

1940, I think.

WATERLOO NEWS

NO. 1

PRICE 3^d

This is the first newsletter to be published by W.H.A.T. (The Wester Hailes Association of Tenants). We hope that there will be many more, and that as things get better financially, the form of the newsletters will improve.

"W.H.A.T.'s News" is designed to reflect & report what's happening, is not happening, or SHOULD be happening, in Wester Hailes. You're the people it will be concerned with. It's your paper.

What's W.H.A.T. all about? There is a crying need for a variety of things out here. We're paying hefty rents & rates & getting very little in return. A primary school, a shop, and lots of houses. That about sums up Wester Hailes. We need a secondary school quickly, we need a community centre, nursery or pre-school facilities for the very young children & their mothers, a club of some kind for our teenagers, more shops, a post office, letter boxes & you name it, we have not got it!

W.H.A.T. was formed to press for better amenities for the area. A public meeting was held in Dumbryden Primary School on the 10th December & we had a pretty good turn-out. (More about meetings later). As speakers we had Councillor Brian Week (He's one of the Councillors for this ward. Councillor George Poulkes was supposed to represent the Labour Party but did not turn up, sending along Trevor Davies, a Labour candidate, instead. Jock Henry, The Secretary of the Trades Council, made the best contribution of the evening, and

various members of the audience have since said that we must have him back to give us the low down on the rents situation.

Who's behind W.H.A.T.? Someone at the meeting suggested that we might be Communist agitators out to stir things up. It's a point of view, I suppose, but it's a pretty daft one. A committee was elected from the floor of the hall, with members from the three 'areas' in the scheme (Dumbryden, Hailesland & Murrayburn), plus a chairman, secretary, & a Treasurer. Their names & addresses are all on the back of this newsletter. Ask them if they regard themselves as Communist agitators ... the thing that links the committee is general agreement about the need for a community centre etc. & that the main aim of W.H.A.T. should be to get these things a good bit quicker than the Corporation planned we should have them.

Bodies like the Corporation pay more attention to other bodies than they do to individuals. The bigger the body, the better the attention. If you were to go along to the Planning Department of the Corporation to say that you thought there should be better facilities in Wester Hailes you wouldn't get any further than a clerk at the front desk. Whereas, if we get someone along from the Planning Department to a public meeting and there are enough of us there to show him that all of Wester Hailes is behind us, they'll listen, and they'll act.

So, we're having someone from the Planning Department along. Possibly the City Architect himself.

7.30 PM

There will be a meeting in Dumbryden Primary School on THURSDAY, 7th JANUARY 1971 (Make a note of it) COME ALONG TO THE MEETING and tell him what you think the scheme needs. After all, you live in it, he doesn't.

There are a lot of pensioners & senior citizens living in the scheme. We'd like to see them at the next meeting to get their points of view about what's needed. Teenagers, too. There's no age limit to membership of W.H.A.T. All you need is to be resident in the scheme and to have 3/- membership fee (5/- joint membership for couples). If you haven't already been chatted into taking-up membership by the person who sold you this newsletter, come along and join in the meeting on the 7th. The more the merrier. The bigger we are, the more we'll be able to do.

We've had 2 committee meetings. Various things were discussed. (1) Our decision to publish a regular newsletter. (2) Meeting for the 7th was arranged. (3) We decided to organise a waste paper collection to raise funds for W.H.A.T. We've written to the Cleansing Dept. about having more regular 'clear-ups' here. We'll write another letter to the G.P.O. about improving postal facilities. W.H.A.T. is getting off the ground. We need the help and support of everyone in Wester Hailes, so don't be backward in coming forward to join W.H.A.T. & offering to help.

This newsletter is yours. If there's anything you'd like to mention - any greivances, if you've anything you want to sell, let us know. It won't cost you anything. Same applies to organisations, church groups, etc. Contact any of the committee members below.

- CHAIRMAN: H. Campbell, 27/6 Dumbryden Gdns.
- SECRETARY: Mrs. M. Monteath, 2/6 Murrayburn Green.
- TREASURER: T. Kirkhope, 1/8 Murrayburn Gdns.
- J. Monteath, 2/6 Murrayburn Green.
- G. Mack, 55/3 Murrayburn Park.
- Mrs. J. Reid, 27/2 Murrayburn Gardens.
- B. Nicholson, 12/3 Murrayburn Gardens.
- Mrs. Duff, 64/3 Dumbryden Gardens.
- T. Robertson, 1/3 Dumbryden Gardens.

Mr. McCutcheon, 1/6 Dumbryden Gardens.
Mrs. J. Macdonald, 13 Hailesland Gardens.

SAVE YOUR WASTE PAPER
for W.H.A.T.

We're going to organise a regular paper collection to supplement W.H.A.T.'S funds. The money we get from the sales of paper will enable us to pay for other things. Volunteers are urgently needed to help in this. It'll take maybe one night a fortnight. We haven't yet decided who'll be in charge of this operation or when it will start. Probably just after the New Year. So, save all the wrapping from those presents! Paper of any kind will be acceptable. Volunteers of any age or size will be welcome. Names & addresses to Bob Nicholson, 12/3 Murrayburn Gardens. T. Robertson

W.H.A.T. has received its first donation - or rather donations. Two ladies have each donated 5/- which means that W.H.A.T. is now in funds. A bank account has been opened in W.H.A.T.'S name & the books will be available for inspection by any member of W.H.A.T.

The All-Edinburgh Tenants Association has produced a newspaper called STAMPEDE & the first issue is now on sale. It's a daft title, and the editors are open to suggestion for another title. Anyone who has an idea for a new title should write to SANDY ROSS, 1 ABBEYMOUNT, EDINBURGH 7. There may be prizes involved, but nobody's making any promises on that score. STAMPEDE lets you know what other tenants' associations are doing & contains articles on nurseries, play groups, houses & rents. Costs 6d.