

VOLUNTARY SERVICES II

A few months after the opening of Langston House and the adjacent flats (Greenlands), a suggestion was made that a trolley shop service for the residents' convenience might be useful. This would be on similar lines to the Hospital Trolley services operated by the W.R.V.S.

Accordingly, representations were made to the WRVS on this account. Valuable advice was given as to suitable buying methods, storage of goods etc. along with other helpful details. A loan for the buying of stock was also offered.

The project began in July 1978 with a loan from the Amenities Fund of Langston House itself, which was most useful in that it made the venture entirely independent. The then proprietors of the Post Office Stores, Mr & Mrs Frost, agreed a discount on all purchases made. This was willingly continued by Mr & Mrs Leftwich and, currently by Mr & Mrs Naish.

The Trolley Shop, which is very popular, operates weekly in both Langston House and Greenlands with a team of voluntary helpers on a rota basis of two a week. The weekly buyers have been increased to three also on a rota basis. Recently the variety of goods offered has been increased. The greater part of these goods are sold at cost price. All profit, however, from whatever source (Co-op stamps included), goes back to the Langston House Amenities Fund.

It is not generally understood how very helpful is this Fund in making the difference between the limitations of necessity and the desirability of maintaining the standards of a truly attractive home rather than an institution.

In addition to the long-term residents, there are also short-term visitors along with the daily ones. The latter visit to use the facilities of the Home for many and various reasons, but all need to be transported. This necessitates more voluntary service of a regular dependability. Only petrol is reimbursed.

So far only the voluntary services known to the writer have been described, but obviously this is only the fringe of the goodwill and practical help which exists in these villages. Possibly another friend with further knowledge will feel disposed to continue.