolidated any arrangements for the Wine & Cheese evening and then I went down stairs and looked in at the Group meeting

Tuesday November 3. Plenty of Mayors work but chief event was the Bockeneck meeting in the evening. We had to hold it in the Town Hall because the stairs were out of the question and the Corn exchange was being cleaned There were only a few there but I was glad to hear Miss Bockeneck is such a good speaker. The few that did turn up and seemed quite interested in the project of a branch. I hope we get a good Mess

On Wednesday November 4 the Council meeting was held. There were various detailed things during the day. I went to the Town Clerk in the morning on the knotty points of the agenda. The meeting went off in fine style and I flatter myself that the chairmanship was very good. There was the application for gaming machines in the building right opposite the County Hall and I kept the members who participated in this discussion on to the point of Town Planning and not on to the rights and wrongs of gambling. After a division it was decided by 13 to 9 that permission be refused and we went into committee to discuss the reasons for refusal as they are wanted in case the applicants appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Thursday November 5 There was not much work at the Parlour. I went to the Sociology Class in the afternoon and the Elkins came to tea and to stop for the Grand Bonfire Procession. We had quite a party of eight seven in the Council Chamber and Mayors Parlour. The Liddles and Lepsics came and Waddell the last Town Clerk also looked in with his wife and two boys. It was quite an enjoyable evening We went home at half past nine

On Friday November 6 After the Mayors Parlour work I was required to go to the Court to deal with two cases. Parrish was the Chairman of us two: In the afternoon to the Priory Committee where Parrish was again Chairman.

Saturday November 7. This is poppy day so Dorothy has been pretty busy. I have been with her at the Town Hall door for most of the time and it was rather nice to meet so many people one to know we were so popular. We finished at ~~two~~ two o'clock and I went to the football in the Dorothy Parr. Lewes beat Hastings R by 8–0 !! We had a quiet evening. Dorothy has bought a new hat during the time I was at the football.

Sunday November 8. This is remembrance Sunday. I Cd the wreath laying at the memorial. There was quite a big parade of the Town's organizations and quite a full one of Councillors. Everything went off well and after taking the salute at the march past we drove round to the Church in full regalia and the Church service which is part of the Memorial service, proceeded satisfactorily.

Monday November 9. There was not much to report from the Mayor's parlour, and no engagements for the rest of the day. Dorothy went to the Grange W.E.A. Lecture on Building in the evening.

Tuesday November 10. Another easy day but with promise of harder times toward the end of the week. In the evening I went to the Grange to Dr Collins class and Joe Hearn gave me a ride back in his car. I thus didn't think about bringing in any fish and chips for supper.

Wednesday November 11 A quiet day

Thursday November 12. After the mornings work was done I had a Hospital committee in the afternoon. This went off much more smoothly than usual and there were more members present. Raymonde-Hawkins gave me a ride back home and looked in to see Dorothy. We fixed up for a car to Burgess Hill tomorrow night and for Ray to come to the Thomas Paine conference on Saturday. In the evening Dorothy had to attend the A.G.M. of the Ladies' cricketing club and I did some work in the Parlour while they were in the Council Chamber. They had a look round the Mayors Parlour afterwards. All these little occassions are worth doing. This afternoon R. Hawkings was telling Dorothy and me how she is always unlucky in all things. ~~is~~ e.g. If there's a caterpillar in any body's Banana it will be in her banana. I wonder how everyone thinks like this. I always thought I was the unlucky one in any group. Anyway it is news to ~~me~~ me that there are caterpillars in bananas

Friday November 13. A quiet time in the Mayors Parlour and then to court to try the rest of the Bonfire cases. Ivor Grafton as chairman and I assisted the bench. Three cases of setting off fireworks in the street and two drunk and disorderly. Grafton and I disagreed about one of them and gave the accused the benefit of the doubt although he had in my opinion by throwing torch sticks about done enough to prove disorderly conduct the other one we fined 10/-. In the evening we went to the Chairmans reception at Burgess Hill and passed a pleasant evening. Met a doctor whose name ~~is~~ was Morton Palmer and his wife who is the chairman of the Cuckfield R.D.C. We passed quite an interesting evening. I could not help noticing the man who was our agent in the General Election had not taken much trouble in doing Chris. Judge, the Burgess Hill chairman, honours by being dressed neatly. This was very apparent because his wife is a very good looking little woman and was dressed beautifully and did her best to help make everything a success. I had dinner jacket and Dorothy had short frock.

Saturday November 14. This morning I welcomed the Tom Paine society to their annual General Meeting a very interesting meeting and met several interesting people. I got my welcoming speech off alright. In the afternoon I showed them the Mayor Parlour and Leslie Davey had borrowed for me the 200 years old minute book to show the Society members how Tom Paine once served on what was the equivalent of our Town Council. The members were extremely interested in the signatures with which Tom Paine had recorded his attendance at the meetings of the local authority ~~##~~ Dorothy and I would have liked to go to the evening meeting but we had to attend the Annual Dinner of the Fire Bregade Social Club and I had to proposed the toast of the East Sussex Fire Bregade. This was a very happy gathering. Mr. Reynolds (of Baxters) was chairman of the dinner and Mr. Gredtrex of the C.Council responded to my toast. Altogether this was a very happy evening and although two speeches one to the Tom Paine Soc. and one to the Fire Brigade ~~was~~ in one day was rather a lot ~~for one day~~ I felt quite happy about them and we had a quiet day on Sunday

Monday November 16 The usual procedure in the morning a look by Dorothy and me at the progress of the footbridge and in the evening to the Dome at Brighton for the display by the Association of Sussex Boys Clubs. This display in my opinion is not up to the standard it should be in any department. Most of the time is spent on a "Beat" competition between the various clubs. This resolves itself into a most unholy row that shook the Dome while the competing groups threw themselves into various fantastic contortions that bore no relation to the "beat" at all. The playing of each group (and the movements) was quite indistinguishable from the others, and the wailing of the "ringers" which, on rare occasions, could be heard in the din proved that it didn't matter which group was playing or ringing the same noise would emanate

There was a very short spell of gymastics after the vaulting type. There finished was rumpher to speed & and nice arrangement to flashones. I noticed the vaulting horse had been shortened so the ~~team~~ team could scarcely fail to clear it on the feet ~~astride~~ astride" and the usual sprung board had been replaced by a trampolin affair which sent the vaulting fellows over the horse as though shot from a catapult. There was pat much in this ~~was~~ encourage boys to join clubs to improve their endeavours in any direction and it does seem to me as though this years meeting was comprised only of the lesser activities of boys clubs. We went across by the underground passage to the Pavilion where Councillor Grout, the Mayor of Brighton kindly provided refreshments.

Tuesday November 17 A fairly soft day. I attended the court in the morning to the retiring chairman. Mr Ivor Grantham made a speech and presentation in the retiring room and the Chairman replied briefly. We then went into the Court where Sergt. Tillard received tributes from the police, the Law and the Clerks. The rest of today was quiet. I attended my first ever Civil Defence Committee and left it early to be at home when Gerry Clark came round. J Jenning looked in as well so we did not get far on our original discussion

Had rather serious talk with T.C. regarding staff

Wednesday November 18 Missed Mayors Parlour to attend League of Hospital friends exhibition and sale at the Dome. Was received by the Mayor of Brighton and there was a short opening ceremony by Lady Dorothy Macmillan She greeting me like a long lost friend having had once to propose a vote of thanks to me. I notice that all these people who are supposed to be if or it always have to read their speeches however short they are In the evening we attended the annual Dinner of the Lewes Bowls Club and managed to speak quite a good toast to them. I had more dances here than I have had previously so I must be improving. Dorothy was very smart and presented the prizes

Thursday November 19. After work in the parlour we had to go to Eastbourne to the disabled persons exhibition. This was very interesting and moving sometimes when we on the platform could see the almost helpless cripples come for their prizes. Met a Judge from Ceylon and a Mrs Wegan who was chairman of the proceedings and we had tea with these two and Mrs Raymond Warren and Miss Bellamy. In the evening we went to St Marys Social Centre for their play. This was the farce "Full for the Show and it was well done and great fun

On Friday Nov 20. After work in the Parlour the town Clerk looked in and spoke further on his Tuesday conversation with me. Besides the Tuesday matter there are staff things that need to be adjusted and I think Mayors Secretary should be given extra salary and Armitage should be deputy T.C. At 4 o'clock there was a

further meeting comprising myself, the Chairman of Penance, Chairman of Highways & the vice-Chairman with the T.C. and the Borough Surveyor. This meeting was called by David Williams but it was in a way the result of nervenes. We all agreed the Councils decision regarding the relief Road be adhered to In the evening was the Bochenek Wine and cheese evening. Once again the staff have done me proud and everything was a great success. As I have said before in this diary, the Round Table members are very good fellows. This developed into quite a social event and a very good time was had by all. As the Sussex Express published this morning the fund for the arthritic centre has reached £60. and now this is tonight to add on. There were a great many people who had arrived for the express purpose of making sure this was a success. I had the Round table members up to the Mayors Parlour for a Sherry as meeting. Joan Baynes the Secretary worked very hard and said Miss Bochenek to and from the car.

Saturday November 21. Nothing much in the morning but the old Peoples fair was in the afternoon. Dorothy and I had to receive Alan Melville when he came to open the fair. The room was very crowded and I hope a lot of money was made because although this fair is called (towards the building fund) there are many drains on funds for old people. Melville proved to be a very pleasant man and was most generous in his praise and his contributions to wards the success of the fair. In the evening we had to go to a party at Ivor Greenhams. He is now on Tillards retirement Chairman of the Magestrates. This was quite a pleasant party lasting two hours and with Champagn Cock tails with daintily made little savources

Sunday 22 November A quiet day. We went to 68 St. Edwards road in the evening

Monday November 23. After a quiet day went to the "Spinneys" Malling Street and saw the Arnolds. That is Phil Lapeglas sons, one ~~wife or~~ daughter in law and one grandchild. A very nice friendly family. Ivor one of the sons is chairman of the Round Table and has done yeoman work for several charitable causes

Tuesday November 24. Hurried through Mayors work because of Magestrates meeting. I was on the group who went to our Council Chamber and as there were enough there I was excused. I was rather glad as I have to work on some words for the Hellenyi Hospital on Saturday. In the afternoon we went to the Foresters hall to a concert for old age pensioners. It is quite moving when we go to these places for the old ones seem so glad. There was one of the artistes who sang to them. She was a most striking woman although she said she was 66. She sang some good old songs with verve, and everybody appreciated the concert. At six thirty there was an establishment sub committee and we made the library post a permanent one. Made the recommendation that Armitage be made deputy town Clerk and that my secretary's salary be lifted a bit.

On Wednesday November 25. I did the Mayors Parlour work and received a visit from Brig. Macmillan of the Salvation army who wants to have me present at the Brighton Mayors reception after Christmas. It is to do with the first visit to Brighton of the new head of the Salvation Army. I said we would be pleased to attend. Immediately after he was gone the Lewes Exhibition Fund committee met in my parlour and we dealt with the longest list of applications for educational aid that I have seen since being made Mayor. I was glad Deanna received £5 help to her extra expenses which were occassioned by and extra month in the beginning. In the afternoon we went to the A.G.M. of the Girl Guides assn. This was quite a pleasant meeting at the Scout + Guide Headquarters in St Johns St. On being asked to say a few words Dorothy made a nice little speech which was a great Success. In the evening we went to the Pictures which is the first time for months.

