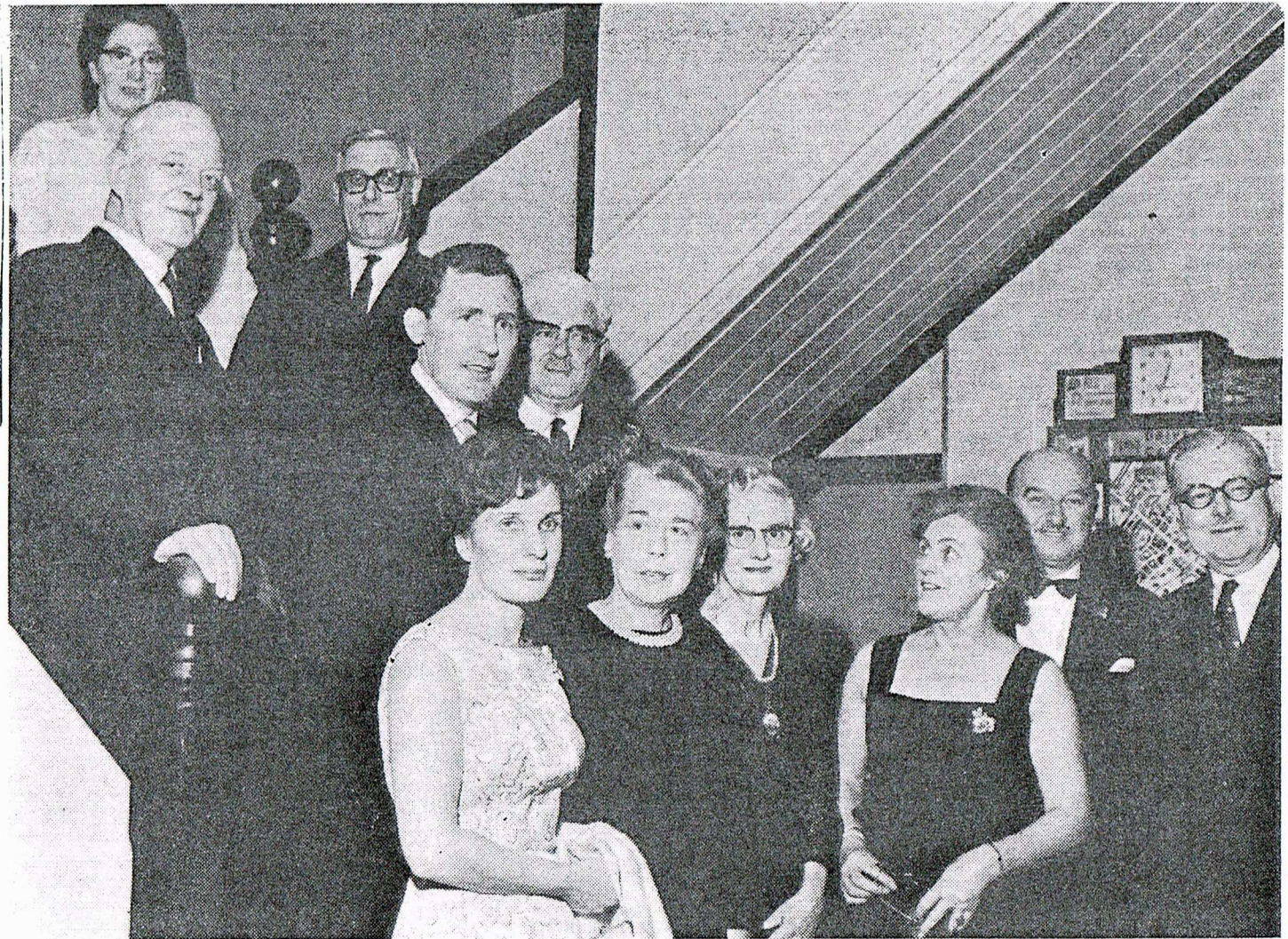


College of Aeronautical
Automobile Engineering. Inti-
ly associated with engineering
in various design and produc-
ion capacities, he later joined
an international contracting or-
ganisation and took charge of
some major projects in this
country and overseas.
Mr. Ritchie has been a senior
lecturer in industrial aspects of
management at the Polytechnic,
Regent Street, London, W.1. At
present he is a senior partner
with Lockyer and Partners,
management consultants.



Guests at the annual dinner for the staff of The Close at the Abbot's Barton Hotel last Thursday.

or damage the cottages. A plan is to be sent to the owners of the land and a copy to the County Council.

LACK OF FUNDS
The Blean Rural District Council is to continue to press the County Council to carry out proposals to the bridge over the Lesser Stour at Littlehampton.

Members were told on Wednesday that the County Clerk said that there were many grant schemes being held back because of lack of funds and he was unable to give any indication when work might start.

WHIST DRIVE
A whist drive was held in the Memorial Hall last week to raise funds. Mr. H. F. Jones was M.C. and refreshments were provided by Mrs. Jones and Jeffries.

