

October 3 1965

to  
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From October 1965 to March 1966

Councillor Char. Barker. His Book. Which will be  
the third book of the Mayors Journal

Continued from Week Com. Oct 3 (Sunday) 1966 : On  
reaching home we had our meal and did ordinary  
things for the rest of the day

Monday October 4 Beyond the work in the Parlour  
there is nothing of note. The Banquet is not  
going very quickly as yet

Tuesday October 5. Parlour work in the morning  
and, in the afternoon, the A.G.M. of the  
ESSCS assoc. for the blind. This took much the  
same form as last year except that it was held at  
the Grange instead of in the C.C. Council Chamber.  
A blind man of an intellectual type gave a very  
interesting talk on on a visit to Eastern Germany  
as a member of the international (Olympic?) blind  
chess players team for England. His descriptions  
of those games. His assessment of the competition

from a propaganda point of view and his very able  
summing up of the situation there impressed me very  
much. He can't see the while behind the iron  
curtain of course so he would miss a good deal  
but nevertheless I was very impressed with his  
assessment. We also met a judge from Sloane  
who has lost his sight quite recently. A very nice  
courteous man who was at pains to try and  
carry off this handicap of having no sight. I  
noticed two or three things, mostly about eating  
that I must remember. In the evening we went to  
Dr Henry Collins class. A Miss Brett was there who is  
rather rambling and dogmatic in discussion. Also a  
student from the university. They were a bit of a  
bone. However, it takes all sorts to make a world.  
I am more annoyed always when the person is on  
my side politically but knows nothing about it  
except that he has paid for an L.P. card and then  
seizes every opportunity to assert the most unreal  
things in favour of Socialism as though we  
had been Tories all our lives

Wednesday October 6. Besides the parlor work there was the coffee morning in the Council Chamber by young Mr. Collett. Dorothy and I both looked in. It was not so full up as these things usually are but I learnt afterwards the proceeds were £17. I had to go to the dentist and shall have the new set next week. During this evening I attended the Chamber of Commerce General meeting and, at the end, listened to a talk on crime prevention. These chamber men seem to be anxious to be helpful now regarding the questions which they used to be enemies of the council about. The Labour Council's work must be so good that it is impossible to quarrel with it. The good work by Kenneth Day, belonging to both bodies must be having effect. It might even be the good work in community togetherness accomplished by the Mayor!!! Whatever the cause, there is a marked improvement in the chamber's attitude to the council so perhaps a plurality of causes is helping relationships.

Thursday October 7. The British Legion have got it touch regarding the Armistice Parade and the Poppy day sales so stats on the way. We are selling a few tickets for the Banquet at last and the work of being Mayor is going on smoothly. There was the Rotary Lunch today which I enjoyed very much. Queer how men continue to band themselves into groups. I know more can be accomplished like this but those who don't want to accomplish things still band themselves into groups (or group themselves into bands) gregariousness I suppose. I've got the Round Table to go to next Tuesday (and the Oddfellows on Saturday). What I'm trying to point out is that because of this banding together of blokes, I have to keep on making up more speeches. Still, I suppose that is only a small contribution towards the thing I have been aiming at for eighteen months now - a community made up of many associations. Anyway, as I have noted before in this journal, people have said there is more togetherness in Levens than there was.

Friday October 8. Today I must record an incident of yesterday. Dorothy went to Brighton with Dany and the baby and Dorothy looked after her grandchild while her two daughters went shopping. I had hopes of getting on with some speech building but I was called to the Magistrates Ct. in the afternoon as there were two lads who had been arrested for stealing etc. I had to consider the application by the police for a remand in custody of one and the younger one the police did not mind bail. I was the only magistrate present; so, having no one with whom to discuss the matter, after careful consideration I remanded the first one in custody and the second on bail. Much to my surprise the second one preferred to be in custody and in spite of a huddle which the father the accused and the police went into at my request, the accused would not alter his mind. I was rather annoyed because it seemed plain to me that this was a kind of bravado. "If one of us is in custody we must both be." So, in spite of my hopes the gang spirit there is fostered instead of being weakened as I had hoped. Anyway, if an accused refuses bail implicit

in this action is the threat to clear off. I shall have to watch the progress of this case. Back to Friday (today) then. When the parlour work was done I did shopping etc. There was the Pells school committee in the afternoon and in the evening we spent some time in the Labour Club. Mr Tizard of the Rotary came down and collected the odds and ends we had for the Rotary jumble sale which is tomorrow.

Saturday October 9: This morning I had to present the awards to the children who had gained them in the Children's Road Safety Trials. The very able Road-Safety committee always make a good do of this and everything went off very well. I was struck with Reg Yarnow's entertaining remarks to the kids, which included how to play conkers. In the afternoon I spent about an hour at the pub and then we left about 2-0. At 6-30 ~~at~~ Dorothy and I had to

attend the annual dinner of the Oddfellows. This went off alright although the members there before the dinner did not quite know what was toward. I had to respond to the toast of the guests, which I did to the satisfaction of all those who were there. This branch, or lodge, appears to be on a period when they are very short of able speakers but I expect they will get over it. Most organizations go through these periods. No good blaming the younger ones as two of the speakers did on Saturday. The older ones should have coached them along.

Sunday October 10. Only one Mayoral engagement today. The Guides church parade at Oxted. This is a good looking little church two miles N.W. of Lewes. Dorothy and I started to walk there for this afternoon's Guide service but Mr Kellam picked us up when we were  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles or so from our destination so we arrived there in state after all. The service and the general

proceedings were much like the others of these functions that we have attended. These things do give the girls a chance to have a bit of collective life apart from school. Of course there is always the danger of a bias being worked in/in districts like this the bias would obviously be towards Nationalism of the wrong type) but one has to take a chance of some bias being attempted whatever the organization. I think the Scouts & the Guides are quite useful movements provided they are kept away from the old "Boer War" Imperialistic ideas of the founder Baden Powell

Monday October 11. A quite day speaking Mayoralty Joan B and I dealt with the various things that came. Needless to say, the ~~less~~ bent is toward the banquet. I spent a good deal of the afternoon working up a welcome to give to the Sussex Round Table delegates when they meet for their Annual dinner tomorrow

Tuesday October 12: After the Parlour work was, by right, the magistrates court. I had, however made arrangements to attend a special court on this coming Thursday so I got excused from today's sitting. Joan B and I did anything to do with the Mayoralty that wanted doing and I was able, in the afternoon, to concentrate on my few words that are to welcome the delegates from the Sussex Round Tables this evening: This event has now taken place and I am sure it was one of the most enjoyable functions I have attended. There were about 250 Round Table delegates present and there was good company. I enjoyed the boisterous atmosphere, the leg pulling and also I have a great regard for the Round Table. I was thus able to make a speech of welcome which seemed quite alright to me. There were 2 national figures of the movement and the High Court Judge, Sir Stanley Rees. Altogether an evening of enjoyable food, company and conversation and good public speaking. May it be a long time before these men get over forty and have to retire from the Round Table.

Wednesday October 13: After the Parlour work I got my dentures from MacWatters. They seem alright but I expect I shall have a bit of a settling down period with them. Dorothy has a puffed up eye again and we are hoping it will be down by the time we attend the Mayor of Hove's ball on Friday evening. Nothing else on the Mayoral side has happened today.

Thursday October 14: After the work in the Parlour I had to attend the Magistrates court for 4 cases on the domestic side. Rugg was chairman and Mrs Thompson of Seaford and I made up the court. We dealt with all the cases which were fairly straight forward and one which took considerable time. A guest house keeper at seaford married a man who had retired. He had £3,000 saved. He put £300 into the guest house business. She soon began to treat him as the hired help. When occasion arose for them to leave the joint bedroom she seized the opportunity to "put him in with Peter" and after putting up with this sort of treatment for some time they agreed to separate.

The wife then brought forward this summons because he was failing to maintain her!! The old boy was seventy and doing a part-time job at Hellingly Hospital which made his income up to app £8 per week. Anyone can imagine what our finding was and we soon dismissed her case. In the evening we went to the Little Theatre "Fund and Games" a variety programme, by the younger members, to raise money for the building fund. I enjoyed this programme and I think, by the end of the week, they will have added to the fund

affair, and we met quite a number of new people and all the Mayoral ones again. One newcomer (Bexhill) Mr. <sup>Ballinay</sup> Green I watched because of the remark regarding Sussex Mayors he had once made when we had been to a function when all the chain gang were present. To night I found him quite a good conversationalist though with a bent towards Bert B's failing of "facetiousness" perhaps, like Bertie's, caused through shyness. Dorothy wore her latest evening gown with the black bodice and the red and black skirt and looked very nice. We are getting quite proficient dancers now and we enjoy ourselves at these affairs. Kenneth Day was present and took us back home at about 12.30. This was very kind of him. Actually since he has been on the Council, he has shown many little acts of kindness which we very much appreciate

Friday October 15. The Banquet invitations are slowly being accounted for. It is a nerve racking business though. I am also working on specicles for forthcoming events. There was not much in the parlour and we attended the Mayor of Hove's dinner, reception and dance, at the Hove Town Hall. This was a very grand

Saturday October 16. There has not been much happened during the day. In the evening we were welcomed at the Coop Party Reunion. This was a very jolly affair with a great many people present. Don Ranger the

secretary, seemed very happy at the success of his efforts. The Seaford people gave us a plate with a picture on it called "The Mayor" which looks very nice now that it is home and already hanging on the wall. I also had a cake presented to me which is another fine example of the workmanship found in the bakery of the Brighton Coop. This is the second night Dorothy and I have spent dancing.

Monday October 17. Quite an ordinary Sunday with nothing happening from a Mayoral point of view. Mary looked in for a while in the afternoon. She is looking much better again.

Monday October 18. Quite a busy day doing various jobs. In the evening I had to do the Highways Committee and leave that at 7 to go to the Southern T.V. production of one of their 30 minute programmes. This was very instructive, both from the mechanical and production point of view and from a sociological angle. Quite personally, I much admire the time work, the teamwork and the technical perfection of the whole thing. What I would question is the worthwhileness of using all this wealth of know-how for a 30 minutes of very inferior programme such as I saw produced. I know all this equipment etc, is used for other things and programmes which are of greater value from the point of view of social conscience, but I know that even the people who are fond of watching Commercial Television think this is a terribly foolish programme. The programme in question is the "Seven Year Itch" which little seems to be a cross between the "Seven Year Itch" a musical which stresses the view that all couples are anxious for a change of physical partner after seven years, and the "Donmow Flitch" a reward for long married life without a quarrel. None of the three married couples who were entered came from Leaver. Dorothy and I and Joao B., next day, thought this programme was a huge waste of time.

Tuesday October 19. We quickly dealt with the work of the parlour and, I having been excused from the bench, we went to the Sussex Mayors meeting at Chichester. Mrs Yarrow kindly gave us a lift since Reg had to be present also [The Yarrows have been extremely kind all the while I have been mayor] The Mayor of Chichester, Mr Bell, had made very good arrangements for hospitality and the day was very enjoyable. The Ladies were taken over Shippams potted meat factory while we of the chair gang were at our meeting. They each had a gift, from Shippams, of a parcel of the firms products. Mr Yarrow got us safely back to Chichester by 6-30 so I was able to dive into the parks committee meeting just on time, Dorothy meanwhile going home and then to Henry Collins class at the Grange. I went on to the Grange after Parks and at 9 Dorothy and I left the class and proceeded to the T.V. production again at the Town Hall, and we went through the same procedure as last evening. However, this programme was much more interesting to see produced and a Mr Watkins came and took us behind the scenes where we had a drink. I had a talk with him and the Compere and all sorts of staff who were gathered at the end of the

day's work, as thick as flies. Mr. Watkins reminded me that I would be expected to wear chain tomorrow and to make a short speech so I shall have to do some thinking before I attend the dinner tomorrow evening.

Wednesday October 20. Did the parlour work. The demand for tickets for the banquet is still not good enough. We did the Towns work and then I wrote my speech for the TV dinner. Joan took it away to type and to be vetted by the T.C. I went to fetch it in the afternoon but I had to wait some time because of interruptions caused by people calling at the T.C.'s office. It was 4 before I got it, took it home, found Dorothy still away at Brantford so was able to make a grandstand show at learning it. and delivered it, I flattered myself, quite ably after the dinner in the White Hart. This was a very enjoyable occasion I must say. We were seated at the table with

the managing director of the Southern I.T.V. a Mr Wilson, Sir Tufton and Lady Beamish Lord and Lady Monk Bretton and Mrs Bowes-Lyon and her grandson a Mr Lewellyn. Mr Ha Wather also sat at our table. I found Mr Wilson very much my cup of tea and he reminded me very much of the capitalist in "Lords and Masters" or perhaps more of Andrew Undershaft: Good at history & with a bent towards cultural studies. This was my impression from the short, jolly time I chatted with him. Lady Beamish sat at my left and I got to know and like her more because this was the first time we have really ~~spoken~~ <sup>spoken</sup> each other. She was very taken with my reference while I was making my speech, to Tom Paine. This was natural, being an American. I think our meeting was good for both of us: and, on the other end of our table Dorothy and Sir Tufton made similar progress I think. All the leading people of the town and the surrounding country were there so after dinner I was able to chat to quite a number, including Kingsley Martin and Asa Briggs. Asa Briggs would like me to speak to several people he has in mind at the university. Mr Gallagher, the Clerk to the Magistrates was very complimentary on my work on the Bench. We were driven home by

Mr. and Mrs Morris

~~Mr Morris and his wife~~ after a very enjoyable time.

Thursday October 21. Office work done there was the United Insurance Offices lunch to attend. This is the fourth of these annual events. This organisation was started after the war when there became apparent the fact that the Labour Government was one that intended to carry out its promise to improve the pensions and insurance schemes. This organisation was, in fact formed to fight the N.H.S. because they didn't want the burdens of stamps and such pay taken away from the insurance companies. In the event of course the government carried out its reforms and the Insurance Offices settled down into a respectable federation of business rivals and this annual lunch, to which many leading people are invited, is one of the things that have developed. In the evening I attended the housing committee which I left at

about nine and I finished the evening with a quiet  
read

Friday October 22. The banquet tickets are not going at all well. There is only a week to go and we are seventy down in attendance on last year. This is getting rather worrying. More could stand a loss but unless things improve I shall not have very long sprig-tables and this will be bad for a Mayor's do. In the evening we first went to the Grange and attended the first half of a concert run by the Friends of Hellingly hospital. This is an organization that makes friends with the mentally sick patients of the hospital and I expect it does a great deal of good. (See T.J. Nov. 1964) Tonight the half concert we heard was given by a Miss Years who gave us songs from various Gilbert & Sullivan operas. She was very good indeed and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We had to leave at the interval and go to the Town Hall where the Operatic Society was holding an event called

"come dancing." This is an ordinary ball room dance but it has a competition in it to which various competition dance winners are invited. This competition made a very pleasing spectacle although, to me, since the men are in dress clothes and so exactly alike it would be nice if the women could dress slightly different fashion from each other. The only difference there was between the women was in the colour of their frocks. I had to present the trophies at the finish of this competition and we had a dance or two during the evening. The Operatic Society, represented by Mr Hollins and Mrs Hollins who looked after our interests very well. We joined up with Ken and Mrs Day who took us home at the end. I spoke to one or two other people in the way of ordinary things and had quite an interesting time. The dress Dorothy wore for both of tonight's functions was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor making frock. She had a long dress ready in the Mayor's Parlour in case this was necessary for the ball but everything was ok. A very interesting day."

Saturday October 23. I looked into the Parlour but, being Saturday, there was nothing there. Dorothy and I had an invitation at noon to visit the Andersons, who live along the Hamsey Road. I met them some 12 years ago through the W.E.A. and found them both extremely nice people. He is a civil engineer and has done a good deal of work in the far east, I believe. They came and fetched us and drove to their home which is very beautiful (John Schwerdt is the architect) and we had a drink and a talk. They both seem anxious to do something for the community but they are handicapped because his job takes him all over the place and ~~she is~~<sup>the horse</sup> is rather out of the way for anybody who is desirous of doing public work of the nature Mr. Anderson requires. A very happy and relaxed time for me. I hope it was for them. In the afternoon I went down to the park and saw Rovers A.F.C. beat Avesley by three goals to none. Lewes is steadily climbing the table in their new League. At seven I had to attend the annual dinner of the Old Comrades Assn. of the original 5<sup>th</sup> Sx. This was quite enjoyable but it did seem to me that the numbers were considerably

less, especially in men from Lewes. Quite obviously, in the course of nations all the people of the first war period will drop out from these events. Either through the lack of familiar faces, or perhaps through my own idleness in preparation, it did not seem to me as though I had made the same impression while proposing to toast to the Assn. as I did last year. I must take more care. I have made many more speeches this year and, I flatter myself, they have not been altogether unsuccessful so perhaps I am beginning to get a bit slack in the preparation. Quite a full sort of day.

Sunday October 24: An ordinary quiet Sunday at home. In the afternoon Mrs. Spicer, a new neighbour looked in with her daughter and I showed them the Town Hall and the Council Chamber etc. They are quite interesting people. There are two others

of news today however, that are very important.  
first Burgo's thesis is accepted and she will  
be an M.D. This is very joyful news and  
gives a demonstration, as it were, of her capabilities.  
We are both very glad indeed. The other piece  
of family news is connected with the Rhodesian  
V.D.L. business. Bert Cram has to accompany  
Harold Wilson to Salisbury where there is to  
be a last attempt to negotiate a settlement  
over this self-government attempt. I hope a  
settlement is reached because, even allowing for  
the fact that the "settler" community have been  
there some time ~~to allow~~ about 150,000 people  
to act in the fashion that will I assure  
almost ~~unheard~~ bloodshed will be, I consider, the  
greatest idiocy of all time. There is no knowing  
what will be the final outcome when the  
white minority to have their own way entirely.  
This is United Nations Day.

Monday October 25: There were a number of  
acceptances for the banquet so things look  
more hopeful from that angle. Not much  
happened from the parlour point of view  
and it was a fairly quiet day. Mrs  
Grimmer came in to show me a prepared  
advertisement for the F.P.A. meeting. It has  
"MR. A. C. BARBER" in the chair. I have told  
her that will be satisfactory as far as I  
am concerned. In the afternoon I swapped the  
grass on the front bank and in the evening  
I went to the health committee. Nothing  
unusual happened there and it must have  
been the shortest meeting for a long time.  
I went home and we went to the Grange for book  
meeting. A Mr Cummings was speaking mostly about  
T.F.L.

Tuesday October 26. Had to finish the Mayor's work  
quickly to be on the Magistrates Bench by 10-15.  
There was a case of stealing which was, or will  
be of some interest to students of psychology.  
The accused was a Frenchman who continually  
steals things, ranging from a fishing reel

to a chair and does nothing further about them. A kind of human magpie. The magistrates discussed this case pretty thoroughly and we have remanded him in custody for 3 weeks for a medical. If anyone thinks this remand "In Custody" is very harsh I would point out that there was also some thefts of petrol to be considered. As his wife said "He is someone who needs help, that why I stay with him" and we are trying to help him. There will be this opportunity to discover why he purloins almost everything within sight for no apparent reason and at the same time he will be detained instead of being left to his own devices to complicate things by further foolish thefts. I say foolish because he made no use of the objects he stole not because the objects weren't valuable. A good many of them were. There were lots of usual crap of motoring offences. Some of these were defended so we did not finish until 3-30. I went to the finance committee in the evening. This meeting also finished in quite respectable time and I went home for a quiet evening. Ray Pat. was waiting

to see me and we were able to have a chat about how things were going. Ray keeps up his interest in Labour Movement things and should do well when his family is more "off hand"

Wednesday October 24. The usual during the day time. The banquet acceptances are doing, or rather coming better, and the work today was straight forward. This evening we attended by the invitation of Kenneth Day, the annual dinner and dance of the Brighton and District V.G. grocers. This was quite an enjoyable evening. A very good dinner and dancing afterwards. Peter Morris the Town Clerk and his wife took us down to the "Grand" hotel where the dinner and dance was held. I was rather struck that these small grocers could manage to put on such a lavish affair. To hold it in the luxuriousness of the Grand must have been costly enough. It was "very nice time.

Thursday October 28. Acceptances continue to come in. With luck we may break even with last year as regards numbers. The chief event of today was the visit by the handicapped children from Chailey Herstaps Craft Schools. I donned the full regalia and received them in the Council Chamber. Afterwards they saw all the treasures of the Mayor's parlour and then we went along the upper corridor to the Lecture Room where refreshments were served. I think they enjoyed it. They were with us from 10.45 until 12. In the afternoon I did a few journeys (to the income-tax office etc) and Dorothy got on with some words to say at the opening of St Michael's Fair. This evening I attended the meeting of the Local Labour P and find they are going very well indeed. Len Fox gave a very good report of the Annual Conference.

Late this evening I was thinking about the handicapped children I had as visitors this morning. They are wonderful in the way they learn to live with their infirmities. What is also wonderful is the spirit of the teachers and the men like Mr Stephen the Youth Employment Officer. I know he stops here because of these children.

Friday October 29. There was the usual work to do this morning but nothing particular to record. Dorothy went to the A. G. M. of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Society. Last year I attended this in Lewes but this year it was in Eastbourne. I am not very happy about the way Dorothy was received. Apparently nobody so much as spoke to her all the afternoon. I think that, having invited a Mayress it is up to any organisation to be a little hospitable and, if the members present at any gathering notice somebody is alone they should rectify it. In the evening we went to the Lewes Rugby Club ball. A very nice time with these members taking very great care of us. Dorothy noticed what I have recording in this journal before. The single mindedness of these Rugby enthusiasts. I really believe the rugger man thinks it of vital importance that every young man should play rugby whether he can play or not, if you get my meaning. Talking to me at this dance they gave me, as a reason for more playing fields, that there were "Twenty" chaps who hadn't a game tomorrow. As I have pointed out before in this journal, the school teachers are boosting up rugby so much that I can foresee the time when, if rugger enthusiasts had their way, almost all the rates would be earmarked to provide rugger fields and

the town would be surrounded by writing masses of men and boys, because "writing masses" is what rugby reminds me of, with an occasional run by one or the other until, if he fails to push an opponent off by means of thrusting the palm of his hand into the face, he is pulled down much like a stag caught by a pack of hounds. By the way, in rugby football this ~~team~~ is called "a pack". This, for a Saturday's surrounding of a town is not so pleasing a prospect as that of similar games but association football. Let's hope neither of them ever happen, or rather be glad that they can never happen.

