



# THE

# RESPONAUT

A QUARTERLY BY, FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE WITH RESIDUAL RESPIRATORY PARALYSIS

Vol. 2: No. 4

September, 1965.

## HARVEST HOPES

Greetings. On 12th July in the House of Commons the Hon. John Astor, M.P. for Newbury, Berks., asked Miss Herbison, Minister of Pensions and National Insurance about the possibility of a constant attendance allowance for chronically sick and disabled people. Miss Herbison assured him that provision for the chronic sick is now being considered under the comprehensive review. To Mr. Astor's further question about the likelihood of early provision ahead of the review Miss Herbison replied that it certainly will be included as part of the Government's policy.

This is taken from Hansard of 12th July. This heartening news was sent to me by the Hon. John Astor, whose hard work on our behalf has done so much to cheer us. Many other M.P.s have written to the Minister of Health and made enquiries.

It seems there are many reasons why the necessary domiciliary help for responauts is difficult to establish. There are more babies being born, more old people surviving and the demands of the mentally handicapped people must be met; but no one handicapped section can be sacrificed for the sake of others. In a democracy we are all God's children and it is hoped that the comprehensive review under way will provide the comprehensive care that we need.

We send our thanks to all M.P.s and other influential people who are supporting us and helping our cause when and how they can. We send thanks also to all those people who help with the production of The Responaut, either by practical physical help or by sending cheques to help with production costs and postage. The Responaut travels to all parts of the world. Our post contains news from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Rhodesia and Gibraltar, as well as local news from these old islands.

EDITOR

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ELECTRICITY AND EQUIPMENT

Our emergency electricity supply was brought into use again last month during a power cut. It is made by Electrodynamic & Hewitt Electronics Ltd., St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent. Had the cut gone on for a long time and hand-pumping of my respirator been necessary, we have the good fortune of being able to call on friends and neighbours and the men in our local Ambulance Station (they are always volunteering to help), as well as the Voluntary Emergency Service (whose young members pay for the privilege of helping). This month I shall be meeting our county representative and shall find out at first hand what useful information I can pass on about the strength of the V.E.S. in each county.

In last year's extreme emergency when strikes threatened the electricity supply an army generator was made available.

Concerning equipment, if there is any difficulty about any equipment whatsoever, please write in and say so. The British Polio Fellowship is always ready to help with equipment problems: write to the Welfare Officer, Mrs. Stacey, for advice. Mr. Maling leads the team at the Electro-Mechanical Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks., which designs and constructs possum units, these may be either single or multi-purpose controls. I am looking forward to having an electric typewriter that I can operate with my feet.

My other remote control needs concerning my bell, lamp, wireless, television, tape-recorder, book reading machine are met by my very simple, safe and reliable push-pedal foot board, a photograph of which has been for many years in the Polio Research Organisation's tome 'Equipment for the Disabled'. Other pieces of equipment shown in this book may or may not be of use to respos, but may be helpful to other readers of The Responaut.

Knowing where equipment is made or information is available is only the first step towards obtaining it. The money to buy equipment can be and often is provided by local authorities, often with the help of The British Polio Fellowship. The Fellowship often buys equipment outright. If equipment is needed for work the Resettlement Officer can advise his committee of your needs.

It still seems strange to me that a hospital consultant must advise about my respirator. It has been a pleasure and privilege to meet once more the specialists who breathed life into me by machine when my own powers disappeared ten years ago. I shall never stop being grateful to them for their help but at the same time I do have a very good G.P. and most helpful Medical Officers of Health, both local and county. As they are already directly concerned with my

welfare it does seem to be duplicating things a bit to need further specialist recommendation for the supply of respirator parts and maintenance.

A folder suitable for holding copies of The Responaut is available from:- **stationers** or A. Murray (London) Ltd., 3-7 Hatfields, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1. Ask for Cresta Style A file. Cost: under a shilling.

Next quarter's topics which will appear in the December/January issue will be Holidays and Hobbies. Thank you all for the lovely cards you have sent from your holiday destinations. I hope you will send in letters about your holiday arrangements and how you coped.

There will not be another Responaut before Christmas; we hope to help the Post Office and ourselves by posting shortly afterwards, so we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a lively 1966. God bless you, every one.

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#### ADVISERS

Our new list of helpful organizations is off to a good start and this Quarter it seems to be a good idea to start another list, this time of people willing to advise us on the particular problems which are usually taken as themes for the "Responauts". We usually pair them but hope to have individual Advisers or perhaps several Advisers for each single subject, the subjects being electricity, equipment, education employment Help, housing, hobbies and holidays.

We welcome our first Adviser -  
Mrs. Sonia Bucher,  
165, Holyfast Road,  
Coventry, Warwickshire.

who has collected stamps for many years and whose advice I am, myself, following with my new interest of stamp collecting. This year I am collecting stamps with plants, next year I hope to move on to all kinds of animal life.

Some people have the necessary memories to collect all kinds, but I feel happier for restricting my own field to something I can manage, at least to start with.