Thursday November 26. Home after the Mayors work + then by Mr Murphys car and with Mr Brown to Buckfield to the Annual Dinner of the Assn of Life Assurance Offices. Quite a nice gathering and besides a good many insurance men there were many prominent citizens from nearby towns. Many of the insurance men came up to me and wished me well. At 7 oo Dorothy and I had to go to the Scouts Headquarters again where the Scout Hall was having a lamp relighted. There was a good concert afterwards but we could only stop for a half of it as we had to try to get in at the tail end of the L.L.P. meeting. We just got there as the meeting was over so it was almost the same as I have recorded for Thursday Oct 29. except that on this occassion we did not go to the Grange for the W.E.A.

Friday November 27. After the Mayors work there was only the N.F.U. Ball in the evening. A very nice evening in very good company. During the supper interval I received from their Social committee a cheque for £25 towards my Arthritic fund. There were more people here tonight than I have ever seen at a similar function

Saturday November 28: Friends of Kellingly Mental Hospital held their Bazaar and sale of work for the Christmas gifts to the patients today. I had been asked to open this months ago when it was first known that I should be Mayor. The Rector of St Annes who is the Chairman of the Friends, had asked me and it occurred to me that all this was just a kind of curiosity. However I did the opening this morning and everything was very successful. I went to the Drill Hall pop in the afternoon and the Cooperative Society in the evening, at the St Johns Hall

Sunday. November 29 At Home

Monday November 30. There was nothing to record after the Mayors Parlour. A Highways Committee in the

evening. I left this fairly early because I must ease up sometimes and I could see there was going to be a good deal of discussion and the meeting would continue until quite late.

Tuesday December 1. 1964. ~~although it was my turn to serve on the bench I was excused as there were enough Magistrates attended~~

After the Mayors work I attended the Magistrates Court which was held at the County Hall in the Court which is right adjacent to the High Street. There were not particularly ~~useful~~ interesting cases. A contravening of the Factories Act by the cable laying firm. A deserting from the forces and the usual motoring etc cases. In the evening to the Parks Committee and then to the Grange for the W.E.A. International Relations class.

Wednesday December 2. Did the Parlour work and afterwards the day was fairly quiet as regards Mayors work. In the evening I went to Schuerds office for a planning of a canvas for oxfam which it is intended to hold next Saturday. I met a Col. Bell for the first time. He lives at Ripe and seems rather a good sort with a nice sense of humour. It seems to me quite obvious that the Oxfam Branch are going to be pretty powerful, at first anyway; I liked the way these few members set about this campaign for new members. I left them at 8-15 and made my way to the Town Hall where Dorothy had already gone to the County Folk Dancing Rally. I found this was a very flourishing rally and app. 300 people were there. It all looked very pretty especially against the new decor of the Town Hall. All the heads of the movement were saying that no town in Sussex of a comparable size has a hall like this and they booked up for next years meeting on December 5 1965 !! Eunice Peck had quite a reward in the good attendance for the work she had put into this. I think this looks ever so much more jolly than what passes for dancing by various 'beat' meetings, and, of course, every body is dancing, regardless of age.

Thursday December 3. I did the Mayors work in the Morning. In the afternoon Dorothy made her declaration regarding the bank in front, and I went on at 4-30 to the meeting of the Trustee Savings bank. I don't know how profitable it is for the Committee or the Mayor for him to serve on this committee but it doesn't take long and it is a public enterprise example so I suppose it is worth my doing it. There was a housing committee in the evening and this clashed with the first of the wrestling meetings which are being held in the town hall. These meetings are applied for and by a very narrow majority, granted by the Reserve and General Purposes Committee. The applicant put forward the plea that they are starting a boys wrestling club but, as their posters proclaim, it is an attempt to make some money by the promoters by way of the much discredited "All in" wrestling. On coming away from the Housing Committee I observed there was a good number of people at the wrestling so I expect the promoters will want to hire the Town Hall more often than on the conditions in our present letting.

Friday December 4 To the Mayor's Parlour in the morning and to the Fire Brigade Committee in the afternoon. I wish I were not on this one really for it is a bit of a bore, full up as I am with other matters. However I had a quick snooze after tea and then Dorothy & I went to the Cliffe Bonfire Society's annual dinner. This was held at the Elephant and Castle so was quite near by. There were the usual speeches. The ones that could be expected from a bonfire society plus (this being the Cliffe) a trifle of anti-catholic propaganda. Councillor Reg Yarrow and Mrs Yarrow were present and afterwards took us by car to the Constitutional Club where I had the customary invitation for the Mayor to pay a visit on Ladies' night. I kept this visit on a very formal basis and I think after Dorothy and I had spoken nobody was in any doubt that I would not be there without the chain of office. One man drew me aside and endeavoured to draw me into politics but he was not very able anyway so I was able to fend him off as it were until a diversion was made by Dorothy joining us. Altogether this has been a very interesting day. This day there was also the Nicholas Yarge Concert which I would have been unable to attend but I still have to deal with the letter from the National Secretary of the Arts Council regarding the Bears and the Nat. T. Society I shall deal with this at the Finance Committee meeting on next Tuesday.

Saturday December 5 I went at nine-fifteen to Ferrers Rd where the Oxfam volunteers for canvassing gathered together. After a press photograph I went with a girl name Audrey Bailey to King Henrys Road and we canvassed all of it. It was raining for most of the time and this increased so I didn't go to the Drapping Pan as I had hoped in the afternoon; and in the evening Dorothy & I went to the Elephant again this time to the Commercial Square Bonfire Society dinner. This was rather different from the night before with the Cliffe Society and we were able to stop all the time as we had no other engagements

Sunday December 6 Today we had a quiet day at home except for Dorothy having to go to Rayleigh for the winter fair. Miss P.H. has also invited us to a supper party at the Starlight Cafe which I believe is right at the top of the Grand Hotel building, in a fortnights time

Monday December 7. Today was a busy day. I did my Parlour Work then went to the Market for the Fat Stock show. after dinner to the A.G.M. of the Sx Rural Community Council, sent apologies to the Health Committee and attended the Fat Stock Show annual dinner. So today was quite interesting. At the dinner Mr John Lyle of the Rise Farm apologised for not meeting me when I went to the market this morning but I think it was just as well, he would have been very busy and as it was, I could just go round the place quickly and get away again. I found the Community Council people much as I expected, all doing quite a worth-while voluntary job and it does make another corporate body that can lend a hand in most 'progressive' things. We had to go right from the County Hall to the bottom of School Hill for tea. In the evening, at the Fat Stock Show dinner, I met many interesting

people and the thing about it was I was not expected to make a speech. I had a really quiet evening with these very nice people

Tuesday December 8. Mayors Parlour in the morning and Magistrates but the chief event on our programme was the Christmas Party arranged by the East Sx Assn for the Blind. I was very impressed by the work of the people who organized this and other functions. It seems to me a mammoth job looking after all these people from their different districts. Mr Parrish met Dorothy & me and carried out his part of the proceedings, that of Chairman, very ably. Another man who took my attention was a Mr Homan of Burgess Hill. Blind he led the community singing with his Banjalei, one of which was an original of A. George Formby's. Dorothy went to help in the kitchen where there was stacks of washing up and I kept this Homan company and we found to our mutual surprise, we had both attended the same school in Brighton about 58 years ago and both, while still schoolboys came to Lewes and therefore in his case. In the evening I went to the Finance Committee and was contented with what was done about the Nicholas Younge Society. My secretary and Mr Armitage

Wednesday December 9. Mayors Parlour in the morning and to the Secondary School prize giving in the afternoon. Again Mr Parrish was Chairman of the proceedings and the prizes were given by John Ellison of B.B.C. This is a good school and to sit on the platform and look down the hall is a great experience. There is no doubt we are making strides in the educational facilities of those who do not pass the "eleven-plus". In the evening Dorothy had gone to the Young Helpers League of the Barnados Homes. I had tea at the School and then Varrow and I were given a lift by Mr. Brees-e up to the Town Hall and I joined Dorothy. K. Gibbens and a Miss Liddell came to dinner and we four then went to the Little Theatre but it was "Summertime" by Ugo Betti and like I think most of his work, very poor.

Thursday Dec. 10. Nothing much to report from the Parlour. In the afternoon I went to the last of the Sociology W.E.A. at Mrs Quinns. She had very kindly made a tea party for us afterwards. There were two lighted candles on the tea table signifying two years of this particular course meeting there. However as I sat there having tea, I reflected that it also signified the Knack of the W.E.A. which I discovered years ago, of involving one into a branch so that one really likes being connected with it and I could not help thinking of the people I had met and introduced to the W.E.A and who had stopped with us doing plenty of work. The W.E.A. definitely has an appeal that makes people once they are in it be quite willing to work for the Branch. In the evening Mr Blake came to see me to ask about the Council supplying him

with a house instead of the Council flat he has now. His wife who is mentally ill, fell from the window of their fourth-floor flat and, having miraculously survived albeit with an alarming number of fractures he hopes that by moving into an ordinary house the situation will be helped I must see the housing manager tomorrow. I have constantly had cause to wonder at the terrible things that happen to some people and it is then one remembers how lucky one is

Friday December 11. Having got over the Parlour work there was not a great deal more to do. Dorothy went to the Nursery school concert at North Corner in the afternoon and in the evening we both attended the Golf Club dinner & dance. This latter event was very jolly as is to be expected from the Golf Club members. The official of Eastbourne Downs Club had invited us to their annual dinner in March. The local paper has a lot about Dorothy and I attending all the various functions.

Saturday December 12 I went to the Town Hall but there were no callers. It was too wet to go to the football but I did some work in the afternoon and in the evening we attended the Labour Party Social at the Grange. This was slow starting at first but Dorothy got them going with the Virginia reel which I've heard at the Golf Club last night. Things got more lively after this and all went well. Later Bill Fuller came in and was N.C.