Saturday October 30: The usual Saturday morning shopping etc. but in the afternoon to St Mary's Centre where the Congregationalists were holding their autumn fair. We hadn't any speaking to do ~~so~~ but we were requested to wear chains and Mr. Vinall came and gave us to lift to the hall. The new minister, Mr. Goldsmith, opened the fair with

a prayer into which he managed to find plenty to ask about on behalf of the Mayor and Mayoress. He also gave some opening remarks where he was very complimentary to me and my ability to help people be at their ease "I have mentioned this in this journal before or rather I have mentioned other people saying similar things. If this is true then I must be of a 'sunny' and at the same time tolerant disposition, thank goodness the terrific 'annoyances' and 'intolerances' I feel some times about some things don't show on the surface. He, the minister, is going to run a 'Family Service' and has ~~made~~ got my promise now to read the sermon at it. He will let me know later when it is. I suppose my toleration about other people's beliefs is the main reason why everyone thinks I'm nice. It is quite evident to me I am nothing of the sort, I'm just that humblest of all creatures, a good listener."

Sunday October 31: We spent a quiet day and learnt that Bert would be home by way of a phone call from Joan. I hope the Wilson mission has been a success. No doubt the team have made a terrific effort to make the various sides in Rhodesia see the light. We are both busy as we each have speeches (planned) to make in the near future.

Monday November 1 1965. Went to the parlour in good time and we dealt with the work that needed doing. Joan B. seems very busy lately and I think the lag in the acceptances of banquet invitations was, on this occasion, a bit of a worry. Happily, this morning has shown the acceptances as the equal of last year and we are both very relieved. Regarding the work of my secretary. This is only a part of Joan B's duties. A greater portion of her work is to do with the Town Clerk's department. The thing is, our administrative side is run very efficiently on a very small staff, and anything to do with one of your staff that holds them up tends to

throw everything out of gear. I said tends to and not that it did because when you have an efficient staff the others are generally up to doing the extra that is needed to keep the kettle boiling while one is away. We are now doing the arranging of tables etc. To make a success of one of these banquets one has an extraordinary lot to think about, and at the same time Dorothy and I are both trying to work up speeches. There were no engagements this evening so I went down to Mountfield Road to see Len Dix, who is the Chairman of the local Branch of the N.U.R., because another speech I have to make shortly will be to their pensioners at their Annual Dinner.

Tuesday November 2. After Parlour to the County Hall for Petty sessions. I am "Standby" this week and this means I am a reserve. When I reached there the place was swarming with Magistrates so I was able to fall out and return to our own little urgencies. In the afternoon I went to see Ted gearing about material for a speech

I have to make at the coming Annual Dinner of the East Sussex Fire Brigade Social Club and Fred knows all about such matters having been a member of the Brigade for as long as I can remember. Dorothy and I got on with our divergent preparations and this evening I went to the W.E.A., Dr Collins class. This class is now improving and I am very thankful. Henry is keeping the "odd-uns" on to the subject which the class is supposed to be learning. It was quite nice to find Peter helping in this work. I am sure this class will now build up to its old self again.

Wednesday November 3. Quite a busy day again. Joan B. still very busy and I have about 3 or 4 speeches to get on with, not to mention the Council meeting this evening. We gradually got through and I quickly wrote out a paper for the first coming

speech, got this done by lunch time and Joan B has crowded it into her other work so it was waiting for me at the Council Meeting. During this day or two there has been a good deal of scurrying about by people all over the building. There is an "Antique Sale" today in aid of funds for the preservation of Chichester cathedral. Tonight things were sold by auction by one of Sotheby's employees. Before the auction, the Fair had made £3,500. For the auction the seats were a guinea and I think the final figures for the fund are £4,200. Quite successful for the organisers. Marvellous what can be done by playing on the sentimental appeal of being to do with antiques & the suggestion of Sotheby's, the cathedral and Bishops and all what used to be called the County Families. They had police guarding the place all day and people wandering even up my way which I soon put a stop to. This evening there was the Council meeting which went along fairly smoothly and did not take very long. Joan B. and I saw John Perkins in the Mayors Parlour when she others had left, to fix up particulars for his speech next Wednesday. I went round to the Elephant where the Ladies Bowling Club was having the Annual Dinner. Dorothy was already there

The dinner and the speeches had finished and Dorothy was about to present the trophies to the winners of the various tournaments. She made a nice little speech which earned several rounds of applause while it was being delivered. The evening finished up with a social, dancing etc with this jolly group of people that I wrote about in this journal last year.

Thursday November 4: We, Joan B. and I carried on with the preparations for the Banquet; ~~and~~ in the afternoon I did some more speech building, nothing to report of any importance. I had a look into the Labour Club in the evening and afterwards had a bread

Friday November 5. Dorothy had to go to the Brighton General Hospital to report progress and she had returned by 12:00 with everything apparently going on satisfactorily. Joan B and I continued with the arranging of seating for the banquet. Dorothy had made arrangements for our little bonfire party in the May's Parlour and accordingly, we had plenty of grub and some wine. The minister of the Congregationalist church and his wife the newly adapted Labour candidate his wife and two children. The Town Clerk and his wife and two children. Joan B and Colin and our two selves made up the party and we also had Mrs Cicero, a neighbour from Pelham Terrace. We all enjoyed Dorothy's preparations and we all saw quite a lot of processions. Somehow, although there was no grand procession, made up of all the societies, there seem to be much more of each one and there always seemed to be something interesting going on outside the Town Hall. I suppose the united procession took up too much of each Society's time, what with them all getting to the rendezvous etc. This was a very enjoyable evening and I think Dorothy is pleased with the result of her

arrangements. Mrs Spicer came home with us and then we went through our house and into her, in Pelham Terrace and we were talking until about 12. An interesting woman, good looking and one <sup>with</sup>, we will no doubt have some interesting talks.

Saturday November 6. Dorothy came with me to the ParLOUR first thing because we thought it would be as well not to leave the ParLOUR with unwashed glasses etc over the week end. I know nobody comes on Saturday morning and I have at times felt that when visitors go in on the invitation of the Mayor during the week end, it wouldn't look too good if there were dirty glasses etc left over from the Friday. However, Chester Brough, the caretaker came in this morning and said the cleaner should be here each Saturday anyway. So perhaps we shall find an improvement. Dorothy washed up the glasses from last evening and we went shopping when the "ParLOUR TIME"

was over. I went to the Library to make sure about the old Menus of the 1900(?) Mayors banquet and came home and found them where Eve Clark had given me the clue to them. I spent some time at the football and saw Levers winning 2-0 over yet another of the Athenian League sides and I left the match before the end and looked into the Constituency Labour Party Meeting. I was in time for a discussion on the "Immigration" issue which was very ably opened by Roy Manley (the candidate) I was glad to see the trouble that I have mentioned in this journal, is being held in good check by the abler and older men of the party and, though the C. is still doing the same tactics they are making no impression. I am very pleased with the way John Backwell has played a part in dealing with the situation. A quiet evening reading (wastefully)

Sunday November 7. Arose fairly early because, although I am giving myself a week off from exercises, I am trying to increase the walking I do. The exercises make a terrific difference to me and I can now concentrate so hard while doing repetition movements that have a certain amount of resistance against them, that I find development taking place as though I were very young. In consequence I give myself a holiday of a week from this type of exercises, every so often because I am 66½ years old and must not hope to gain physically and still get away with it. I went out to get the papers and to have a walk at the same time. Slightly wet so looked all over the house for the white raincoat before I remembered where I had last seen it. At Mrs Spicer's late bonfire night. I went over there <sup>this morning</sup> and had to fetch her coat but I couldn't help it. I had to get the coat. Stopping my exercises then, though only for one week, has already caused me to fetch a neighbour down early on a Sunday morning in deshabille, and write up all this page. I have written above that the exercises make a difference to me. Stopping them has made no difference while I looked

for the coat and fetched Mrs Spicer down early! Going a long way round to come home with the papers I had a look at the industrial developments at the bottom of North St and I am pleased with its progress. Later I walked to the New County Hall site and then through our de Montfort Est. which seems to me very nice. I went out at the northern end and went up to Leslie's. Here were Leslie Doll-Doll and Izzy at home and everybody appears well. However, I learned that Doll-Doll has kicked against one of the old fashioned sets that cross at the entrance of Castle Gate and she fell full length and banged her chin on the herb. I'll make sure to report this tomorrow and have a look at it the crossing, before I do. On the way home it rained and a young man gave me a lift in a car. The more I try to walk the more lifts I am offered. I took another walk later today, round Brook St, North St, Market St and so up High St to examine the crossing and I'll see Murphy tomorrow. I don't know how much Doll-Doll is hurt. She never complains of physical discomfort so its hard to judge; but a fall flat enough to bump chin on herb, especially with her bad

back is rather uncomfortable for me even to think about, having a bad spine myself. Stopped in all the evening.

Monday November 8. The usual day and we are still working on banquet arranging. Roll on tomorrow and let's see how it does go off. This afternoon I went in to Mr. Murphy regarding the dangerous sets in the crossing at Castle Vale. It is to do with the County Council but he will tell them what has happened and ask them to make it more safe. Nothing has happened today that is important enough to be recorded, except that a death in the family of Joan B. is making things awkward for her at her most busy time.

Tuesday November 9. The banquet took place this evening. Judging by what I could see myself, and the remarks that have been made, this has been a terrific success. To far, the caterers,

had excelled themselves. We had taken a good deal of trouble over making sure everyone was seated happily. Mrs Days trio provided music that was ideal and everybody was very happy. Percy Edwards, the B.B.C. bird man proposed to toast to the County Town and Mr Abercrombie, the National Secretary of the Arts Council responded. John Perkins toasted the guests and Bert Bram, P.S. to the Minister of overseas development responded. Many people stopped to have a word with the speakers and everybody had praise for the meal. So that is my second banquet and I think it was worth all the work and planning that has gone into it. There was a true cross-section of the community and we had them seated so that as far as possible they were "mixed" and yet among mentally handicapped souls. I may return to the subject of the banquet another day. Dad Leslie Barbara & Frank were there and enjoyed themselves.

John and Buntly and Bert and Joan who seemed very happy, ~~at least~~, and the baby Helen was left in charge of Mrs Peake

Wednesday November 10: Joan B. and I felt rather pleased with the result of her work on the banquet. Mr T.C. came in and was not quite happy about the way she announcing was done by the toast master. Mr Bradshaw came in and (a nice country old-fashioned gent) gave a beautiful bouquet of carnations for Dorothy. Dorothy had worked very hard last evening and while we were receiving the chief guests, she had also to try and introduce people to each other as Frank H. although he arrived early and knew what I'd asked him to do, got fixed in conversation with one person instead of minding. I have a great deal of preparation to do for other functions so I worked on "speeches" for the rest of today. Dorothy has to open a fair at St Michaels on Saturday so she also is busy.

Thursday Nov. 11. I had a shock this morning when I realised we should have attended the ladies Cricket Club A.G.M. last night and I went across with apologies to Phil Burchett. Joan B., who is having plenty to do, apart from work because a relative has just died, has the news this morning that she must go into hospital for an operation on the thyroid on Tuesday. Of course the T.C.'s staff will cope but Joan is a very able woman and the Mayor's ~~wife~~ will feel a terrific draft while she is away. I had to go to the Domestic Court at 10-15 so I was fairly busy. None of the cases were difficult. In the evening St Mary's S.C. drama section put on "Buonaventura" and this was very well done indeed. Dick Hensley was the producer and he had the team well rehearsed and the emotional moments were extremely well done. Live and Learn I had no idea that Dick would be so able at this sort of thing. Mr & Mrs Carter transported us to and from and generally looked after us during the evening.

Friday November 2 We did the office work and John B left things as straight as possible. I did various odd jobs and at the same time, made sure I could remember the important parts of some speeches I have to make. In the evening I had to take the chair at the inaugural meeting of the Levens Family Planning Association, which I flatter myself I carried out with some aplomb. In the main, these women at the meeting were all of a certain intellectual level and there were no, what used to be called "working wives" that I could see. Now before we start saying the latter are the people that should be there let us consider things factually. I think the women (middle-class i.e. doctors' wives etc.) obviously know all about ~~population without population~~) Birth control as also do most working men's wives. Why the women who were present were there is because they are all of the types who are traditionally both to enter those organizing jobs <sup>opp</sup> and with ~~that~~ their training they can make the best job of it. Also, of course, they can find the time. The working man's wife, as a rule, is not equipped to do what is necessary.

organizing work, nor, generally speaking has she the time. Regarding which type of wife has most need to "call a halt" as it were I should imagine the average working class wife has a smaller family than the average middle (lower) class wife. As regards information about birth control, I think it is only very rare cases in either class that requires it in this day and town. This board that was formed tonight is formed solely because some able and good women realize that some women require help and advice. The words I inserted on the previous page are "Population without Population." Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" is full of a civilization of the future where the rule was "Population without Population." Perhaps, somewhere on the ~~as~~ way to the future, people, women in particular, will realize there is a very happy halfway house between these two and it is called "Family Planning"

Saturday November 13. Haig Poppy day. Up early and Dorothy on parade at the front door of the Town Hall by seven a.m. with her volunteer collectors soon working in the High Street. It was very cold this morning but they all appeared to be quite cheerful. We gave them a glass of sherry, as they finished their turn, to warm them up. There were more volunteers than last year so that made things more easy. In the afternoon we went to St Michaels Church room where Dorothy had the job of opening the "Fugue." This job she carried out very ably and made a great impression with a really good little speech. We were warmly welcomed there home for a short rest and then to the Town Hall where the Fire Brigade Social Club held their Annual dinner and Social. This went off alright as also (I hope) did the words I said to accompany my proposal of the toast to "the East Sussex Fire Brigade. We were well looked after and had some dances after the dinner. We stopped until the end. I met a man whose father used to serve my mother with fish about 15 years ago. His name is Boxall and he is the security officer at Brighton Greyhound Racing Stadium. On behalf of his managers he

has invited us to an evening at the Stadium. Mr Reynolds was the president at this evening's dinner. He and I are becoming kindred souls at these functions.

Sunday November 14 Remembrance Day. Abby looked in during the morning. He is rather worried about a summons to appear as witness at the Magistrates Court. I have referred him to David who I am sure will look after and advise him. The services at the War Memorial and the church went off alright, and the parade was not too bad. At the church there were quite a number of Councillors and across the aisle there were a number of wives and other ladies with Dorothy. The new young mayors Chaplain did very well with his sermon although, like others in the ministry who are more experienced, I should imagine he has a very up-hill job. However, I am glad there was such a good turnout because this will, no doubt, be my last time taking the salute.

at this parade. Dorothy and I passed a quiet evening

Monday November 15. This was the first day of Joan B's absence in hospital. Irene came over in her place and very competently carried out the straightforward duties but of course there are innumerable things to attend to, especially just after the banquet. I must gradually tabulate them and see they are carried out. I don't want to leave anybody out of thank yous etc. Mr Laughton looks in regarding yesterdays service and we had a chat. I hope he gets on alright for both he and his wife are very nice young people and give one the impression of a young married couple optimistically putting about a job. I suppose that in the ministry, the clergy, especially the younger

ones and their wives, are bound to have this feeling of optimism, because quite obviously, with an omnipotent God plus the powerful organization of his church on earth, failure must seem impossible. I suppose as they grow more experienced they view the falling off of church going more philosophically and are able to see that success for them is building up at good a Christian organization in their parish. I spent a good deal of time today on speech building. I have to keep trying because if I don't I get a feeling that I am slacking. However, there is nothing especially worth mentioning to day.

Tuesday: November 16: I had to attend the Magistrate's court today. Although it is my month off, there is a case that was "remanded in custody" and I had to attend this morning when it comes up.

again. This was the Frenchman Dutot accused of stealing. We have quite honestly done our best for Dutot. Three weeks ago we remanded him for medical upon the wife's request (who is a splendid woman who did her best for her husband). However, with the most skilful medical and psychological evidence before us to saying there was no connection, that could be observed, between his mental state and his robberies we have given him eight months. This covers quite a number of charges of robbery and there have been others one of which included violence. We just did our best. In the evening I went to the est. sub Committee and left at 8-10. This did not seem to be a very satisfactory meeting to me. Went on to the garage to Collins class. Quite interesting although I learned that Miss Brett (see previous Tuesdays) had been rather awkward in the first half of the class but things had calmed down by the time I had arrived

Wednesday November 17: This has been a straightforward day. Irene and I dealt with such work as there was to attend to. The J.C. came to see me regarding the unsatisfactory meeting that I have already mentioned in journal of yesterday. In the evening there was the dinner which is held by the Leaves Branch of the N.U.R. for its members who are now pensioners. There was the Assistant National Secretary of the N.U.R., we two, and the Stationmaster as chief guests. This was a very good dinner and party and I think everybody enjoyed it very much. There were two speeches, mine and Mr. Brassington and we were perhaps slightly political but the idea of me being Mayor in my opinion is to prove working people can do these jobs and, if I don't show my colours on occasion, by what I have heard newcomers won't know where I stand. The younger members of the Little Theatre turned up and gave a jolly good concert and there was also dancing to finish off a very happy evening.

Thursday November 18. This was a very quiet day and nothing has happened that is of such importance as to be recorded. I keep concentrating on speeches, of which I have a number still to deliver and since these next few months are likely to be my last as Mayor, I must make sure I leave a good impression as regards speeches. I believe in all other things I have made a mark so if all goes well during the next few months I shall be able to look back on these two years with contentment. I have phoned the hospital regarding the progress of Joan B. and she is making progress and is as well as may be expected

Friday. November 19. An unforgivable lapse of memory today which I'll record later. Mr. Morris, of the N.F.V. looked in to make an offer to cover the Council Chamber floor (carpet) with a drugget on the occasion of their dance next Friday. They are accustomed to use the Council Chamber for their chief guests supper and they also use the lecture room. I think I'll agree and let Mr. Morris know on Monday. After all, it is not a coffee morning with many little tables and if they will be generous enough to cover the carpet, which is red, there can be no objection to them using the chamber. Mr. Morris (T.C.) looked in to tell me, or rather, remind me that he will be away next week on a Civil Defence course. Later the Clerk to the magistrates Mr. Leney, rang up to know if I would sit this afternoon which I agreed to do. Dorothy and I both have things to think about in connection with little speeches and I set off after dinner, went to the Post office for Dorothy, went to Baxters to purchase some newspaper wrappers and came home to find Mr. Leney had just phoned regarding the court I had promised to attend. Of course I tore up to the County Hall but I was too late

and they had found another magistrate. I must be careful this sort of thing doesn't happen again. On the way up there Miss Adams asked me if I could help her. She wanted a Union Jack ~~flag~~ with which to cover her brother's coffin. I have since arranged this with Mr Crouch the Hall keeper. Miss Adams is a very good soul and characteristic of a woman of her position who would live in a small town such as this. The deceased brother it was a rather ignorant old soldier type and I am making sure the flag is forthcoming not for his sake <sup>but</sup> quite obviously and whatever one means in after-life, the deceased. Mr Adams won't mind whenever he is whether his coffin is covered by the national flag or not. But Miss Adams will and I like Miss Adams. This evening ~~we~~ I attended the "Friends of Lewes" Committee meeting in the old Back House. This was the usual meeting of this type and probably there are similar meetings held in most parts of the country. I think these friends' meetings do quite a good job within their bounds. I have found proof while on the planning committees of the Dons' in County

Councils of the need to protect a town from a speculators and 'b' road engineers, traffic engineers etc. and societies like the Friends of Lewes do quite a good job in this respect. Of course there is a danger of them ~~being~~ taken over by the philistines but the towns they are formed in are generally small towns and such a take-over would be noted by the townsfolk immediately.

Saturday November 20: A busy day because of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee Autumn Fair. Poured with rain and things looked fairly hopeless. I opened it (the fair) at 11-30 and my words were delivered very well at least I thought so and the fair started. In the afternoon I welcomed Mr Hartnell a T.V. actor of considerable popularity and he gave a few words as one accustomed to opening old Peoples Fairs in Lewes and such was his popularity that the huge bundle

of photographs of himself, in the costume of his character "Dr Who", which he had kindly sat down and autographed, were sold out in record time. He obtained silver for each one of them too. To me this fair has looked more successful than last year, in spite of the rain this morning. I know there are suggestions that this event has outlived its usefulness, but looking down from the platform on to these people gathered here this afternoon, I can't help feeling this is something that should go on. Last year, my first one as mayor, the receipts were down quite a lot. We'll see what the results of today's efforts by about Wednesday. Dorothy and I met ex-Alderman Hoyles today, who was the organizer for last week's British Legion Poppy collection, and he complimented Dorothy because the poppy collection at the Town Hall district was a record and he believed there was a record total collection also. It seems we are still going strong in our endeavours. Mary came in later in the evening and she seemed, to me, more happy than sometimes in these last months. I think her work on the footpaths committee of the Friends of Lewes

is giving her some <sup>more</sup> interest outside her home. I should imagine the fact that she is working with a body of people towards an end that is for the public good has an effect. In her case it would appear to me a case of getting back to one's "Right Element". I don't mean the word right in an ethical sense. I mean the proper surroundings for one. Much like the proper soil for a plant.

Sunday Nov 21: One thing of consequence to day and to do with being the Mayor. I read a paper on my views of a Mayor and his duties to the Sunday night club. This is a Young People's club the only rule for entrance on a Sunday evening being they had attended a place of worship that day. I know there are many who would pooh-pooh this rule but I think its quite a fair one (the club is run by the Cliffe Church). Its quite a good one (it means any place of worship). There were about a dozen or fifteen of them attended and I found them quite attentive and some of them very

mentally alert. I had noticed this club some years back when I was one of an "Anglo Questions" team. There was quite a big audience on that occasion because it was when the three parishes were united because of the lack of clergy. Now St John's has a rector and the result is that five of the Sunday night Club have gone back to their own parish as it were. If I had been in the St John's new young rector's shoes I think I should have left that as it was, However, he may be right and with these five, have the seed of a new Sunday Night Club in a different part of the town. Since I have been Mayor I find I am being most helpful to various religious bodies in the town. I hope they are not assuming that I have a leaning towards their special brand of supernatural beliefs. I value each one of them as an organization in the bigger organization of the community of which I am the Mayor. There are other organizations in the town in which I have no interest but I want them there to make a nice pluralist community and one must always remember that some people want them because they believe in them. I expect every association from football to the literary society

have people who are dead keen about them and some who think they are useless. However, I enjoyed my Sunday evening down there in the Cliffe Church Room. I visited the Mayor's Secretary J. Bourne in Hospital this afternoon.