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REMEMBRANCE

by

The Rev. W. R. Birt

Responants the world over may like to feel that there is a place within an English parish church which is especially theirs - and where they will be remembered regularly.

The Church of St. George the Martyr, Newbury, is thought to be the only parish church of its kind in England - for it derives from a type of church found in the foothills of the Italian Alps and built in the style of the early Classical Renaissance. With its white painted walls, red pantile roofs, and slim campanile attached to the nave by a cloister walk it is unmistakably Italian in design - and at ease with the modern houses that are springing up around it in an expanding suburb of Newbury.

What holds the eye as one enters the nave is the great Rood beam in blue and gold, and the canopy - whose dominant colours are also blue and gold - over the high altar.

On either side of the high altar are two side chapels, one of which has always been the Lady Chapel (in which the daily services of the church are said). The other has

recently been furnished with a splendid altar and reredos in marbled wood, and dedicated to St. Michael. This is the parish's Memorial Chapel, in which is kept the parish Book of Remembrance.

The dedication to St. Michael follows naturally from the dedication of the church itself to the patron saint of England. The church was built in 1933 as a War Memorial not only to the dead of the first World War, but also to the dead of the first Battle of Newbury (1643) which was fought a few hundred yards away from the church.

St. Michael has always been regarded as the warrior archangel who was leader in the heavenly war against Satan - and is therefore frequently figured - like St. George - as overcoming the Dragon.

John Hayward, whose stained-glass work shines in St. Mary-le-Bow, London, has obviously been inspired in his designs for the great West Window, depicting St. George and the Dragon, and an eye-window on the outer wall of the Memorial Chapel which blazes with the deep red of a St. Michael Cross.

We shall profoundly cherish the privilege of keeping in the Chapel a memorial book of Responants, their families, friends and supporters: for the editor of the Responant is one of us.

We hope that this corner of the church will be valued by the living, for we shall remember all Responants regularly in our prayers.

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We regret the death of John Gudgeon just before we go to press.

OBITUARY

The following Obituary is reprinted from the Charing Cross Hospital Gazette by kind permission of the Secretary to the Board.

Dr. Francis Sugden, M.B., B.S.

Dr. Francis Sugden, research Registrar at Charing Cross Hospital, died suddenly on 13th January 1965, aged 35. He was trained at Charing Cross and qualified in 1953. While doing his first House appointment as House Surgeon to the Orthopaedic Department he contracted poliomyelitis. He was extremely ill and he was thought unlikely to survive, but after a long and courageous struggle he managed to rehabilitate himself. In spite of severe physical handicaps he resumed medical duties from a wheelchair. He acquired a fund of experience and many house officers over the years have been thankful for his help and advice. He was mainly concerned with the surgical wards and recently he had organized and run a large out-patient anticoagulant clinic. He had taken part in research on the surgical side and had recently been operating the blood PH machine and the volumetron.

Francis, as he was known to all members of the staff, was always cheerful, although at times it was obvious that his cheerfulness required a great effort. Before his illness he had many outdoor interests which he must have missed very much, but he made good use of his practical skills. He became keenly interested in radio, television and recording equipment and many of his colleagues benefited from this activity. Francis in his wheelchair was a well known and esteemed figure around the hospital, and he will be missed by many people.

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The following article first appeared in The Guardian on March 15th, 1965, and is re-printed here by kind permission of the Editor.

WOMEN TALKING - by Mary Stott.

One of the things I shall remember about "Not So Much A Programme" is that comical and endearing character Patrick Campbell suddenly and rarely earnest, supporting Iain Macleod against Malcolm Muggeridge in a discussion of the corrupting effect of power. "Someone's got to do it," he kept saying. It reminded me of the farewell speech of a great talker and orator, Eleanor Barton, years ago, when she retired from the general secretaryship of the Women's Co-operative Guild ... with all her considerable force, she ended "DOING is the thing."

Things have to be done, and someone has to do them, and I get a little tired of people who only talk about what a mess other people make of things. "Someone" has to be Chancellor of the Exchequer or Chairman of a local housing authority, and to take responsibility for frighteningly important decisions and get kicked around for them. "Someone" also has to do the donkey work at a lower level, or in a narrower field. Reforms, the removal of injustices, don't come out of the blue. They come when it is obvious to most people that change is needed, and when someone is prepared to take responsibility for action. Only people who have done it know what a work it is to change the climate of opinion, to prepare the ground, plodding on writing letters and making speeches, seeking interviews, lobbying, nagging, persuading - and failing over and over again.

The maddening thing is that the smaller the reform - in the sense of affecting few people and needing a comparatively small amount of money - the harder it is to budge Parliament. Look how long it took to remove that

wretched earnings restriction for widows. Practically every women's organisation in the country had passed resolutions and lobbied M.P.s for years.

