



FRESHVIEW

House Magazine
of the Freshwater
Group of Companies

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**HAVE YOU
GIVEN A TOY
FOR A SICK
CHILD YET ?**

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW READERS

THE EDITOR of "Freshview" is very pleased to offer a warm welcome to some 450 new readers. They are tenants at the six properties recently purchased by the Freshwater Group from the Norwich Union Insurance Society.

Largest of the blocks is Sutton Court in Chiswick, W.4. The 50 flats range in size from two to six rooms and a permanent gardener is employed to look after the extensive grounds.

The block was built near the turn of the century and the entrances to the property still bear metal signs declaring that no organ grinders are allowed in the grounds.

The Group are presently arranging for an extensive modernisation

programme to be carried out at Sutton Court.

A famous London public-house which had its own boxing booths once stood on the site where Eyre Court now stands. The Court is in Finchley Road, N.W.8, almost opposite St. John's Wood Underground Station.

A permanent staff of 12 look after the 127 flats, which are equally divided between two and four-bedroomed settings. The block was built in 1931 and present-day tenants include several people prominent in the clothing industry, a retired judge and a number of stockbrokers.

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WALLACE COURT



MORTIMER COURT

Byron Way's Seaside Day

THE FIRST effort of Byron Way Tenant's Association (1969) at having a social get-together was voted an outstanding success after 35 of the children at the property were taken on a day trip to Ramsgate recently.

The children, who were in the charge of six adults, left by coach for the seaside at 8.30 in the morning. Funds were raised by the Tenant's Association Committee, who organised raffles and bingo evenings, and token payments were made by parents.

Although the weather remained dry, there was little sunshine. This, however, did little to deter the general happy atmosphere and 35 happy children arrived back at Northolt full of excitement, fish and chips and ice-cream.



BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Know your neighbour

Eddie Palmer: Pianist and Bandleader



A PICTURE FROM THE PAST

"Tonight and every night at the Novachord—Eddie Palmer". This was the announcement that heralded Mr. Palmer's solo spot during his several years with the famous Oscar Rabin Band.

Mr. Palmer, now a Freshwater tenant living at Clissold Court, N.4, has played with several big dance bands as well as having his own band and playing in the orchestra pit at several famous shows.

A ledger clerk until the age of 19, he went into showbusiness after seeing the Jack Hylton Band in action.

Mr. Palmer had studied the piano at Trinity College of Music and in one of the examinations gained 99 out of a possible 99 marks.

At 19, he joined a band playing at the Isle of Wight. When they broke up, he played piano accompaniment for the Southern Sisters and in 1933 he made his first record with them.

For the two years starting 1936, Mr. Palmer joined up with radio personality Anona Winn when she appeared in music hall. He both played piano and arranged the music.

After meeting another famous band-leader, Maurice Winnick, he left Anona and went to Cannes for a four-month engagement.

With Maurice, he came back to England and played at venues like the Dornester before returning to France for more dates. The band were able to get back to England just before the war broke out.

Mr. Palmer's first musical job during the war years was playing the Hammond organ at Earl's Court ice rink.

"I played the organ right in the middle of the rink with all the skaters going round me. Luckily for me, that job didn't last long as I soon met Oscar Rabin."

As well as playing piano with Oscar's band, Mr. Palmer was featured on the Novachord, a unique instrument which is no longer in existence, which was a sort of electric piano with organ sounds.

After going into the R.A.F. for four years (he played then with a band in Uxbridge) he returned to the band and was with them for a further two years.

"I joined Oscar first of all at the Hammersmith Palais and we then went on a tour of the Moss Theatres. It was during this time that I met my wife Joyce. She was a dancer with the band.

"When I came out of the R.A.F. I found that no-one wanted to listen to music anymore—they just came to dance. After two years of one-night stands up and down the country I just couldn't take it any more and I quit the band."

Between the time that he left Oscar and 1953, Mr. Palmer became involved in all sorts of musical ventures. He had his own small band for some time and they played regularly at two famous

London Clubs. He was also broadcasting frequently.

In 1953, however, Mr. Palmer made a big decision when he decided to try orchestra pit work. "I went to the Coliseum to play with a new American musical, 'Guys and Dolls'. I was with the show for 17 months and stayed in the same theatre pit when 'Can-Can' opened.

"I was with 'Can-Can' for 12 months and each night the spotlight was turned on me when I played an accordion solo.

"My next show was the one I liked best, 'Irma la Douce'. I never got tired of playing the music although I was with the show for four years. It had some really lovely music."

Since that time, Mr. Palmer has spent three seasons playing piano

at an Isle of Wight holiday camp and one of his many other jobs has been playing for a former "Miss World", Anne Sidney, when she went on a cabaret tour.

"Anne used to come to the flat to practice and my son Bix felt nine-feet tall when one evening she went across to the pub with him. She was a nice girl."

Bix, in fact, is continuing the showbusiness line by working with a record company.

Although playing the piano is both his livelihood and chief interest, Mr. Palmer still manages to find time for his other hobbies—painting, making his own films and writing music.

"I've never regretted going into the music world and I've really enjoyed my life because it's been so full of interest."

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ADDRESS _____

**AROUND THE
PROPERTIES WITH
MARTIN ROSS**

ATMOSPHERE IS ALL IMPORTANT

APART FROM all the other considerations such as rent, rates and the general condition of the property, it's "atmosphere" that can make up the mind of a tenant thinking of moving into a block.

One of the best people who can gauge the atmosphere is, of course, the Property Supervisor. The Supervisor at Clissold Court, N.4, Mr. Roy Linsdell, has turned down four opportunities of moving to other larger Freshwater blocks. This must be one of the highest compliments that a Supervisor could make about his block.

"The people at Clissold Court are all very nice people and I've made friends with many of them. I wouldn't want to move from here simply because I like it so much." Clissold Court, which has some 70 flats, is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and Clissold Park, one of the most delightful in this part of London, is right opposite the



CLISSOLD COURT, LONDON, N.4

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block so that many tenants have a fine view of this open, green space. Also nearby are some Metropolitan Water Board "towers" and it wasn't all that long ago that mothers would take their children to hear the "giant" walking up and down the stairs. The noise was really the clanking of the water pumps.

Mr. Linsdell believes that many of the tenants are living in the Court because of its easy access to both the East and West End.

"Most of the people have businesses in one of these areas and we're in easy reach of Manor House Underground station and buses."

There are still several tenants at the Court who were there when the block was built in 1935 and of these is Mrs. Cissie Barcan, who lives with her daughter at No. 1.

When Mrs. Barcan came to the Court there were three porters and a night porter.

"I sold a very nice house to come here but I must say that I've been very comfortable and have got on with everyone. We're not the sort of people who run into each other's flats all the time but the neighbours will help when asked to.

"I must say that Mr. Linsdell is the nicest Supervisor we've had here."

Mr. Linsdell is particularly happy at the block because it is conveniently near the Arsenal and



MR. ROY LINSDPELL

not too far away from Lord's Cricket Ground.

The spacious grounds also give him plenty of scope for gardening, one of his favourite past-times. Mr. Linsdell is a perfectionist when it comes to looking after the grounds.

Ask Mr. Linsdell what he feels about living at the Court and his answer will be: "The 2½ years I've been here have been the happiest since I left the Army."