Monday November 22: Got news from Reg Yarrow, of the results of the "Old Peoples Fair" which was held (see D9). The financial results are £100 up on last year. I am extremely glad. So glad that I'll say no more about it in this today's journal. The T.C. had a letter to inform the H.F.U. (Mr. Norris) that providing a dragger was used, the Council Chamber could be used next Friday on the occasion of their dance. There was also a letter ~~re~~ of thanks from me to the caterers of the banquet, giving them praise but showing dissatisfaction with the master of ceremonies. I think I should have let this go but Joan B. the T.C. and all the B.T. have shown great displeasure about the way he carried out his job. and it all rebounds back on them so I decided

to leave that paragraph. The letter praises them for their catering which is their main job. Joan B is still progressing satisfactorily and yesterday afternoon she certainly seemed to be getting better quickly. Irene Merritt is her stand in and she is doing quite a good job although as I believe I have mentioned before, she does appear to hold the Mayor in too much awe. I am assured by all who work with her, that this is a natural characteristic. She is just quiet and gives the impression of being a good deal younger than she is. (She is 23)

Tuesday November 23. Nothing exciting happened at work but tonight we had a very enjoyable little outing to Croydon. This has arisen from an invitation from Pitman's Secretarial Colleges which opened a new college at Croydon. They had sent invitations to the surrounding Mayors but only about four of us turned up. Dorothy

and I went up by car with Dorothy wearing the second Mayor making frock. We were warmly welcomed by Peter Pitman and were introduced to his father Sir James Pitman and we were shown all over the place by a Mrs Bennett who was very pleasant and who told me later in the evening that her father, who is now eighty was a very strong trade unionist and was a member while he was working of the Boilermakers Union. We saw various new machines that are being introduced into offices and machines that helped in the pupils training in the College. There was a smashing lot of grub and drink so we were well looked after and our driver was also garaged and fed. I talked to quite a number of interesting people, including the ex-mayor of Wallington and the chairman of Dorking and one or two others whose names escape me for the moment. A very nice time and we reached home at eleven-thirty.

Wednesday November 24: Early this morning there was a knock on the back door and on opening it I found it was Mrs Pepler. Her husband had been taken to hospital very ill during the night and now she had a message from the Hospital Sister asking her (Mrs Pepler) to phone, and she phoned from our house. Mr. Pepler had died and Mrs Pepler was rather cut up as is the case when anyone has had charge of somebody who has laid up for a long time. I dealt with the work in the Parlour with the help of Irene M., my deputy secretary and then I met Dorothy and we travelled to the League of hos. Friends Fair which was to be held in the Brighton Corn Exchange. This was much like last year. Perhaps rather better. Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk opened the show with the Mayors of Brighton (Chairman) Hove and Lewes in her company. Mrs Ledy took charge of us and guided us round. While we spent quite an amount of money. Many women who were generally in an official capacity, greeted me like a long lost friend and reminded me that we had met at the Soroptimists dinner in Lewes. I can see the benefit of placing a second year as Mayor. It makes everything seem

more genuine. We arrived home soon after two o'clock having lunched at the fair. There is nothing further of interest today.

Thursday November 25: This afternoon was the Guides Association Annual Meeting. Dorothy had to thank the chief speaker here and she did it quite capably. Our acquaintance with Mr Powell-Edwards and Mrs Tanner and one or two more was renewed. There is nothing further to report for today.

Friday November 26. Tonight the Dance, or perhaps I should say, the Annual Ball of the Lewes Branch of the National Farmers Union. We arrived at 9-15 and were met by Mr Morris and looked after very well for the evening. The new council chamber carpet had been effectively covered by a drapery so the high ups had their supper in there. There were about 450 people present at the ball and plenty of people to meet or renew previous acquaintances. At suppertime there was good food and not such a big crowd, as far as I can remember, as last year. I spoke to one man and his wife, who since they were seated at the high table were of consequence and were farmers. During conversation on holidays, (surprising what an enormous number of people use holidays as an opening gambit) he mentioned South Africa and Rhodesia, and "How he found that the opinion in South Africa and Rhodesia about apartheid and similar questions was quite different to what it was in England". It is said that travel broadens the mind. If after several journeys to S.A. he had only got as far as finding what everybody in England knows and <sup>no</sup> need to travel to come to that simple conclusion. Then broadening the

mind by way of travel must be a very slow process and being able to afford to travel to that extent doesn't make one any brainier. Dorothy and I had some dances and, on our own steps, or on dances whose steps we know, I think we are getting quite proficient. I even do the old one-two-three twirling round waltz now. That I couldn't spin round because of ankylosis of the spine has been my excuse for not dancing for years but now I'm doing it & a good many people say I have done the town good by being Mayor. I should say I have done myself good by being Mayor, physically at least. We said good bye to those of our hosts who we could locate and reached home at 1-45 a.m. and we soon tumbled into bed. Dorothy wore the latest bought long evening gown with the brocaded Red and black shawl. During the evening I met one of the Cutrex ("Tofers") brothers & he I consider the striking bakers have a case. I didn't expect this from such a quarter but it is one of the things you learn when your life is spent mixing with many people: i.e. soudological opinions are mixed down the pyramid and not from the horizontal slices.

Saturday November 24. We had to get to the parlour in time to meet John Ellison the B.B.C. man who was to open the fair in aid of the Friends of Hellingly Hospital or rather, the funds of that body. We met him in good time and welcomed him and Mrs Ellis to the parlor and some of the committee made up enough to have a "libation" ceremony before opening the show. Dorothy helped for most of the day on a clothing stall. I helped David Williams at times, who had a pipe down which he would drop a dummy rat when the customer had paid 3d. The customer, armed with a cane had to knock the rat as it came out of the lower end of the pipe. It was frightfully hard and I didn't see anyone hit it all the time I was there and I looked back again in the afternoon after I had been to the football (where I saw the first half of Lewes v. Edmonton) and I still didn't see anyone hit it. I hope the Friends of H.F. make plenty of money; they made £130 when I opened the fair last year. After tea our appointment was at

Boney-Boro Park, the home of Lord & Lady Monk-Bretton. This was a very fashionable cocktail party in aid of funds for the Red Cross. Surprising what a lot of things, that are for money raising, we grace with our presence. There was an exhibition of <sup>the works</sup> contemporary painters and we had a skilled artist, as a guide, who was a very good guide indeed. This was the best tour of a set of paintings I have had as regards being skillfully guided. We were met and welcomed by Lord and Lady Monk-Bretton. Boney-Boro (evidently named after the rabbit warren) is one of those country mansions of which one reads. Huge high-pitched rooms and a long drive before you comes to the house winds about so that, approaching in the daylight one would as it were, come upon the house suddenly. The Monk-Brettons are a handsome couple and she is a beautiful woman. I believe I have described them before in this journal at the T.V. dinner). The press made Dorothy and me be photographed talking to the hostess. There were a crowd of people there. Very decent people, most of them ordinary like us I suppose except they were richer, but it was also quite plain, to judge by the snatches

of conversation we both heard, or the remarks that were addressed to us in conversation, that there were a good many people there who still thought "working people" as a body could be treated as something entirely different from themselves. i.e. "They are being paid too much so these people won't come and work for us now" and, of course it is from such people that support is found for the "Ian Smith" policy in Rhodesia. How these types used to treat us is now transferred to the natives in different places and the grumble is that since independence came to former colonies you "can't get these people to work for as cheaply". I spoke to one today who had had to leave Burma on the coming of independence and they are quite open about it. I suppose they think since we are in their company, Pro Tem, we belong to them and will sympathize. We left after an hour and a half and went to the Elephant and Castle, where, in the company of the proletarian barbers' boys we had a dinner much like an old fashioned working class Sunday dinner. We enjoyed

this annual gathering with its struggling speeches interspersed with good natured banter. By the way a young fellow, who evidently thought my spine should not be so bent, came over and told me to make it better by deep breathing. He looked very fit and was a judo expert, but to tell me of deep breathing! Me !!

Sunday Nov 28. Altogether a quiet day. Both of us worked on speeches!!

Monday November 29. After the Parlour work  
Rev Habgood, the new Rector of St Annes looked  
in regarding the assize service tomorrow. This  
will be his first experience of this type of service.  
Raymond Hawkins also arrived at the Parlour  
because she was to take me to the hospital where  
she was to accept some bibles for the hospital  
from an organization called the Gideon Society. I  
was going in the dual capacity of Mayor and  
a member of the committee. As we were going  
we discovered the rector was also bound for the  
hospital as he is a chaplain of it. Ray-H. took  
us both up there and we met the "Gideons" who  
proved to be a body of "business" men of  
various types (except they all wore the same  
pattern of overcoat) As I expected it was a  
kind of revivalist effort and as I expected  
it emanated in the U.S.A. They were of course,  
quite pleasant men and told us of the efforts  
of their society to give the comfort of the bibles  
to everybody; and their method is to leave  
their own pattern bibles at hotels, schools,  
hospitals etc. Think, when the time arrives when  
wherever one looks there is always that type  
bible staring at one. Much more common right

than, say "Punch (old copies of). I suppose these American  
business men are no different from those elsewhere.  
The phrase "Tired business man" I believe came from  
the U.S.A. They all either find comfort in strip tease  
shows, or visiting their psychologist, or in some  
form of religion. This Gideon Society is composed  
of business men who want religion, their brand to  
be spread by the psychological methods, association  
of ideas, or pavlov or something. You see a Gideon  
Bible wherever you look. They hope you'll  
pick it up and read it and, I suppose, learn some-  
thing from it which will be good for ~~its~~ you and  
them. This is very conspicuous especially coming from  
these types and with their <sup>natural</sup> philosophy of enlightened  
self-interest I should imagine they would find  
more recruits over there. There was nothing of importance  
until the evening when the Highway Committee met and  
this surprisingly was over in quite a reasonable time.  
By the way, the Rev. Habgood appeared to be as amused  
as I <sup>and R.H.</sup> was with the Gideons this morning. After the  
Gideon I also visited Joan B. who seems to be  
making good progress and hopes to be back  
in 2 or 3 weeks

Tuesday November 30. The service took place in St Annes church and went as usual except that the High Sheriff's Chaplain was an R.C. and consequently could not read out the "Bidding Prayer." Accordingly the Rector did it and so he had a good way of finding out about the Ample Service. We went to lunch with the High Sheriff's Party which included the Bishop of Chichester. He seems more strong than the impression I got on the last occasion we saw him. Spent an hour or two in the court listening to a variety of cases. Not a big variety, of course, in two hours. This lunch followed the usual pattern. In the evening I went to the Parks committee and afterwards met Dorothy and we motored over to the Police Headquarters at Malling and, in the company of members of the Chamber of Commerce, had an inspection of the various methods of crime prevention. A very informative and pleasant evening but rather tiring on the legs for everybody judging by what everybody seemed to be thinking. We were driven home by a Mr Winter in the company of two more of the Ch of Com

Wednesday December 1 1905. Got the work done in the Parlour and did various odd jobs and in the evening it was the Annual Dinner of the Bowling Club. A good meal, but rather too much for me, and, as usual with the bowling club very good company. Bill Carter, of school days, and Morley struck me as very good speaker as regards delivering to suit the circumstances. Dorothy and I had a good many dances. This dancing is not a bad show for the Mayor. With not one vertebrae free in an arthrosept spine, and no dancing of any description until the age of 65 he manages to shuffle ~~no~~ round, not only in this type of dance but in each of the post balls in the different towns in Sussex. I had to propose the Toast of the Lewes Bowling Club and Dorothy had to present the prizes for the yearly club competitions. We reached home about 12 midnight after a very pleasant time. The Town Clerk came to see me on his return from a Civil Defence course and we had a talk over this and other matters this morning. Life is very complicated in these circumstances of wondering what will happen if the nations fall out.

December

Thursday December 2. Did the Mayors work in the morning. I had a phone call and fixed up an appointment with a man who has been the one in charge of the Phoenix Ironworks institute. He has been living at the Institute as living accomodation is part of the job. I have fixed to see him tomorrow when I shall learn more of what he wants. The Town Clerk (yesterday) spoke to me about Irene, who is deputising for Joan B. as Mayors secretary. Irene appears younger than her age because she is very shy and quiet, I suppose one might describe her as introverted. The Town Clerk says she is getting much better in this respect, since she has been deputizing for Joan B by working with me! Actually, in her work she is quite able. I went to the W.E.A. this afternoon and heard the last lesson in a course "The Social Novel in America". This course has been taken by a young American who struck me as very able in this field. This being the last afternoon, Mrs Quin, in whose house the classes have been held, put on a tea which was a nice thought and which was very much appreciated. Joan Liddle drove me home. This evening I attended the housing committee and I left for home after the

meeting had been going for two and a half hours, I don't know what time they finished God help them.

Friday: December 3: The man named Monk who phoned yesterday, called and told me his troubles. He lived in Valence Road took on this job of steward of the Phoenix Institute which meant living accomodation being found there for him. After a while he found he was not really cut out for this work and retired from the stewardship, although continuing to work at the ironworks. The living accomodation goes with the job and that's that. I could not help other than send him along to our housing manager. So simple a thing as this can be a terrific tragedy to the family concerned; unfortunately perhaps in my position it means this is a part of "whole" and until the whole is dealt with there will always be cases such as this. When I was a boy it was

not unusual to see people's furnitures turned out on the pavement. There is a determined effort by the present government to really make an end of this housing problem. Even so, it will be a very long time before you can leave one house and immediately find another, like buying new shoes. This afternoon we went to Cartloun where the annual Fair of the East Six Union for the disabled was taking place. I did mention this fair in this journal last year. I have to marvel continually at this show. There is the amazingly clever work of the disabled; and this is a terrific example of patience strength of mind and coordination of mind with limbs and muscles that are so far from working properly that their owners are disabled. I have written last year of the good work and amazing care and patience of the people, mostly ladies who do this fair. I have only to write that it lasts three days to let any body grasp how all these people who run it must be (tireless). We motored back to Levens and, at eight, we attended the County Folk Dance meeting at our Town Hall. Nice people Dorothy did some of the dances but I did not because I realized

what a sight I should look. Being short plus a rigid and bent spine, I should not be a help to the pretty scene that is there when all this people are dancing. We enjoyed this event as we did last year and renewed our acquaintances ~~at~~ with the County Chairman, Mr Lopp and his wife. They have booked the hall up for next year!!

Saturday December 4. A very busy day. We started off at St. John's Church Room at half past ten am where a St. Nicholas Fair was held in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. The last three words are a very well known term. I wonder how many of these bazaars or fairs are held in aid of Restoration of various churches). Dorothy opened the fair with a very good little speech and there was quite a nice crowd in the beginning and a continual coming and going. I hope they make plenty of money because the new rector whom

I have mentioned before in this journal is, in my opinion, worthy of some encouragement and he has a pretty uphill task. I always like to give encouragement in this type of effort and I would have liked him to have the same sort of support as I shall describe later today. After lunch we went to the Cliffs Church Room where the Cage bird society were holding their annual show. I admire all these fellow's concentration on their hobbies. I know a little bit about their enthusiasms etc. because I have often worked with people who were members. However, although there was a huge number of exhibits they were all the small bird variety and to me, there did not seem the same interest as when they used to hold the show at the Corn Exchange and have a variety of sizes and kinds of birds. On the way to this cage bird show, as we were going along in the pouring rain, we were picked up and driven the rest of the way by Mr. Leader, the deputy chief constable. He parked the car near the show, did his shopping and came back and took us to our next place to attend. All this was very kind of him. This next place was the 'Grange', where Southover church was holding

a fair (In aid of Church Res etc). We found that in spite of the heavy rain this was packed. However we had tea and pushed around a bit. There is no doubt that all the heavy stuff as regards money, is going to Southover nowadays. I have learnt since that this fair made £220. This is the sort of support I would have liked S John to have as I have mentioned earlier. Lady Hollands, who opened the show, was related to old Lewes family who were at the Grange many years ago, and chatting to her, we found she was related to one of the very earliest women doctors, a contemporary of Jex-Blake, and also to one of the 'Royal Free' heads who we had met years ago through Barty. Surprising how our links are developing. Some of the most casual things that happened many years ago are being recalled as we meet people, for the first time, but who are connected in some form, with a past event. This is continually happening in all directions from soldiering to boxing to the more intellectual pursuits that I have gone in for ~~sometimes~~ during the past forty years. We went to the Commercial Sq Bonfire dinner in the evening. Mid Pritchard met us and immediately was sorry because he had forgotten to bring a 50 year old singlet

which was worn by him in the gymnastic class of which we were both members. There were eight of us boys who fifty years ago were in that class. I don't know where they all are but Mid wanted to present me with this singlet and then forgot to bring it! This bonfire dinner was a very jolly affair and we stopped until the end when the bonfire prayers were said by all in a darkened room. So ended a day when we have done our duty as M&Ms attended these local functions. An example of tolerance coming with a general type of education is, I think, shown by me. I never worried about church bazaars or bonfire societies unduly, being mainly (and rather priggishly) ~~being~~ concerned with what I thought was helping towards Socialism. One learns there are a great many things like the stings we have done today, that are actually a part of life in a community such as this and you keep them all going. Some body likes them; much the same as some people like museums or what have you and some don't; you keep them going.

Sunday December 5.: A quiet day. In the evening we went to a wine and cheese evening which was organized by the Yards in aid of the Little Theatre Club Development Fund. Quite an interesting hour or two. Met many people who we haven't seen for some time and the house was packed with people in each room. There was a great deal of the noise of people speaking but I finally found a little room, perhaps the host's study (where Ben Franklin famous name) and another man and his wife were discussing theatre and they insisted I join them. The talk was mostly on theatre and technique. I think I am rather against Franklins purist ideas or, an easier word in these circumstances, his ideas of perfectibility. If the theatre is a medium, by use of which the artist gets his message over, then quite plainly the more company's there are sending that message, the better. I assume the theatre is for this purpose and without actors the message would never be put across. But the theatre is not just a thing to be worshipped and plays only to be performed by perfect actors. The theatre is an instrument, not a god. David very kindly

drove us up to the Yandys and fetched us home again

Monday December 6. I went to the parlour in the morning and, in the afternoon to the Annual General Meeting of the Sussex Rural Community. Lord Gage was chairman and I met several other people whom I have not seen often before. I didn't stop for tea because I had to attend the Lewes Fat Stock Show dinner in the evening. I had taken a hasty look at the market and show in the morning because, as I anticipated, the president made mention of the Mayor taking interest in the Show. This dinner was the usual gathering at this annual event. Mostly farmers and butchers and the ancillary bodies that are to do with fat stock breeding. Actually the words "fat stock breeding" are rather out of date. As one farmer told said to me at the market - "Those

lamb won the first prize but they'll be left on the farmers or the butcher's hands. They're too fat." I think he is right in so far as he implied that people don't want fat meat. But the two Aberdeen Angus he £ was pointing to did not seem unduly fat to me considering they has been currency combed and fluffed-up. At the dinner tonight I had the Arch-Deacon a man named Booth on my right. I should say he is pretty much to the right in politics. At least that was the inference from some remarks he made to me. He asked me if the general Election were to happen now who did I think would win? I firmly answered "Labour, without the least doubt". Later on as he responded on behalf of the guests he mentioned that he had many relations who were farmers and they are all in Rhodesia. This was quite a pleasant evening and I arrived home at 10-30

Tuesday Dec. 7. Mr Leney, the Magistrate's Clerk, rang me at the Parlour and said I needn't attend the court if I was busy. They had plenty of J.P.'s on hand so that was helpful, having regard to the amount of things I am trying to do. I fixed up with Mr Morris to see him at 6-15 this evening before the Finance Committee meeting and I then did the Parlour work and odds and ends of jobs and went to the Committee at 6-45 and saw him. At this Committee I was put permanently on the Levees Exhibition Hand Managers and also on the Managers of Western Rd and Wallands schools. This finance committee approved the report of the Establishment Sub-Committee. There was just silence when I made my remarks about the Committee findings. David came in just afterwards. If he had been earlier he might have been helpful. I expect there will be some re actions in certain quarters. I left there and went over to the Grange to Henry's class. That made eight present. I don't see how we can go on, but, as Oxford has agreed, it is only a matter of rent. I must explore this angle.

Wednesday December 8. After the Mayors work there were two very nice occasions. The Pells infants school Christmas concert and then to the Young Helpers party in the Corn Exchange. These two things were very refreshing, particularly the school concert when it is remembered that the eldest of these kids is seven and no more, one can imagine the amount of work put in by the teachers in the infants schools all over the country. Truly children do start off right in other schools. Huxley has said that here they learn co-operation but when they have moved up that is lost. Competition takes its place. Anyway, I think the infants teachers do a fine job and a very important one in the child's life. One slip in almost any of the steps a teacher must take when a five-year-old comes in his first day and to his attitude to schools or any bodies of people outside his home is made critical. We went on to the Young Helpers when we left the Pells school. This 'young helpers' is a body of children who are banded together just before Christmas. A rather well organized party is held, with grown-ups in charge and the children bring gifts and hand them to a Santa Claus and these gifts eventually find their way to

the children in the Barnadas Homes. This was as pleasant a party as it was last year. Last year, however, I had another job and did not get there until late, although Dorothy was there all the afternoon. This afternoon was very nice. Two sets of children, the Pells School and then the Young Helpers, all very happy and looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the coming Christmas.