The biggest stumbling block that had to be shoved aside, inch by inch, was sheer lack of knowledge. I became convinced that most men really believed that by paying National Insurance they had secured a lifelong automatic pension for their widow. And I am convinced now that most people think there is an old age pension for everyone. There is not, of course. When National Insurance came in, with its retirement pensions, that automatic old age pension at 70 went out, and there are something like a quarter of a million people still with us who were never able to qualify for the retirement pension, and who therefore get nothing from the State unless they apply for National Assistance. They could not qualify because when they were still earning there was an income limit of £250 (raised to £420 during the war) above which you could not contribute to the State scheme.

If it were not tragic it would be ludicrous that the older you are the less likely you may be to be able to claim a retirement pension. Of course, in the fullness of time, National Insurance will cover everyone ... but do we have to shut our eyes and wait for these old people to die off, many of them in miserable poverty, before that happy day arrives? There are so few of these old people, not more than a couple of hundred, perhaps, in any one constituency, and it would cost so little - and surely take so little parliamentary and Civil Service time to draft legislation to give them a pension equivalent to a retirement pension. Mr. Airey Neave, Conservative M.P. for Abingdon, has a private member's bill extending the pensions' scheme to the people excluded by age in 1948. Has it a hope?

The fewer the sufferers, the harder to get action ... How long is that repulsive old dogma "Hard cases make bad law" going to prevent us from trying to stretch the Welfare State umbrella a bit further, a bit more protectively? What about the "young chronics" trying to live at home, for whom Ann Armstrong wages an heroic campaign from her iron lung?

What about the single women carrying the almost unbearable load of a job, a household, and a failing, household-bound parent, for whom the Rev. Mary Webster is campaigning? What about the mothers bringing up mentally handicapped children at home? Isn't it time we rethought National Insurance for all these?

Beveridge's foundation stone for our system of National Insurance was that when people could not maintain themselves and their families, either temporarily, as in sickness or unemployment, or permanently, as in old age, the State must take over responsibility. But there are people who not only cannot work for a living, they cannot live without long-term, perhaps permanent care. ALL these should have a disability pension, whether their disability was due to industrial accident, war injury, innate defect, illness, or the severe infirmities of old age, and that pension should be enough to cover not only food and clothing and the essentials for a healthy person but payment for some care and attention. The choice should not have to be between going into an institution at very great cost to the community, and being a crippling burden on other members of the family.

Of course every reader of this page could think of other small - or even big - groups for whom the Welfare State doesn't mean much. I hope they are not just muttering about the stupidity and obstinacy of the Minister of This or That or the corrupting effect of political power on ideals. As Eleanor Barton said, "Doing is the thing." As Patrick Campbell said, "Someone has to do it" or make it possible to be done.

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The following article first appeared in The Guardian on March 15th 1965.

TAKE ONE - by Ann Armstrong.

Recently, the Central Office of Information asked me to make a film called "Ann Armstrong - Responaut" following the publication of Responaut articles in the "Guardian". My doctor agreed, stipulating precautions. Reluctantly I discussed my limitations with the director: for instance, being indoors makes me unused to strong light. Prolonged exposure to bright artificial lights could lead to severe headaches, paralysing the whole project. Talking exhausts me rapidly.

I studied my script at the weekend. On Monday the director brought blue bed linen, as white is too glaring for the camera's eye. We discussed the script and made a few alterations. She left me to my supper and a frantic tidying up - the eagle-eyed camera would spot every fading flower and neglected cobweb. We searched for flowers to make the house hospitable. We stacked every pot plant that sported so much as a green leaf in the fireplace. One blooming crocus and one clump of yellow primulas provided colour. My husband found a few snowdrops at the foot of the apple tree - tender treasure.

We checked the props - newspaper cuttings, spare copies of our magazine, the "Responaut", the boys' languishing musical instruments and silent Beatle records, etc., making sure that all my equipment worked so that there would be no delay once the film was started. The fact that our home was to be seen by an overseas audience of 100 million people made our eyes very critical.

Tuesday morning and afternoon the director and her capable crew of five considerate men took seemingly endless small shots of all my equipment and the remote control panel.

They used two cameras, one filmed with sound, one without. A separate sound track was also made. The lights were brought to full strength gradually, bounced off the ceiling, and switched off entirely when no filming was actually being done.

Next day rehearsals started in my sitting-room, from which my room is separated by a sliding door. I heard all the work going on although not actually contributing towards it.

I was saving myself for my pièce de resistance in the afternoon and ensuring that all the visitors to the house obeyed the primitive signals tapped out by the director's pencil on the door. One tap meant it was all right to make a noise, two taps meant quiet now please, we are shooting.

Of course, as we were trying to be quiet everybody called and each arrival made the dog bark furiously, as is his duty. Usually he spends much time in the woods and fields but with so many fresh people and scents in the house he stayed home all the time. Shots were taken of him and of my part-time home help and secretary. The little foreign phrases for our overseas audience tripped off my tongue easily, dissolving my fears.

There was so much to think about, time was jet propelled. I must keep my voice high, I thought. I must not rush all my words out quickly as I usually do to beat my machine-regulated breath. I must not keep batting my eyelids nor must I let my eyes wander to the things I talk about. "What is the next thing to say?" I searched the director's face, trying to fish out the fleeting phrase.

