

Mobile Physiotherapy **By Betty Bancroft**

At a meeting, held early in 1973, in the Methodist Sunday School, Dr. David Mander spoke of the benefit a mobile physiotherapist would be to the valley, thus saving patients the long journey into Sheffield for treatment, when a home visit would be much more convenient and helpful. Each village in the valley was being asked to raise money to fund this scheme and to pay for the physiotherapist. So a committee was formed with Mr. Stanley Bradwell as chairman, Mr. E. Levy was the first treasurer, followed by Mr. E. Crookes who took over the treasurer's job in 1977. Mrs. Betty Bancroft was appointed to organise the refreshments at whatever effort was arranged. The first Field Day was held on the Town Bottom Playing Field and each organisation in the village was asked to participate with the running of the event. The refreshments for 1973 made £22.00. We made rolls and sandwiches, scones and a good variety of cakes, all given by a band of willing helpers, belonging to the Bradwell Young Wives Group. We borrowed cups, saucers, plates and an urn from the Scouts, 2 Burco Boilers from the Methodist Church, carried water in buckets from Miss. Jessie Bradwell's house, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Brown kindly gave all the milk (in a churn) so we had to have a jug to get the milk out - then of course, return the churn to the farm - so quite a lot of effort was put in to provide the refreshments, as well as the ladies who had made the scones and cakes beforehand. It entailed a lot of hard work to hire and erect a marquee, arrange an electricity supply to the field, borrow and carry tables and chairs etc., but those first Field days were well attended by the village folk and an enjoyable day was had by all. Field Days were held until 1979 and then Mr. David Wilson took over as Chairman and instead of a Field Day we had a Coffee Morning in the Bradwell Memorial Hall from 10-30 until 12-00. This was much easier to organise, one coffee morning each May, so we in the Wives Group organised the coffee and biscuits, and the other organisations from the village had a stall to sell their goods. That was from 1980 -1982, however, the efforts were not as well supported and funds were slipping, not only from Bradwell but throughout the valley, so from 1982 until 1996 we organised 2 coffee mornings a year, May and November. Whilst many people really appreciated the home visit of the physiotherapist, the raising of funds throughout the valley to keep it viable was waning - Bradwell was amongst the most reliable village to provide funds, but even here interest was poor and so in the summer of 1996 Mr David Wilson and Mrs. Betty Bancroft attended a meeting at the home of Mrs. Bryson, at Shatton (Mrs Bryson was the Physiotherapist) to state we could no longer hold efforts to support the scheme. Quite a number of other villages had already stopped raising money, and so after 23 years Bradwell finally stopped too.