Thursday December 9 There were two more special events today. The Mayors work goes on in the morning, of course and Joan B looked in. She was looking very well and is rapidly recovering from her thyroid operation. She was of some assistance to Irene and me in the vast amount of work there is to be done before Christmas but she will not be back until after Christmas. Irene is getting on very well and is getting more at home on the job of Mayors deputy secretary and if occasions like this happen again we shall be more able to cope with whatever situations may arise. Now for the two

things I mentioned above. One was the Speech Day at the County Secondary school. It was frightful weather cold, pouring rain. Considering the distance down to this school I was surprised that any of the parents turned up: They did though, and the big hall was packed with children on the left of the aisle as we looked from the platform and grown-ups on the right. I am very impressed with the bearing, the tidiness, the manners and indeed the whole of the qualities which go to make a decent child of eleven and upwards. Mr Josslyn, the headmaster, has made a wonderful job in his first year of this school. As this journal shows, a short while back we went to the County Grammar school speech day. Today I could not help reflecting that the difference between these two schools, a difference directly in reverse to what one would imagine, is most marked. (To cont.) On that entry I have noted that Tanner, the headmaster of the grammar school starts off with rugby and makes other things follow. This secondary headmaster starts off with scholastic achievements of the school and gave (Association) football room in its proper place. I don't know if these the difference in these two attitudes to football (or kinds) the first attitude giving it pride of place in

in a headmaster's report; and the second giving scholastic achievement prizes of place have nothing to do with the bearing and self-discipline of the children (and their neatness). I am certain, on the evidence of my own seeing, that the secondary school children I saw today were, generally speaking, better than those of the Grammar School on Oct 1. Sir Richard Boughey was the speaker and he made a very good job of it. We went up to the Town Hall where the Blind people's Christmas party was being held. These functions, (the Assn for the Blind and the ditto for the disabled) are always very moving to me. curiously enough, it is caused, in the main, by those people who do things to 'help' the disabled people. I keep meeting them wherever I go while I am Mayor and I have mentioned these things more than once in this journal. I was reminded of it today by only two incidents out of literally hundreds of such incidents that happen every time disabled people are gathered in large numbers with their friends and helpers with them. The first one happened when the secretary of the County Assn for the Blind made a point of introducing me to a woman who was deaf and dumb as well as blind.

Mrs Mitchener, the secretary, got through the barrier to this isolated woman by means of various taps and touches on her palm; and I thought "Here is somebody who has gone to immense trouble to learnt this 'touch' language so that she might be of service to those unfortunate ones who, but for the Mrs Mitchener of this world, would be completely isolated." Most of us are too lazy to learn fairly easy things. The second incident was when a choir from a school of partially sighted boys was giving a concert. An elderly man spoke to me during a break in the programme. He had sustained damage to his sight in the African campaigns of the first world war. He and I had a good talk and he said he would be very honoured if I could let him see (sic) the parlour one day. He introduced his daughter to me. He is eighty so it can be imagined the time his daughter has spent looking after him. When I said he was very welcome if he was in Lower any time her eyes <sup>filled with tears and</sup> showed her emotion and I could see. Here was another person who has given very generously of her life to helping this blind factor who, I could see, felt his handicaps very much. It is worth being mayor to have the chance of ~~see~~ having the chance to see humanity at its best. In the evening I attended a committee

meeting of the W.C.A. and we did quite an amount of planning, both for the immediate future and for the more distant times of next autumn's session.

Friday December 10 Irene M. and I got on with the work of what has to be done in the way of Mayor's work. In the afternoon I went to the fire Brigal committee (Court, Council) and came out at 3-30 to proceed after I had met Dorothy, to the C.S.N. school. Here I must be careful or I shall go on in the same way as I did yesterday about the people who help the handicapped. Here it is at this school again for all to see. Devoted women who really work patiently with these children and can make them turn out a play that was really good. In this During this play one could truly say. "There is nothing wrong with these children." Far from the emotion one felt being because of these backward

children, it was because the play was so well done. I will not write anymore on this matter or in this manner. I should use up too many books. We went home and got ready for the Golf Club Dinner and Dance, and a most enjoyable affair it turned out to be. We were taken care of by the secretary, Gordon Dummett and the captain, Colonel Warner, and very good care of it was. Warner said, during his short speech, that one of the evenings gathering drinking. Dorothy and I had several dances with each other and Dorothy had two with other partners while I had one with Miss Temple.

Saturday December 11: There was no Mayor's work when I went to the Parloar and see we passed an ordinary sort of Saturday until the evening when we were the guests of the Royal Naval Assn. at their annual dinner. This was a very nice occasion and incidentally, it was the third Saturday in succession when we have been the guests of some organization at an annual dinner and each one has been held at the "Elephant & Castle". We shall

be used to this place. Met a Captain, who  
is president of the Levers Branch of the R.N.A.  
his name is [redacted] and his wife. Very  
nice people. She spoke to me about horses; having  
had an accident and injured her teeth. Apparently  
her mount had tossed his head and, he  
having no martingale, had caught her with  
his poll. However, she was enjoying her  
meal and did not show any desfigurement.  
This was another nice evening in very good  
company. The one great thing about this job,  
or rather the way we are doing this job, is  
that we go to functions that are poles  
apart both as regards the organizations  
that run them and the people who  
attend them. My varied experience and "dilettante"  
knowledge of subjects stands me in good  
stead. Example tonight - all about horses with  
which I have had nothing to do since 1920.

Sunday December 12. Just a quiet "Sunday at  
Home". That was the name of a bound journal  
that used to be about when I was very young.  
We kids used to read anything that came our  
way and I remember these books being given  
to us by the next door neighbor when we  
arrive in Levers in February '08. These books  
must have been old even then or they  
wouldn't have been given away. Any way  
today Dorothy and I have had a quiet  
Sunday at home

Monday December ~~13~~<sup>13</sup>. Not a great deal to do. A few  
of the Rothman competition forms have been returned,  
but not many. I don't believe I have written about  
this so here goes. This is an advertising stunt  
run by Rothmans, the cigarette firm. I am  
concerned because they are going to give the  
proceeds, made up of entrance fees, to my

Old age pensioners appeal. The firm's representative and a few leading blokes from the town are going to judge the entries Friday next.

I have had much on today. Dorothy had to go to a Business and Professional Women's do at Hounslow Rile and I had the evening clear. Went for a walk and looked in at the Labour Club. There were quite a number of people there and I made a point of seeing Lionel Warren because I wanted him to know some sympathy in his little trouble with the Registrar. I carried on and walked up to the erstwhile "Riflemen" and, as I expected, met a good many chaps there. As long as I can remember this pub has been extremely popular and I wonder what makes a pub be always like this. I suppose having once got a good start with the right type of landlord, the Brewers pick future applicants for the licence with great care, and psychological skill. I walked back and had a read.

Tuesday December 14: Another soft day. I didn't have to attend the court after all but I have to do so tomorrow. I was thus able to do various jobs which had needed doing and to face the heavy day I have to face tomorrow. Dorothy was undecided at first whether or not to attend the Collins class but finally we both went down and this was as well because it was quite an enjoyable one. The "agnostics" were back there but we managed to guide things along much better and we had an enjoyable two hours. Joe Hearn gave us a lift back as "has become his wont" of late.

Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>: A very busy day starting off with the usual ParLOUR work and immediately followed by the Bench which was held in my Council Chamber with Parish and me as the two Magistrates. The first case was of three "Teenage" youths who were guilty of stealing petrol from cars by cipher methods. The two regular ones

of this little gang were fined £10 and the newcomer,  
the youngest, we fined £5; and of course he had  
a sound lecture about future conduct. The next  
case was a much more grave affair. Two men, one  
23 and the other 33, pleaded guilty to stealing, after  
breaking into a store, just under £300 worth of wines  
and spirits. Each had previous offences proved  
against them. Parrish and I agreed on three months  
each but I think these two were lucky. All  
the goods had been recovered before they were sold.  
I had to hurry home and eat luncheon, a lovely meat  
pudding, and we had a car up to the Lewes  
High School where there was a Christmas fair  
and a Nativity play, cards etc. This was very  
well done. Mrs Hoffman, who I knew years ago,  
was very complimentary to us and me and  
gave us a very warm welcome and hospitality. Mr.  
Reynolds turned up. Apparently he is on the board  
of this school. Mrs Hoffman, while talking to me,  
didn't hide her anxiety regarding the fictions of  
private schools. Mr Leader, the Deputy Chief  
Constable drove us down to the Town Hall, he is  
being very helpful to us on these busy days. At  
the Town Hall there was the Christmas Party  
of the old people. These affairs always make

me think. The people always start clapping as soon as we  
appear. This party went off much as last year with  
me saying a few words of greeting and Dorothy  
doing the draw. We left the party and went  
upstairs. On the way Reg Yarrow, who was officiating  
at the old people's party, whispered that he was  
going to refer back a paragraph of the Housing Com.  
report. I was rather relieved about this. I knew  
my own (sic) people were very divided on the matter  
and it would give an opportunity for further consideration.  
Everything went forward alright. There was a  
niggly feeling in the air on all the matters that arose  
before the Housing Com. report. was taken. When the  
item in question came to be referred back before the  
debate had developed, Bill Brees moved that the question  
be put. and that was that. Frank Hayward, the  
chairman, who is deputy Mayor and can whisper to  
me, complained he had not been called upon to  
reply. Actually, of course, if a proposal "that the  
question be put" is carried the question must  
be put to the vote. The rest of the meeting went  
off alright but in quite an unhurried way and  
all came into the Parlor for Christmas good  
wishes. Joan B had arrived alright and we  
were all glad to see her looking so well. When

everybody had gone, Dorothy and I made our way along the passage to the Lecture room where the Football Club's welfare committee was holding their annual get-together of those valuable people who collect the money weekly. We were warmly welcomed and pleasantly spent our last hour of Mayoral duties on this very busy chatting to various people of the Football Club. What a busy day. Fortunately, we have not had to say a great deal and so we have got by alright. Everywhere we have been, the people seem very glad to see us and they show it which is very nice of them and very nice for us.

Thursday December 16: A much easier day. Did the Parlour work and then had Mr Morris come over and meet the savings probing Committee. Probing is my own adjective for this meeting. The district commissioners of the Savings movement came and was accompanied by Mr. Mellers the local chairman and the committee was made up with Mrs Bush, the chairman of the Chailey

R.D.C. and myself. The idea is that a 60 year jubilee be celebrated next year and we looked into the pros and cons of this proposition and set things in motion by booking the Assembly room for next June. This afternoon we went to the C.S.H. school as we had done last Friday. This time was the children's party and they were all very happy. I had a better chance to inspect the Hall today and it is very well arranged for this type of school. There is no doubt the County schools have an enormous advantage over most private schools. I can't imagine any private school of this type as being in existence. If there are any I can't imagine them being equipped like this one.

Friday December 17. The first thing today without any parlour work being done, was the Postman Slogan competition. Three people from the local

Press, myself and the prison Governor and the Chairman of the Round Table judged the competition and, finally, came to a decision. The Rothman man presented me with a cheque for £10.3.6 for the old peoples welfare. He also left plenty of cigarettes!

Since I hardly smoke I shall be able to entertain quite handsomely when any body who does smoke is there. Having seen everybody away I had to hurry round to see the Laughtons (the new Rector of St Johns) because we had promised to have coffee today. I was a little late but found Dorothy was there holding the fort. I was only able to be there for about 45 minutes, because I had to go to the Blailey P.D.C. chairman's meeting, but while I was with Laughton I did gather that "The Church had been insisting for years on the importance of psycho-somatic treatments and now the Medical profession had agreed that it was vital" a meeting was being called in Lewes "By the Medical Profession themselves." Dorothy and I did not need more than one guess to know the inviting body was the lastlegate group. I must do what I can to help Laughton of course but only on things that are to do with 'matters temporal'. The Blailey Chairmans Sherry party was in

full swing when I arrived. Much the same as last year. Spoke to a man named Lewis who is deputy Clerk to the Authority and he wanted to know if we would be attending the pre-school Playgroup Christmas party. Consequently Dorothy and I added another visit to our list and went up to the party. We had paid them a visit some months back on a workday. The women who run this do so very well and I understand from Joan that the children who start school at 5 and have previously been to one of these pre-school groups, seem to adapt themselves much more quickly than other children. These groups are even an improvement on nursery schools. This visit finished our Mayoral duties for today. David Williams overtook us as we came down Western Road and gave us a lift home. Late in the evening we went to the Labour Club as we occasionally do on a Friday evening and we met many friends there. Lewes is an extraordinary town and the number of people who gather at different places is also remarkable. You are liable to meet the same people in places that are poles apart as regards origin and things that are done there. This makes for a very mixed community which, I think is all to the good.

Saturday December 18. I went to the Parlour this morning and found the members of the Round Table were gamely carrying on with their collection for Christmas parcels in spite of most appalling weather. Heavy rain and wind of gale force made it miserable to be out in the street at all. However, they were out with their collecting boxes and a barrel organ and working away like heroes. In the afternoon I had to be on hand to welcome the relay team of the Eastbourne Runners Athletic Club who carried Christmas greetings to me from the Mayor of Eastbourne. These lads arrived in splendid shape, despite the weather. Dorothy had arrived from a school concert and we entertained the runners to tea & sausage rolls. What people will do in carrying out their favourite sports! Not only the runners, for with them were a number of followers, people who pace them, timekeepers etc. Jolly good. I am glad this sort of sport goes on because it is quite private and carried out without any suggestion at all of personal monetary gain or kudos. There used to be plenty of kindly things always going on but during the thirties there was a kind of attitude among intellectuals mostly, that was apt to sneer at these things.

I am glad that <sup>kind in</sup> some of the things the body can do has not quite died out. One of the lads from Eastbourne runs about 70 miles a week!! After tea Dorothy and I went to the Little Theatre to see the half programme of entertainment and the other half of *Ariadne auf Naxos*: I thought this programme not too good. The play might have passed muster as a purely Christmas thing such as is done in schools at this season, but to try to sing it grand opera fashion was fatal as far as I was concerned. There is nothing in the world makes me want to go berserk except short-sentenced dialogue gabbled in song accompanied by 'classical' music. Little Theatre, don't let the emotions of this time of the year sweep you into doing this sort of thing. A good ordinary play would suit much better. Leave this stuff to the schools. They can make a success of it. I have given tickets to Irene (deputy Sec) and her mother. This will be the first time either of them have been to the Little Theatre and I'm afraid, they won't get a very good impression.

Sunday December 19. I made one or two little journeys although the weather is still pretty bad. In the afternoon I paid a visit to 68 Pixies Edwards Rd and saw how they were getting on. Katie has "fleabites" but otherwise everyone seemed pretty well. In the evening Raymonde Hawkins sent a car to take us to the Dignes Hotel, where "Raystede" the animal welfare centre was holding the Annual Dinner. We spent a very happy evening with pleasant company and reached home quite late. Richard Wood drove us back and we were soon into bed. When I think of Raystede my mind turns to wondering about the people who subscribe so liberally to the things to do with helping animals. The effort to help children would not drag people into the country on a wet and cold December Day, there is tramps about in mud and wetness. I am willing to wager and judging by what I have seen of fêtes and fairs in the summer, I should win. That if these were held for any cause except for animals they would be a washout financially. I think it is quite natural to draw the conclusion one, that <sup>some</sup> a great many people will put up with more physical discomfort for animals than

for human beings. Two, that <sup>some of</sup> these people are not beyond showing quite plainly that this is so and three, which follows naturally from these two, there are a very great many cranks who have money to give away and who make no secret of their ideas that animals are far better than humans. In this sort of reasoning they never, of course, include themselves either as a human or an animal. I must remember of course, that a great many people subscribe to both the welfare of humans or animals quite liberally.

Monday December 20. Heaps of Christmas cards coming into the parlour and at home. Here wasn't much to do but I had to go to the hospital for the "Gideon Women" who presented entertainments to the staff and so equalled the stunt of the "Gideon Men" a few weeks back. Amazing how these three women all of middle age or over, thought they knew everything about the working of the (mind?) of God. I was very fed up

with this affair, not to mention the increasing number of times I am caught on this sort of hookum! On such matters I try not to hurt peoples feelings but I am beginning to find that besides not hurting peoples feelings, I must not hurt my own. However those of us who were present including the Matron, Rev H. and the Secretary of the Hospital showed we weren't too pleased with this giving away of testaments so as to work up the occasion for an impromptu prayer by one of their "Gideon Ladies". In the evening Dorothy and I went to the Grange where the Coop Party wine and cheese evening was held and met quite a number of old acquaintances. Manley, the Labour candidate was there so the Labour Party are still keeping things going

Tuesday December 21. After the parlour work was over I really had to go to the Magistrates Court but I had a cold very rapidly developing so I got excuse'd at 4 o'clock Dorothy and I went to the G.P.O. where the Postmaster Mr. Hopkins showed us round and we saw the p. o's at work during their busiest time of the year. We also went to the sorting office and watched them at work there. This visit was quite interesting but I have the idea that we were missing a good deal which we would not have missed had we gone at a different time. However the postmaster had chosen the time for us to pay the visit. At seven o'clock we were invited to a carol service at the boys Grammar school and we enjoyed this service which was held in the Chapel of the school. It was quite interesting to be in this chapel, knowing all the work and scheming and saving that has gone into making it possible. We left there at the conclusion of the service and made our way to 5 Summers terrace where Dr Collins econ. class was being held this week. It was quite an effort to make this walk because my cold was now developing very rapidly and I began to feel as though both heart and lungs were affected!!

However recovered during the discussion and Joe  
Kean gave us a lift home and I soon went to  
bed.

Bish had had to go into the Six County Hospital with  
internal pains so I must see if I can get down  
there tomorrow and find out what's up.

Dorothy arrived home having seen the school  
party through and she did some more shopping. We  
didn't go out during the evening.

Wednesday December 22. I did what there was  
to do at the Parlour. Mrs M did not turn up  
this morning so I now have no secretary. The  
Town Clerk came over phoned me late this  
evening about the Winterbourne Alert as he will  
be away tomorrow. Dorothy and I got on with  
the slapping this morning and had lunch in  
the 'Volunteer'. We had a drink with Gordon Foster  
of the "Argus" and John Constable of the "Six Counties"  
and then we had to go to the Pells School Party.  
However, the cold was now so bad I thought  
it best not to go among kids with it so Dorothy did  
the party and I went to bed for two hours or so.  
which did a great deal of good. There was  
a phone call from Bish's wife Dorothy, that

Thursday December 23. I got Mr Greatorex (at the office)  
to give me a run round the area affected by the  
Winterbourne flooding danger. The Town Clerk is  
away today and the deputy, Mr Armitage carried  
on the conference with the County Council over the  
necessary precautions that must be taken. There is  
nothing else to report from the Mayoral point of view.  
I have sent the rest of the cards and I hope  
nobody is left out. But then I have no  
secretary. This evening I went down and  
saw Bish in the Six County Hospital and he

seemed fairly well. At any rate he was pretty cheerful. While there a man and his wife came to visit Ash and it was one of my cousins on the male side, Fred Barber. I can only remember seeing him twice before. Once in 1923 when he was 14 and once for the very briefest moment at Maggie's funeral. I have promised Barin Hilda his wife, I would visit her and I must try and do that. That side of our clan (the Uncle Albert side) always carry out their family obligations, such as visiting Ash this evening as soon as they had been made aware that he was in hospital. I always feel rather negligent, <sup>and</sup> although I expect I have a great deal more of public life and service to carry out than they do, I always seem to as though their presence reminds me of family duties I have been dodging.

Friday December 24. The Town Clerk looked in first thing and gave me a report on the "flood" conference between the C Council and Mr. Armitage. We are now much better fitted to deal with any emergency, than we were on the last occasion. The winter storms made itself a nuisance. Armitage and the deputy surveyor must have made their points well because I saw bathtubs in the flats and he was taking a very serious attitude about the possible flooding: and well might a serious view be taken. The rain was still pouring down as we were discussing the matter. Later on I showed David Monkellow and three other young men from Boxters, over the Mayor's Parlour and the Council Chamber. They were quite impressed and they think I'm a lucky old man. In the afternoon it was a matter of getting ready for the evening. Bert and Joan Bram came over from Patcham and later R. Hawkins and Bert Briggs came in at the end of their tour of the hospitals. I noticed that their conversation was almost identical with last year so I suppose the hospital committee work does not give much scope. There are quite a number of hospitals for them to attend and I suppose the arrangements for the Christmas are very

much like the arrangements for another Christmas they gave Bert and Joan a lift back to Patcham and Dorothy and I went up to the Williams but all the people had gone so we came home and rested. I was glad Dorothy gave up her idea idea of mid night at St Michaels because this cold is playing me up pretty much I have a job to breathe through my nose and I am pretty wheezy. As we left the Williams it seems as if I am going to lose my voice again!!

Saturday December 25. We did the hospital visiting today R. H. didn't come and we managed very well. In fact it seemed to me as though we got on better than last time. Dorothy gave a bunch of violets to the women patients and a carnation to the men: and after a light lunch at home we had a rest and then went to the Mabel Lester Home for Elderly Women. This went much the same as last year and

blind ladies and the people who look after them gave me the same admiration as such things always make feel. These old blind ladies all seem to reach a wonderful old age. They're all between 85 and 95. Some of them, of course, have lost other senses such as hearing and this makes the work of the staff even harder. However, I have written about this subject in this journal for last Christmas. While we were at the Victoria Hospital we saw Miss Dumbrell, one of our Councillors who is there for an appendix operator. She seems to me to be going along alright. Dorothy and I walked home from the blind ladies party, calling at the Town Hall on the way and putting away the chair. Lucy has deserted the town seemed although it was only round six o'clock. I suppose they are all resting after strenuous Christmas afternoons. When I was a boy one could walk along an ordinary street of terraced houses and hear music or singing of one sort or another come from every front room on Christmas afternoon although musical instruments or gramaphones etc. were extremely rare in such settings. It was the variety of the different junkshops that

was interesting. Nowadays today, as we walked home, everywhere was quiet so I suppose everyone is looking at their television set, or listening to their radio set. Whatever they are doing, it didn't sound outside. Of course, if one could hear it from outside, one would find it nearly all of the same programme and therefore no variety of sounds to be heard from outside as of old.

Sunday December 26. Buntz John and Helen arrived with their presents to Dorothy and me. The baby, Helen, is now making very good progress and John and Buntz are very well. Buntz drove us all down to Patcham where we enjoyed the Christmas fare that Joan and Bert produced. Buntz and John, with the baby, left

for Hurst Green at about dusk and Dorothy & I stopped with Bert and Joan and saw the film Oliver Twist on the television. We saw this in cinemas at least twelve years ago and it was just as good today. We enjoyed it. Got home about eleven. Bert Bram seems to keep well under the work caused by his new post in the Ministry of Overseas Development. I hope the Government lasts long enough for him to get some work through. I know he likes the principles behind the formation of this ministry.

Monday December 27. We walked up the town to where the Hunt was to meet outside the "White Hart" and there met Margaret Crowley. Because of the coldish wind we retired to the Mayor's Parlour where, from the window of the Council Chamber, there was a good view of the meet. Margaret was very

interesting taking of her various jobs. There was nothing happening today and Dorothy and I spent a quiet time for the rest of the day.