Sunday December 13. A quiet day and in the evening we went to Mr. Parsons. I thought it was nearly time we went up there as he is getting on in years now. We found him very well and well looked after by Lotte, his German Housekeeper and we spent a pleasant evening talking about various things including old Lewes. That is to say, Lewes of the beginning of this century

Monday December 14 Nothing very startling from the Parlour; and the day passed off very quietly. It had been arranged that we go to the Elkins tonight but circumstances had made this difficult and it was postponed until a week Tuesday

Tuesday December 15. After the office work there was the Magistrates Court. It fell to my lot to remain at the County Hall so I was able to help in dealing with some quite interesting cases for a change. There were three Newhaven boys who were charged with stealing from a hoist at Newhaven. There was nothing lost & except, quite literally, peanuts and a bottle of milk. However, they had with them a huge bunch of keys, and had used force to open the hoist window so they were very heavily fined and we made it very plain that the parents must see that the boys paid these fines themselves. There was also a case of defrauding the Railway by travelling without a ticket from London to Seaford by a Miss Gillett who was a secretary. There was not much of interest in her case but she herself was very typical of a certain class of person

another similar case but one not involving so much, also came before us and we fined them £5 ~~os~~ + £3 witnesses fees. There were no more cases apart from motoring offences.
In the afternoon we went to Miss Temples house for tea. She is moving and offered a Childrens Encyclopaedia & I could find somebody who wanted it. I think it at Nora's boys and set things in motion through Bert Green Nora's father but I don't know if he has done anything about it yet

Wednesday December 16 After the work in the parlour I went to the Quarter Sessions to hear what I could of the appeal made by the people at the Bingo Hall people, who want to make the Shop next to the White Hart and opposite the County Hall into a place full of gaming machines and we have refused their application. I could not stop long at their appeal at the Quarter Sessions ~~before~~ but the result though not entirely satisfactory, does mainly amount to a victory for us. I begin to see the worth of the staff in the shape of Armitage and the Town Clerk and some of the Councillors in the shape of Ken Willey. all, I gather, made a very good impression. In the afternoon Dorothy and I had to attend the old Peoples Christmas Party. This was very well attended and we went among them at big-time and spoke to as many of them as possible. Dorothy did the draw and we left them and went up to the Parlour and waited until the Town Council Meeting. This went off very well. On the proposition of Reg Yarrow one item was taken with the press and public excluded

At the end of the meeting I had them all in the Parlour for a Christmas drink.

Thursday December 17 I had an extra court today. Just two of us, myself and Ivor Grantham. This was the appearance before the Magistrates of a young man named Maloney who is charged with ~~two~~ stealing from two houses in Brighton road, ~~and~~ This was of interest because the person from whom the goods were stolen was a Miss Dunford and the sister of "Skinny" Dunford who is now dead She was just like the old spinster characters we often read about. Easily deceived by any presentable plausible young man. And the other victim of the stealing could also be recognised, and made one wonder if the business men, whom we often read about in the papers are regl after all. In the evening we paid a visit to the boy's club at Landport. This is a good club and well equipped. There is one thing we weren't struck on so much and that was the amplified music!!? One expects some row in a youth ~~of~~ or childrens club. That is healthy but the craze for amplyfying this strumming is not doing any body any good as far as I can see, except of course the "commercialists" who have resolved to lift every penny they can from the adolescent population

Friday December 18 After the Mayor's work went across to the Hailey R.D.C. offices where several of us were the guests of the chairman of the Council Mrs Beach for sherry from 11 till 12 or so. This was quite interesting and here I met the member of the Council for the Peacehaven area. I knew her some years back as Miss Ward, who represented Peacehaven at the constituency L.P. She is now married and her name is Ennis. I also met the man from Ditchling way who makes a hobby of the old Steam Rollers and traction engines and I also met several more interesting people. In the evening Dorothy and I went to the Young Farmer's Ball. These people were very hospitable and the County Secretary (Mr Beach) looked after us very well. Towards the end of the evening we had to judge in the competition for Miss Young Farmer for 1965!! There was another judge with us and we all agreed about the festal dancer. This was a very interesting day, and we had several dances

Saturday December 19. This afternoon we had to meet the Eastbourne Athletic Club's relay team who were carrying a message from the Mayor of Eastbourne to me. It has been very cold with cold wind and rain but they arrived in good time, having broken their previous record. Dorothy and I met them at the foot of the grand staircase and received the message. I then led them up to the Mayors parlour where after a wash etc. Mrs Crouch served them with sausage rolls and hot tea. The running team and their following of older men and some weary boys and girls were a nice group of people and we chatted away for some time. One of the older men had two sons in this team. It was quite nice to find out that most of the gathering were members of the Labour Party. At half past seven we had to go to the Annual Dinner of the Borough Bonfire Society. This was a much posher affair than the other two Bonfire society dinners. Dorothy proposed the toast of the Society very ably it was quite the best speech of the evening. Afterwards there was dancing during the evening and a cabaret show by the Dawn Jordan school. These girls were very good dancers. I had not seen a performance by this school since soon after World War two when they gave a show at the then new Labour Club. We left at about eleven thirty having enjoyed ourselves very much. I learnt here that the Boro B.S. ~~gives~~ makes and gives quite a lot of money to charities, keeping their organisation going throughout the year. They have been carol singing and are going to give the proceeds to my fund for the Border Centre.

Sunday December 20. A quiet day at home until the evening when we went by car to the Starlight Cafe which is on the roof of the Hotel Metropole on Brighton front. We went there as the guests of Miss Raymonde Hawkins of Rayteds fame. We were driven there by a Clare Hall and found all the Rayteds staff there, including A.J. Miller of the stiff spine. This was a good party and it was interesting to notice what a lot of luxuries living and building there is in the country now. It seems almost impossible to compare it with the forced austerenes of 20 years ago. We enjoyed things very much and Clare Hall drove us home. I found both going and returning she was a very able and steady driver and I wonder why there ~~has~~ were so many remarks by the others that threw doubt on her

ability.

Monday December 21 a quiet day. Dorothy ~~went~~ went to Brighton to help Joan at her school party and I had not much to do at the parlour. Had to go to the Border Land from and singing by the Pangmer brownies in charge of Miss Carey. These people are very good

Tuesday December 22. I had no appointments today apart from the Mayors Parlour and then the Justices Bench The usual cases there. Mr. Rugg was away indisposed so the vice-chairman's court, which was mine for today, was held with Mr Cornwell as chairman. We were finished by lunch time

Wednesday December 23. The Christmas cards continue to arrive at the Mayors parlour. Mrs Bourne has sent all ours at least the official ones. Dorothy has sent the others Today the C.C. Child Welfare said they had a letter address to the "Lord Mair of Leves" I had it sent over and it was an illiterate note from somebody at Ruttley asking if a little girl of theirs five years old and handicapped could have a present from the Christmas tree. Joan Bourne told them we had no tree and anyway Ruttley was not in our district But I thought the would send something so Joan kindly went out and purchased a teddy bear for me and sent it. This with postage and everything puts me back about a quid but I think it is worth it proceeding it does make the kid happy. In the evening Dorothy and I had to go to the opening of the new Territorial Drill Hall. We received the Duke of Norfolk who performed the opening ceremony and had refreshments in the Officers mess. This is a wonderful building, beautiful from the outside and inside a wonderful improvement on the naval prison that was there. Those people who insist that the old place made better bargain for Leves as a town should be conducted over this building and I am sure they'll change their minds. Re short numbers

December 24 Thursday Christmas Eve. There was not much to do in the parlour. Joan asked me to go to the Town Clerks office which I did and had a Christmas drink with the departmental staff. I went up to Nora and found the books from Miss Temple had been brought for young Jim and Sam Nora looked rather tired but seemed in quite good spirits. In the evening Bert and Joan (Bram) came over and Dorothy had cooked our Xmas bird and we had it then. Later on Raymonde-Hawtrey and Bert Briggs came in having finished their round of the hospitals. She is going to fetch Dorothy and me tomorrow for our Christmas day Hospital work. Tonight, since she was taking Bert Briggs back to Brighton she also took Joan and Bert back to Patcham. Dorothy and I took in at the Labour Club where a jolly, seasonal evening was in progress

Friday December 25 Christmas Day. This was of course very different from our ordinary Christmas. Raymonde Hawkins fetched us and took us first to the billet home for women and Dorothy left there a bunch of sweet smelling violets for all the patients and the staff and we were to go back at teatime but they could have the smell of the flowers all day. We then went to the Hospital and the Matron received us and we met the doctors who were to carve the turkey. We spoke to every patient in the hospital and got a word from all of them. Dorothy did particularly well as I expected her to. Each woman patient had a bunch of violets and each man a carnation. There is no doubt that the Victoria Hospital is a compact small hospital and for this reason it is very easy to run. In these circumstances I consider the strain that always appears to be running through the executive branch might be quite easy to avoid. That means since the strain is there that the individual who causes it should be found and transferred. We went home to lunch and then went to the blind ladies at Admiralty House. We found them dressed in their best with their violets pinned to their frocks. We had tea with them and stopped for two hours and I think they seemed to be happier for it. We arrived back home soon after seven and had a quiet time for the rest of the evening.

Saturday December 26 Boxing Day: We went to Joans as previously arranged. We had a very pleasant day and came home late in the evening. Dorothy and I and both the girls with their husbands were at Patcham

When we reached home we found the parcel Aunty and John had brought for us and they had expected to take us down to Johns. As we came down Ainger Place Dorothy slipped up but though bumped, she has no harm come to her.

Sunday 27 December: A quiet day at home except for a walk to Kingston and a walk back.
Monday 28 December: A quiet day. ~~Nearly~~ all the shops are still shut

Tuesday December 29 I went to the Mayors Parlour and dealt with a few things. There was not much done for the rest of the day because the weather is now so bad. In the evening Joan Freyne came down to visit us. Young Patrick was there but he went to sleep all the time so his Christmas activities had evidently tired him out. We had a very pleasant evening and sent them home by taxi.

Wednesday December 30. To the Mayors parlour but there was not much to do and Mrs Bourne is away today. Joan Freyne came in on my invitation of the last evening to see the Mayors Parlour & the Christmas Cards. Joan ~~is~~ thinks all this is very nice and quite an experience for me. **N: Nothing to record of the rest of the day**

Thursday December 31 1964. The last day of the old year after the parlour there was nothing to carry out of any importance. The Town Clerk came to the parlour for new year greetings and to report on the progress of B. & H. I had a chat with him about his family of youngsters and his attitude to this film, his outlook in other directions makes me like his philosophy.
In the afternoon Dorothy and I attended the "Hospitalers" Christmas party. This was a very well arranged affair as one would expect from a subsidiary of the East Sussex Assn for the Care of Cripples. As I have pointed out before in these notes, this work is carried out by very able mostly middle-class women who need this and other similar jobs for their own happiness. Thus the County Council Welfare organizations benefit the cripples the blind and the aged benefit. People like me benefit because we get wiser as we find how things work from a sociological viewpoint, and the ladies themselves benefit by being enabled to turn their undoubted abilities to account and so ~~benefit~~ the weakness through physical handicaps have quite a number of aids. We were down to go to Mrs Bournes tonight but I found we have got down the wrong date in the appointment book. It is ~~really~~ New Years Eve and we had to attend the Dance by the Commercial Square Benfits Society at the Town Hall This was a very good dance: we pulled up with Bert & Mrs Combes of the Fisher Street sweet shop, and Mr & Mrs Wells. We had a very good time and we had several dances. This is the first time Dorothy and I have seen the New Year in in this fashion. This dance was quite well conducted yet somehow or other Chester Crouch, the Hall Keeper was struck in the eye and the result was a trip to hospital visit at about midnight and two stitches!! This culprit should be severely dealt with

Friday January 1 1965. Nothing of note apart from the usual work

Saturday January 2 1965. This afternoon we attended the O.A.P. Christmas Tea and party. This was held at the Foresters Hall After tea was dancing, a concert and games. We enjoyed it all very much and we were there for four hours. Of course there were a very great many people who knew us. There was also the Concert party which included the "Mrs Boyce" members, who we met earlier in our Mayoralty.

