

West Midlands DY9 OHD

*May 1978*

Dear Member,

In common with so many societies of an educational and charitable nature which have relied on voluntary unpaid help to man offices and other services, our Association is now faced with greatly increased expenditure.

John Soper is retiring after doing trojan work as Hon. Treasurer, carrying on with undiminished enthusiasm for several years longer than he wished while we hunted for someone to take his place. At last we have found a replacement in Mr and Mrs Hugh Fynes-Clinton from South Africa. They will take up their duties at the end of May, and we have every hope that this will be a very happy appointment for us and for them. But they are not in the position of being able to offer their services for free. We shall have to find approximately £3,000 a year for them.

At the same time George Corrin cannot continue on his present basis. Knowing our financial position he has, all these years, worked for a pittance, only being able to exist through his wife taking a job as a music teacher. She has now retired and it is imperative that we meet his needs and make some provision for when he retires. For this we need a further £1,500 a year.

For a number of years our office has been housed in a shed on this farm. John has had to come over to the house to do any phoning. There have been no adequate facilities for seeing visitors or enquirers. Now we have taken the opportunity of renting from the Sunfield Children's Home at a very reasonable rate (initially £150 p.a.) part of the building that Michael Wilson erected for the Goethean Science Foundation. This will give us our own premises with a good office and a large room adjoining in which visitors can be seen and meetings held. There is also a small kitchen and toilet. It is, in many ways, ideal for our work, with scope for development in the future. In the past no rent has been paid either for the office or for the telephone. This all means extra expense, but the terms are generous and I do feel it is time we had our own home, somewhere less cramped where members and enquirers can come in comfort. this is a big step forward.

Sunfield is doing all external repairs, etc.; a considerable amount ready been done and the work will soon be completed. We, with a donation of £500 and money from the Research & Development Fund have put in new toilet facilities, and are installing gas fires and painting the interior. To cover rent, telephone and heating we estimate an additional £300 a year will have to be found.

All this means that we need a further £5,000 a year. To get this we need to raise the subscription to £10. We are indeed aware that a number of members would have difficulties in paying this and

would therefore ask every member to do his very best. Those who could manage more than £10 would help those who could not meet the target.

The Council went fully into the situation last month and could find no other way of meeting the challenge of the future; they have given their unanimous backing to the substance of this letter. There is nothing extravagant in our plans. The salaries are minimal at to-day's costs and the office accommodation is modest – but it will be much more representative and will meet our present growing needs far better than is possible at Broome.

We are holding an extraordinary general meeting immediately after our Conference at the White House at 2.30 p.m. on the 9th July when the resolution to alter our subscription rate members will be put to all members present. I do hope that you will be able to come and support the Council in this most important development.

Yours sincerely,

David Clement

Chairman

6th No