Tuesday Dec. 28: Another quiet day with practically nothing open in the town. We walked up and saw Doll Doll Leslie, Winnie and Katie this afternoon and afterwards spent a quiet evening. We had news that Miss Dumbrell had died today. This is quite a surprise

Wednesday December 29. Went to the Parlour and started being a Mayor again. Joan B has not come back yet and will probably start next Monday. The Town Clerk looked in and we spoke of various things. The Winterbom has not flooded so we are thankful but are glad we had caused, to be set into operation, the emergency measures that are necessary in this type of municipal

emergency. This evening the congregation of S. Michaels gave a farewell party and a gift to the retiring Rector. Kenneth Rawlings. Dorothy and I attended and it proved to be quite a good little ceremony. I remember Rawlings coming to this church and the various discussions, debates and differences that have arisen from his position from time to time. From rows about transubstantiation to his advanced, through the years, to using his considerable powers to more worthwhile projects and has, therefore made many friends through his championing of the underdog, his work in various peace organizations, and his willingness to stand up for his views. As far as I am concerned and apart from my being Mayor of the town, I think his most important work, work that has left its mark on very many people, is not whether bread and wine can be exchanged substance, not whether sitting down and letting the enemy take over your country is a viable proposition and not even considerable powers as an orator. I think his most important contribution is the insulation of the spirit of the theatre into the town people. His Little Theatre, properly used, will do much

towards teaching people real things and, at the same time, will prove a very great source of pleasure for a very great many people

Thursday Dec. 30. After the Parlour, the Magistrates Court. I got put into what I always call the "dry" list and consequently had a string of motoring cases to deal with. Most of these I recognised as those of a big list of summonses that was brought up for me to sign at the beginning of November. They were almost all for speeding; i.e. over 50 m.p.h. when supposed to be within that limit. There were only two or three over fifty and the most apart from those were not much over the prescribed limit. We fined them £5 or so and upwards according to the enormity of the offence. In the afternoon to the Tap a long club. in

association, which is run by good people of the Red Cross, for the care of cripples (now always referred to as "handicapped" people). I did describe this association and the party in this journal last year. My admiration for the people who do this work and for the disabled, who have a go at helping themselves, is as great or greater than it was last year. In the evening I attended the meeting of the Local Labour Party, for a while and then came out to meet Dorothy at Middle Way. John Perkins came out with me and stopped and chatted while I waited for the "bus". When I said he had no need to wait since he had obviously come out of the meeting for reasons of time he replied "Not entirely. Part of my reason for leaving the meeting was because I am reluctant to listen to the Young Socialists describing Socialism"; I reached Middleway at ten to nine and met Dorothy at Ted Stevens and we had a quiet chat and a drink with Ted and his sister, and this was very pleasant.

Friday December 31: After light work in the Parlour there was Miss Dumbrell's funeral where I had to read the lesson at the service. There was a very good big congregation and quite a big number of Councillors and officers. Every thing went off well and that is another reason to be satisfied. Being Mayor carries a lot of odd and ends of responsibilities and things of this nature. I did a little shopping and visited Baxters works. John Green, who took over my post of Father of Chapel when I left, tells me he may be leaving soon. In the end, and if the bookbinders continue with their quick turnover of labour, there will be no point in my going round Baxters because I shan't know anybody. I returned and looked into the Town Hall where the Assembly room is being made ready for the usual New Years Eve dance (tonight) The Young Socialists are running it. It is a dance that is to raise money and so I hope it is a success as well as hoping it will go off without untoward incidents. Some of the young people who attend these dances seem to think that the event is run to provide them with a chance to show their progress as

rough house fighters

Saturday January 1 1966. No Mayor's work today and this evening we went by Mappetts car to Southeast and picked up Kay Gibbons and then journeyed on to Patcham where Bert and Joan O. were holding a little party. There was a man there named Bruno Valpert an economist and his wife Helma. Norah, who researches for the Co-op Party and Bert ~~Bert~~ and Joan, Dorothy and me and Kay. Joan had provided a wonderful meal and there was plenty of good talk etc. Altogether a very happy evening. With Bert having been to Rhodesia as one of Wilsons team, and Bruno holding a high position in the overseas development ministry, the discussion, which dealt in part to with the Smith government of Rhodesia, was very able as would be expected. Bruno was very interested in Kays efforts on the Education front and praised her approach and her conclusions on several points. Joan is a very able hostess now and I suppose she has to be because of Bert's position. Helma, Bruno's wife, did not say a great deal but I

gather sole is a sculptor. Bruno while we were discussing the Rhodesian situation, put things in their proper perspective when he pointed out that the white population of that country was approximately the same as (say) Leicester and would probably have less chance than Leicester of producing anyone of political calibre who would be able to deal with the world wide situation in which Rhodesia has found itself! He also pointed out that because of the world set-ups leading to the danger of a war of complete annihilation, quite a number of relatively unknown places suddenly find themselves the centre of world wide attention.

I think this is proved <sup>by</sup> recent years events and when Bert described some of the people who now have despotic power in Rhodesia I began to see how dangerous a position we, as a country, and like other countries are in; and how important it is that some effort is made collectively to deal with each of these "should-be" local problems. We left when Mr Mappett came for us at eleven and he quickly transported us to Southcote where we saw Ray safely in and then he took us home. On the way somewhere in the region of Riss Farm there was quite a fire raging

We were too far away to be sure what it was that was blazing so merrily but I expect we shall know tomorrow because, as a fire, it appeared to be quite a one.

Sunday: January 2: I woke early and for some reason, probably because I could hear rain and thunder, I thought of the Winterbourne stream and I resolved to have a look at it. Later in the morning, then, I did go over there and it is running very swiftly and fast. I called on George Burfield and he seemed more happy about the stream than he was a week or so ago. Precautions we took just before Christmas are still in operation and I only hope nothing further happens when all this latest lot of rain makes its way down from the hills and comes charging along in the stream. I understand it takes about two days for this to happen. As is in this journal for Dec. 24 the County Council have had their attention drawn to the inadequacy of getaway so, & judging by what Catchpole said on that date, perhaps they will do

something. It does appear <sup>to me</sup> that the steps taken by the C.C. in 1960 are not good enough. This evening Mary H came round to dinner and later Ted and Joan F joined us. We five spent a very pleasant evening and had a good natter. I could not help noticing, yet again, how lively a mind Joan F. has. Conversation that includes her in the group is always very exhilarating. Two nice evenings we have spent in this manner and quite apart from being Mayor. I started this journal to record my activities as Mayor. I find I have gradually gone over to recording everything that happens to me so I had better be careful. I am only a step from thinking my private life important.

Monday January 3. I went to the parlour and later on Joan B. came round. I am very glad for her to be back and on the way to getting better in health. There was not a great deal to do except there were several phone calls, one from Lency

asking if I would serve on the Bench this afternoon, an emergency sitting. These emergency sittings are called to save any person, who is accused of any infringement of the law, from being kept in custody or hanging about while waiting for his case to be heard. It is a demonstration of the terrific efforts that are made in this country to make sure the law is carried out in such a way that it can never put an accused person to any extra trouble. In short, it is a good job when we magistrates like me about who are willing to be called upon to attend the Court at very short notice and give up our time. (even be put to extra trouble). This case today was a young fellow of no fixed abode who, by his own statement, makes himself a nuisance and carries out petty crimes. He has served some terms of detention and imprisonment and today he damaged a telephone kiosk and gave himself up in the hope that he would get some compulsory medical treatment for his petty offences or rather, the urge to commit petty offences. The immediate examination by two doctors can find no such cause for this present trivial offence. Mr Parish and I remanded him in custody for fourteen days for a longer examination and

the probation officers report. While I was at Court I was enrolled to attend on <sup>Thursday</sup> Wednesday for two matrimonial cases. My work snowballs up. Mr Grantham, the Chairman will have to be away for awhile for an operation for hernia and prostate trouble. Bad luck for him and it means that magistrates will be in still shorter supply. This evening Dorothy and I went to the Lewes Boys Club for an sudden visit and found everything was going well. Mr Collinson, the leader is doing a splendid job here and the club appear to be in very good trim. I watched a "four-a-side" indoor football match for a while, very exciting. I have fixed some dates on which to make more official calls on this club.

Tuesday January 4. Did the Parlour work but had to get out early because of the Bench borrowing my chambers. Joan B and I, therefore turned

ourselves out at ten, having done the work. At lunch time Chester (the hall keeper) rang me up because he had a woman Mayor from America who wanted to sign the visitors book etc. Dorothy and I went up to the town hall and found that Chester had misunderstood the visitor was a woman who was a friend of the Mayor of Lewes Delaware who visited about two years ago. We made her very welcome and Dorothy wrote out a nice message which we both signed and, after looking over the building she our visitor left very happy. In the evening there was a library Committee meeting which went off quite smoothly and, after a chat with John Perkins I made my way down to the Grange and the Collins' house. Dorothy arrived later on and Joe Hearn drove us home about 9-45. By the way, this morning I received from Mr Goldsmith of the Congregationalist Church, the lesson he wishes me to read at his church service next Sunday morning. I find it is a piece of S. Matthew's gospel with plenty of "sheep and goats" "righteous and unrighteous" "cast into hell fire" etc about it. I must get into touch with him tomorrow to change it or I cannot read it. The Smith government of Rhodesia appears to be wobbling now feel free

Wednesday January 5: The first thing I did was to ask Joan B. to phone the Rev. Goldsmith and let him know of my distaste for the lesson he had selected for me to read. I spoke to him on the phone and he was quite eager to change it so now I am to read some of the chapter that deals with the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. Thank goodness. There was a message from the Mayor of Blois giving New Year greetings and inviting me and Dorothy to visit them and perhaps bring a delegation with us. I have taken steps to that end. Today we have or I have received a letter from one Peter Smith, informing me that he will be coming over to see me tomorrow. Since we have known Peter and his family for about thirty-five years, and during all that time he has never shown any desire to be in my company we are wondering what the game is. We know Peter. A man named Small called regarding housing. He has seven children!!

Thursday January 6: I was asked to attend court today for two Matrimonial cases so I finished at the parlour by ten o'clock and went to the County Hall Mr Parrish was the chairman and there were Mrs Ridgeway and me. There was an affiliation case where a young man of twenty two was summoned to show cause why he should not pay towards the upkeep of an illegitimate baby which had been born to a girl of sixteen. This was an interesting case for various reasons. Both sides were represented by legal men: and at the end of a considerable time, during which much interesting argument was used, we found in favour of the girl's claim. There was another case involving desertion, cruelty, and failure to maintain family etc. This was a very young married couple who, quite obviously, were not going to hit it off together. We expected to be working away at this case all the afternoon but, fortunately, the parties came to an ~~an~~ agreement on some vital aspects of the disagreement and this enabled us to finish before dinner (lunch) and accordingly I had to go home and meet Peter S. with the prospect of being loaded with him all the afternoon. Joan B. however phoned down requesting me to sign some documents so this

helped matters. Peter duly arrived and gave his reasons for coming to Lewes but not his reasons for being so concerned about myself. Peter is very unsatisfactory really and I was rather glad when he went and I left him at the council offices where I went to sign the documents. In the evening we went to the "Grange" where the Health Club were holding their annual party and we spent quite a happy evening. The people who run the club are very nice and I hope the club flourishes for quite a long time. We left at quarter past eleven.

Friday January 7: Now that Joan B is back we turn our energies to the Mayors Reception and Ball which I have fixed for March 4. Joan is starting on the invitations to the Mayors and Aldermen of Sussex. The aldermen of my Council are to meet on Jan 8 to find a Mayor elect who will become Mayor after May. The other engagement today

was quite a jolly one. It was at the "Grange" and was the staff party. There were plenty of dances and games and some good food. Dorothy wore the "Peacock Kingfisher" frock and she and I stuck out a marathen old fashioned waltz so I imagine I am quite a respectable dancer now. There were quite a lot of new faces and, of course, the more junior staff posts do have a change over which is fairly rapid. It's bound to be so. Joan and Colin B. turned up and we were in their company at supper time. The town clerk took us home about eleven-thirty and we were glad of the lift after all our dancing.

Saturday January 8: An ordinary Saturday morning and in the afternoon an enjoyable old peoples party. They were all very glad to see us and as welcoming as they always are. The <sup>my</sup> Bowes ~~Lytton~~ was there and has invited us round to have a drink and view her house. A year ago at this function she was quite stand offish but

since the Southern T.V. dinner, and my speech there  
she has evidently arrived at the conclusion that  
we are quite somebody to know. Also, Dorothy  
had taken notice of a family wedding which  
was reported in the Times and these people are  
just as pleased if you notice their little  
press notices as any proletarian. This  
party was much the same as last year but  
really it was a much better concert programme.  
There were some of the Brighton group again in-  
cluding Mrs Boyce who I like as an entertainer  
at this kind of gathering. I also had a dance with  
Mrs Frost and managed quite well so I suppose  
I am getting quite proficient. It is rather interesting  
to watch these older people, bearing in mind I  
am also old like them. I think, allowing for  
the bias implicit in the words "I am old, like them",  
I am sure the old people of today are far more  
handsome than their forebears so things must  
have been gradually getting better. After all  
we who are over 65 now have been through  
two of the most shocking wars in the history  
of mankind; and this combined with the fact  
that it is only in the last fifty years or so  
that the idea that the government is responsible

for the physical well being of its people <sup>has developed,</sup>  
those of our age didn't have too <sup>#1 proves that</sup> easy a passage.

Sunday January 9: One Mayor's duty to day. Read the  
lesson at the Congregationalist Church and so  
carry out my promise to Mr. Goldsmith, the minister  
of that church (see T.S. Jan 4). This was a very good  
effort on the part of this minister to introduce a  
new type of service, a family service. It was  
an intermingling of children and adults.  
Although I ~~haven't~~ <sup>don't attend</sup> attend for the usual church  
service, I realise that each of the groups, made  
up of a different form of Christian worship, are  
part of my community, but even if this were  
not so, it is right that all these  
bodies of people who have the same  
ideas about things should be able to

meet and carry out their form of worship or interest. Actually, as far as I am concerned, this period of being Mayor and so attending various forms of service, has, by really making me be there and think about these services, confirmed my view that there is a good deal of childishness about most of them. We spent a quiet day at home, for the rest of this Sunday. A piece of more general news. The Town Hall was gutted by fire last night! I'm glad we had attended the Mayoral reception there.

time for them will be ok they have the Mayress' parlour and the Council Chamber and I have my parlour. It was a bit too much when I let them have my parlour the last time. I had nowhere in which to receive callers. In the evening I went to the Highways and Town Planning Committee. The seating of the members in the Committee Room has been altered. I don't know if I like it or not as yet.

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Monday January 10. I went to the office at the usual time and dealt with all the things that needed dealing with. Joan B has started work on the Ball now so if any body reads this journal they will see me go into my usual fantasy about how many are coming etc. Tomorrow there will be the Divorce Court ~~and~~ borrowing the chambers and I hope the arrangement we have made this

Tuesday January 11. I'm 67 today. We did the usual work and then the day passed in a quiet manner. In the afternoon the Town Clerk phoned me that the D.C. Judge was very

unhappy about his accomodation in the Mayoress room. One, besides being crippled and having a short flight of steps to negotiate ~~for~~ not seeing very well either. Two; under this arrangement he has to pass behind the barristers when he enters the Court which apparently is not done in the Judicial circles.

The Town Clerk appears to think I ought to give way on this matter not upon the Judge's physical disabilities which I do take into consideration and will go to some lengths to rectify ~~those~~. I have agreed to meet the Judge or the Registrar or associate tomorrow morning before their court starts. Anyway, I have used my parlour today. There was a Parks committee this evening which was finished in quite a reasonable time but Dorothy and I did not attend the Collins class at the Grange. The weather is cold, snowy and slippery, but I must be quite honest. A short while back it would take much more than these conditions to stop us attending a W.C.A. class. Because of the circumstances I have mentioned before in this Journal, these <sup>Parish</sup> classes can be a waste of time.

Wednesday January 12 : The Town Clerk and I met the Associate and fixed up about the room. Actually there was no need for me to make any offer because we were informed that the Judge had apologised, as it were to his people and could now manage alright. He had been short tempered that morning through various causes. We have offered to change the furniture so that he can enter ~~not~~ in front of the barristers. Straight from here I went to the service at St Annes Church for the Associate service and welcomed the Judge ~~the Judge~~ and not the one I have mentioned above. This service passed off in a satisfactory manner and afterwards I saw Cllr Reg Yarrow in the parlour and then went home and got ready for the High Sheriff's lunch. I have noted at the last <sup>Roman</sup> Associate lunch that the High Sheriff has a catholic priest with him. On this occasion it was the Bishop of Arundel (sic) a chubby little man with various robes crosses and other trinkets about his person a very smooth skinned face. While he was talking to us the new Rector of St Annes came up (a traditional example of muscular Christianity)

and kissed the Bishop's hand in a full  
tipped kind of a way. I know the  
ring is kissed by believers in this faith  
but somehow this action of the rectors  
seemed so silly that it was prevented from  
being positively indecent by its silliness.  
Quite apart from all religious etiquette,  
of which we never take any notice, Dorothy  
and I were somewhat <sup>surprised</sup> ~~sickened~~, any way  
enough to mention this to each other afterwards.  
I found I had been placed back in my  
usual place at these luncheons on the  
immediate right of Mrs Hardy-Roberts, wife  
of the High Sheriff. I had this place  
always until the previous luncheon when I  
had the left and the Bishop of Chichester the  
right. Mrs Hardy-Roberts is a very nice  
woman: kind and thoughtful and willing to  
discuss a situation quite rationally without  
smothering her points in a blanket of  
emotionalism. I like her and the High Sheriff  
very much, as, indeed I did the previous  
High Sheriff, Sir Richard, and Lady Brougham.  
There is generally a mixed collection of guests  
at these affairs; and, since it is generally

limited to the time taken by the Judge of the  
assize to have his lunch there is not much  
chance to talk to all the guests and get to know  
them, nevertheless, Dorothy and I enjoy them.  
Joan G. has told me to buy a book for my  
birthday present and I have ordered the third  
volume of Leonard Woolf's autobiography. I also  
had a card from our librarians on this birthday  
which was very kind of them.

Thursday January 13. I had a fairly quiet  
morning but a very busy afternoon. After the  
office work, which is now beginning to fix  
the attention on the Ball on March 4, I had  
a fairly quiet morning; but, in the afternoon, I  
had to attend the House Committee of the Hospital  
and Dorothy had to attend the Old Peoples  
Party at St Mary's Hall. We had the car and  
went to Mountfield Rd., picked up Mrs Turner

of the Old Folks and I dropped off at the hospital and attended the meeting of the House Committee. This did not take long, after all, and one of the members, Dr Palmer, gave me a lift back to the Mayor's Parlour where I had a meeting of Drs to discuss the possibilities of making an organization to raise money towards a new operating theatre. Fortunately I had taken the precaution of having the Town Clerk in attendance because Dr Palmer was likely to be carried away by his enthusiasm and the T.C. was able to keep things on a more business-like basis. This Dr Palmer had, sometimes to be steadied a little by his colleague Dr Nicholls. There was also present a Mr Michael Hillman who was able to make useful contributions to the discussion. Dr. Palmer gave me a lift to the St. Mary's Hall where I was able to be with the Old People for some time and I used our hired car to get some of them home and then we came home and I went on to the Housing Committee. This was one of those rather sticky meetings that sometimes crops up on housing. Really it resolved itself into what proportion of Percentage

the rateable value of a council house should the rent be leased. After discussion with Bill Grees I came to his choice of 90% and voted accordingly. This was defeated and the % was finally recommended as 85%. Mr Brown the Treasurer had managed to back up his recs and suggestions very ably and while he was finally speaking his eye caught a heading over a column which read "Total Rent Receivable" and which should have read "Income" and he had to point out this error. I felt very sorry for him. I am not very happy about this meeting and on one item Mr Brown had previously risen to require that his objection to a proposition should be minuted.

Friday January 14. The usual work with a bias

towards the Ball. The town clerk paid me a visit and we discussed the D.O.S meeting, the Housing meeting and the Mayor & Councillor meeting. Miss Clarke, our librarian has phoned that she is reserving, for my reading, the first volume of the auto-biography of Kingsley Martin. I went and got this book this afternoon. This evening we were the guests of the Rotary Club at their Annual Ball. Mr. & Mrs. Fuller looked after us and we had a jolly good time, plenty of dances and talks and we stayed to the very end at 1-30 am. on Saturday. This afternoon M.F.V. Sec called me Town & Country dinner.

Saturday January 15. Quite an ordinary Saturday morning. I looked up into the parlour but nobody called. I also had a look into the works at Boxters where I learned there was to be no football in the Pan this afternoon because

of the effect of the bad weather on the ground. This was disappointing for me as I haven't had the opportunity to see any football for some time. A Mr. Seymour came and fetched us to St Mary's Social Centre for their annual Pantomime and this was very enjoyable. We spent a very pleasant evening and, at the party which followed this last night of the Pantomime we had a chance to get around and talk with the members of the centre. I started reading the Kingsley Martin "Father Figures" which I received from our library yesterday. I find it very good. This morning Mr Viner looked in to get my views on certain propositions regarding the golf club.

Sunday January 16: I carried the chair back to the Town Hall early this morning. Had no difficulty in getting in as Mr. Boyle, of the "Elephant & C." was there with his man taking away the stuff used for a dance there

last evening. It is not so cold so the pavements are more easily negotiated. It always seems to me and to most people who are pedestrians, that the local road authorities only seem to worry about keeping the motor cars going fast. Roads are "salted" mostly on the crown and the unfortunate foot passenger who slips while descending the camber to gain the pavement is always in danger of slipping and being run over, or being over his footwear in slush and being splashed by passing traffic. When he has gained the pavement he finds that unlike the motorist his way has not been made safe, so he has to creep along to prevent slipping, that thus losing speed. A woman shopper is mostly loaded and a foot passenger too. I must bring what pressure I can towards equality of benefit from the work that is put into the roads. This afternoon I got on with the reading of "Father Figures" and I am finding it very enjoyable. This evening we went to Mary Harman's and enjoyed a very nice meal. Joan Freyne came later because of her work and Ted later still owing to certain circumstances. This has been a very nice evening and the conversation was more

general than on some occasions. Ted gave us our first idea of what happens in a computer in answer to a question from Dorothy, and we talked of the Theatre and the play "Oh, what a lovely war". I hope our local people are going to put this over alright, chiefly because I consider it to be one of the "Pointers" (my own term) where by one can direct the attention of young people to various factors in the sociology of our day. We people last night, or rather people like us, have a very great responsibility. If this is realised and an attempt made to carry this Socio-responsibility, there is a good response from the younger people. I have my experiences at Baxters and with other young ones at various times to prove it. It is up to us then, when we meet to exchange ideas and to try and learn what we can, however old we may consider ourselves to be.