Sunday January 3 1965. A quiet day at home. In the evening we went to the Congregationalist Chapel for their evening service. This going to the services is in keeping with our policy of knowing all the organizations that go to make up our community. I was very impressed with their new building There was also some good elocution in the sermon. This makes three differing denominations we have attended

Monday January 4 1965: There was not much to do in the Parlour although rising late I was late reaching there. When it was done I went over the New Footbridge at the pells up through the Church Lane Estate and back home via Malling Street and the Cliffe. This bridge is going to be a godsend to the people living in the Church Lane Estate and everybody appears to be pleased that it will soon be opened. I had been requested to attend a meeting at the Elephant and Castle. I attended at 8-30 and I found it was convened to start an extra effort by various young men to help local charities. This appears to me to be a good scheme because it does mean that these fellows are desirous of helping the local needy societies. I have agreed to be the President and we will see how it goes. The idea is that at meetings, sometimes at dinners, by the society money should be raised. I have heard of similar societies but I can't at the moment think of the names they like to be known by. I feel pleased with the idea because it means that more people are getting the idea of efforts by a community to make everybody have as much share in this sort of thing as possible

Tuesday January 5 1965 After the office work there was the Magistrates Court. There were the usual motoring cases plus two or so ordinary cases. One was small thefts from an employer. The longest case arose from an accident in Mountfield Road and this took some time so that we had to go back after lunch. There were Parrish, Bushwell and myself. When the court was over I had to go to Fitzjohn Rd to see the secretary of the Lewes Football Club. He has a broken leg so could not come to see me. The idea is that if the team of the French town of Blois want to repay the visit which Lewes ~~has~~ are to pay them this coming Whitsun, I give them a civic reception. I told the Secretary I was quite willing but I don't anticipate being mayor in 1966. However, perhaps I can prepare the way a bit. In the evening I had a Library committee where we dealt with the estimates and afterwards I went to the Grange where the International Relations course is entering its after-Christmas phase. There were not many there and I could not concentrate too well as by reason of the many things I have to have knowledge of my current reading on the Viet-Nam etc stuff is falling behind. I am chiefly worried by the low attendance (Seven)

Wednesday January 6. After the Mayors Parlour work I had a fairly soft soft time. I have decided to hold a town dance (later today resolved to hold it on the anniversary of the battle of Lewes) In the afternoon I went to see Charlie Stephens re Harry Pelling house and I went and waited at six o'clock until after Martin came to attend the Building Plans Sub-Com. to tell him I was unsuccessful about the enquiries for a house in East St for his daughter. When I returned from there I found that I had another little worry. As I have recorded Dec 10 a Mr Blake whose wife is mentally sick came to see about a house. To-day (Jan 6) we received a bouquet of daffodils with a note attached thanking me for the house. I had enquired of the Housing Manager about this case and been

told that the committee would deal with the case as soon as possible but I had done nothing further. I have no power to do anything further. However this poor woman gave me the credit for her transfer from a flat to a house: and unfortunately sent down this little gift of flowers. I shall have to get them back to her somehow but I particularly do not want to hurt her feelings especially because of her state of mental health. I will see what can be arranged tomorrow.

Thursday January 7. This morning I asked the Town Clerk what I should do about the flowers. He considered the cost of them should be returned and suggested I send the cost from the shop where they were bought, get the husband to receive the money back privately and perhaps the wife would not know anything about it. He considered it necessary anyway. but particularly as the ticket on the flowers said "Harrison for the house". So, later in the day I went to the shop and received the required information and later still saw Ralf Patten and asked him to ask Mr. Blake to see me. In the evening Dorothy and I went to the Labour (local) party A.G.M. for half an hour or so and when Alf Hall came with our car we went up to Mrs Bourne where we spent a very pleasant evening. Mrs Bourne and Colin her husband are very nice people and live in a comfortable little house on the Downs Estate.

Friday January 8. Mr Blake called down today and quite understood about the flowers so that is now all cleared up. We have found the dance will have to be held on Feb 16 and not on Battle of Lewes Day and we have changed our plans accordingly. I dealt with the other work and in the afternoon Dorothy and I went to the Riverside Club but we found the Further Education Centre, where the club is held, is being redecorated and we accordingly had to abandon the idea of inspecting this club. In the evening we had to attend the Grange where the Town Hall staff were holding their party. We had to lead off the Dancing! We reached home about ~~6~~ midnight.

Saturday January 9. I attended the parlour in case of visitors but nobody brought and "complaints or suggestions". In the afternoon I saw the first half of the County League match between Lewes and Bognor at the Dripping Pan. Left at half-time and went to the Constituency Labour Party meeting and when that was finished, down to Grange and the Coop Party meeting so the afternoon was very busy. Dorothy of course went to the Grange at three so we were represented all the time at the Coop Party meeting.

Sunday January 10. A quiet day at home

Monday January 11. Sixty Six today. Joan came in the afternoon and brought presents from ~~their~~ herself and Bert and Betty and John. I also had cards from Winnie and Jessy with a pound note inserted into the latters card. The Secretary and I are continuing with preparations for the dance on Feb 16. In the evening was the Highways Works and Town Planning committee and this lasted until approximately ten o'clock. This was a long agenda but some of the Committee meetings are unaccountably lasting too long. At these times I am reminded of the quotation by Asa Briggs from the Birmingham Gazette of 1866 (In "Victorian Cities") However

I stopped until the meeting was over. It is decided that I open the new bridge after the Council meeting In the meantime it can be used

Tuesday January 12. I had to attend the Magistrates Court after the earlier work. There were the usual collection of motor cases and we finished by lunch time. In the evening there was a Parks Committee, Harold Shepherd by reason of the absence of his chairman, had to preside and had some difficult moments owing to some members being too loquacious (See yesterdays notes) However Harold got really stern eventually, which I was glad to see, and the principal offender took the hint. After the Parks came the Establishment Sub Committee and, many of the members at this having apparently changed their minds on various matters of the staff, this meeting went forward very smoothly and to my mind, with progressive decisions

Wednesday January 13. There was not much after the office work. Joan Bourne is proceeding with the arrangements for the reception and ball. We have decided that if there should be a profit from this it shall go into the Mayor Fund. I forgot to enter into yesterdays record that Mr Ivor Grantham sent £10 yesterday to this fund now stands at £160. 0 0. Perhaps this can be made up to £200 but it is doubtful whether this can be done before the end of my term.

Thursday January 14 Office work in the morning and in the afternoon there was a Hospital House management Committee. This was much better and lasted a much shorter time than this committee usually takes. There is still the undercurrent of petty differences that I have mentioned before but it did not show until after the meeting and then only for a few minutes. I have had various quite unsolicited, very good reports on our little hospital so the pettiness evidently does not flow through to the day-to-day running of the hospital. In the evening the Housing Committee. This was also a fairly lengthy one and I left after two and a half hours. A matter that Mr Morris was concerned about was partially adjusted but I doubt whether he is yet quite happy about this. I must enquire of him when the opportunity arises. There is no doubt that the Mayors work in this town can be pretty onerous if he carries it out fully. This morning I went to call on a Mr Patterson of 6 Elm Grove Lewes. He wrote me a very encouraging letter when I was installed as Mayor and his wife who was a patient in the Hospital made herself known to me on the Christmas day visit! Today I found the wife is at home although still in bed, and Mr. Patterson, who is a retired civil servant of the Ministry of Labour, manages to look after the place, himself and wife as best he can. This is an example of a quite superior respectable pair of folk who, because they have no children must be terribly lonely. He is not particularly mobile and is a victim of rheumatism. I could see he would have a pretty stiff job cooking for the pair of them (shopping) etc. I asked Joan Bourne to find out if they had the meals on wheels and she has reported that they do not. I may see Mr Patterson first and then arrange that their meals are brought to them. This will save him cooking and some shopping. I hope he agrees to be helped like this. I wonder how many similar strata of society are like this

See May 26 1964

Friday Jan 15. The invitation letters re the Ball are now printed and will go out today. There was not a great deal of other work and I was away from the Parlour in good time. I have thought of a few words to say at the "Lepra" meeting and at the Bridge opening. In the evening there was the Rotary Club Ball. Dinner jacket and Dorothy very posh in her evening dress. Mr Elphick, the President met us and we had a wonderful evening and stopped until the end (one o'clock) and danced several dances. I find I have the name now of being a mayor who is quite a dancer; mostly they don't seem to believe that I never danced until I was made Mayor!! I extended hospitality to the chief guests who wanted to see the parlour and they thought the parlour and Council chamber, and indeed all our rooms and halls were fine

Saturday January 16. A quiet day although the morning was rather unusual for a Saturday. The Magestrates Clerk phoned to ask if I would join Mr Parrish at the court to hear the case of a young man accused of stealing money from the Rector and the Churchwardens of St. Annes Church. He was of no fixed abode and one might be forgiven for getting a mistaken picture of him. Really he was dressed quite neatly and respectably, was of quite pleasant appearance and was not at all what could be imagined from the description, no fixed abode and the offence. He pleaded guilty but he was difficult to follow because of an impediment in his speech which took the form not of stuttering, but of slow starting and generally, of trouble in getting into sequence. He was a clean record to date and he had only been out of work for three weeks. Living in digs he had had to leave, and apparently had no idea that he could obtain help from any source. He had seemed glad that he had been apprehended because it meant food and shelter. After a good deal of consideration, and with the help of the probation officer who endeavoured to find out his parents circumstances and home, Mr Parrish and I found there was nothing to be done but remand him in custody for a week. This really means in his circumstances, being looked after and coming before us again on Tuesday week. This is a very difficult case but I think, if we proceed carefully, we can may be save this young man's chance of living a decent life. His parents home life is not too good or we could have let them be in charge of him for a week. We must see what transpires during this week. Dorothy and I went to the Labour Club for a drink in the evening and retired early

Sunday January 17. A quiet day at home. In the evening Mary Harman came round for a meal. Mary although looking quite fresh etc, does not look up to the mark but is seeing a specialist before long owing to what is believed to be an ulcer.

Monday January 18. To the parlour at 9-15. There was not much to do but plenty to do with the arranging of the Reception and Ball on February 19. I find there will be twenty eight special guests and all other "free" guests will manage on their own. I feel rather keen on this ball. The Rotary Ball on Friday has rather whetted my appetite. At 4-45 Dorothy and I were due at the old Peoples Party at the Friends Meeting House. We attended this and once again it was demonstrated how pleased the older members of the community are for us to join in their activities. Maggie French nee Ditch was in charge of the concert arrangements and there was a group of lads who gave a quite ~~credible~~ creditable programme of modern music and there was also a group from a Miss Baldwins dancing class. These girls were extremely good and reflected great credit on Miss Baldwin. We left there and I went next to the Health committee although almost an hour late. However the committee lasted for another hour so I gave some service. This has been quite a busy day.

