

THE 225 CLUB

by Susan Toms

A couple of months ago the Society received an e-mail from Nick Leon, who lived in South Ruislip between 1941-1960 before he emigrated to Australia in 1970. While living here he belonged to a social club for young people from the ages of 17 to 30. This club was called the 225 Club and all its meetings and activities were held in Eastcote House and its grounds.

The unusual name arose because a group of people, who met every day while travelling on the old 225 bus route along Field End Road, decided it would be a good idea to form a youth group. It was mainly in existence during the 1950s.

There was a wide range of activities from having speakers such as zoo keepers, quiz evenings, debates and game shows. Excursions were also arranged to Fleet Street and the nearby Guinness factory at Park Royal.

They went carol singing and held a huge bonfire on 5 November. Halloween was another event which was celebrated. In fact Annette Leon, Nick's wife, who was also a member of the club, can remember a Halloween night in 1956 when everyone sat in the dark telling each other ghost stories. Then some one jumped into the room with a sheet over his head and a torch shining into his face, while wielding a stick, in an attempt to frighten everyone, especially the girls.

There seems to be no knowledge of this club to-day or any official record of its existence. Perhaps as a result of this article some of our members will be able to supply some further information.

I would like to thank Nick Leon, whose reminiscences formed the basis of this article.