

# HOBBIERS CLUB

The Station Hobbies Club, or Organised Foreigners' Department, has been in existence since the first general meeting held on 5th September, which was well attended. Since that time a building formerly used as a mess has been converted into an excellent workshop and a considerable amount of equipment has been conjured up from here and there for the use of members, while grants from Air Dept. and the Service Institute, combined with members' subs., have enabled some good tools to be purchased.

The Club owes its existence to three main needs. Firstly the need for a workshop and tools to make the foreigners which one's women - folk have come to expect from a member of the Service, and which used to be made surreptitiously in working hours, or did they? Secondly something to take the place of the home workshop we all had on "civvie street", and thirdly a place to pass the time on this "Madeira of the South Seas".

As Christmas approaches one hears the almost continuous sound of "graunching" from the direction of the Club, but we fear that other attractions have gained a temporary attachment of some members, as most of the activity seems confined to a minority. Perhaps if brewing and distilling were classed as hobbies or if we had some interested WAAF members there would be a more representative showing!

Although the supplying of material is not the responsibility of the Club, we have been fortunate in obtaining two dural propellor blades as well as various kinds of local timber, and good use has been made of these.

Owing to the size of the workshop it was thought advisable to limit the membership to fifty, and this number was soon reached. As further names are received they are put on a waiting list, but it is usually possible to gain admittance to the Club within a month.

With the equipment now available a great variety of articles can be made, and a lot of ingenuity has been shown in turning the material on hand to good use, things already made including inlaid boxes, beer mugs, paper and butter knives, jewellery and trinkets, pokerwork etc.

# NATURALIST CLUB

The activities of the Naturalist Club so far have been fairly limited. We have a small membership and are concentrating on making as representative a collection as possible of Norfolk fauna in the time available. It is proposed to send the specimens collected to museums in N.S. and we have received intimation of their willingness to help us in every way. Apart from the birds and possibly the land snails, little is known of the animal life here - even the identity of the local bat is not certain. Through the cooperation of the Marine Section, most of us have managed a trip to Phillip Island. The time was most profitably spent studying the bird life in particular. The Island people have willingly given us information and the observations of the children have proved valuable, particularly in locating the nesting places of birds. The reef at Kingston should yield much of interest, and a bit of diving in the Crystal Pool and the Cord would be time well spent. We are also hoping to do some dredging on the sea floor and tow-netting on the surface to collect samples of marine life.

The Club would appreciate any specimen of bird, bug, wog or other animal life that may be found, and also any information or peculiarity that anybody might happen to come across.

**WEEK'S QUOTATION:** "When women kiss, it always reminds me of prize-fighters shaking hands"-H.L. Mencken.

The shield which was presented to the winning team at the recent Tabloid Sports Meeting was made by several of the Club members.

There are still quite a few hobbies normally covered by a club of this nature, including bee-keeping, gardening, boat building and nature study, and no doubt these will be forthcoming when those interested realise the benefits to be derived from Club membership.

Finally the Club appears to be fulfilling its function satisfactorily, and although it may not have completely ousted the making of "puff-puff" boats in one Section, it has certainly eased the load on workshop benches elsewhere.