Suddenly the film was finished. It was like coming round from an anaesthetic, but thanks to the wonderful planning and consideration of the director and her crew the operation has been painless.

I said the final words "This is Ann Armstrong saying goodbye from Britain."

P O S T

Another Offer of Help.

I have just read with great interest your magazine "Responaut" - a copy addressed to Mr. E.A. Stegmann, the President of the Association of Mouth & Foot Painting Artists.

Through your columns, your readers may be interested to learn of this Trust Fund, which will help any Handicapped Child who shows an interest in the arts or crafts. We can help by donations from time to time to provide materials, and perhaps where necessary money for special teaching.

If the child is so badly handicapped as to have to use the mouth or feet to hold the brush, pencil, etc., then we will also give advice and encouragement to create works of art in this way. The child may then become a Student Member of the Association of Mouth & Foot Painting Artists, and eventually a Full Member.

I am a Member of this Association - a mouth-painter having lost both arms whilst serving as a pilot in the R.A.F. during the war; and I am Trustee of this Fund.

If you think I can help in any way, please let me know; and through this Fund and the Association, I will be pleased to do whatever I can.

With all best wishes,

Peter N. Spencer,  
Trust Fund For the Training of  
Handicapped Children in Arts & Crafts.  
94, Claremount Road,  
Wallasey, Cheshire.

P.S. You may be interested to know that I have typed this letter using my feet.

DIG Away.

I enclose a contribution from DIG for The Responaut. Thank you for printing "DIG THIS" in the Responaut and I look forward to readers' response.

I enclose a copy of the Memorandum we presented to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr. Douglas Houghton, M.P., and to Sir Keith Joseph, M.P., and Mr. Eric Lubbock, M.P., last Friday.

Any idea which might occur to you about DIG's work would be useful to us.

Megan Du Boisson,  
Disablement Income Group, Rellen House, Busbridge Lane,  
Godalming Surrey.

Housing the Severely Disabled.

You will know that a number of organisations and individuals have for some time been concerned at the often insurmountable difficulties, largely financial, that the severely disabled, including respiratory cases, encounter in attempts to live at home with their families. I myself have discussed the problem with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Assistance Board and other official bodies and I am well aware that others have also made approaches to Government departments, voluntary organisations, Members of Parliament and so on.

I believe that the most helpful step I can now take is to convene a meeting of all bodies and individuals interested in this problem with a view to (a) preventing overlapping of effort, (b) agreeing a common policy and (c) presenting a joint statement to those who can help with the solution of the problem.

Duncan Guthrie,  
National Fund for Research into Poliomyelitis & Other  
Crippling Diseases, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London,  
S.W.1.

Productive Responaut

Many thanks for your letter. I'm off on holiday at the beginning of September so thought I'd better answer it before things get too hectic.

I've just sent off 4 paintings to the Kenny Institute, U.S.A. for their International Art Show in October - I hope they will arrive in time.

I'm also showing some of my paintings at Gloucester next month when the Three Choirs Festival is on. I shall be away unfortunately, but hope to get it all organized before I start my packing for the holidays!

Incidentally, I went to Gloucester on the Train this month - travelled Freebreathing in the Guards Van (which I thought was very brave of me!) and free breathed round Gloucester and the Cathedral for a couple of hours.

Dr. Sandiford is taking me over to Selsey to see Margaret Dixon again.

The B.P.F. have quite a good list of Holiday Accommodation addresses that are suitable.

A Responaut must get organised to take all his or her equipment - bedpan, drawsheet, footboard, bell - not to mention the Respirator!

I've got a voluntary helper coming this afternoon to do some picture mounting for me - I'm doing a set of local scenes for our local St. Mark's Snow next Monday.

I've been gadding out and about such a lot this summer that I've had a job to get on with my painting - can't do both - haven't got the time or the breathe.

Daphne Whitehead

62A, Tennyson Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

A Hand for Possum.

Concerning the correspondence about the Possum in the Responaut, may I state my point of view?

The Possum is, by definition, a device for operating a large number of electrical switches with a sensitive mouth tube or very light movement of a single muscle. The system is extremely ingenious and requires the utmost skill in design and manufacture.

I am now using a typewriter at an accurate speed of fifteen words per minute without any physical effort. The system is only in its infancy and has much wider and faster possibilities.

A more enlightened generation will, in time, look upon this sort of device as a means for the paralysed to be much less of a burden on the nation. I very much look forward to the day when the country will recognise the need to provide such equipment as a way of making paralysed people self-supporting.

I emphasise most strongly that in years to come Mr. Maling's pioneering work will be appreciated for its true value. In spite of many technical and financial hurdles he is working very hard with a persistent single-minded purpose and deserves our fullest support.

Geoffrey Webb,  
5, Love Lane, Watlington, Oxfordshire.

Respo Suggestions.

There is no reliable alarm suitable for either a Tunncliffe jacket or a cuirass respirator. By this I do not mean an alarm which will function if there is a fault in either the electricity supply or the mechanical parts of the motor - such an alarm can be obtained. What I would

like to have is one which operates if there is a drop in the pressure either in the jacket or in the connecting pipe. I envisage something that could be attached to the pressure gauge tube, and works on an electronic system rather than a diaphragm which I have never found to be completely satisfactory.