Tuesday January 19. I spent an hour in the Mayors parlour and then attended the ~~Mag~~ Magistrates court at 10-15. There was one case of breaking and entering (a youth of 17 who, while on remand for a similar offence while one of a gang, did the same thing on his own, on breaking into the same building!) He was remanded in custody. Four more youths were remanded on Bail for disorderly conduct and assaulting the police. Two men were fined £20 for stealing copper off-cuts from a cable-laying ferry. There was a case of assault which was dealt with by a fine and two cases, each containing many offences committed by two haulage firms and their drivers. The first one did not take too long as there was a plea of guilty on all charges but the other, with not guilty pleas, lasted until a quarter to five. The other magistrates had to leave for various reasons and Mrs Fletcher-Moulton and ~~m~~ I had to finish. Mrs Fletcher-Moulton was chairman and she did very well indeed. As one gets to know more of people, admiration grows because in this magisterial job the good qualities come out. This was a very difficult case and Mr. Gallagher the clerk was very helpful. I just had time to go home, have a short rest for I was very tired with concentrating, have some tea and get to the Finance and General Purposes meeting by half past six. This meeting, fortunately did not take so long as some meetings have recently. Each item was discussed with care but good humour and I was able to get down to the Grange and attend the second half of a W.E.A. lesson by Dr Collins. Dorothy was already there, having visited the Mabel Lester home for Blind women in the afternoon, visit the Parks Superintendant in Hospital after tea and then gone down to the Grange. We arrived home at ten o'clock after a very full and quite a tiring day.

Wednesday January 20. To the Mayors Parlour first but there was not much to do. Until 11-30 when the recruiting team of the Royal Sussex Regiment came to the Mayors Parlour for me to wish them a good campaign. There were two officers, a colour sergeant, a sergeant and a team of three and they are going round demonstrating and making known

the new image of the army. I gave them hospitality and we had a tash. All were very nice as the new image demonstrators of the army should be. They all came from Sussex. Actually this was a very pleasant little ceremony. I discovered from Mrs Bourne that I had forgotten a small welcoming speech was to be made at the 'Crown' next Monday to welcome the British Fed. of Master Printers. The only thing to do was to make one but this afternoon which I did and gave it to Mrs Bourne to type and she will bring it to the Parlour. In the evening I had to attend a meeting of the PTFA committee. I went to the Old Bell House but the ladies who answered the door knew nothing about it. I accordingly made my way to Mr Seaborns office but found that in darkness and started to go home. In the High Street Mr Parkhurst the Bank Manager met me. He had come to tell me there was no meeting and he didn't like to think of me going to Seaborns office and waiting outside in the wind and sleet all in vain. Pity I had already gone down there although I had not waited. I went home and spent the remainder of the evening at home & by the fire

Thursday January 21. Soon got over the office work in the morning and in the afternoon I went to the W.E.A. course which is held at the Lewin's in Percy Edwards Road. Quite a pleasant little meeting. Mr & Mrs Philpott attended. In the evening Joan & Colin Bourne came down to a wonderful meal which Dorothy had prepared and then we went to the Theatre Club production of pinter's play "The Caretaker" All four of us enjoyed this very much, albeit the language was pretty outright on occasion. Joan and Colin came back home and then left at 11-30

Friday January 22. There was the usual hour or so in the Mayors Parlour in the morning. There was not much else to do except prepare various little speeches. In the evening I had given the Council Chamber to a Mrs Salisbury on behalf of "Lepra." which is an organisation for the relief of leprosy. This proved to be quite a good meeting and Mrs Salisbury an able talker on this subject. There was also a film called "Beauty from Ashes" which was very good indeed. From a question from the audience regarding a part of the film which showed the natives of a certain part of Africa running to avoid contact with a leper and a mat of a cured leper's family having nothing to do with her because of a mixture of not trusting that she was cured and unwillingness to keep her, one got to wondering how far that would apply in England, even with the education and hygiene and know how of how to deal with such things. The lecturer said she knew of a case where the English leper family was unwilling. This meeting was much more interesting than I had envisaged and Dorothy has offered the Magnesse parlour for a committee meeting

Saturday January 23. A quiet time as I try to make it on Saturdays and Sundays. In the evening the Younger Mr Patrick came to take us to the Lewes Boys Club at Landport to present some awards. This club is flourishing and has a very good leader in a Mr Ballenson. At 4-30 we had to leave and be transported by car to St Mary's Social Centre to be present at their annual pantomime. Once again the members of the Social Centre impressed me. This has been a restful and yet busy sort of day. I've seen Lewes D.J.C. play a county league game. Given prizes at the boys club and attended this St Mary's pantomime. Mr & Mrs Woodhead were in charge of us and took us home and me to the Town Hall to put the bauble away.

Sunday January 24 A quiet day and stopped mostly at home.

Monday January 25 Quite a lot to be done. Churchill's death has caused a kind of stoppage of normal things or appears to have done so. The Rev. Williams the Town Clerk and myself met in the parlour and decided to do the same as other towns and hold a Civic Service next Sunday. In the afternoon I welcomed the Federation of Labour Women to Lewes for ~~their~~ their conference and at 6 Dorothy and I had to welcome the Brighton Branch of the British Federation of Master printers. This included a dinner with the B.F.M.P. in the Crown. Dorothy wore the Black frock and was the only woman present. I understand from Dorothy that the words with which I greeted these printing Bosses went down very well. There is a meeting of the Labour group tonight when they will decide who to put forward as Mayor. I have decided to accept if they ask me again. Although I could just have found time to attend the Group meeting, I thought that in the circumstances I would not & we had a quiet time for the rest of the evening

Tuesday January 26 This has been another busy day with the Magistrates court taking from 10-15 until nearly 4 Motoring and kindred offences took until one o'clock and after lunch until we finished just before four o'clock we were dealing with just the prosecution side of a housebreaking charge. One of the witnesses was a prisoner from Wandsworth prison and was by far the most interesting character in the case. This finished as far as we were concerned with committal for trial and I reached home soon after four. After tea I had to attend the "Selection of Mayor-Elect" meeting by the Aldermen. I was ~~elected~~ recommended to serve another year as Mayor, but there was some discussion as Geo. Hayward proposed Ald. Baker who, however quite plainly had been thinking of another contingency when he had previously agreed to let his name go forward. I left this meeting and the T.C. gave me a lift to St Johns Hall where a meeting was in progress regarding the plans to re-decorate the inside of the church. I have offered to help to use my influence towards raising money so I hope this body of people, there were about 50, make a do of it.

Wednesday January 27. The usual work carried out. Everything, of course, rather overshadowed by the Selection of Mayor tonight at the Council meeting. We got the main part of the meeting over in good order by which I mean without waste of time but without being too hurried. We had to go into closed meeting for one item and then for the Mayor election. I of course was not in the chamber during this item but it did not take long. I waited in the parlour with Dorothy and Jean the secretary. Mr Armitage came and called me back in. Whispering as I passed him while he held the door open "There was only one against you me!" I said a few words to the Council and we all had a drink in the parlour. Later on we went out but on the way inspected the wrestling in the assembly room. This is supposed to be a show item by the small Lewes Wrestling Club but it is very obviously run by a body of about two people who call themselves "Wrestling Promotions Ltd". This show is more rubbishy even than most similar shows and I must bear this in mind at the appropriate committee. Dorothy and I came out after seeing one bout where each contestant took turns rapid turns in throwing, stretching or holding his opponent so that each was thrown, stretch, or holed an equal number of times. We went over to the Labour Club and had a drink and then went home. It has seemed quite a long day

Thursday January 28. This morning I discovered from the small year book that I was due at the Bells school at a quarter past nine as invigilator for the eleven-plus exam. This isn't to do with being Mayor but as a school manager. I met Mr Jones there who is Chairman of the management committee, and I learnt from him that this was not my job today. He very warmly congratulated me on be chosen as Mayor for the second year. I went up to the Barbour and carried on the usual work. I managed to slip down and enquire whether Mr Patterson of six Elm Grove would like to participate in the "Meals on Wheels". He does not wish to. In the afternoon I went to the Sociology class at Mrs Quin's. Dorothy phoned up the the T.C wanted me so I did not have tea there or at Dods on the way down. He was really wanting to tell me that he would be fetching Dorothy and me at eight to his house for a visit. And that was how we spent the evening. Mr Morris and his wife are very pleasant people with a young family. I anticipate a lot better time as Mayor with him as Town Clerk than I had last year. We talked of various matters. Plays, with especial reference to Pinter's "The Caretaker", and Churchill's parliamentary career among other things.

Friday January 29. Finished the arrangements for the Sunday "Churchill" Service at St Johns. In the afternoon to the Cliffe Church room where we were due to attend the "Good Companions" tea party. This is another old peoples party. ~~where~~ I had fish and chips for tea. Plenty of it. There was quite a good entertainment afterwards by themselves. My attention was drawn by the amount of work done by her to the useful help given to these old peoples clubs by Dorothy (Mrs) Griffiths. At school in our class she was Dorothy Garton. I find so many people quietly do good work in the community. There is Jim Taylor who kept the station bookstall for so long. Without doubt these two people are extremely useful to various organisations in Lewes especially to the Societies and Clubs that really need their assistance. Good luck to them

Saturday January 30 Most of today there has been business on Radio to do with the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. The weather is very cold indeed and I decided not to go to Horsham where Lewes won their R.V.R. cup tie against Horsham 3-2 or rather 2-3. I spent the afternoon trying to sort and cut out from the collection of Sussex Express's all the references to Dorothy and Myself to do with our year of office. There is ever so much more than I had thought. Had a quiet evening

Sunday January 31: A quiet day other than the Mayors service at St Johns Sub-Castro in the afternoon. This Memorial service to Winston Churchill was very well arranged by the Mayors Chaplain Mr. Williams. Quite the best Service if the singing of the congregation is counted in that I have attended since being on the Council. Mrs Ballard the wife of the Deacon talked me about arranging a coffee morning, using the Council Chamber. I had suggested this as a means of raising money at last Tuesdays meeting. I'm glad they are going to have a go at it. I advised her to see me in the Mayors Parlour

Monday February 1 1965. Had to hurry through the Mayors work to enable me to get to Brighton in time for the Annual meeting and lunch of the Trustees Bank. The meeting was rather boring, mainly because the movers of the various motions seemed to find it necessary to make long speeches. However the work was got over and lunch was very good. Melon, Steak and Kidney Pie and then a sweet. In this room at the "Old Ship" hotel I was reminded of a time when I watched some boxing there in about 1923. I mentioned this to Mr. Bradshaw one-time headmaster of our Grammar school and told him how a man named Dove had bumped his head against the little verandah under which we were now sitting all those years ago, and we discovered he knew Dove at that time at the University. I thought this was an extraordinary coincidence. To be sitting under this little veranda forty years after the event and to find that your quite casual partner at lunch knew the man. Mr Brown, our Borough Treasurer, gave me a lift back to Lewes. Neither of us knew the other was going or he would have given me a lift down to Brighton. In the evening I went to the Labour Group meeting. This meeting was called to discuss the business to be carried out at the pre Council Group meeting. Contrary to some peoples expectations, tonights meeting was a very well run

and smoothly proceeding meeting. In my opinion this was mainly due to John Perkins and David Williams who had took the lead in setting the 'tempo' early on I left at 9-30 and ran slap into Dorothy who had been attending the Coop Meeting at the Grange. We retired fairly early.

