

THE FUTURE

THE FOREGOING activities of the Gaddesden Society are a step in the right direction. But they are nothing to what could be done if only good indoor accommodation could be provided.

A COMPLETE VILLAGE CENTRE must be our goal: with a hall for all entertainments, reading room and library, recreation and billiards room, children's games rooms, sports pavilion, kitchen and licensed canteen—a centre that can be used not only for special occasional events, but all and every day by the community for its leisure hours.

BUILDING RESTRICTIONS may prevent its realisation for some years, but the Society will study the possibilities in conjunction with the County Education Committee and the Little Gaddesden Parish Council and will not be deterred by difficulties.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

President—E. H. Tyler, "West Pulridge," Little Gaddesden, Herts (Tel.: 3139).

Hon. Sec.—D. Balfour, "Frithesden Rise," Ashridge Park, Herts (Tel.: 3149).

Hon. Treas.—L. K. Treen, "Princes Riding," Little Gaddesden, Herts (Tel.: 3202).

Chairman, Education Committee—V. W. Bell, Ashridge Cottages, Little Gaddesden (Tel.: 2164).

Chairman, Entertainments Committee—A. Andrews, Nettleden Road, Little Gaddesden.

Chairman, Golfing Society—Major J. N. Gray, Red House, Little Gaddesden (Tel.: 3122).

Chairman, Rifle Club—L. R. Treen, "Princes Riding," Little Gaddesden (Tel.: 3202).

Chairman, Football Club—H. V. Ward, 14, Little Gaddesden (Tel.: 2148).

BANKERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Barclays Bank Ltd., High Street, Berkhamsted.

THE GADDESSEN SOCIETY

(Founded by the Home Guard)

HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT

THE GADDESSEN SOCIETY has had so many requests for information about its work that it has become necessary to issue a new pamphlet.

A WORD first of all to tell newcomers and remind our friends of the beginnings of the Society and its early work. When the local Home Guard "stood down" after 4½ years of duty, its members decided that their spirit of comradeship could best be preserved by using it to some good purpose—by doing something to benefit the community.

IT WAS AGREED at once that whatever activities were undertaken they must be available to the community as a whole and of interest to as many of all ages as possible.

THE GROUP of villages and hamlets round Little Gaddesden all lacked opportunities for mental and bodily recreation. So—

THE GADDESSEN SOCIETY was formed and a Constitution and Regulations were drawn up to guide the Society in its work and to provide for its administration and continuation. A study of the Constitution and Regulations shows that there is every opportunity for fresh blood to join the Society and to help in the management of its affairs.

WHAT HAS THE SOCIETY DONE ?

TO GET THINGS STARTED the Society at once held a few whist drives: these provided a little money. Committees were elected to work out entertainments and educational programmes, a rifle club was formed and sports activities studied.

OUR REAL BOW to the public in May this year commemorated the formation of the L.D.V. during the dire days of 1940, and took the form of a Village Fête—side shows, competitions, teas, a variety concert and an evening dance: a successful show which will be repeated each May.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED in July by a two-day Exhibition of Paintings, Sculpture, and later, a Sports Meeting for the children. Meanwhile the Rifle Club had started competitions for marksmen and instruction for novices.

HELP FROM OTHERS was willingly offered. The Women's Institute took over all the catering for the Society, the Managers and Headmaster of Little Gaddesden School provided a hall for the Society's meetings and indoor activities, the Rangers helped with the children. Without all this assistance little could have been done and our grateful thanks are due to them all and to others who have helped us.

THE WINTER PROGRAMME

AN ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE, an Education Committee and the Gaddesden and District Farmers' Discussion Group, which had already been doing good work, sat down together and planned a complete programme of amusement and instruction to appeal to everybody—something of interest at least once, sometimes twice, a week from October, 1945, until April, 1946.

FILM SHOWS, lectures, brains trusts, dancing, concerts, music and art have been included. Posters giving a month's programme at a time will be displayed on the Society's own notice boards in eight villages and hamlets. A copy of the whole winter lecture programme can already be obtained free at Little Gaddesden Post Office.

THE EVENINGS have been divided into four series spread over the winter.

ONE SERIES (A) has been designed to find out just what people want and to stimulate a demand for knowledge. It will include a study of ourselves—our birth, our health and our minds—and a history of our countryside and our village. It will also include a political free fight, a "Wednesday Serenade" and a C.E.M.A. concert.

THE SECOND SERIES (B) will show how a democracy such as ours works. It will explain local government, party government, the British Commonwealth, the law, police, health services and education. Every evening will give plenty of opportunity for asking questions and for expressing one's views. The series will give us all a better idea of what we can put into the life of our country and what we can get out of it.

THE THIRD SERIES (C) provided by the Gaddesden and District Farmers' Discussion Group, is designed chiefly for those who gain their living by the land—films, lectures and brains trusts on such subjects as soils and manures, plant growth, grass and clover seed production, sheep diseases, veterinary work and agricultural machinery.

FOR ALL THESE three series, the Society has been fortunate in securing the attendance of men who are not only well-known experts but men who can explain their subject in a really interesting manner.

THE FOURTH SERIES (D) is purely entertainment—concerts, whist and bridge drives, dances and films.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIETY'S WORK has been aided by the generous support of the Ashridge Golf Club. The Committee of the Club realised that there were many men in the district—chiefly the younger ones and those returning from the Forces—who were keen to play golf but who were unable to afford the entrance fee and subscription to such a well-known club. They have therefore encouraged the formation of the Gaddesden Golfing Society, to which 40 male members of the Gaddesden Society over the age of 16 may be elected. They will be able to play each week day and during certain hours on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons for a nominal subscription.

OTHER SPORTS are not being forgotten. The former Football Club has been revived and friendly matches will be played on the Ashridge pitch by courtesy of Capt. H. Gordon, O.B.E. The Cricket Club can count on the full support of the Society and it is hoped to form a Swimming Club ready for next summer, when tuition, competitions and perhaps water polo should be possible.

THE RIFLE CLUB is handicapped at the moment because the War Office will not sanction the use of the only miniature range until some £50 can be spent on it to satisfy safety regulations. Such safety was evidently not necessary for the Home Guard who trained on the range for over four years.

AN ART CLUB has been formed in response to many requests and arrangements made for tuition in painting and a weekly club night for practice.

TO EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

LET US REPEAT that all the Gaddesden Society's activities are arranged for the benefit of everyone in the district, not just for the members of the Society. Everyone is welcome to come to any lecture, film, brains trust, concert, whist drive—anything they like. Details for joining the various clubs can be had from the Honorary Secretary.