Do you think you could add another name to your mailing list for the "Responaut".

My friend was a patient at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital and has recently gone to live at home. She caught polio in Africa some 18 months - 2 years ago and is partially paralysed needing a respirator at nights.

It seems that her home is right in the middle of the wilds of Sussex, an area which is subject to power cuts and snow drifts in the winter.

We feel that if she can have as much contact as possible with helpful information, her problems will not be so great.

While I am writing may I make a suggestion? If it would be possible to print the Responaut in such a way so that it could be fixed with staples in the middle (as for example in the Woman's Own magazine), it would enable people using mouth-sticks to turn the pages themselves. At the moment this is impossible! Thanks.

John T. Prestwick,  
Ward L2, St. Ann's Hospital, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N.15.

Thank you for raising this point. We are not able to arrange the pages differently while we are having to be so economical but we shall certainly keep this problem in mind and should we become better off we will see if this request can be met.

Editor.

Respos On Pass.

Living in a hospital presents quite a lot of different problems as opposed to living at home as you know. On this unit there are five long stay respiratory patients, two females and three male. As both the females are married they spend most week-ends and holidays at home and so are not quite so restricted by the hospital. The three males for various reasons can not go for week-ends away and are given a "Concession" by the hospital, that is providing they find a driver and 'escort' they may stay out until 10.30 p.m. These passes have to be asked for on the Monday of each week and although the Medical Superintendent is quite friendly and generous, surely these restrictions are quite unnecessary? Especially when we have to find our own 'escort' and driver. We have quite a number of clubs to which we are invited and can usually get to them at week-ends but except on very special occasions we must be back in the ward at 10.0 p.m. As this is normally at week-ends and we are the only persons out why the time restriction? Many of the clubs or dances do not start until 8.30 or nine so it means we can only stay about an hour before we have to return. Do these restrictions apply to all hospitals?

Alex Ramsay,  
"J" Ward, Priorsdean Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth, Hants.

New Horizon.

Thank you for another wonderful edition of "The Responaut" and I do hope the enclosed will help in a small way to pay some of the production costs, which must be a heavy burden on your budget.

I'm sorry if I should have sent this to your Treasurer, but I had already written the envelope and made out the Postal Order before the magazine arrived.

Thank you very much for sending copies of "The Responaut" to my friend Jane Comstock in Oklahoma. She

told me how much she had enjoyed reading them but I was delighted to see her letter in the new magazine.

I do hope your "Nova Carta" campaign is proving successful, and that support has increased since June 15th. It is an imaginative scheme and I think that is a vital element for success since it is much more likely to appeal than a pedestrian demand would do.

Once again, my sincere good wishes for your success, and soon!

Anne M. Dobson,  
Yewdale, Brow Crescent, Windermere, Westmorland.

Respo Support.

Thank you for sending me copies of "The Responaut" as published with their wonderful stories of self-help and mutual help, hope and cheerfulness. In return I send you a cheque towards cost of publication and postage.

S. T. S.  
London, N.12.

Respo Encouragement.

I am really delighted to learn of all the progress that is being made, and obviously Responaut is being put on the map even more firmly than has been until now.

P. G. D.  
Essex.

Townswomen's Aid.

Your magazine has been read by members of our Townswomen's Guild. The Secretary told me the Committee would be sending a donation to you.

E. C.  
Essex.

Woman In Action.

I shall feel honoured to appear in the pages of "Responaut" which I enjoy reading very much and.....

I didn't realise that you had been campaigning for ten years for disablement pensions and I do hope that it won't be too long before your efforts are crowned with success although things don't look too hopeful at the moment with so much emphasis on the bad financial state of the country. Not that I feel this is an excuse - I am sure cuts could be made somewhere - at the moment I feel that a tax on ice lollies and sweets would be no bad thing!!!

I am glad that you are getting into print in the more popular women's magazines. They do have an enormous circulation and I feel that public opinion does have quite an effect on legislation provided it is strong enough. Unfortunately, people seem mostly to get worked up about things that affect their own pocket or status, rather than about other peoples, but I think that women are more likely to understand these problems than men, although I notice you have plenty of male correspondents in Responaut. But I think that women have a better capacity for understanding problems not their own - more imagination perhaps. I am enclosing a cutting from our local evening paper showing the opening of a new club in Coventry for disabled people called the "Enterprise" Club, and as you probably already know, one of your correspondents, Len Tasker, is a founder member.