Tuesday February 2. At the Mayors parlour most of the time was taken up by a conference of the ~~Churchill~~ Joan Clerk, Myself and Joan Bourne, the subject being the Churchill memorial fund. I decided to drop out of the Kennedy one as gracefully as possible leaving a small donation, and to concentrate on the Churchill effort. We three agreed on a course of action to be followed. There were in the post several more ~~applications~~ acceptances of ball tickets and an interesting communication from a girl (12¾) in Tasmania who had written to me as "Lord Mayor of Sussex" in an endeavour to find a pen friend and to seek opportunities to learn about England. I had sent a Lewes Guide and asked the local press to find her a pen friend and they had done so. Now the Tasmanian girl has written to thank me and ask me to write again. I shall have to box pretty keen or I shall have a pen friend and I have no time to spare for extra writing. I shall have to decide what to do about this but there is no hurry at present. I have also the Borough Engineers report on the Civic Trust scheme for the beautifying of the High Street to read through so I shall be pretty busy what with that and preparing other speeches! In the evening I went to the Grange where Henry Collins continued the current affairs course. The discussion was mainly on the Defence arrangements of Harold Wilson's government and in the second half Henry very ably opened a discussion on Sir Winston Churchills real value and this gave us an opportunity to really think about this statesman without the amazing amount of adulation which is being poured out. I think this class did very well by Churchill by thinking more rationally of his life and work. Dorothy went to Mary Harman first and came in later. We retired fairly early.

Wednesday Feb 3.
~~reported on~~ To the Mayors parlour, where Joan reported on a telephone communication she had had with the Lord Mayors Parlour on the Kennedy Fund. We can change over to the Churchill Fund, they would confirm this later. They did call us later and confirmed, so that is off my mind. They informed us that Sir Charles Stirling (see earlier in this diary) had been paid off! I take it that this is evidence that the Kennedy fund is closed as far as we are concerned. Tickets for the Ball that are sold now number about 40 so we are making some progress towards the 170 or so I need to sell for the sake of making a balance. There is still plenty of time before the closing date. Bunty came to Lewes by car and she and I went shopping & bought a gardening spade and fork for her to take back to Hurst Green. Dorothy went back with her and took some plants. I stopped and did some reading of the "Civic Trust report for the High Street. I went to the East Sx NFU dinner at 6-30. Met Macwhirter and Oliphick of the Ag. workers union and the Ag: section of the Transport and

General workers Union. It was nice to see them there at this convivial gathering of employers. Quite refreshing for me to remember, relatively a few years ago, workers on the land hardly dared to speak of a workers union. At the dinner I sat between the Chairman Mr. Hickman and Sir Richard Dougley (on the right) There was a Mr Jones from the Ministry as the main speaker, but because of the imminence of the Ag. Price Review nobody paid much. The chairman responded to Mr Jones and the vice-chairman proposed the guests and a Dr Montgomery responded on ales behalf. What with a late start and speakers especially Montgomery taking so long it was very late before I got home rather late. This afternoon if I fixed with T. C. & B. E. to open "the bridge".

Thursday February 4. Went to the Parlour first and did what was necessary. Joan has got the "Churchill" work in motion but I'm afraid this has been done partly at the expense of the Ball work. The number of tickets sold is now 52, so we are gradually getting on. I went and drew my pension and was seized by Geo. Whitfield who told me he would have two tickets in addition to his two as a Councillor. So that makes two more. This afternoon I went to the W.E.A. class and being late found the class well advanced with the "fresh team" Lectures". I went when this was over to 68 pr. Edwards and found Dall-Dd at home and received her congratulations on the second year of being Mayor. We chatted for an hour or so over a cup of tea. The Civil Defence Corps whatever one may think of its uses and construction has done my sister a huge amount of good psychologically. She has no time for all this Churchill hysteria but is pleased it has crowded the Leyton Labour defeat from the news!! We had a quiet evening at home and managed to get a little more of C. P. Snow read and heard Shaws "Misalliance" on the radio. It is amazing how I can listen to Shaw's plays, and indeed, all plays that are full of good (or interesting) dialogue but I fall asleep almost immediately if I try to listen to the usual "Radio Play" such as those that are usually put on for Saturday night theatre

Friday February 5. At the Parlour Mr. Field the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce came to visit me with reference to next Monday when the Chamber holds its A.G.M. I have to take the chair at this meeting and up till now I had not received any detail. This is necessary as I of course, am in opposite camps to the Chamber when it comes to elections for the Town Council and any way an organisation which imports a chairman should have the details such as the names of proposers and seconders of motions and nominations ready for him. However Mr Field turned up and everything is alright for the meeting on Monday evening. There has not been much else to do today. This evening I had to attend the "Freedom from Hunger" Committee which I have allowed to be held in the Parlour. Dorothy had to attend the "Lepra" meeting in the Mayoress's parlour. At 9.25 we were home and then we called in next door and saw an instalment of the first war documentary. This is extremely well done and does not pull any punches in the narrating when talking of the first war Generals. Much of this film matter was taken on the spot and at the time. It is a lasting condemnation of that class, (the ruling class) system which allowed these "donkeys"

to be in charge of men (or of anything else)

Saturday February 6. ~~How was~~ Nobody came to visit me in the parlour & there was no post there so I only stopped for thirty minutes or so and then went home to meet Dorothy and go round the town shopping etc. A phone call from Raymonde-Hawkins made us decide to send her some dance tickets for Bert Briggs. However when we went to phone her our decision the phone wouldn't work. Out shopping then but called in the post office where Geo Whitfield phoned the appropriate department about our phone. He also said one of us should be at home in case any one called to mend it so I went home. Nobody called so I had rather a wasted morning: deprived of fresh air I had an excuse to miss the Constituency meeting and visit the Dripping pan where Lewes knocked Eastbourne Town out of the Sx Senior cup 3—1. after a very good game with Lewes generally speaking on top as the score suggests. I don't think will get any better football than the average County League team supplies if the Lewes club join the Athenian League as they are thinking of doing. Eastbourne is well placed in the latter League and they gave Lewes no better game than the average County League team gives us.

Sunday February 7. We spent the usual Sunday at home. Mary & Ernie came round in the late afternoon. Ernie looks very well all things taken into consideration. I understand he is doing quite an amount of work around the house, and I'm glad he is putting up such a good display of "Normalness" This is a very good effort in view of the nature of his illness. We took a short walk up the town in the evening and retired fairly early.

Monday February 8. There were a few acceptances for the ball today but not more nearly enough to prophesy it is going to be a success. Joan Bourne gave the first sign of uncertainty I have ever seen her display about the tickets. However we did the parlour work and I had a haircut. In the evening I went to the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. It is odd to be on the platform with all the heavy stuff of the Chamber of Commerce. However I hope I did all that was expected of me in a satisfactory way. They in the main have been an appreciative and detractors. The meeting finished in good time and I arrived home fairly early, to find Dorothy having finished her ironing, about to wash her hair in readiness for the reception at Brighton on Thursday. There was a play on the wireless which I listened to and so did not get any reading done.

Tuesday February 9. The news I listened to as I shaved was not too good. If China, Russia and America, in whose hands lies the peace of the world and the whole of the future of mankind can only speak (almost the same words being used by the Statesmen of all three countries) in terms of refusing to budge an inch, and continue to scorn all suggestions of compromise over the situation in Viet Nam then indeed it is all up. I went to the Parlour and Joan came down with the post and the days work. There are no applications for tickets! so that situation is worse. I am not so much concerned with the money as enough people coming. There is only a relatively short time to go now and we have only about 110 all told who are coming. We had a letter from a Mr. Taylor, who with Mrs Cripps (Paddy Garton) works very hard in a quiet kind of way for various old peoples clubs. He is coming to the reception and ball at my invitation, together with the Cripps. I think such recognition should be given to people such as these, who do a lot of work. At home I found K. Gibbens would like us to go to dinner tonight so we ~~have~~ made arrangements accordingly. Kay seemed very well and we had a very pleasant evening. Beal's sent a car to take us home from Southsea at 10-45. Kay has not had acceptance ~~for~~ of her educational articles for the "New Statesman" since the new editor Paul Johnson took over. I was considering to right that although ladies like Kay can't be lonely in the accepted sense of the word that is over all the year since they travel, meet a lot of people while about their work, and are busy at their work, still over the short period as ~~last~~ tonight after we had gone perhaps they are lonely but I don't know.

Wednesday February 10. Not much news regarding the Viet Nam affair. All the news seems to be on the Governments decisions on the air-craft industry. TSR2 and all that. There are no more acceptances for the Ball but there will be some more although the response so far has been disappointing. I have received an invitation from the Rugby Club to attend one of their matches which I have accepted, although I first got the Assn Football secretary on the phone and made sure I would'nt be missing a good Association football match. Joan Bourne and I sorted out the special guests for the ball. In the evening I looked in by their invitation on the Trades Council. This Council is not a great deal bigger than when I left it the year before I retired from work, but it appears to be doing quite a job and is better than it was, but still not as good as 7 years ago when I first attended. Peter Blackman and Mr Pope, the Secretary and Chairman of the county federation were guests as well as myself. Quite an interesting evening. There are some able new members there. I had a drink in the Labour Club and went home.

Thursday February 11. The "Ticket for the Ball" situation has slightly improved. I had to attend the Magistrates Court on the Reading in and receiving case. This took until ¼ to one o'clock and then from a quarter to two until 3-30. Briefly, a man charged with stealing some pieces of antique furniture at Sedford and disposing of them ~~sic~~ in Brighton or receiving them, knowing them to have been stolen. At the end of ~~quite a concentrated~~ hearing that called for quite an amount of concentration he was found guilty on the second charge and remanded in custody for trial at the Quarter Sessions. In the evening Dorothy and I

had to attend the Mayor of Brighton's Reception and Ball which was held at the Dome. We arrived there at 8-35 and the car came and fetched us at 12 midnight. Met many of the Sussex Mayors again and, in addition the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth. Spent a very enjoyable evening and we did plenty of dancing. It's quite hard to imagine me doing these things but there it is.

Friday February 12. To the Mayor's Parlour. The total for the Ball is now 142 so it is creeping up. Had a letter from Councillor Green giving as an excuse for not attending the Ball his losing his Aldermanic seat to my party. Most odd this attitude. They are entitled to vote always against Labour men holding office but as soon as Labour votes against them it is most unfair. I was pretty late so the office work did not take long. I had better give some consideration to this letter of Greene's before answering it. We had to attend the Wine & Cheese evening, held in aid of the Girl Guides in the evening. This was held at the Grange and was very enjoyable. We met the New Headmaster of the Secondary School, Mr Joslyn and his wife. Mr ~~Hall~~ Tanner headmaster of the Grammar School and his wife. We frequently meet Mrs Tanner at these Guider things. I had a good talk with several people and then we had to leave and arrive at the Town Hall by 9-30. This was for the Annual Dance of the Southdown Bus Services sports Club. Mr Tanner kindly gave us a ride to the Town Hall. We were met by the various officials of the 'Bus Company and they acted as our hosts for all the evening. This affair was also open to the public at the cheap price of 5/6 so there was quite a collection of those "teenage" types who can ~~bee~~ be a nuisance. There was the ordinary dance band but when that played the floor was empty. When the "Beat Band" made its hideous noise all these youngsters mooched (that's the right word) on to the floor and gazed round them in a sullen sort of a way. Towards the end of the evening however, more of the older people came on to the floor when the proper band played so the evening passed off alright. We left there at 12-15 A.M. and walked home and soon went to bed.

