

79! The year of the child

A THOUGHT FOR NEW YEAR

1979 is International Year of the Child; that means that worldwide the difficulties confronting children and young people will be studied and hopefully solutions found to some of them. We can all recall suffering hardships when we ourselves were young and wishing life was kinder to us; we should then wish the best possible environment for today's children to grow up in.

The problems of Wester Hailes children should concern all of us who live here, not just their parents. We should all share in creating a community in which they will mature happily and healthily.

At the moment there are clubs needing a helping hand and other clubs could be started to meet other children's interests. We could all make it our New Year resolution to become involved in making children happier.

If you are interested in the Adventure Playground at Hailesland Place there is a meeting soon when you can find out more about the Playground, air your own views on it and make suggestions on its future development.

The 'Venchie' started two years ago aiming to fulfil children's needs outside school and home. With so many families living in flats there is obviously little opportunity for children to experiment with building materials, tools, water, sand, fires and many other things that are a very necessary part of a valuable and happy childhood. The present playground structures are most satisfying to older children in primary schools, but ideally, there should be entertainment for all ages, from toddlers to teenagers, and it should also have indoor facilities for use in bad weather.

In the past year the Playground was supervised by two Playleaders but unfortunately there may be no one to do this job this year. That means that parents and adults will have to offer some of their free time to allow children to continue to play there. Yet this need not be a chore; on the contrary, it could prove a vast worthwhile

and rewarding experience for those involved.

An interesting survey undertaken recently to evaluate adults' feelings about the Playground produced opposing reactions; some complained of the dangers involved playing there, while others claimed it was not near adventurous enough; many did not see it as being important, and as many again regarded it as the best play facility in Wester Hailes. The view of children who play there is unmistakable from the very large number who attend in favourable weather.

A.G.M.

Wester Hailes Adventure Playground Group holds its Annual General Meeting in the Hailesland Community Centre [T.U. Hut] opposite the Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday, 24th January at 7.30 p.m. and will have a crêche for youngsters. Why not come along?

YOUTH CLUB FOR HAILES LAND

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP START A BRAND NEW YOUTH CLUB FOR THE 12 TO 15 YEAR OLDS IN HAILES LAND AND MURRAYBURN?

Youth Clubs can be as much fun for the adults helping as for the kids. We need people to

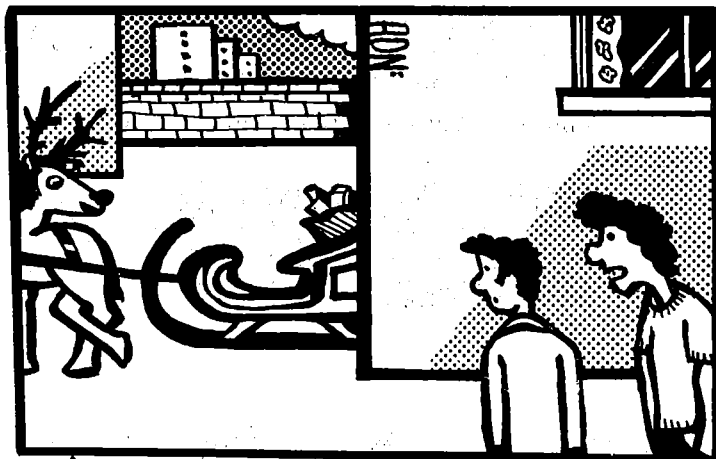
- help raise funds
- make equipment
- help with "highlights"

e.g. discos, sports, events, trips.

- come along regularly and get to know kids.

Everyone has something to offer, from running a motor-cycling maintenance class to lending a sympathetic ear. You will never know what "talents" you have until you try things out.

If you are at all interested please contact any member of HAILES LAND TENANTS' ASSOCIATION or MORAG McLEISH - 441 5961 or drop into the COMMUNITY WORKSHOP.



IT'S SANTA CLAUSES HE'S BEEN UP IN NO 20 SINCE CHRISTMASS EVE!

ATTENTION KIDS!

A good tip on sledging from four 14 yr olds interviewed by the Sentinel. To save buying an expensive sledge get a large plastic tray or a piece of thick cardboard - you go a lot faster!! They said that the best place to slide was the hill at Clovenstone where you come down to a cricket pitch and so there's no danger from traffic.

P.S. They noticed children using large plastic bags with holes cut out for the arms and head. Sounds great fun, but remember to keep plastic bags out of the road of little ones!

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