I have heard from the Central Office of Information and although they don't normally hire the "In Britain Today" films out, they are willing to stretch a point and do so with the Responaut film. I am hoping to interest the Townswomen's Guild Federation, as they put on what they call a Social Studies Festival every two years, when they devote an evening, or even a half day, to a particular subject, and have speakers, films, slides, displays and discussions etc. A lot of notice is taken, quite rightly, of the problems and needs of people in under-developed countries these days and I feel that a programme on the

needs in our midst would be appropriate this year. Anyway I shall try and work something out and let our Federation Social Studies Chairman have the results of my efforts before our September meeting, together with the spare copy of Responaut. I have quite a bit of literature about work for the old people in Coventry - they have an excellent Welfare Officer there who is really "with it" and might come and speak, (a Mr. Ryner, you may have heard of him). There is also a good Spastics School nearby and we might get a speaker about their work. Do you know anybody who might speak about Responauts along with your film?

Again, many thanks for your letter and best wishes with Nova Carta.

Joan Soaper,  
6, Wheathill Close, Leamington Spa.

Write-up Down Under.

Whatever must you be thinking of me! Please forgive me taking so long to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending the two copies of Responaut and also the Reading Mercury - three copies I have received now. It is very good of you and we do appreciate it.

We were amazed after reading the Responaut to learn so much about the activities of so many truly wonderful souls. We had no idea that in some cases a "lung" was required part-time only and it would be possible for the one concerned to travel.

I wish I could do something to help in a practical way the work of such a magazine.

Recently I was able to contact the editor of the Toowoomba Chronicle and enclose the photo, press cutting and write up in the Chronicle.

I do hope the particulars I gave were correct in detail because actually when I first watched your interview on T.V. -

whilst being deeply interested - I was not watching with an eye to all details, to be related later on and so just hope my memory was correct. The editor has promised to forward copies of the "Chronicle" on to you which I hope will be interesting, and will give you as much pleasure as the "Mercury" has given me. With this mail I am posting the complete Chronicle with your news item in.

Believe me Mrs. Armstrong I will continue to do all in my power to bring your wonderful work to the notice of as many as possible.

Christmas will soon be with us again, it seems no time since last Christmas! That of course means summer for us too! How I love the warm weather!

Leo Keightley,  
Tugun, Gold Coast, Queensland.

#### Another Side

Received your "Responaut" yesterday, very thrilled with it. I hope we shall be able to take a lot of copies from it and distribute them to the organisation that Graeme is in (Graeme Philp I mean) - the disabled and some for our Church members - I am hoping so!! It is a very interesting paper and must help many people over their problems and also makes others realise how fortunate they are to be in even a slightly better position than someone else. Also we very able-bodied ones feel we should not have anything to complain about.

I sent two tapes to you and I hope you have received them - one was empty - we wondered if you would be able to reply on it.

We have not been to see Max Rawson yet - nearly everyone gets the flu' here in the winter and this year it has been very bad. We have had more frosts this year, which if good, 26° - 32° in morning warming up to 50° to 58° by about 1 p.m. - the rain is warm and lovely on these days and one can sit outside to have lunch. Yvonne Sudborough  
Melbourne, Victoria.

Red Leaves of Friendship

I received my card and was so very happy to do so I have shown it to many of my friends and they join with me in sending you messages of happiness. I am enclosing pictures of our little city about 25,000 people is its population. My people landed here from England as young people I would say nearly eighty years ago and never left. Their relatives are still scattered about England, how I would love to see those moors my Mother used to speak of. It would have to be summer time of course, as we are used to the heat here. In summer men work with bare bodies to the waist and they are so brown. Next week my husband and I go to visit my daughter further north into the tropics where it is much hotter.

Of course it is winter-time here now in Australia. We never see snow here in Queensland, they do in the southern states. I myself have never seen snow.

How are your family? I trust they are all well. I am enclosing a leaf, if I can of a tree that is blooming profusely here at present, it is our emblem "Poinciana" the flower is as big as a dinner plate.

Rose Hughes,

Maryborough, Queensland, Australia.

Kiwi Kindness.

Needless to say how pleased and thrilled I was to receive a copy of "The Responaut". I cannot fully express to you my innermost feelings but sufficient to say how I admire your extreme courage and all who suffer in the same way.

One is so apt in life to think that their own individual complaint is as much as they can cope with and I must now sincerely confess how grateful I should be after reading your edition. I am able to go to business (part-time agreed) but am able to work, walk and get around. Please believe me when I say my prayers are for you all and may God bless you in the good work you do for others like yourself.

This is not a very large contribution, but will help perhaps a wee bit, I would send far more I assure you if I could but am only allowed to work part time naturally means that my salary is much smaller. I should like to receive further editions if convenient for you to send. Thanking you and wishing you all success and happiness with your husband and family. Glod bless.

Eve Goodbody,

Wellington, New Zealand.

Television Link Again.

Greetings to you. Very pleased to get the second magazine from you. Weather in N.Z. is quite nice now. All the spring flowers are in bloom. My two Camellia trees have been loaded with flowers. I expect the days are drawing in at home, you will soon have the winter and we here are looking forward to the summer. Had a letter today from my aunt in Catford, she said it has been lovely at home 'Indian Summer'. I hope all your family are well.

My husband has just made me a magazine rack and is now on a bedroom stool. He's a great do-it-yourself man, he loves to get his hands on a piece of wood. We saw on T.V. the other night a part of Newbury. It was very interesting.

