

NUDISTS' MOVE TO MUDEFORD

New Forest Club of "Free Lifers" Take Four Acre Site

C.T. Nov. 2nd, 1935.

What is claimed to be "Britain's First Seaside Nudist Colony is shortly to be established at Mudeford.

POPULAR NUDIST CLUB.

It is announced officially by the secretary of the New Forest Nudist Club that its quarters will be shifted to an al fresco site more in harmony with the tenets and practices of the members.

A four-acre garden has, he says, been acquired, which is secluded and healthy, by a lonely stretch of beach at Mudeford.

Whilst at the moment this actual location is more or less a secret, it is understood to include an hotel.

Mr. J. W. Joseph, the club's secretary, interviewed by a pressman, said:

"Our new colony will be very secluded and healthy. We have acquired an hotel and we plan to have a sun lounge, club room and facilities for badminton, tennis and other games."

This wave of "pride of body" comes via Germany, where the "Gymnophists," as they term themselves, believe that there is no higher beauty than the nude body, and that perfect health and bodily vigour can only be arrived at by an "altogether" exposure to the sun and the summer winds. The only persons to wear clothes at this new Mudeford Club will be the servants.

A REPORTER'S VISIT.

Mr. Aidan Crawley, a national journalist of note, recently visited a Bournemouth nudist colony. This is what he wrote :-

ENGLISH NUDISTS— ESTIMABLE PEOPLE.

The only way to get into a nudist camp in Britain is to become a member.

I became a member of a camp near Bournemouth by writing to the secretary and presenting my American credentials.

I was elected by a committee, and paid my two guineas subscription.

They sent me a membership card, with instructions on the back how to reach the camp.

Perhaps because of the camp's romantic name, when I left the train I was looking forward with pleasure to my week-end visit. But when the taxi dropped me at a little cottage in the suburbs of the town, I became a little less eager.

IN A TENT.

For I saw at once that the only space for the camp was a small enclosed shrubbery behind the cottage.

The owner of the cottage asked me for my membership card.

On being satisfied that I was a genuine seeker after sunlight and health, he unlocked a padlocked door in a high wattle fence and led me to the camp.
We pushed through some damp bushes, and came out on a small muddy clearing, about 20 yards square.
At the back of the clearing was an old army hut.
The clearing was empty, save for two men hacking at old tree stumps with big axes.
They were preparing a hole about six feet long for a future swimming bath.
In the hut I saw two women and a lot of children.
All were naked.
When I asked if I could stay the night the owner regretted that there was only a tent, and hoped I didn't mind sharing it. I said I didn't mind a bit, and he offered to show it to me.
Once more we plunged through damp bushes and over swampy ground to a smaller clearing, in which was a bell tent.
It contained a couple of campbeds, each covered with a flea bag.
I undressed. It was then 7.30 at night, and a bit shivery.
It was time for the evening meal. I made for the hut, my bare toes squelching through the muddy ground.
The bushes were interlaced with gigantic cobwebs, and I came through with some insects sticking to my hair.
There were half a dozen children and as many adults in the hut, where we had a satisfactory meal of tomato soup and sausages.
Then we dressed. There was nothing to do. The only light was in the hut.
So we went on a pub crawl to the town.
It was 2 a.m. when we returned and very, very cold. I had only one blanket, so I slept in my clothes.
My companion was more fortunate; he had his car rug.
He slept like a log, and snored strongly all night.

OLD AND YOUNG.

Next morning I felt very jaded, but it was such a lovely day that my spirits rose automatically.
By 8 a.m. the camp was filled.
People came from a radius of 150 miles. Soon there were 30 naked people in the clearing.
There were old and young men and women, mothers and babes, fat people and athletic people, enormous women and other really lovely figures.
A few were white skinned, evidently the newcomers.
Some were tanned a delicate apricot, others burned a dark brown.
Let me say immediately, with wholehearted sincerity that, without exception they were very nice people.
It should have been very pleasant, basking in the sun.
But the tragedy—and I fear it is the tragedy of most expressions of nudism in England—is that it seems impossible to have a permanent club except in some very congested area.
When I am naked I like lying in the sun, half asleep or reading a book.
That is what I tried to do.
I got a deck chair, and lay there.
But small naked boys, battling with water pistols, and with a first-class instinct for cover, turned my prostrate form into a parapet.
Of course the camp was all right for people of super sociable outlook, who liked to paddle in a tarpaulin bath two yards wide and four inches deep.

Lunch was the worst part of the whole day. As I approached the hut I saw a long line of naked, perspiring backs, so close together at the table in the hut that they looked like a row of performing albino seals.

IT IS CHEAP.

There was hardly any room and I had to force myself between the warm, moist bodies of a large woman and an even larger man.

The only protection against the gravy was a thin paper napkin which quickly became transparent from sweat.

I left the table without reluctance, a dappled brown.

I should hate to be unkind to these estimable people. In fact, I did not want to write this story.

I am all in favour of nudism.

Probably it is as good a reason as any for socially-minded people to get together. It is certainly cheap. My week-end cost less than a pound.

But unless there is some means of practising it in less congested places, until the need for hiding behind high fences has gone, people had better practise it in their own houses.

THE MUDEFORD NUDIST CLUB "NUDISM" NOT TO BE COMPULSORY SUN AND AIR BATHING

C.T. Nov. 9th, 1935

Following upon the details published last week of the projected Nudist Club of Mundeford, we have been favoured with a more precise statement of the aims and objects of this movement.

The club is at present known as the New Forest Club, and the secretary has personally explained this is not a Nudist Club in the accepted sense of the word. "It is rather a sun and air bathing club. In all nudist clubs which I have visited," said Mr. Joseph, "nudism is compulsory and the members join on this understanding.

"We have never at any time made complete nudism compulsory and many of our members do not care for nudity and have never gone nude.

"We shall stress this point more in the future and shall always advertise and describe ourselves as a sun and air bathing club where nudism is permitted with certain restrictions.

"Certainly you may accept it that members will always have to be clothed, at least in bathing costumes, when on the sea front of the club, and proper dress will always have to be worn when taking meals in the dining room.

"Actually, we are not permitted to enjoy to the full the benefits accruing to the nudist clubs by the press devoted to our aims, and certain journals refuse our announcements owing to our insistence upon 'partial' nudism."

"Mr. L. Lloyd will be the resident club manager at the new Mundeford premises.

"I regret that you should have published the report that Mr. Crawley made, because it was the only adverse one we have had.

"The Daily Mail, The Sunday Chronicle, The People, and many other national journals accorded us space in which to state our ideas, and never once were we subjected to harsh criticism.

"Recently Pembroke Stephens, of the 'Express' visited the club and accorded us a very flattering article."

Here is the policy of the New Forest Club :-

In the days of early civilisation nudism frequently formed part of religious rites among certain sects. In Germany during pre-Hitler days we are told that nudist camps frequently cloaked Communist organisations. In France one hears—whether rightly or wrongly, we cannot say—that certain nudist bodies include " free love " in their policy. In this country many people confuse the nudist movement with the, "Back to Nature" cult with its vegetarian, non-smoking and other rules.

The New Forest Club—in common, probably, with most other nudist bodies in this country—has one ideal only and that is the practice of nudism or sun bathing, when time, place and weather permits. The club has no political or religious significance. It does not concern itself with its members' personal views on the subject of eating, drinking, or smoking.

In our fight for the recognition of the physical and ethical advantages of social nudism the only ideals we expect our members to hold in common are those pertaining to clean minds and bodies.