Saturday February 13. An ordinary Saturday morning but because we rose very late, I only just looked in the Parlour. There was nothing there so I left almost immediately taking the Surrey case which I left there last night with me. In the afternoon I went to the Dripping Pan Lewes beat Whitehawk in a County League match 4-2. This was a much better game than I had anticipated. We had a quiet evening, and although we did consider going to the Town Hall to see how the constituency Labour Party dance was going on, we finally decided not to do so and stopped at home

Sunday February 14. I got up fairly early and started off to get the papers. Met Ted Naldrett on the Toronto Hill. He had just come from Bognor in his new car. He offered to drive me to get the papers but we went to the patten-makers first as he had a rather urgent job to do in the foundry at Bognor and he wanted a pattern repaired. He was talking to Mr Cowles, the pattern maker for some time and then we got the papers, went to the top of the town where I had an opportunity to inspect the lighting project in Orchard Rd. and we came home via Oldham Rd. Dorothy was wondering where I had got to (I commuted to write) we also inspected the new ~~bridge~~ footbridge and this opening up of another beautiful walk in Lewes sent Ted into Rhapsodies) Ted at 52 is still a very nice chap and still is very pleased to give me a great deal of credit for as he says "Starting him thinking when he was sixteen!!" Ted went to his mother's in Talbot Terrace and Dorothy and I after having a drink next door because it was Ellen Nicholls birthday, went over the bridge and along Malling and South Street to the Snowdrop where we met Abby Martin. This was lucky as Dorothy was able to raise the matter of the Housing of Mrs Hewlett's sister. In the evening we went to a meeting at the invitation of the Y.S. Secretary, in Grange Road. This was called to start an effort to find out what young people really want from the local government. However this part of the business over, in true young S. style a discussion was opened on Viet-Nam and it followed the usual pattern that we know so well. I found the leader was getting all his information from a kind of broadsheet which blamed (you've guessed it) the Labour government for everything from comprehensive education to people being evicted to trying to have an incomes policy et etc. to Viet Nam.

These were very nice young people and all undergoing a good education. They must, however, learn to be sure when they have a discussion that they have some evidence from both points of view that is reliable. To Such information as they had here tonight with nothing included unless it contains propaganda that is against the Labour Party. However they derive some benefit from being together and simply want direction in how to learn to appreciate ~~that~~ people of the calibre of Michael Stewart. Dorothy and I saw Bill Fuller this morning and we learn that the dance last night made £106 -.- !!

Monday February 15. I went by way of the Bells to the office this morning because I wanted to find out what the electric saw I could hear was doing. They were pollarding some of the trees down there. Arriving at the Mayor's Parlour and sending for Mrs Bourne I found that there were a few more acceptances for the dance (~~letter~~ Later in the day I met Mid Puttock who booked eight more.) There were several letters from organisations who are willing to help in the Bluebell collections, but, apart from this and correspondence about the dance, there was not much. I accordingly saw Mr Murphy ~~a question~~ regarding the road at Tenbergard which I had promised the Trades Council to see about and went home and we had an early lunch. In the afternoon we had a walk round doing some shopping and then went over to Mary Harmans. This is the first time I have been over there for a very long time and Ernie and Mary have made quite a number of alterations. In the evening I went to the Elephant & Castle to attend the first dinner and social evening to be held by the new organisation, the S.O.S. This was quite a good dinner

and a pleasant evening and the nett collection came to £15. Three organisations will benefit to the extent of £5 each.

Tuesday February 16. There were more acceptances for the ball so it looks as though we shall reach 200 after all. There was not much in the Mayor's Parlour and in the afternoon I got on with speeches etc. Dorothy was judging the entries for the Children's Story Competition which is held by the Borough Librarian Miss Eve Clarke In the evening I went to the W.E.A. Dr Collins lecture, where the Viet Nam position was again discussed. Some in the class would have liked to use the situation as a stick to with which to beat the Labour Government, but Dr Collins is very able. I have mentioned this attitude taken writing of the Sunday night meeting. Most irritating to those who are trying to demonstrate to their tutor, their ability to make a sound judgement based on the evidence of both sides of a question. We received a letter from Dinah Stock today. She will be returning to England and wants us to look out for a house in Lewes for her. This will be nice if we can find her a house.

Wednesday February 17 Another quiet time at the office I think the final requests for tickets are now in so we have as many as we had at the Banquet. Dorothy and I enquired at Wyckerleys the house agents and we are afraid the little house in question is gone but we were informed they might be some fitch. We must see what happens. There was a Building Plans Sub-Comm in the evening and Alby Martin suggested that I attend it However I went through the Agenda this morning with Armitage, the deputy Town Clerk so I did not attend this evening meeting.

Thursday February 18. Nothing much in the Paper. Drew pension and after dinner went to Mrs Lewis's for the W.E.A. current affairs class. Mrs Morgan, the wife of Roger Morgan who took Harry's place during the General election, was the tutor for this afternoon and the country was France: There was quite a lot about de Gaulle. In the evening Dorothy and I went to Gordon Hoile's house in Priory Street for an hour or so. His wife Gwen. is rather an invalid and this makes things rather difficult for him as well as her.

Friday February 19. This was the great day of the reception and Ball. Most of the day therefore was taken up with this great event. It was a great success and the spirit abroad in

the room was reminiscent of the dance that followed the banquet on October 23 last. It was I think a great triumph for Mrs Bourne the Mayor's Secretary, after a good deal of consideration Dorothy had decided to wear her same evening gown and she looked very attractive and the complete Mayoress Hostess in it. The whole evening was most enjoyable and I believe has added to the ~~League Party's~~ Status of L.P. nominees to a post such as that of Mayor. A man rang me from Littlington regarding a house and its demolition just before I left for the Ball. I'll deal with this Monday

Saturday February 20. Not unnaturally being up so late because of the Ball we were late out of bed this morning On first going out I met Mr. Stredwick and took him up to the parlour to witness his signatures. His father Martin Stredwick has just been buried and there were various documents for him to sign. I remember Mark Stredwick when he was at school! In the afternoon we opened the new footbridge. There was a bitter wind blowing so the attendance was rather low but quite a number had turned up. I put on the chain of office and David drove Dorothy and me down to the river and back to the Town Hall to put the chain away again. We stopped in all the evening and it was time we had a quiet time after all our activities. I received a letter from the Littlington man who played last night. This will help me Monday. A woman called this evening and was here a few minutes. She wanted not less than £2 !!! I believe she was going to try Fr. Rawlings next !!

Sunday February 21. A quiet day at home.

Monday February 22. Went to the Mayors parlour in the morning and did what was necessary. The Mayors Secretary, Mrs Bourne is very satisfied with the Ball as a ball but is anxious from the money viewpoint. I have told her not to consider it too much from that angle. I take it my job is to keep a liaison between the Council and the Community and if the Ball has helped towards that end, I am quite happy. Bert Coombs has told me it was very good. Armitage is struck with the number of people who stopped until one o'clock and, as he considers being the usual wind-up chorus with such sincerity: and a Mrs Richards who rang me up from Ramsey told me she had attended ten of these and this was by far the best. These are just three compliments out of many so I think it was a success. We are making progress with the arrangements for the Churchill Memorial Fund and the campaign is taking shape in plan at least. In the evening to the Highways and Town Planning Committee, where councillor Green, seeing the possible increase in the rate, protested about the suggested increase of the outside staff by two. ~~Two~~ Some years ago I had a similar ding from this councillor. Then it was rapping two hands to keep the rates down, that he wanted. When Councillor Shepherd one of us spoke next in a similar tone, I joined in taking the opposite view vigorously and afterwards no more was said about saving rates at

the expense of the staff. By 7-30 the committee had passed the estimates as presented but had hardly touched the Building Plans Sub. Report which was the 3rd item on the agenda and I left and had a drink at the Labour Club and went to the Literary Society at the White Hart. A man was speaking on Virginia Woolf and it was quite an interesting talk. I hadn't been to one of these meetings for a long time. Leonard Woolf reminded me it was a long time and of all things Monica Jaeney stood me a coffee. Kay Gibbons did not turn up and Dorothy was later back from stopping with Joan than had been expected so she did not attend the meeting. Still it does make another society I have attended since being Mayor of Lewes.

Tuesday February 23. Went to the Mayors Parlour Armitage probed into the matter of the demolition of the house the Littlington man wanted help about: and we found, as expected that things were not quite as painted. The answer has been sent accordingly. I have also instituted enquiries into Mrs Douglas's case on housing. In the evening there was the Parks committee which took only a very reasonable time and ~~I~~ David Williams and I went to the Grange to Dr. Collins lectures. This is still dealing with Viet Nam and this gave the opportunity for criticisms of the English Government because it's Labour. We Dorothy and I, bought Fish & Chips on the way home

Wednesday February 24. Many more letters of thanks for the Ball etc. I have been to the Leach's regarding the leg and I have to put on some stuff and wear a bandage for support purposes. The stuff made the leg easier almost immediately so perhaps this will not be a nuisance for many days. In the evening Leslie Doel and Irene came down and went with us to the Little Theatre. The play was "Hobson's Choice" and we enjoyed ~~the~~ it very much.

Thursday February 25. The receipts for the ball showed a more monetary condition than we had anticipated (Joan & I) But the civic function of one of these affairs was carried out so I am quite happy about it. On the Mayors account and taking the Banquet and this Ball into consideration I am about £200 down. I can still run out the year on the residue quite comfortably and I begin to wonder what previous mayors, who have had the same allowance have spent it on. Last year of course there was the battle of Lewes celebrations so that would have taken a considerable amount. All the same I have been more lavish with free tickets than most. I went to the Insurance Office to get my pension book adjusted and on the way back I met Alf Waller. I also met Mrs Quinn and said I was going to the W & A class this afternoon but have done some writing instead. I went to the Housing Committee in the evening. Frank Hayward as Chairman, made a real effort to improve the situation whereby these committee meetings last so long but a discussion on the television re diffusion made the meeting last out a bit. I left and went downstairs to the L.P. Meeting so I don't know

how successful Frank was. I was just in time for the finish of the L.P. Meeting and went home with Dorothy, who had been attending

Friday. February 26. The town clerk came over and he Joan and I endeavoured to make some form of agenda for the meeting tonight. This is the meeting of all the representatives of all the organisations in Lewes. The three meetings previously proved well worth while because this evening the meeting did go well and we have a plain view now of the mobilisation and the deployment of our strength in order to get the best results for the Aldrich Memorial Fund. The wrestling club had not been warned and I had various efforts to get into touch with them so I was pleased to find their representative Mr Winter and he volunteered to have a collection at their show next Thursday night. (As a result of my discussion with him on the generosity of the bouts he has given me two ringside seats!) What I want really is a good sum from the collection. Dorothy had gone to the Girl Guides Coffee Evening so we have done quite a good deal of "representing" today.

Saturday February 27. The chief item today was the wedding of Alby Martins daughter Delphine. This proved to be a very nice service in the Catholic Church and a reception at the Grange. There were a great many people there and the various branches of the Martin family were happily gathered together. There was plenty to eat and drink and we went home at about six o'clock and had a quiet Saturday evening.