Monday: January 17. I found, when I started out this morning, that the Borough's workmen had already salted our pavements, so, although there was a fresh fall of snow, it didn't lay and pedestrians were safe on pavements & footpaths in charge of the Borough. The same could not be said of those that are in charge of the County Council: and these, unfortunately are all the main roads in the town. However, later in the day, County Council staff were to be observed, with shovels, working away at clearing those footpaths by C.C. roads. Somebody must have pointed out the difference. It doesn't say much for the C.C. "work study" or whatever they use in the hope of being more efficient. Shovels are a good deal less speedy than salt, although they leave the pavements clear of clush salt would have made them all safe in a much shorter space of time. We got on with the work and, in the afternoon Dorothy and I went to the old peoples party at the Friends Meeting House. I hurried away at six and attended a meeting of the Health committee. This took a good deal of time but it was relevant matter, and no time was wasted. It does

seem that we have made some headway in making the C.C. take the Winterbone Stream seriously. I went home with David and went in to see him. He had said, "Betty would be looking at T.V. She's becoming quite an addict". But Betty was not looking at T.V. She was working. I had an egg flip and David and I had a chat on Council matters. He is puzzled as to why I have not been asked by the Aldermen about the Mayor-Elect situation. Perhaps <sup>tomorrow</sup> we shall know. They meet after the Finance committee meeting.

Tuesday January 18: After the Parlour I had to attend the Magistrates Court to deal with the young man who had stolen a handset from a telephone box, and who Mr Parrish and I had remanded in custody. A J.P. must finish cases he has had and that is the reason why I was present in court although it is my month off. We dealt with this case but I had to stop because

Magistrates were scarce today for some reason and I was there until 4-30. There were a string of prosecutions of men todo with the prison. Briefly they were a party of "parole" men and "civilians" working at the prison who were accused of bringing stuff out and flogging it at the factory where the parole men were given work. This parole system is the baby of Mr. Walker, the prison governor and he had hoped that by his scheme the prisoners would be helped, by the full wages they would earn to keep their self-respect and society would be helped by the wives of these prisoners receiving money which had been earned by their husbands. It represents an effort to help through the enlightened idea of a very kindly man, and so cases like this string today are very disheartening. We gave them all various punishments and at 4-30 I went home to get ready for the finance meeting, which by the way, lasted until 10-15. I didn't wait for the Aldermen's meeting about the choice of Mayor elect but I have learnt since they are going to recommend to the

council that Ald Baker succeeds me. After this hard day I am not thinking much and shall be glad to retire just go through the day. Parlour 9-15 to 10-15 Court 10-15 to 4-30 Committed 6-30 to 10-15. Pretty full considering everything today demanded concentration. I have phoned Len Willey and he has told me the aldermen have nominated Alderman Baker as next year's Mayor

Wednesday January 19: Nothing of great importance to report today. The Town Clerk came over and I seem to gather he was not quite contented about the way the aldermen set about the task of finding the Mayor-elect. He seemed to take the view that the decision had been taken without taking any suggestions from the Councillors. I must watch the developments from this stage. The weather is now very cold and snowy I am in for a creepy way of walking again

Thursday January 20: Again a quiet day and nothing particular to note, acceptances are beginning to come in for the Town and Country dinner and some for the Mayoral Ball. I hope this Reception and Ball is a success but time alone can show

Friday January 21: Another quiet day, but in the evening Dorothy had arranged a theatre party. We saw "Oh. What a Lovely War." at the Little Theatre and we had as guests Mrs Dorothy Cripps, Joan B and Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Taylor. This has been a very pleasant evening indeed. The play was very well done although some people say there was missing the sense of tragedy that is the hall mark of the professional production we have seen. We all enjoyed it very much indeed and everybody in our party enjoyed the

food Dorothy had provided for supper. Brighton Philharmonic Representative called this afternoon

Saturday January 22: The only Mayoral duty today was the Annual Dinner of the Borough Bonfire Soc. This was a very jolly affair and we stayed, dancing etc until the end. This society puts on the best annual dinner and this is because they are made up of so many different people, quite a number from outside the town. Of course holding it in the Corn Exchange helps a lot. There is room for them to hire a band and also have a cabaret show. This morning I saw Mr. Reynolds of Baxters and he has invited Dorothy and me to the annual dinner of the Brighton and District branch of the British Federation of Master Printers on Monday next. I must think of something to say because I shall have to welcome them to the town. He also told me that the firm have decided to present to

the town an inscribed present to mark my years of office as Mayor. He said our work was worth being remembered. This is very pleasing to us and very kind of Baxters.

Sunday January 23: This has been a quiet day I saw Bill Crees and Ally Martin in the morning but have not done much else. The snow is now nearly all gone and the weather is foggy and Novemberish

Monday January 24: Usual work in the Parlour Y. C. Dinner, Reception and Ball still making work for Joan B. I spent some time today thinking of some words to say to the Master Printers. This was a very good dinner in the "Crown" and the company was very nice I think they, and Dorothy and I were much more relaxed than on this event last year. As we left Mr. Reynolds although he said he was far from being political let alone socialist, nevertheless he considered we have done a marvellous job for the town and more for socialism than much political talking. I left Dorothy and looked in at the Labour Group Meeting. I found myself listening to the rent discussion and the usual struggle for understanding between John P. David W. on the one hand, each striving to make John B. think and talk logically and as usual not being very successful. Once old John gets his teeth into an idea he wants some shifting from it. As regards the Mayor elect question not much progress was made about it. Alderman meeting that proposed Baker. It looks

as if David W. is going to propose me from the floor. On reaching home and thinking over this I find I have some regrets at being drawn into things and while trying to explain things, blowing my own trumpet. I'll give the question of my being the next Mayor some thought before Wednesday 6th is 24 today. I phoned to enquire about the progress and result of a medical examination he has to have had last Thursday. He said the hospital had so many people coming in, on that day, as casualties from slipping on the frozen road, that his examination had to be postponed. He seem rather poorly, judging by his voice and he says he was rather uncomfortable. I hope he has something that is easy to deal with. He is 64

Tuesday January 25: I did the usual work at the Parlour and there was nothing of note for me to record. The weather has become many degrees warmer so that is a help. This evening Dorothy and I attended Dr. Collins' class at the Grange and found it about the same. A kind of dead-end feeling about it. Perhaps I have too much to do nowadays and so I don't give my whole attention when I am there. Any way, this course is not so enjoyable as two or three years ago. On the way home we stopped at David's and told him I had decided not to stand as mayor. We agreed to phone Baker and enquire if he badly wanted the post. If he was not too keen I would do it but having done my two years I would not stand in any body's way who was keen to have it. David phoned just now. Baker was simply rude!! I must think things over again.

Wednesday January 26: Baker came over to see the Town Clerk and I afterwards asked him to see me but we got no forwarder.

He thinks David was rude? Dorothy and I decided later in the afternoon, not to stand we look at it this way. My name was not mentioned at the aldermen's meeting. There were four Labour Aldermen to two Conservatives yet Baker's name was accepted unanimously & in spite of the real demand for me to stand again that is evident in the town. David was prepared to nominate me but at the Meeting of Councillors I withdrew. Dorothy and I need a little respite to get our physical adjustments seen to and we have had two years. Baker then is Mayor-elect. The proceedings, of a more social nature, in the Mayor's parlour went off much more smoothly than I would have thought possible in the morning. I am conscious that this was because of my withdrawing etc. and that it has no real basis, nothing more than a relief all round that there were to be no arguments. Apart from this is my withdrawing right? As I have written, Dorothy and I have both some physical adjustments to put right and I think, on the whole, that we have done what is called for in a situation such

as arose over the choosing of the Mayor-elect.

Thursday January 24: Not much has happened today that it is important to record. Those of the staff I have met, including Joan B and F.M. seem very disappointed. But agree, on reflection, that we have ~~done the~~ taken the true course. We Joan B, and I carried on with the mayor's work and there was nothing that cropped up of an exciting nature. This evening I attended the A.G.M. of the L.L.P. and stopped until the end of that part of the proceedings so I know who are to serve on the various jobs for 1966. The meeting was very well attended and there seemed to be no difficulty in finding new officers in place of those who were finishing this year. It seems that there was some discussion later on, in the 'new' meeting about the Council Housing matters but I don't know, having left the

meeting, and I must get some reliable information about this. One very joyful piece of news, which has just come in over the radio, Labour has held Hull North with a much increased majority. I go to bed happy and very relieved. With all the press against Wilsons Government, it has got to be generally accepted (or it seems so), that the Government are a lot of mentally defective criminals and that the people of Hull were going to give them their marching orders. This sort of thing is actually said by Labour party member of the type I have mentioned before in this journal. Fortunately this type is in a very small minority although very vocal.

Friday January 28: Did the Mayors work and the Town Clerk came over regarding the proposed visit (civic) to Blois. Dorothy is now also a member of the Pells <sup>sch</sup> managers and we went there at four pm so she was able to attend her first meeting before we journeyed on to the old Peoples Party at the Cliff Church room. This was quite enjoyable and we stayed there until nearly the end at eight pm. This group do their own turns on the stage and some of them are very arousing and I suppose they get quite an amount of fun from rehearsals and preparing their concert. As usual those two musicians Jimmy Taylor and Dorothy Cripps made themselves very useful. If either of them had to drop out through going away or anything of that nature, the whole of the old peoples movement in Leves would suffer a terrible blow. At eight Jimmy Taylor drove us to the Town Hall and we attended the coffee evening held by Eve Clarke and Christine Hubbard in aid of the development fund of the Little Theatre. There were quite a number of people there. In fact there was a kind of spiced punch on sale and they sold out too quickly because they under estimated the number of people who attended. I am glad they did well, both

for the sake of the theatre and for the  
organisers. Mary H. was there and we  
met a great many friends and acquaintances  
including a man who we had also met  
at the Worthing Banquet two years ago.  
We must find out his name. He gave  
his views on a good many things and  
subjects, including the latest production by  
the club of "Oh What a Lovely War." He takes the  
view that I find is fairly generally held by  
the members of the club at least by those I  
have spoken to. This view is that this production  
is too jolly for the events it is meant to  
record i.e. the "Donkey" generals and the  
badness of the 1914 war. The people who think  
this way consider the subject should be much more  
solemnly dealt with. I have seen this on four  
occasions now and I thought this one, though not  
so solemn as the professional ones I have seen, was  
very well done and, if a lot of young people  
thought the first war songs very funny and daring,  
it will teach them that we of that war age are  
not such a lot of "squares" as they would have  
imagined: and we all had something to be daring  
about.

Saturday January 29: I went to the Parlour and later to  
the Pan where Lewes beat Wingate by two goals to none.  
The Town Clerk came down for the first time to  
"introduce his son Graham to Lewes football". They  
both enjoyed an exciting match although the  
weather was "windy, wet and rough". Dorothy and  
I went to distribute the prizes at the Boys Club.  
This Lewes Boys Club is going along splendidly.  
A car was sent to take us there and Mr. Parish  
Snr. drove us home. Before we came home we saw  
an old Mack Sennett comedy film which reminded  
us how much we liked these slapstick things  
when we were kids. Mr. Parish came in for  
a sherry and a little talk. We were glad he  
did so because this is the first time and he  
does give the impression that he would like  
to be friendly and at the same time gives the  
impression that he is a lonely bloke. He talked  
about pictures, or his taste in pictures, books,  
and an organ which he is teaching himself to  
play.

Sunday January 30. A quiet Sunday at home. We had a walk at mid day to the "Snowdrop" an inn that received its name, not from the flower of that ilk but from an avalanche that descended on the old pub many years ago. I was hoping we would see Elby Martin in the public bar but we were too early or else the weather kept him at home, although I can't believe it would. We passed a quiet Sunday for the rest of the day. I got quite a way into reading the third volume of Leonard Woolf's auto-biography and we also had a little lighter reading.

and did not take long. There was a very decent lunch afterwards and, at my table, besides the Boro' Treas (Mr Brown) and his buddy I had a Brighton Solicitor who I found was interested in the proposed Brighton Marina. On talking with him I gradually learned that he had, besides interests in this, interests in hotels etc. I keep on running into them. They always tell me they are interested in various projects, I find on which side their sympathy lies and almost invariably I find they have interests as well as interest. Mr. Reynolds of Baxters was present and he and Mr Young came back with us to Lewes in Mr. Brown's car. I went to the parlour and did a lot of signing of my name because the letter giving notice of the meeting which I am calling to do with an appeal for the operating theatre. (See this journal Thursday Jan. 13.) I have to sign 250 of these letters. I did 100 this afternoon and then went home as I had to attend a joint meeting of the committee in charge of the propose Civic Trust scheme for the High Street. Joan I came over today but I had to go to this meeting. We dealt with all the matters to

Monday January 31. After parlour the Boro' Treas gave me a lift to Brighton for the A.G.M. of the S.E. district Trustees Savings Bank. I met several acquaintances there and, the meeting being well groomed, it was quite interesting.

do with the S.J. Street scheme and David Williams, who is on this joint committee, gave me a ride home. A pretty full day, and I have had to miss the first meeting of the school managers I am on for the first time. That is, the Wallands and Western Rd. As I say a pretty full day and I only hope I've been useful at all these things.

Buckwell and me and the lady from Seaford. This afternoon I returned to the Parlour and finished the signing of the hospital letters. The other Magistrate was Mr. Adams from Seaford who is coming as chairman of that U.D.C. and is coming to our Ball in that capacity

Tuesday February 1965. I got to the Parlour as early as possible and signed a good many of the letters before Joan B came over. We did the Magistrate's work and then I had to attend the Magistrates Court. There were a number of Motoring cases and one of breaking and entering. Some had application for remand but the remainder took all the rest of the morning. The bench was made up of Sir Richard Bragley, John

Wednesday February 2. We are getting all acceptances for the Town and Country Dinner and we are progressing with the arrangements for our own reception and Ball on March 4. Mr. Y.C. was over this morning on the preliminary arrangements so I think we are going ahead

alright. After the work we had a short meeting of the Lewes Exhibition Fund trustees. This always takes place in the Mayors Parlour and it is the occasion, as has been mentioned before in this journal, of my having an old Lewesian gossip with Cecil Hollis. However I never had this opportunity today, for some reason or other, so two old men who speak the same period athletic jargon weren't able to meet on this occasion. When I arrived home I found Dorothy had started washing down the living room in preparation for emulsion painting etc. Luckily, nowadays, with the better working paints, plus the brains of an industry being focused on "Do it yourself," this job is not such a bogey as it was and Dorothy hopes to complete it comfortably and cleanly, in small stages. There has been nothing of any note that has happened as Mayor.

Thursday: February 3. Work going on with the Ball on March 4, the Town and Country Dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> week in this month, the arranging of a town meeting regarding the hospital operating theatre, the arranging of a meeting of Civic Heads of Sussex about the request of the Arts Council and the Philharmonic Orchestra; all these and not to mention a party that is being made up headed by the Duke of Norfolk, for the unveiling of Sir Tufton's memorial to the Battle of Lewes. So Joan & I are rather busy. The people I meet about the town seem to be genuinely sorry that we are not keeping on our office for another year and I know most of these are very genuine wishes. I have mentioned before how this sincere attitude about ~~the~~ has affected me. Well the chance to live up to it in the full public eye is now drawing to a close. Apart from the items mentioned above there was nothing of consequence for me to attend to and I had a quiet time at home, mostly reading about while Dorothy did some painting!

Friday February 4. Parlor work in the morning and a pleasant little job this afternoon. Alf Horpe who has worked for this Corporation for 46 years, retires this wednesday and Dorothy and I attended, and I presented, the parting gift, at the occasion of his leaving. He has spent the last 30 years or so at the outfall works, some way south of the town keeping our sewage works in order. I have tried to bring about a state of affairs where the outside men are treated like most inside long service men and I hope the new Mayor will take the hint when he succeeds me. I think Alf Horpe and the outside staff appreciated todays effort. Tonight I attended the Annual Dinner of the F.Sx Branch of the N.F.U. Very good hospitality. Roast duck and trimmings. I seem to have settled myself into an attender of functions such as this evenings. It will soon come to an end now, of course. I chatted with Sir Yuton who is anxious that the town does well when he has the Duke of Norfolk to visit his memorial. I also had a lengthy chat with Lord Gage who, with me, reminisced

on the happenings in Lewes in the mid thirties, particularly he mentioned an occasion when he had to debate a proposition, in the local League of Nations Union, on pacifism or some subject of that nature. The sort of thing that was always taking place all over the country at that period. I remember the occasion well because of a woman who appeared in the town at that time, Jessie Stephens. and ~~who~~ was soon connected with the Local L.P. and kindred bodies. As is usual with this type of person, having had a good deal to say, having persuaded various bodies of people to take certain courses, and leaving at last thoroughly upset all with whom they come into contact, they move on, leaving you with a great ~~and~~ many commitments. This Jessie Stephens, then had the job of being seconding speaker on the occasion Lord Gage and I were recalling. This was something that did me, at least, plenty of good, for at that time, although I was on the opposite side to L. Gage, I learnt how not to lose your temper when insulted and shouted at as he was, from him. I shall always remember her irrelevant and entirely illogical way of arguing. Tonight also I learned how not

to conduct yourself in argument by being repelled by her methods. I was able to grasp at that time that, if you want somebody to think your way, you must first make that way attractive and you yourself are the medium by which that way is made attractive. Lord Gage, on the evening in question, was a far more likely person to be debating a subject to do with <sup>stopper</sup>quarrelling and fighting than the professed pacifist Jessie Stephens. This has been a very nice evening and the farmers have all looked after me very well. There were only two or three women present. They were there because they were farmers in their own right.

Saturday February 5. I had no Mayors work today. I went to the football this afternoon, left at half-time when Lavers were leading Arundel in the Six Suv. Cup tie 1-0. and went to the constituency L.P.

a.g.m. A very small gathering. Very depressing really until one remembers that at election time, swarms of people come forward. Dorothy and I spent a quite quiet evening.

Sunday February 6. Another quiet "Sunday at home" until 6 p.m. when we had an invitation to Mrs Bowers-Lyon's for a drink etc. This was quite a pleasant occasion and we were able to see how nice a house "Caprons" is, and appreciate the contents. Besides our hostess was the prison Governor, Mr & Mrs Watson and Mr. & Mrs Pemberton from Rodmell. Mrs Bowers-Lyon is what one expects of her period and position. Tonight rather jolly, could be bossy, good company & especially interesting to one who likes to observe people. She buttonholed me and I daught to have a discussion on Leaves Goot or what have you but she wanted to talk about boxing and wrestling. Well, all is

grist that comes to my mill," so we managed ok. It made me reflect. Pugilism and straight wrestling, of the catch as catch can style, when Mr. Bowers-Lyon was young, were reckoned to be strictly masculine interests. Now, I should imagine, as many women as men are interested in boxing and many more are deemed keen ~~on~~ on that extreme form relative of catch as catch can wrestling, the All-in variety.

At live shows there certainly seems to be more women than men who shout; and I think it is a safe bet that many more women than men watch all-in wrestling on television. I noticed Mr. Bowers-Lyon has a television with a good big screen. Mr. Watson chatted and we talked on his enlightened experiment of parole prisoners which I have mentioned before in this journal. I think he is very nice. The other guests, Mr. & Mrs. Pember, are coming to have a look at the Mayor's Parlour. I like them both and shall be pleased to see more of them.

We all left fairly early and spent the rest of the evening at home.

Monday February 7. I went to the parlour and we did what was necessary. There was a phone call from Box Hill asking if I would speak for a few minutes at the Mayor of Box Hill's reception. Oh dear. It is not until Friday so I shall have to do my best. I was requested to ~~do~~ do this little speech, soon after I was made mayor, for Allen Stephen who was Box Hill Mayor at that time but I managed to dodge it on the grounds of inexperience. Today I went home and considered what to say. In this two years I've got over many more terrifying jobs. This evening I attended the committee of Oxfam. I rather like going occasionally to these other types of meetings because the people afford such a contrast to each body of people on other committees, and there is ample opportunity to meet fresh people, or if not fresh people, then the same people in a different setting. This evening we decided on matters for the AGM of the local branch and possible future programmes.

Tuesday February 8. Until Dorothy came down to breakfast singing "Happy Birthday to Me" I had temporarily forgotten that her birthday is today. Sixty six and looks surprisingly young and well. Last week she did this room, including the ceiling, with emulsion paint. Also, a day or two ago, ~~as~~ a man, speaking of my term of Mayor, on its success, said "Your wife plays the part of Mayress well. She has a very good figure too"!! Having finished the Mayor's office work I had to go to the court. I was put in Number two court in the company of Mr Fletcher-Moulton as chairman and Captain Sleering. We dealt with a number of rather dull motoring cases and staying late, and having released the Captain and taken on Mr Ridgeway in his place we proceeded with a more difficult one and found the case against two young fellows not proved and arrived home for lunch at two pm. Soon after three o'clock we were arriving at the old age pensioners party in station St. I have said party but it was a concert and they greeted us as usual, that is, with as much enthusiasm as if we were the chief stars of the concert. We spent a very pleasant

time and when it was over we went home because Joan was coming over. Joan looks very well and eats very heartily, which is refreshing at this time when all one hears wherever one goes is "I daren't eat that because of my weight" from every (seemingly) female who is offered as small an item as a biscuit. Joan brought me a copy of the "Humanist" and I see it contains an article that appears to be critical of the "Naturist" craze. I must read it because the "Humanist" being the organ of rationalism, can be expected to give a logical argument, using all the evidence (for both sides) that is available and drawing a conclusion based on the evidence. I've gone from food to "Naturism" because the idea of a diet and "keep well" ideas, not to mention nature cures, seem to me to all be bound together. At least to me, there is an association of ideas. I took the chair and my badge back to the Town Hall and went over to do WEA class at the Grange. Dorothy came in later, having seen Joan off by bus. This class was much better tonight. It was on national power and purely local to England, but Peter even so managed to get quite a long diatribe in about Viet Nam.