Well hope you are still able to keep busy. I think you're marvellous to do what you do.

Vi Moore,

New Zealand.

Another Island.

I am a student of Central Queens Regional High School, Hunter River. I was watching you being interviewed on the Show from Britain.

It is a miracle how an iron lung really helps a person I think it is wonderful. I was amazed when I saw you working those instruments with your feet. It was marvellous.

The idea of the tape recorder is wonderful too. I agreed with you when you say that you need your family & your family needs you. I heard of an iron lung so many times but never thought it was so wonderful. I would like to know more about people like you, I think it is a wonderful miracle.

Keila Glydon,

Fredericton, Prince Edward Island.

Peripatetic Polio Worker.

I am a bit early for these lovely autumn tints but the country here - forests and lakes - is beautiful and so vast. There are wild deer in this park which I have seen and colourful birds different from our own species. I travel further west next week.

Olive Clark,

Reading B.P.F. Welfare Officer in Ontario.

More Respo T.V.

Many thanks for the Magna Carta; everyone was quite interested in it and we are going to get it put up in the ward.

Going by the letters you printed, it seems to me your sets of chest respirators must be large and hard to move around. I see some people are getting the multilung with the belt. We have it here and it is quite good. Another machine that is smaller still, is the Thompson with a chest cuirass that is very comfortable. It is easy to take in a car. Then there is the Maunahan that has the same type cuirass as the Thompson. (Sure it is spelled wrong). All these can be run on battery as well as electric power. We also have a Bantam Thompson which is used on positive power right into the traechotomy. It leaves you quite free with no chest piece to get in the way. Our old machines are Technicon-Huxley; they are quite heavy and the battery set is very heavy. The cuirass' are large and not nearly as comfortable as the above mentioned ones. We have to get all our equipment from the U.S.A. as well as the parts, so it means waiting a while. Seeing as you have so many more polios' in England, it is strange there is no supp'y house over there.

Our annual Paraplegic fishing derby took place last Sunday with a good turnout. It was a lovely day, and about 14 went from here by bus or car. It is more like a picnic, with families going, lots of eating and drinking and some fishing. Two were caught this year, I honestly don't think there are many fish in that river. They have a skeet shoot too and prizes are given to the winners. A raffle takes place and we all had our tickets drawn and came home with small prizes. I got a bad sunburn on my face much to my grief. The T.V. cameraman was there and I was shown on T.V. news all alone at first and then the rest of the crowd was on in different shots. We were tired when we got back but all had a good time.

I think I'll send you our latest Paragraphic paper. It is a little more newsy than usual.

I read where there was a polio epidemic in one place in England and couldn't help wondering why they had not the Polio shots after all these years. They are included in the infant sets of shots that every child gets nowadays.

Did I ever write to thank you for the Dec-Jan issue of the Responaut? I got two copies and had hoped the second one was the March issue, but as yet I haven't got that one.

I spent last week at home in Victoria, with my family; my holiday for this year. It was nice and warm so I got outside quite a bit. My brother and his family were out from Ontario, so it was a sort of a family reunion with only my other brother and family missing. We had a picnic gathering at my parents' home one day and took some pictures, As always happens when you want special pictures, none of them are very good, too much shade. We also had a visit from a nephew of my husband who paid his first visit to Victoria. It was just the right time for me to go home to see everyone.

They say it is full of retired people, but there are so many new shopping centres going up and high rise

apartments, that people must have money to spend. The city hall was painted and a new modern part put onto the back, as well as a park area around it. It looks a lot better. Houses are going up in a lot of new sub-divisions all over town and countryside.

Every time I travel on the ferry I have stayed in the car down on the car deck and not been able to see a thing. This trip back we were able to get some of the crew to help carry me, stretcher and all, up into the lounge and I was able to see out one side. It made the trip more interesting. We pass lots of islands and there isn't much open water at all. The islands are nearly all lived on and there were lots of boats out fishing. I saw a tail going under and think it was a whale.

Did you hear about the killer whale that was captured and kept at a beach here last year? It lived about 3 months and then died. Now another has been caught up in the northern waters and Seattle has bought it from the men who caught it. A big cage has been built and they hope to tow it down and put it in the aquarium for sightseers. We are wondering if they will get it to Seattle safely.

I'll write again and tell you of our entertainment, for the paper.

My painting is keeping me busy, I like doing it so much. I took one home and hung it in the living room and it looks quite good. Hope you are keeping well. Until next time.

Marjorie Brown,  
Pearson Polio Pavilion, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Canadian Kindness.