Sunday February 28. Started exercising again this morning using ten pound bells. I have relaxed until this morning but I find it is very easy to stop doing them when my age and then I feel something is not quite the same. The Finance Committee meet the day after tomorrow (Tuesday) and, on looking through the agenda, I find our rates will have to go up by sevenpence in the pound. That is a twopenny increase by the Borough Council and a fivepenny increase by the County Council. I think our holding our own increase to 2d is quite good because there seems to be an increase in the price of everything including wages and salaries. Dorothy and I spent a quiet evening while I read aloud a Gerald Kersh book which, like his earlier ones is about Londoners and is very funny. It is Fowler's End. I think he is an ideal story-teller.

Monday March 1. I went to the Parlour and Joan and I spent some time getting ready for the Churchill collections In the afternoon I went up and saw that Doll-Dell (Mrs Lovell) and Mrs Lincoln were getting on with sticking the labels on the collecting tins. I gave them a hand for awhile until they had finished. There is not a suitable vacant date for the dance which it was proposed (on Friday) that we enquire into and I have seen Joan Bourne and the proposed organiser Mr. Muddle, and we decided to abandon this project. I went to the Health Committee this evening and this was completed in quite good time. George Burfield is getting to be a very competent Chairman. When I reached home Dorothy was ironing and we suddenly remembered the soup wine and cheese evening which we had promised to attend at the Grange so we hurried down there and spent quiet quite a pleasant time

Tuesday March 2. After the Parlour to the Magistrates Court where I stayed at No 1 court with Grantham, Buckwell and Mrs Bush. There was not a big list but the cases were quite interesting and we finished at 1-15 p.m. On reaching home and having lunch I found the "Beck" Bill and Baxters pension had arrived so I went out to pay the Bill with the pension. I was unable to do so because there was no executive person at the garage. A snowstorm started as I came out so I took refuge in the Library. I found Eva Clarke was rather worried about the outcome of tonights Finance Meeting. I had a browse round but when I came out it was still snowing hard and this continued for the rest of the afternoon and then froze. I went to the Finance meeting and the Library committee application was dealt with, to my mind, satisfactorily. This was estimates night so the meeting, of necessity took a rather long time 6-30 until 9-30. When I came out I found the slush and the snow had frozen and the roads were extremely slippery. I got some fish and chips in Fisher Street met David and we made our way slowly home. When I left David he kindly offered to help me negotiate Toronto Hill but I said I would manage on my own which I did, although I took a long time going down the hill. Dorothy was not yet home from the Grange but arrived a few minutes later, much to my relief.

Wednesday ~~February~~ March 3. The town clerk looked in the first thing and we talked of the Churchill campaign. This is getting under way. Afterwards came the man who has picked up the "Feed the Minds" Campaign. He is not too clever but has retired and evidently will enjoy himself doing this. He confirmed my suspicion that whatever the lofty and "modern" ideals of the Arch Bishop of York this will develop into a kind of glorified Bible Society! However I have agreed to let them have the Council Chamber for ~~coffee mornings. In the afternoon we went at the Burgles Mayors invitation to be at home to the new ladies of the Salvation Army. This was held in~~
In the evening we attended the Annual Ball of the Licensed Victuallers Assn. This was a very good evening and the hospitality was very lavish. We were with Superintendants Rumary and Dixey. One thing about this dance that could have been avoided was that a woman came up to me for a dance and then tried all the rest of the evening to hang on. Here was

two inches of snow by the time the dance finished at two a.m. and Mr Moore could not get his car prettier than Alsinger place. Fortunately, Dorothy had some boots with her and we were able to get home and we were in bed by 3 am on Thursday.

Thursday March 4. A fairly quiet day but in the evening I had to go to an Oxfam Committee meeting. Dorothy came too because we had to both go to the all-in wrestling bouts of which were being held in the Town Hall and they were to make a collection for the Churchill Fund. The oxfam meeting got well under way by the time we left and we saw some of the wrestling which is as I have described it before in this journal. A collection was made but I don't know the result as the bank opens the tins: but the wrestling club gave £10 towards it.

Friday March 5. The usual work in the morning dealing with the Churchill Fund among other things. In the afternoon Dorothy attended a reception given by the Mayor of Brighton to welcome Mr. Coutts the leader of the Salvation Army. This was held in the Pavilion and was quite a nice function. There was a meeting and Coutts spoke and there was tea afterwards. Coutts took the very anti-BBC. line and I suppose this is because of the current flap to do with satirical programmes and the R.C. Church. Coutts, of course did not join in this debate but he did seem to be blaming some T.V. programmes for illegetimate births rather unduly. In the evening we at last fulfilled our promise to attend the Nicholas Young society concert and we enjoyed it very much. It was quite late by the time we reached home

On Saturday and Sunday March 6 and 7 I attended the WEA week end school. This was held at Stafford house Hassocks and it was on moral values in all the aspects of those two words.

Monday March 8. Most of the Mayors work is now composed of Churchill Salvation stuff. In the afternoon and early evening Dorothy, the two Librarians and an invite judge Barbara Willard the author were formed into a committee to judge the childrens story competition which is held by our library committee. The judging committee took some time on the work of picking out the winners. These ladies seemed to be enjoying their work because much laughter kept issuing. When these visitors had gone we spent a quiet evening. I had expected there would be a Labour Group meeting but it was not so

Tuesday March 9. I went to the Parlour and we dealt with the post etc. At 10-15 I went to the Magistrates court

where as I commenced to go up the steps of the County Hall I stumbled knocking my legs and forearms about. Many people hurried to my assistance but there is no damage.
There was a case which was rather disturbing. A girl of 18 and rather backward who was charged with receiving and who pleaded guilty to this charge. The accused had not had much chance in life and I was pleased when it was agreed we bind her over ~~to~~ for a year. At this court we also tried the burglar who stole the antique furniture that the receiver we dealt with on the November. We had committed the receiver to the Quarter Sessions, but this actual burglar we dealt with ourselves He had a shocking record and it was very plain we could do nothing but commit to prison for 12 months. This is the first case of any sort where I have noticed that the prisoner was unobtrusively handcuffed to a policeman, after the sentence and led out to do his sentence.
In the evening we went to Dr Collins class and returned home at 10 or so.

Wednesday March 10 There was not a great deal of Parlour work and then there was the committee meeting of the Lewes Exhibition Fund. It does seem as though this fund is used to a large extent by people who are better off. They in the main are people of reasonably well off families who should be rather diffident about putting in very small claims. I suppose it is of no use blaming them although I can't imagine any circumstances where I would apply for help to the extent of so small a percentage of my income. However, I suppose the way to balance things up is to make it more generally known that the Exhibition fund is there and then, perhaps, there will be more genuine cases will apply and then more care will have to be taken in the selection because of the greater numbers who will apply. This evening there was the Council meeting. The budget was made public tonight and there will be a sevenpence in the pound increase. 4½ is the County Council precept and 2½ our borough increase. This makes our rate 11/3 in the £ now. Really, if the general increase in the price of everything is taken into consideration the total of 7d for the two councils is not bad, although I expect there ~~to~~ will be grumbling from people who never grumble much when private enterprise costs are raised.

Thursday March 11. Soon got the office work done and Joan & Dorothy started on the ~~pay~~ preparatory work for the coffee morning which Dorothy held for the Churchill fund. Little donations kept coming in to me and we now have collected £60.
This afternoon I went to the Victoria Hospital House Committee but I really can't settle down to work on this body. While walking up there I met Dr Longford, the County Medical Officer and he gave me a lift the rest of the way. R. H. gave me a lift back while taking the administration officer, Mrs Harris somewhere.
Dorothy and I spent a quiet evening at home.

Friday March 12. As the lighter mornings come I seem to see automatically and I am keeping up the exercises better There was not a great deal to do at the Parlour and, when Joan had gone I made up the speech for the opening of the Story competition prize giving on next Monday.
I spent the rest of the morning working on the fence which I am, later, going to put on the 'bank'. Joan Freyne came and had lunch with us. She is now working at the E.S.W. School. In the afternoon I continued with the fence. I find, when I start this rough carpentry business I always want to keep at it. I had a look at the Lodging at 6-30 and had a chat at the entrance with John Perkins. A quiet evening afterwards.

Saturday March 13. There was no work or visitors at the Mayor's Parlour. I just did some shopping in the morning and then got on with the fence. After dinner more fence and did enough digging for Dorothy to put her shallotts in. In the evening went by invitation to have a drink and look at the house of Miss Liddell. This house is made into two flats and they are occupied by Miss Liddell our hostess and another lady on the floor above. Miss Liddell is another of the women who are deserving of a good deal of admiration because they are, like Kathleen Gibberd, although whom we got to know her, of the Geneva staff of the League of Nations of the 1930's and they are very interesting from an intellectual point of view and generally speaking very nice. We talked for some time and I didn't know how many well known people she had been in contact with

Sunday March 14. I got the papers after all this morning. However resolved I am to go without a Sunday paper the habit dies hard. If the "Reynolds" were still available I would still be pleased to have it on a Sunday but the "Citizen" doesn't fill the gap, and there is far too much "upstaggyness about all the others. "Sunday Times" and those of its kidney. While the 'Observer will take a long time to live down the reputation it squired awhile back of quite unearned intellectual snobbery. Sherry and the "Observer" for a while marked a quite definite social demarcation. Dorothy and I started our part of the Churchill collection and got on quite well for an hour or so. When we were thinking of leaving off we met Mrs Ridgeway who took us indoors for a drink. This house is made from the outbuildings of a house on St Annes Hill and it is very interesting and extremely well furnished in very good taste. It is as well that this type of people came to Lewes. At the time of the second war their houses were condemned. To Dorothy and me the situation is amusing. The house we were in last evening Miss Liddell's in the castle precincts when we were young was occupied by "Joey" Batup an old horse dealer. and up to about 1914 nobody would think any one above working class would live there. Just below there is the "Old Poor House" Looking very smart and ye olde. It was the common lodging house when we were kids. A bed for 2d a night and run by an Italian family who had a barrel organ and one member used to work the one man band. However to return to the journal we stopped and enjoyed Mrs Ridgeway's hospitality for some time and decided to do no more collecting and we went home to lunch. We didn't do any more collecting today and found various odd things to do at home and had a quiet evening

Monday March 15: Mrs Bourne the Mayors secretary is on holiday this week so the Town Clerk Mr. Morris dealt with my work. There were subscriptions to the Churchill Fund and the League of Hospital Friends fund. Dorothy and I continued with our collecting for the former fund and worked down St Annes Hill and did S. Swithuns Terrace before dinner. We were collecting quite an amount of money. Dorothy has got to be quite adept at it and went out after dinner and did Kent Street. We estimate that in these two days we have collected about £20. We went to the presentation of the story-competetion awards at four o clock and the Town Clerk informed me that the Churchill fund is £115 at 5 o'clock today. This is not counting any street collections. It was rather a jolly little meeting to present the story prizes to the children. Quite a number of the 232 entrants were there and I opened the meeting and presented the prizes and Barbara Willard an authoress who was our chief judge, gave an admirable little talk which was very encouraging to the children. Then they had biscuits and orange squash. This competetion has been a huge success and indeed it always is. Spent the rest of this evening at home. It was very wet outside

Blakes return after fall from flat. Wants house