Prize winners were: High scores, Mrs. Hubbard; low scores, Miss Inkpen; ladies, Mrs. Hubbard, 2 Mrs. Clemens, 3 Mrs. Hogben; low, Mrs. Chandler; men, 1 Mr. Jones, 2 Mr. Tompsett, 3 Mrs. Jones; low, Mr. R. Lane. Prize winners, Mesdames Goddard and Young and Mr. Jones and Mr. Lane.

Aylesham

WOMEN'S GUILD
The January Women's Guild meeting was held at the Welfare Centre. Mrs. Edwards, the district nurse, showed films of the work taken during her nine months' work in a Uganda Hospital. Names were taken for a special visit to the Chelsea Flower Show in May. The next meeting will be on February 14 in the club room (Welfare Centre).

BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist Church was well attended by parents and friends on Sunday morning when the annual School prizegiving was held over by Pastor K.

and buy raised £5 for funds.

Nonington

BRITISH LEGION
Mr. B. Terry presided at the January meeting of the British Legion. The secretary read an invitation from the Minster branch to the dedication of a new standard on Sunday.

Mrs. Pole, the Poppy Day organiser, had expressed her desire to retire and she is to be asked to name a possible successor.

M.P. wants peace in villages

It would be a tragedy if gravel extraction was allowed on nearly 100 acres of land at Seaton, near Wickhambreaux, says Canterbury's M.P., Mr. David Crouch, in a letter to Mr. Anthony Greenwood, the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The application by the Church Commissioners, who own the land, has already caused a storm of protest among people living at Wickhambreaux, Ickham and Wingham, who have formed themselves into a Residents' Association to fight the plan.

Mr. Greenwood has ordered a public inquiry into the idea and is sending a Ministry Inspector to Canterbury on February 7 to hear both sides of the argument.

Mr. Crouch has written saying that one of the harsh facts of continuing expansion in the south east is that large areas of agricultural land are swallowed up every year by the demands of the developers for industrial growth and more and more housing.

and men went straight across. "If I had gone on I would have killed her," he said.

Two labourers who were working on a site at the nearby Blean School said they saw Miss Kelly ride slowly into the road without stopping.

"She came into the path of the vehicle and the driver tried to avoid hitting her and turned the van over," said Mr. Keith Weller, of 2 Hoath Court Cottages, Blean.

Mr. Paul Stace, of St. Mildred's, Blean Hill, said that when Miss Kelly was halfway across the road she seemed to notice the van and panicked, her foot slipping off the pedal.

Started to brake
Both men estimated that Foster's van was travelling about 40-45 m.p.h. before he started to brake.

P.C. Stanley Robertson said he took measurements at the scene of the accident. Miss Kelly could see clearly to the left and 53 yards to the right towards Canterbury.

In a statement to the Police, Miss Kelly said she rode slowly into the road and kept going because it was clear in both directions.

"I was well on to the road when I saw the van coming from Canterbury. He must have been travelling very fast because I didn't see him as I came on to the road," she said.

Miss Kelly told the court that she was riding very slowly and could have stopped immediately if anything had been coming.

"I looked carefully both ways and saw the road was completely clear," she said. "But when I was halfway across the first lane I saw the bonnet of the van suddenly emerging round the corner. I hesitated a little but I thought the only thing to do was to get across the road," said Miss Kelly.

Miss Kelly said the van then braked and swerved, but if it had continued normally it would

Welcoming the guests, the chairman of the Hospital's House Committee, Mr. Eric Palmer, said that they owed a great debt to all members of the Bridge Group of the League of Friends. Mr. Palmer said that the Hospital had provided the hostpital with many of the luxuries that could be obtained on the National Health Service. "We are always very grateful for the help they give us," he said. Other guests at the dinner, held at the Abbot's Barton Hotel, included Mr. Alan Barson, new secretary to the Hospital Management Committee, and The Close chaplain, the Rev. Colin Perry.

Replying to the toast, the matron, Mrs. H. Urwin, said that she felt very proud of her staff at The Close and hoped that they would be able to continue to keep up the high standard of work. "We are, of course, indebted to the Hospital Management Committee for making this possible out of the funds of their special purposes account and to the League of Friends who subsidise it," she said. "This has been a good year and we have all enjoyed working together for the benefit of others," said the matron, "and I hope you will now all enjoy celebrating together."

Very proud
The matron, Mrs. H. Urwin, said that she felt very proud of her staff at The Close and hoped that they would be able to continue to keep up the high standard of work.

Mr. Ken, proposing a toast to the staff and voluntary workers at the hospital. "The happy atmosphere is due to the fact that the staff and their friends and relatives are fully appreciated by the residents and the hospital staff," he said. "The hospital staff is well of the work of the staff at The Close."

Mr. Jack Kent, retiring secretary of the Canterbury and District Group Hospital Management Committee, also paid tribute to the staff at The Close.

Mr. Dr. McIntosh, chairman of Bridge-Blean Rural District Council and vice-patron of The Close, said he visited the hospital at Christmas and was surprised to see how happy every patient was in spite of their illnesses.

Happiness at The Close (56)