By the way, this morning Mr. Gallagher, the Clerk to the Magistrates, told me I should receive a request from the C.C. for more room at the Town Hall for the Magistrates Court. How far this is going I don't know. This journal shows what a job there was with the divorce court and that is still here. In fact, I understand that the divorce court has applied to have my Council Chamber a bit longer. We shall have to see what turns up when the C.C. make their application. Of course, the Magistrates Court is not all the time as is the Divorce Court. It is only for single days.

Wednesday February 9. I got round to the parlour in good time and we dealt with the post etc. People are beginning to send in cheques for the Ball on March 4 so that is more cheerful than last year. Even so there is not much time. For the suggested meeting in the Council Chamber with regard to the Victoria Hospital there is quite a flood of acceptances; and it seems to me that this effort on behalf of the people of Leamore and District to help its own hospital is going to be a good egg: to use a very old-fashioned term. I had not much to do after the parlour so I slipped round to Frank Butler's and got a haircut. I have to think of the coming Friday when I have to stand up and speak at the Bexhill Mayor's reception. This evening I went to the Drs. Committee with regard to the "Victoria" meeting. Michael Hillman came and fetched me so we got there in good time. Working on the draft agenda the Town Clerk had drawn up for me, this ad-hoc committee, which consisted of Drs. Gooding and Palmer, Mr. Hillman and myself and Mrs Harris, drew up the arrangements for the Town Meeting and set about working out possible rules for the proposed new body. They were good committee men and this was a very fruitful meeting. On the way back Mr. Hillman, who was one time a high local officer of the Conservative

party, congratulated me very warmly on the way we have carried out my term of being Mayor. He assured me that all the town was agreed on how well this Mayoralty had been carried out. This kind of thing is so frequent, and with so many people the disappointment that we are not carrying on is so genuine, that I feel quite guilty on occasions for not carrying on.

Thursday February 10. There was nothing of any great consequence all day today after I'd had done the Mayor's parlour. That is, there was nothing much in my part of being Mayor. Dorothy had a rather important meeting for her because she is now the Town Council's representative on the Managers Committee of the Girls Grammar School and the first meeting was this morning. She seems quite satisfied with the committee and I think she will prove a useful member of it. I left

the Parlour in good time and when I got home, did some writing. The weather is very showery these days and there is not much hope of doing anything outside. This afternoon was much the same and Dorothy went to pay a visit to Mrs Shepherd, who is gradually recovering from her illness. On arrival home Dorothy told me that John Perkins is not standing again. I am very sorry about this. John was a tower of strength in my opinion, and I am very sorry indeed that he won't be in our meetings of the Council again. I am very much afraid this is the result of arguments and discussions where the more boorish of our members show up in a bad light. I suppose this happens in all movements. One loves the ideal of a movement but nevertheless cannot keep going in it at the cost of putting up with apparent rudeness. John Perkins is a clear thinker and uses logic in argument, and I have thought more than once before, he must find it very trying to be in discussion with people who just wildly assert instead of arguing properly. In the evening we went to the half done Dumbrell's house to pay a visit to her remaining sister. This house is in St Annes crescent

and is a good example of times past, recently passed. In this crescent, as late as ~~Victorian~~<sup>were</sup> Edwardian and George V. times people lived who could afford to keep butlers and other domestic servants. The whole house gives the impression of spaciousness. The doors are wide, the ceilings are very high and the rooms are big. By the huge marble fire places are the bell pulls where the middle class ladies and gentlemen (sic) of those days would reach out their hand to ring for some girl who had perforce, because of poverty, to be their domestic servant to come up and place a shovel of coal from the scuttle to the fire.

Of course, there are still people in England who are rich enough to engage flunkies and maids but ~~because~~ for the times, that is, the attitudes of people have changed so much there is nothing harder to achieve than to obtain some domestic help. And long may it continue like it is now. The working class girls who would all be in the domestic service in those days are now employed more productively, they are dressed as well as their would be mistresses and, through many causes, they are more educated. Gone are

those days that ~~were~~ were Sloan up by the play and books of such men as J M Barrie, Wells and Shaw. and a good job too. The two Miss Dumbrells have lived in this house for some years, letting part of it out. Big rooms, filled with really nice old furniture and trinkets, books well bound etc. I wonder what will happen to the house. Changed into flats I expect. Well, the house will be homes for more people than it was in Edwardian times. The remaining Miss Dumbrell says she may have a room there!

Friday February 11. I went to the Parlour at the usual time and Joan B. arrived with the usual amount of post. People coming to the Hospital meeting, people coming or not coming to the Ball, communications from Councillors regarding the proposed visit to Blois among other matters. This evening we attended the Mayor of Boxhill's reception, dinner and charity Ball. Everything passed off alright at the reception of Mayors and chief guests I was

the only one who was not wearing evening dress but this sort of thing makes no difference, nowadays to my morale: although less things would have shattered it in times past. Dorothy wore her blue evening dress and looked very beautiful and graceful. I have always noticed this frock seemed to accentuate her gracefulness. At dinner I sat next to Dorothy and, on my right was Mrs Godman Irvine and then her husband who is M.P. for the Bexhill district. They were late and when talking of the reasons for this she told me it was because of the homosexuality Bill which was debated ~~that~~<sup>the</sup> day in Parliament. The G.G.'s were very much against this bill becoming law, I gathered. She asked me my views before proceeding to tell me why they were late. My views are that apart from the blackmail the present law makes possible there is not much to it. The proposed bill takes away that possibility of blackmail, but does not, as its opponents declare increase the risk of the spread of this aberration. Most people, like myself, would pass through life knowing of it but seldom giving it a second thought. Consequently, when circumstances

such as the debate on this bill, cause more notice to be taken, we are ~~in danger~~<sup>apt to</sup> ~~to give~~ in danger of giving a hasty answer when asked our opinion with the risk of letting our first reaction rule our reason. I made the little speech which I had been requested to make and Dorothy said it was very good and "went down" well. We had plenty of dances and I think Dorothy enjoyed it alright. The car came and fetched us away at 11:30 and I had a nice snooze on the journey. All told, a very pleasant evening

Saturday February 12. We arose late this morning and Dorothy had promised to show some people over the building (pub etc) at eleven a.m. This was done and we both think they found it very interesting. I went to the football this afternoon but there was only a reserve side match so it was not particularly interesting to me.

This evening we paid a social visit to Mr. and Mrs Morris (T.C.) and had a very pleasant time. I like Morris because he is able and thorough in what he does but at the same time is able to live <sup>the</sup> normal kind of life of a very nice man. He called for us and drove us back at about eleven.

Sunday February 13. After breakfast we walked over Willey's bridge and so to Malling Street: the idea being to find out what had become of the Mrs Arnold Senior and Junior who had not turned up with the others for a visit to the Town Hall. It appears they were unable to come yesterday because the junior Mrs Arnold had a headache. Dorothy and the senior who is a widow had plenty to talk about as may be supposed of two who worked together many years ago, although we have visited the family

since I have been Mayor as is recorded in this journal, they do not meet often. The rest of today has been spent at home except for this evening when we had a walk up the town but didn't look in anywhere.

Monday ~~Sunday~~ 14 February: I went to the parlor this morning and found quite an amount of correspondence on the Hospital, the Ball and the Blois affair. It is too early to make any predictions about the Ball but I think we are doing better on this than at this time last year. Of course the Hospital meeting has most of the correspondence. This evening there were two engagements: the ladies night at the Constitutional club. The lions den this is supposed to represent to me, but even with no protection by chain, I should be miles too good for any body up there in political or any other discussion. We had a good

welcome and received good hospitality. We left there at nine-thirty and Mr. Kellam kindly gave us a lift down to the Town Hall where we had to attend the Southdown Annual Social and dance. The officials of the Company, and those of the Social Club, looked after us very well and were most hospitable. Unfortunately we were not able to have a dance because there were only two "beat" bands there. This was just non-stop and abominably noisy. I believe I mentioned this queer way of conducting an annual social event. I think it is most extraordinary that a club should hold this event, let any body in at a small entrance fee, have these beat bands, and sit there all the evening looking glum and unable to speak because of the appalling noise, watching the strange apparitions, the exhibitionist teen agers make as they wander up and down. I really do not believe there are many of these youngsters about. They just follow the beat bands round and they come from various towns round about. On such nights as this they are all gathered in our town hall and so one gets the impression that there are more of these hoodlums than there actually are.

Tuesday February 15. There was quite an amount of post this morning, mostly dealing with the three matters I have mentioned yesterday. At 10-15 I went to the County Hall and was put with Cpt Steuering and Mrs Ridge way on the No 2 count which meant coming back to the Lecture Room. There were quite a number of motoring offences, some of them of more than usual interest but in the main, the usual type of thing. I left about 1-00 and had a quiet afternoon and went to the Est-Sub-Com. this evening. Here we ended all we did at the previous meeting by doing what ought to have been done then! J. B tried the usual extensions why etc but I started off by saying we were not there to wonder what might happen but ~~were~~ the posts in question worth up grading. Anyways, the three posts on the agenda are now put in the grade they should be so perhaps we can get along more comfortably. I went on to the Collins class. This is becoming a bore now but, as I've given reasons for this state of affairs previously, I won't repeat them again. Joe Hearn gave Dorothy and me a ride back home.

Wednesday February 16: Went to the parlour in good time because of the class of children from the Wallends school. Some one had had the idea of bringing a class of children from that school to have a look at the Town Hall etc and a very good idea it was. I hope more schools do it. We had arranged full dress and processed it in. That is Chester Me, Town Clerk Dorothy and the teacher. I gave them a short speech of welcome at the same time whetting their interest in local Govt. Then the Town Clerk spoke to them and they enjoyed his lesson on our town. It was very encouraging to notice the attention they paid and the interest they showed in the town's affairs. Afterwards Chester showed them the various treasures belonging to the town and the teacher finally got them away after most of them had got my and Dorothy's autograph. I think this was a useful morning and will serve its purposes. All those children were very interested and happy; and some perhaps only two or so, will turn what they learned this morning to some account. Most of them were taking in everything and they will

remember it when they are older even when they are old enough to vote. I had met Abby and received an invitation to attend the Building Plans Sub-committee this evening but we had promised to attend a party given by Ex-Chr. Hollins on the occasion of his daughter coming back from New Zealand. She had been the guest of Dorothy's sister Phyllis while there; hence our involvement. It was the usual party of this description and when things were thinning out we were driven home by Mrs Yarrow. They have a new car and its bigger than the mini they had previously. This party was not so jolly as most we have been to but it was rather crowded into smaller rooms. Nothing else happened this evening that is worth recording.

Thursday February 17. In good time for the  
Parlour work and then away to the Technical  
College. This was the first opportunity I have  
had of looking at this establishment and  
I am very impressed. It is extremely well  
arranged and well equipped. Before I write  
about the school, however, a few words about  
a Mr. Caroll who came to the Town Hall to  
fetch us and drove us back there when our  
visit was over. Last year, when we were  
waiting for a bus home from Ringmer, a man  
and his wife in a car stopped, because they  
had recognised me as Mayor and they gave  
us a ride all the way home. A week or so  
ago they recognised us in Mount Pleasant  
though it was pretty dark, and they  
drove round and headed us off and arranged  
about taking us to the Technical College today.  
The Mr. Caroll turned out to be the caretaker  
of the Tech. The school itself is quite a pleasant  
building and is well equipped, has spacious  
rooms and corridors and good workshops. We  
saw many of the "day release" apprentices of  
different trades and a good many other  
types of students, who were doing various

social jobs. I was pleased to notice the extra  
subjects as were taught to Clive and David  
were being lapped up eagerly by the  
apprentices. A good example of the right kind  
of progress is the way to describe the Tech.  
Shades of the Leves of fifty years ago, when  
all there was as further education was poorly  
equipped "night schools." There has been nothing  
of importance, since coming home from the  
Tech to record. I went for a short walk  
while Dorothy did some studying. Looked at  
the Argus while in the Labour Club and  
I find that Dennis Hobden, the Labour M.P.  
for Brighton, is pinched for driving under the  
"shovel." Ye gods, to win a seat and  
then be manouevred into the position of  
having this charge brought against him, even  
if he is innocent of the drink charge, he  
must be crackers!!

Friday February 18. After the Parlour nothing in particular until this evening when there was the Town & Country. This is a dinner at the "White Hart" which is attended by 12 guests of the Chairman of the N.F.U., all from the surrounding country, and 12 guests of the Mayor of Levens, all chosen to represent the various "firms" of life in the town, at least, that is how I chose mine this evening. This dinner has been quite a success. I urged Mr. Heeks, the N.F.U. Head, to be chairman as he had attended several such occasions and knew the ropes. The only speech making was by the Chairman and me in the way of introducing the guests and this was done in much the same way as when one is asked to propose a toast to the guests at an ordinary dinner. A very nice evening and among those gathered together were quite a number who were in the Home Guard locally so in some respects things were getting into an "Old Comrades' Ann.

Saturday February 19. An ordinary Saturday. Round the office there was nothing. Buntz and family came in and stopped for lunch and the baby is doing marvellously now. She seems intelligent and is making enormous efforts to become more mobile. Dorothy had promised to be present at a jumble sale in aid of the "Save the Children" fund and Buntz motored us down to the Cliff Room where the jumble sale was held and then took me round to the Pan where Leavers were playing Marlowe in the Athenian League. Buntz having dropped me there went home and picked up her family to go back to Hurst Green. In the evening Dorothy and I suddenly decided to go to our little Theatre. We saw "Martin" and I must say this seemed to me to be pretty poor as a play. I can't judge the acting. If there isn't the stuff in the play you can't help it. This play is on the level of the light novelette type of periodical. About on the level of "Peg's Paper" Dorothy says. We were very disappointed. We could not be forewarned about it because this was the first night. It was just a wild, over going

Sunday February 20. A quiet Sunday at home  
I have put those words in inverted commas  
because they remind me, every time I  
write them down, of the periodicals, bound  
into a year's volume, & that used to be  
about when I was a boy. Nobody played  
or did much on Sunday and if you were  
taken to visit your parents' friends you  
were invariably given one of these books to  
look at, or some talk about a "Mud Lark"  
type of poor little devil. I must write something  
one day on those times. Our Sundays are  
spent differently in 1966. Today mine was  
mostly spent judging essays that are  
entered for the children's competition. This is  
a very hard job both from the point of  
view of deciding which is the best and from  
wading very carefully through all of them good  
or bad.

Monday February 21. Went to the office in good  
time and did the needful. Joan B brought over  
a considerable amount of mail and we went  
through it. There are some more acceptances  
for the Ball, some more for the Hospital  
meeting tomorrow and one for the  
Philharmonic meeting besides several more  
referrals for this latter. I have done my part  
towards this effort to keep music going in  
Sussex but I am afraid the rest of the heads  
of Local Councils in Sussex, are like me,  
having no ear much or else completely  
philistine. This afternoon the sub-committee set up  
by that august body, the Six Mayors Assn, met in my  
parlour. Their job is to design a tie which may  
then be worn by the ex-mayors etc. Extraordinary  
idea. Needless to say I didn't attend but did  
some more judging of kids' essays. A far more  
useful job, but if some blokes want to be  
"old boys" of something or other, and wear a tie  
to let everybody know about them, who am I  
to frustrate them. They try to be as much alike  
as their womenfolk try to look as much different.  
There was the Highways Committee this evening. Rather  
a long one but was carried out in pretty good order.

Towards the end we had the now familiar objection, to extending sick pay, from John B. Always, when these applications are put forward, John is against because he says the arrangement, where by sick payment is made up, is a T.V. agreement with the employing authorities and as such shouldn't be altered. It appears to be useless for us to explain to John, year after year, that the agreement has to do with minimums; and that if an employer is more generous, so much the better. This evening we didn't explain this all over again but just carried on without comment. Quite an interesting day although finishing very late in the evening.

Tuesday February 22 After the parlour work the J.P.s came, as the Magistrates court has to be in our town hall for the time being. I was excused because there were enough present and I had to attend the handing in of nominations for the Priory ward by election. Accordingly I went

home and got on with the judging of children's essays. However, at lunch time, I had a phone message from Frank H. and I attended the court in the afternoon in his place. There was only one case outstanding and this took us an hour and a half and a great deal of this was wasted because the man who was the defendant had been ill-advised to plead not guilty, and so the whole thing lumbered on when all evidence showed every vehicle, except his, stationary, all the witnesses agreeing (including his own passenger) who was at fault. I don't know why the men of law take on these cases except of course for their fee. But then they are professional men and surely should guide their clients into the wise course to pursue. This evening I had to attend the A.G.M. of the Chamber of Commerce and afterwards Dorothy and I were guests at their 'fondue' party. The meeting went off, as is usual with this type of A.G.M. quite well. Clifford Dunn, the "Cheese Champion" of the Chamber of Commerce spoke rather foolishly "as is is wont" on car parking. Fortunately John Schuerend and Reg Yarrow restored the balance somewhat but Dunn is a menace. The fondue party followed. This is rather jolly.

There are spirit lamps with little pans or bowls of oil boiling. There are dishes of beef cut into about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " cubes. You are supplied with a long rather elegant fork and you spear a piece of meat, hold it in the boiling pot for a while and then eat it. In the same manner cubes of bread were dipped in cheese sauce. It is, no doubt, an effort by the manufacturers and distributors of the copper bowls and lamps that urge people to do this sort of party and I expect this craze will spread. Another instance of the theory that as more affluent a nation is, the more a people can have desires created for them. This in turn means more inventive brains set to work, more half useless gadgets made, more ancillary and other transactions made (i.e. the meat etc) and more inflation. More material and capital directed away from the industry that is vital to life and consequently a weakening production of urgent things for, although people seem not to mind continually paying more for the "foolish" and so making the foolish more attractive to the investors of capital, there is an immediate outcry if vital things go up: But go up they must if they are going to be at

all in the position of attracting capital, but they are the last things to go up. Many years ago I learnt that the skilled capitalist only invested in the vital things, things that are needed to keep people alive. He did this on the quite correct assumption that a person coming on hard times would give up luxuries and foolish first. Today the whole trend seems to me to be the other way about if we judge by what people will pay in the way of high prices for un-foolish even quite obviously in some cases, cutting down in the necessities 6 do st.

Wednesday February 23. Did the work in the parlour. Joan B seems happier about the sale of the tickets for the Ball. Later on the Town Clerk came over to discuss arrangements for this evening's Friends of the Hospital meeting. The arrangements were now well ahead and Mr Morris Joan B and I were looking forward to everything going off well. There is no doubt, Joan B and

Peter Morris go to a very great deal of trouble to ensure the success of my ventures. I did various odd things during the rest of the day and, when the evening came, I was already to meet the speakers and the people who came. Unfortunately it rained very hard indeed nearly all the evening but we still managed to have 110 people present. I opened the meeting with words and sentences I had carefully put together. Mr Lane Roberts, the chief Surgeon, gave a witty and racy talk on the necessity of the new operating theatre. Dr Palmer, Chief of Staff gave a good talk on previous efforts and the final decision to hold tonights meeting. Mr. Brogden, Chairman of the Friends gave that bodies blessing and Mr Hillman outlined the steps we should have to take and the legal position. The Branch was formed. Mr Hillman was made the first Chairman, a secretary and a treasurer were found in Mr Gellis and Mr Brown and a committee was formed and so, we were afloat. To be the hub or centre by means of which all this has been achieved makes me feel pretty pleased.

Dorothy and I saw the main people speakers, doctors etc in the parlour afterwards over a glass of sherry and de Tocn Clark took us home in his car and then took Joan B. home. These two people have been invaluable and all credit is due to them for success of the proceedings. After tonight of course the branch will float on a sea of goodwill and be steered by the very able officers and Committee who were elected this evening. Good luck to it

Thursday February 24: The tickets are not maintaining their numbers sold each day but there are no days on which none have been sold. Joan B is happy about the results of the work we put in towards yesterdays success. We did what work there was to do this morning and Dorothy

having to go to an occasion over at Brookside  
I went home and did the odds and ends  
of things that I have left undone. This  
evening I went to the Housing committee  
which, as is usual, went on for a very long  
time more than I would think was really  
necessary but this is a chronic complaint of  
this committee and one can't help thinking it  
has something to do with an antipathy to 2%  
When we came out, we who belong to the L.P. <sup>african</sup> went  
down to where our local party were having the  
monthly meeting and we heard the man who was to  
speak on the Rhodesian situation. He was quite able  
and honest because though he made no secret of  
the fact that his own inclinations were to get  
rough with the Ian Smithites he did plainly state  
that he did not know what to do if sanctions failed  
and he thought they would not fail. Dorothy was  
in this meeting when I arrived. There were quite  
a number there and, when we councillors arrived,  
quite a hefty sized crowd. There had already  
been done all the work to do with the  
by-election in the Briny ward and Mr.  
Carter, the candidate was present.

Friday February 25: A week today is the reception &  
Ball. Up to date there are only 160 acceptances  
all told. Perhaps we shall make up the  
number as we have on the 3 previous occasions  
I have held similar functions. We shall see. I have  
to think of the expenses of extra things this year  
the Blois trip. The Beaminish battle of Lower  
unveiling ceremony etc. I have no doubt Dorothy  
and I will manage alright and, after all, if  
you become Mayor, you should be prepared to  
do something by which you can both remember  
the term of office. I have finished another batch  
of essays which I have to judge for the  
children's competition run by the Library committee  
and I have only those of the youngest age group to  
judge now but I can't get hold of them as  
the "Supreme Judge" a well known author of  
children's books has not yet finished with  
them. This evening the people who are to make  
up the delegation to Blois met in my parlour  
and we discussed things and made various  
arrangements. We go over to France on the  
twenty-first of April now. The tour book  
gave me a lift home and stopped with us  
a while and we opened a bottle of "Bouygne,"

which is a kind of "champagne-like" cider. Dorothy had some sausages and, with some slices of bread made some sausage rolls of the kind for which she is rapidly becoming famous.

