

## THE CHRIST CHURCH (OXFORD) UNITED CLUBS

The Christ Church United Clubs are situated in South East London at Kennington Oval, and are a centre for many services to the local community. They cater for the recreation and general well-being of some hundreds of all members of the family, from boys and girls to grandfathers, and their activities range from football, cricket, basketball, athletics, fishing, car mechanics, and swimming to art, debates, film-making, and education on how to run a home. They are organised largely through the voluntary effort of past and present Christ Church men and are therefore a meeting place for 'Oxford and Kennington' where undergraduates get to know Londoners south of the river and are able to study from first hand experience the sociological problems connected with re-housing, the building of character, education for citizenship, and the use of leisure.

The young people of Kennington enjoy more leisure than their fathers did and many have received a better education. They are full of restless energy and their minds are keenly receptive to new ideas. Yet many have little aptitude for finding active interests for themselves and without the leadership provided by a club drift too easily into demoralising pursuits. At the Christ Church United Clubs almost any member of the family can find companionship and new interests. Each year a camping holiday and sometimes a holiday abroad is arranged for members of the Clubs.

This community centre has developed gradually from a small club started in the crypt of St. Mark's Kennington by old House men in 1931. From then on, with the great help of the Duchy of Cornwall and of the Surrey County Cricket Club in whose pavilion the original Unemployed Club at one time was housed, the work slowly grew in scope and extent until a new Club-house on land given by the Duchy of Cornwall was officially opened by Lord Halifax and visited by His Majesty King George VI in 1937. During the war years the Clubs were never closed. They were visited by H.R.H. Princess Margaret in 1950 and by

Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of the Clubs, in 1955. Since then there have been two major developments - the purchase of St. Mark's Vicarage which is devoted now to the Girls' Club, Grandfathers' Club, and a flat for the Warden, together with a guest room for visitors from Oxford and elsewhere; and the extension of the main Club building providing the additional accommodation of a small Chapel, a lounge, hobby rooms, and a canteen. This extension has only just been completed and furnished. The Clubs now cater for more members than they have ever done before.

A feature of the Boys' Club is an enthusiasm for adventure and the Club has taken the lead of all clubs in London in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Of the 49 boys taking part, 20 have obtained their 'Bronze' and 11 of these are working for the 'Silver'; 10 have obtained their 'Silver' and 6 of these are working for the 'Gold'; and 2 have obtained their 'Gold'. There is also an Adventure Club which goes on frequent expeditions into the country, and a Physical Fitness Section. The activities arising from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are not confined to physical adventure. There are for example classes for first aid, aero model-making, carpentry, and film appreciation related to the Scheme, which aims at the education of the whole man.

The future holds many possibilities of development on the lines of what is already being done and new departures such as liaison with local schools. But first, a period of consolidation of the present extension of our work, both building and otherwise, is now needed. Running expenses are financed by voluntary subscription, grants, an annual ball called the Red Hat Ball, and to an increasing extent by members themselves. £2,000 is needed to pay off the debt on the new building.

J.H. ARKELL  
Chairman, Executive Committee,  
Christ Church United Clubs

8.12.59

# LONDON FEDERATION OF BOYS' CLUBS

PROPOSALS FOR THE APPROXIMATE  
LOCATION OF TWENTY NEW BOYS' CLUBS  
(Additional to present membership of 220 Clubs)

## SOUTH OF THAMES

LOCATION	POSTAL DISTRICT
1. CHARLTON...	S.E.7
2. KIDBROOKE ESTATE	S.E.3
3. LEWISHAM CENTRE	S.E.13
4. HITHER GREEN	S.E.12
5. BELLINGHAM, L.F.B.C. GROUND	S.E.6
6. EAST DULWICH	S.E.22
7. LOUGHBOROUGH JUNCTION...	S.W.9
8. GARRATT LANE	S.W.18
9. SOUTHFIELDS	S.W.19
10. ROEHAMPTON, ALTON WEST ESTATE	S.W.15

## NORTH OF THAMES

LOCATION	POSTAL DISTRICT
11. BRENTFORD	—
12. CHISWICK	W.4
13. SOUTH FULHAM	S.W.6
14. EAST ACTON	W.3
15. WHITE CITY ESTATES	W.12
16. QUEENS PARK	N.W.6
17. EAST FINCHLEY	N.2
18. HARRINGAY	N.8
19. WOODBERRY DOWN	N.4
20. BRUCE GROVE	N.17