You don't know me, I don't know you. Yet I feel I do know you after all, because I saw you on Television, some short time ago. I want to congratulate you in deciding to be at home with your family. I just got an urge to write to you. I thought perhaps a letter from across the Ocean, even though from someone who is a stranger might give you a lift, so many things can cause

a blue feeling, when one cannot get about. It's more than likely you will get letters from other women besides me. You likely will, not know what to do about letters you get such as mine. From what I saw of you on Television you are a very much younger woman that I am but I'm sure that won't make any great difference to you. In this day and age one's years are limited and my being older does not prevent me from admiring your pluck and I want to wish you well. I hope the future has many bright days for you with your family and friends. I have lived in Canada for 54 years, came out here from London as a young girl, married had a son, also married with one daughter. She too is married and has made me a great Grandmother of a beautiful little girl. This is a beautiful country. Vancouver is ringed about by mountains and the sea to the west. Burnaby where I live is a suburb of Vancouver, the whole area a great tourist attraction. By the way it was on an American Broadcast that I saw your picture.

Again wishing you well.

Alys Timmis,

British Columbia, Canada.

### Caribbean Kindness.

I hope and trust that this letter of mine will meet you quite safe and in the best of health as it leaves me here in this part of the sunny Caribbean.

I received your last copy of The Responaut and it was very interesting and I enjoyed reading from the first page to the last, without stopping. My family also enjoyed reading it.

In the magazine I saw an article about Responauts and their hobbies so I thought I would take this opportunity to ask you about yours. What are your hobbies and which interests you most? I have a few myself. They are stamp collecting, coins, postcards, pen-pals and photography.

I am closing my letter now and my family join in sending best wishes for the future.

Trinidad, West Indies.

Magna Lewis,

Support from the Rock.

Thank you very much for your postcard of the 10th August. Before I go any further I would like to say that judging by the postcards that I have received from you, Newbury must be a very interesting and picturesque place. It has also occurred to me that you or your colleagues might be interested in a few postcards of Gibraltar, with this in mind I shall in due course, be sending a selection.

I most certainly do think that the new stamps are a great improvement, they are so much brighter and more interesting. I understand that you are interested in stamp collecting and I will therefore endeavour to vary the stamps which I use on letters to you.

So far as polio in Gibraltar is concerned there are a number of people mostly women and girls who have some paralysis of the arms or legs. There are also some others who have no actual paralysis but who do have some muscular atrophy with some consequent weakness of the affected limb. I would not say that severe polio is common in Gibraltar at the present, there is no one who makes use of the mechanical respirator at any time.

If you find anything in any of my letters which you feel to be useful or interesting to responauts in general you are quite at liberty to publish it in "The Responaut" without requesting previous permission to do so. If you do so decide to publish anything written by me I would greatly appreciate it if you would use my name as normally signed "Donald A. Scott" this is only because I do not care for the use of initials only. Nor "Nom-de plumes" which I feel to be slightly unconvincing.

It seems to me that one of the major difficulties facing responauts is that of communication, true it may be possible to find someone always willing to take down letters or one may be lucky enough to obtain one of the typewriters specially designed for those unable to use their hands. But what about magnetic tape?

It is not essential to obtain a tape recorder costing £60 or £70, there are a lot of much cheaper machines on the market, some costing as little as £10. These are of course not intended for recording music but they are quite adequate for their purpose, recording speech, actually these "office" machines as they are sometimes called, are made for dictating letters and recording the minutes of meetings and interviews, etc.

The tapes of course can be used over and over again, thus off-setting their apparent high cost, the responaut would never feel that he was demanding too much of his helper's time taking down letters, since it would only be essential for him to load and unload the recorder and of course post the tape to its destination while the responaut could dictate his "letter" at any time he wished, no matter how awkward the time might be for anyone else. Finally it introduces an element of greater privacy where intimate family matters are concerned.

There is, of course, nothing new nor sensational in this suggestion after all there are a number of "Tape clubs" whose members although quite able to write prefer to use tape instead.

On this small suggestion I will now close. I shall be sending another small donation towards the cost of production of "The Responaut" shortly and would be greatly obliged if you could let me have any spare current copy that there may be.

Thanking you in anticipation and wishing you all the best.

Donald A. Scott,  
Gibraltar.

Rhodesian Warmth.

We often bring your name up in conversation so we haven't forgotten you.

We had a glorious caravan holiday in Myanga and the enclosed brochures will give you a little idea of our countryside though at the moment not having seen rain for a few months the ground is simply parched up, dust and dryness everywhere, thousands of head of cattle are dying, besides the game dropping dead through lack of vegetation and water, it really is a terrible thing.

Its ironic that Kariba dam and the Victoria Falls, which are fed by the Zambesi river and which are tourist attractions cannot help the vast tracts of dry land that make up Rhodesia.

Out here life goes on as usual, more houses, hospitals, roads, etc., are being built to prove that we are as modern as any place in the world. Visitors to this country are amazed to find we don't live in grass huts. I might add that I should hate to change my way of life and I have only been in the country 12 years.

I have enclosed a map Ann to enable you to see the distances between towns, in England one travels from town to village etc., practically all joining each other but out here one really journeys to get to the next town, anyhow I trust it will prove of interest.

May God bless and keep you.

Doreen and Harry Stace,

Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

The British Polio Fellowship, Polio Employment Centre, 1, Lindisfarne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2, is now selling Christmas cards and calendars.

Mrs. W. Whitehead of 62a, Tennyson Road, Cheltenham, Glos., paints calendars and finger plates.

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