Saturday February 26: Another very wet and winter day. Nothing at the Parlour but a hefty post at home mostly to do with the rates. The precept we pay to the County Council has increased by a shilling in the pound of rates paid and our own rate has increased by sixpence. Now it is true that some different ways of meeting the cost of the welfare and other services are being tried out by the Government but there will be a good many grumblings locally. By locally I mean in all localities over the country not just simply here. As one listens to the radio news it is quite monotonous to listen at to the list of local authorities whose rates have

gone up or are going up. This evening we were the guests of Bill and Aileen Hall at St Mary's Social Centre Cabaret, and a very enjoyable evening it has been. Bill is the Chairman of the Social Centre and he is making a very good job of fulfilling this post. Among the "turns" was Hubert Caddy who is still a very good magician. Peter Hall the son fetched us to the show and Bill brought us home at the end of a very nice evening. A curious thing about this evenings occasion was because Mrs Green, the Tory candidate in the Priory ward bye election and Mr Carter our Labour Party man were both present and of course they are both active members of St Mary's. It seems very strange that the Tories hasn't a better candidate. Since we accidentally lost a seat in our strong ward, to them, I should like to see this reversed in our favour on this occasion but my wonderment is caused by them trying to rush things sending notice to the Town Clerk that there was a seat vacant. With all this hurry one would have imagined they had a very important candidate instead of Mrs Green.

Sunday February 27. This has been a fine day although with a strong south west wind blowing most of the time. Dorothy and I went for a walk round Lansport before dinner and in the afternoon Dorothy did some of her French. With the aid of the B.B.C. records and book course she is going great guns in brushing up her French before we go to Blois as delegates of the town. While Dorothy was doing this I planned to go to Doll Dolls and see how they were getting on. On the way I met Betty W. who was taking my saws back and through meeting her I took my diary in to David and, having fixed various dates and appointments owing to him losing his town diary we had a jaw about the Council mostly and when Betty returned from our house I thought I'd abandon my walk up to Doll Dolls. I had a read in the evening so altogether I have had a lousy sort of day. Aches in the back caused by my spine, I suppose, have been annoying me lately so perhaps the easy Sunday will have done good

Monday February 28; a fine spring-like kind of day brought a bit of relief from the drabness we have had. I went to the Parlour to find that the Mayor's reception tickets had made quite a jump in sales and the total people who will be present are now approximately 180. Joan B and I proceeded with the Mayor's work and later on Amstagh the deputy T.C. came over about the forth coming bye-election and the various dings there are to be done in connection with this. I have got various jobs to do besides and the general election hangs in the background. We have heard from Mrs Hardy-Roberts the wife of the High Sheriff, that that won't be able to attend the ball on Friday and Joan B has been on the phone to them to find out about the arriving lunch, an invitation to which was given to me wrongly, I think. I went to the Health Committee at 6-30 and went over to the Grange afterwards where Dorothy was attending a Coop Party meeting and David was speaking on Law Reform. There were only half-dozen people present but as long as there is a cadre to keep this organisation going in each district a good purpose is being served by way

of the educational conferences which are held every so often in each of the towns which are covered by the Brighton Coop. Moreover, the Cooperative party in districts such as this play a very useful part in lending help and backing to local Labour Parties in their work on Local Authority Councils. Harold Wilson the Prime Minister has declared the date of the polling for the General Election! March 31

Tuesday March 1 1966: That last bit of news I have put in for yesterday has brought forth quite a lot of admiration etc for Wilson that has apparently been lying dormant in people. Quite a number of folk seem very sympathetic to Labour and I have never expected them to be so. I went round to the Parlour and did the work. Besides Joan B. the Y.C. came over but we had to cut short the conference because the lunch wanted the Chambers, and later on I went to the T.C. office

and discussed the proposals regarding the Blois visit and the finance <sup>conference</sup> proposals tonight. He seemed rather depressed about the reception <sup>that</sup> would have at the finance committee <sup>tonight</sup> to jump the day, as it were; At the meeting tonight the members were quite helpful. In the event, we were proved wrong. There was not one adverse word. On finishing the parlour work this morning I took the letters of thanks from the pupils of the Wallands school, home for Dorothy to read. These letters are really good when it is remembered that all the class were under ten years old (See this journal Wed Feb 16) There are also four essays for us to choose the winning one and we will give a book token as a prize. I went for a walk this afternoon and had a look at the various projects we have in hand. The St Pancras development, The County Hall and so on. If the ordinary people were aware of all the work going on and were aware of the great amount of thought discussion and work that goes into the heart of a community's projects, I am sure there would be no question of the antagonism that, it always seems to me, is apparent between

a community and its Council. Tonight at the Finance Committee, Mr. Brown, the Borough Treasurer, while answering enquiries from members regarding the rates did point out to them that a council performs welfare services. If increases in the price of labour or materials takes place, the local Council have no way of responding to this by increasing production, or selling more, as an ordinary industry could do. If the cost of laying a drain goes up, our only comment can be "The cost of keeping the people healthy has risen." and sometimes we must put something on the rates. We finally fixed the rate at 12/9 in the pound. This is an increased of 1/6 in the pound. One shilling of this sum is fixed by the County Council precept.

Wednesday March 2. A sudden rally in acceptances for the Ball enabled Joan B. to report this morning, that the number who will be attending has risen to 230. This is very encouraging because, although I am a popular mayor, the largest number of people who know me are not the sort of people who can be expected to attend civic functions of this nature, and it naturally follows that I am gradually persuading others to attend. I think this will be the biggest number I have had in my four functions & I have given more free invitations than any of my predecessors. Joan B was interested in the letters and the essays from the Wallards school (See yesterday's notes) I have also left them with Chester French since they mention him a good deal. We carried on with the Mayor's correspondence and Joan told me of the state of the parties in the local bye-election. That is, the state as far as she can judge from the number of rival window cards. On this reckoning Labour is winning by two to one. When we had finished the work Joan got me a drink and after starting on a "end of term" speech I went home. This afternoon I took a

walk down Potten Row to have a look at the state of the road in Winterbourne Close. What I noticed here has strengthened my idea that we were quite right to take this item out of the estimates. This is not a through road and the only heavy stuff going that way is a lorry, owned by a resident who uses it to attend the vegetable market. Since his is the only heavy vehicle to use this residential road, the repairs can wait a bit. I carried on into our new development and up through the private development in the back of Barons Down and then down the High Street and home. I had a good read of the third volume of S. Woolf's autobiography and a little of an H. G. Wells that I have never read "Love and Mr. Lewisham" and this completed my activities for the day. In my opinion, there is something very appealing about the earlier books of Wells: and in all his work there is a very great deal of useful instruction in the way it is best to live. I think it is a great pity that such a man as H. G. should be so despondent in his later

years that he showed a complete disgust with how Homo Sapiens was turning out, and when young he had such faith in the ability of man to develop into a really civilized creature.

Thursday March 3 1966 : I had to attend the court this morning and help to deal with a case of driving "without due care and attention". This was a simple case, but it was defended by a man of law who made a really hard fight out of it. A car had come cautiously out of the staggered Chailey cross-roads, after stopping but the driver had failed to see an approaching car and a collision had occurred. There was a straight approach to the junction and, quite obviously, the incident could not have occurred had not the defendant's car been "protruding" to say the least, on to the main Road. That

the car was protruding on to the main road was admitted by defendant who said she did not see the other car i.e. it was travelling so fast that it suddenly appeared. In view of the straight road it seems impossible that anyone emerging from the minor road could fail to see a car approaching, whatever its speed. There was a good deal of irrelevant matter brought into this by the defending advocate e.g. asking each witness if they noticed how loud the radio was playing in the other car. All this and other emotive words were used with the idea of turning we three crusty old J.P.s against the other driver, the one who was in the right. He did have long hair and a modern (sic) suit and no doubt the defending man thought we would be swayed by all this with-it business. However we found the defendant was at fault and gave judgement accordingly. There was one extra case. Two young men charged with breaking in and entering and stealing antique furniture. We remanded them in custody. They asked for remand on bail but in view of their pleading guilty, and

the nature of their employment, we remanded them in custody. This afternoon I made my first attendance as a manager of the Wallands School. It was a selection committee for a graded post and we dealt with that. Mrs Moore is an able chairman and the Head, Mrs Perske is what I would call an ideal Head. One rather extraordinary thing there were all the staffs of the two schools and all the managers had tea. I understand this doesn't take place very often and it was quite a good tea eaten 'Bohemian' fashion. But much to my surprise one of the people asked me for the tea charge 8/-!! This may be money in aid of something, I don't know but it was an exceedingly high price for tea. I must enquire if it was something to raise money. David drove me home as we both had to attend the Boundary Commission sub-committee and we both attended. The commission has been stopped but it is necessary for us to continue with our arrangements. I came home and found Dorothy very busy at getting ready for Barty & John when they arrive tomorrow for our reception and Ball. This has been a very busy day but it has also been instructive.

Friday March 4: the mother, child, knife cleaner case (look later in the day.) Today was my last great occasion. I went to the Parlour and Joan & and I dealt with anything that was urgent although, of course, with the Ball taking place in the evening, there was a sense of urgency about everything. Dorothy was busy making ready for Joan & Bunt to arrive etc. We both had a look into the Town Hall to see how the preparations were going on. By the evening the place looked very posh. Bunt and Joan arrived and Dorothy had already fixed up a baby-sitter for Helen while Bunt was at the dance and finally we were all there and the thing was on. Like all the four functions held since I have been Mayor tonight was a very successful affair. This is a testimony to the staff, especially Joan B and the Town Clerk but all the staff. The staff have seemed to me to make doubly sure that my things are a success. If they have succeeded in making all Mayors feel as happy and satisfied about their work as they have made me feel, then the staff have done a good job. Sir Tufton Beauchamp was there with Lady Beauchamp

and the Mayors and Mayresses of Chichester, Bexhill Worthing, Winchelsea and the chairman of the district Councils of Seaford Newhaven and Chailey and one or two other people of note i.e. the colonel of the Royal Sussex etc. Everything was done without the slightest hitch and, more important still everybody in the room was very happy. I was very glad about the spirit of goodwill which I could sense because a great many people have expressed disappointment at my not keeping on as Mayor, and it was very nice to see so many tonight being enthusiastic to Dorothy and me and starting us for our work in the town. Dorothy wore her red evening gown and looked very nice, as did Joan and Bunt. Bert O. arrived later so did not have the supper in the Council Chamber. But John arrived and came up with Bunt. My family, in fact made quite a bit and so we were very happy. There were an extra large number of people who stopped to the very end, so I was able to give the appreciation due to Joan B & Mrs Day and the organizers and workers generally.

The young lady who had looked after the baby had apparently had a quiet time when Buntz came home at 11-30 or so, and Buntz and John had gone to bed when we arrived home at 1-30.

The sentence that starts off today's entries in this diary is to do with a case which has cropped up and is having immense publicity, quite undeservedly, I think. This is obviously one of those cases where the <sup>yellow</sup> press has blown its origin is the <sup>C and A</sup> ~~gutter~~. I think I am quite certain that the full facts of this "knife duty" case are not as reported, they could not be. What this case is to do with a child of ten who (according to the press) was told by her mother to wipe her knife before she used it. Because, as the papers report, she was told by the master not to do this, the mother took her away from school for 8 months!! After I gather, ignoring several court warnings that the kid was being deprived of education and receiving due notice a summons was issued and the child taken away from the care of the master for a fortnight. Of course there is a great deal in this case but under

the influence of the press a great many people are very vocal about children not being allowed to wipe their knives and how unhygienic everything is and what a martinet is the schoolmaster while as for the L.E.A. and the Bench!! In the meantime attention is taken away from vital things and, in a day or two, everybody will be wondering what all the fuss was about. This will be because fortunately some people keep their heads and want to know a few facts before they go tearing things to pieces

I purposely left this piece of space to record the results of the above case. A day or two has passed; the press have dropped the case like a hot brick. The mother, as soon as she saw the results of her actions was quite willing to send the child to school and the school master doesn't know anything about her wiping her knife. He appears to be the only person except the L.E.A. and the bench who has kept his head. So much for the case something blown up by a foolish woman a "cheap" press and an extremely gullible public

as regards the public, perhaps they are not so gullible. Perhaps they almost completely ignore these things, all but a few, that is, who make a fuss on the Jeremy Bentham principle.

Saturday March 5. Nothing much to day. I went to Newhaven and watched Lower win their tie in the Sussex Senior Cup. Met George Miller of Ringmer and Frank Parker, and had a ride back in Georges car. Buntz and John and the baby went back this morning.

Sunday March 6. A quiet day. Went for walk over the Winterburn estates and Dorothy is impressed at the growth, as I was when I went there

during the week.

Monday March 7. To the parlour first. Joan B and the T. C. came over and we discussed various matters, one of which is the possibility of having the band of the Royal Sussex on May 14 for the unveiling of the memorial. We had to break off this because I had a case brought in by two police men. A man accused of big theft besides breaking and entering. He was fetched from Bex and brought before me for the police to apply for a remand in custody. This afternoon I attended at Davids request the Area Planning Committee and found this committee rather easier, I think, than before. We dealt with some cases, none of which came from Lower, including two applications for Motels from Newhaven. This finished I wrote in the staff for Thursdays election and this evening the first General meeting of

of the Oxfam branch was held, quite a jolly bunch of people. On arriving home I found Shaw's "Doctor's Dilemma" was being broadcast. I got the book and found that when they fit this long ~~st~~ type of play it obviously has to be shortened a lot and they do not leave out pieces of it as one would think, but some words and some sentences occasionally. A radio ~~fit~~ adaption of a play must mean an enormous amount of work and a remembering by the cast of what to leave out. I am glad I picked up the book of the play. One can see the amount of work that must be done and can give all concerned credit for it.

Tuesday March 8. I had to get the Parlour work done quickly because the Bench were removing my chambers. There was not much to do so. Joan B. phoned me later in the day regarding the position of the Mayor's allowance fund. I shall have to look at

several items, but I don't mind shelling out a bit at the end, this has been a great experience. This afternoon I did a bit of gardening, that is, I shifted the compost heap and took the nice new mould on to the centre garden plot. The news that is broadcast is in the main about the rates. Ours will have to go up by one and sixpence. That is 6<sup>c</sup> by the Lewes Council plus a precept from the County Council of 1<sup>c</sup>. The town <sup>council</sup> meeting is tomorrow evening and after it Dorothy and I are going to the Licensed Vassallen Ball in the Assembly Room

Wednesday March 9. After the Parlour was the Lewes Exhibitor Fund Trustee's meeting so once again I was in the parlour for the most of the morning. We had several applications for aid and dealt with them all. Several of them make me think, cough. A person whose income is well over two thousand per. asking for eleven pounds to buy educational books for her

daughter. There have been others of a like nature. They, (the newspapers and other sources), talk about the working people saying "gimme". I wish they'd take a closer look at their top-most readers. The full Council Meeting went off quite satisfactorily and there were no adverse comments on the increase of 1/6 on the rates. I had a pleasant duty at the beginning in that I had to present a medal to Doll. Doll and I was very glad to do this. She has worked hard in the C.D. ancillary services and she has improved her pair and outlook in the process. When the General Meeting was over Dorothy and I went along to the Lecture Room where the Labour candidate Mr. Ray Manley had just been adopted and then we had to get ready for the Licensed Victuallers Annual Ball. There was time to go home and get ready and rested in comfort. The officers of the Licensed Victuallers welcomed us. The band played "Sussex by the Sea" to march us in and we were soon seated in a similar position to last year, and as last year, our fellow guests were Hoxey, Rumary and Kilborn and their wives of Hoxey and Kilborn. These three

policemen make very good company on an occasion such as this. Mr. Rumary drove us home at two a.m. and we soon went to bed. A very busy day, and very enjoyable.

Thursday March 10. Today was held the by-election for the vacant seat in Priory ward. I did the work in the Parlour, drew pension, did some shopping etc. & in the afternoon <sup>Dorothy</sup> we went to Ringmer where the Evergreen Club one of the old peoples clubs, were holding a party to which they had specially invited us, although Ringmer is not in the boundaries of Lewes. We are popular with the old 'uns. Jimmy Taylor was there with his violin, and making every body happy. We met one or two fresh people and altogether this was a worthwhile journey. The party was held in a big, prefabricated hut or hall behind the Brewers arms. and the landlord of the pub gives it to the pensioners free of charge.

for light or heat or rent. This room is an enormous contribution to make to the old ones because it is quite obvious there is nowhere to meet at Ringmer otherwise than this room. Jimmy Taylor gave us a lift home and after tea I pottered round watching the election.

To cut a long story short the Conservative candidate Mrs Green held the seat for them. Our candidate did extremely well and, by adding half again to our customary vote in Priory ward, he was beaten by only 60 votes. This is bad luck for him and our helpers whose work has made this big increase possible. We have all got a pleased yet disappointed feeling. It was bad luck only that kept Mr. Carter out.

Friday March 11. Immediately after the Mayor's work I had an emergency court and two accused men (fraud charges) were brought before me and subsequently remanded in custody. One of those courts that I continually get during my month off. So I must be

doing a useful job even if it is simply making life easier for the chairman of the bench. I have used the plural "chairmen" because the vice chairmen have been doing the job while the Chairman Mr Grantham has been laid up. I saw him on Tuesday so he will, no doubt, soon be back at the helm. The "Philharmonic" meeting was held this afternoon. This meeting is the outcome of a request to me from Mr. Abercrombie, who is director general of the Arts Council of Great Britain, to help in the starting of a scheme to use the Brighton Philharmonic to serve good music throughout the county. I therefore convened the meeting by invited each L.A. in the <sup>country</sup> to attend by sending a delegate. I attended the lunch at the "White Hart" at the invitation of Mr. Abercrombie and it was interesting to me, a ignoramus as far as music is concerned. There seven at the lunch and we arranged the afternoon's meeting. The Town Clerk and Joan B. had done a splendid job and the Council Chamber was tastefully decorated and the whole arrangement was worthy of a meeting attended by the local

authorities in the County plus the high-ups of the music world. I think the latter were pleased with the arrangements and with the results so far: final results will not be known, of course, until the delegates report back. Anyway, this has been my contribution to the furthering of music appreciation. Curiously enough, there was more music this evening because we were already booked to attend the Nicholas Lodge Society meeting where there was a concert by the Rumba Trio which was, in the main, quite enjoyable. I must admit that I do not go much on the, what I call, movement music. There always seems to be too much repetition. However, the company was very hospitable and the Moores and Abercrombie and the Saddlers looked after us: and the Scotts gave us a lift home. A nice day.

Saturday March 12. There was only one engagement today. It was a very good one. The wedding of Susan Elphick. Susan had invited us some months ago and we accordingly attended the church service at Southover and found there were seats reserved for us. The church was very full and a great many of the men were wearing morning suits. It was a good service, slightly old-fashioned sounding altho' the clergyman did spin a few yarns which were really quite good. We afterwards went to the Town Hall where the reception was held. There were three hundred guests, and hospitality was very lavish. This wedding of the daughter of one of the very old firms in the town was a real piece of local history setting and it was so well arranged that quite obviously a very great deal of work had been faithfully carried out by the family and their friends. Everything was perfectly organized. I enjoyed it very much. Dorothy wore Mayor-making frock number two and I wore my dark suit which I wear for all functions. I've worn it to two garden parties at Buckingham Palace so it is worthy of a wedding, even one as posh as today's.

Sunday March 13: I spent most of the day gardening. At least I dug a good bit of garden and I have begun to try and rescue the paths. These paths have been there since I carved them out in 1926. Forty years. I was thinking, as I was digging, of my work on this garden during <sup>my first year</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>at</sup> the <sup>of</sup> Toronto Garden. I didn't know anything about gardening in those days so these paths were carved out by sheer luck. They have stood up to it all these years and those years include the building of chicken houses and goat stables and air raid shelters and all the other work things Dorothy and I did during the war as our "bit" and as our effort to keep the girls fed etc. during those six years <sup>of</sup> rationing. I also did the Labour party collection today. This is the first one with newly doubled subscription. Every body paid this quite cheerfully and there is plenty of good will towards the L.P. in the coming election. I shall have had two General Elections during my Mayoralty which, I think this is unique, or at least it is very rare. This evening we walked up to Doll-Dolls

and saw Issy, Doll-Doll and Leslie. They are all going along alright and seem very comfortable.

Monday March 14: Went round to the parlour and Joan B and I quickly did the work because I had a Magistrate's concert (got another for me extra in the off month). However there was not much Parlour work and I joined up with Mr. Rugg, who was chairman and Mrs Bridgeway. We had two cases but I only stayed for one because I could not come back after dinner. The case I had was one of "driving away without owner's consent" and it was rather difficult because the accused man pleaded not guilty and yet was not legally represented and, like so many, I find, could not be made to understand that when he cross examined a witness he must ask questions only and not try to make a speech about his own

defence. He could not grasp the fact that his turn would come later. In the witness box on his own behalf he also wanted to keep talking and arguing instead of answering the questions put to him by the prosecution. His manner was described very aptly by Mrs Ridgway when we retired. "He fully expected injustice would be done." Now there was not the slightest doubt, as far as I could see, that he was guilty, but there was quite a conflict of evidence because he had previous permission to use the Land-Rover in question and the prosecution witness were not too good. We finally discharged him on the grounds that he might have had reasonable grounds to suppose that he still had the owner's permission. A very difficult case. The reason I could not come back for the other case was because the judging of the children's essay competition was to take place in my parlour in the afternoon. The chief judge was the author Mr Buckridge and there were Eve Clark and Charlotte Hubbard from the Library, Miss Temple from the Library Committee, and me. We finally agreed on

the winners and the order of their prizes and then I went home to tea. Mr Buckridge is a very nice, quiet smallish man with a charming manner and, as one would expect, a great knowledge of what essay writing should be, so I have no doubt we finally got them all correctly in place. I phoned Arthur Seymour on arrival home and gave him Mrs Duncanson. Seymour told me he had all the election envelopes out and being written so the L.P. here is getting on with the election fight. I find, by listening to the radio and reading the papers, that the methods of fighting the election by the three parties nationally, are as follows. The Liberals are 'lucky', they have two big parties they can run down and at the same time, put forward a very eternal policy of their own which they know they will never have to carry out and it is quite difficult to find what their policy means. The Conservatives, while spending most of their speaking time running down the Labour Party, still have put forward a policy which, in effect means they will increase all benefits and, at the same time, reduce taxation etc. Plainly this is

a programme they know cannot be carried out and should therefore be regarded with suspicion. The Labour Party people have and are slovening they can win the Tories down alright because they are, or seem to be more quick-witted (as in the last election the leaders of the Tories are reduced to saying "Anybody who votes Labour is stark staring Bonkers") The Labour party also have a good programme based on the National Plan which is itself standing on a substantial amount of public ownership of the key industries.