

## THE BULLEN MEMORIAL HUT, MYREHAUGH

May Brown

The Bullen Memorial Hut, Myrehaugh, was officially opened on Saturday, 31st May, 1952, by Mrs. E.G. Bullen, and the service of dedication was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Porteous, Edinburgh. Altogether 85 people attended the opening service, including representatives from Lothians D.A. and the neighbouring families in the Glen.

Shortly after the end of the war, when the comforts fund – to send gifts to D.A. members serving with the forces – was wound up, it was agreed that the balance would be used to form the nucleus of a fund to provide a Memorial to the memory of Chief Petty Officer, E.G. Bullen, who lost his life at sea during the evacuation of Greece, while serving with H.M.S. Diamond, on 27th April 1941.

Several suggestions were considered – a plantation of trees to screen Myrehaugh Hut – a map library, a memorial trophy, a third weekend hut, etc. Members were circulated and asked for suggestions re the form the Memorial should take, and invited to contribute to the fund. By the end of 1946 subscriptions amounting to £48 had been received and the most popular suggestions had been the provision of a third hut or a clubroom. The clubroom seemed to be the most favoured with the membership at that time, and strenuous efforts were made to find a suitable site. Over the next few years several excellent sites were considered but in each case their use was vetoed by the Town and Country Planning Authority.

The alternative sites offered by the Council were highly unsuitable, being situated in Council Housing schemes. When in 1948 permission to use a really ideal site offered us by Mr. Stevenson of Balbeggie Farm was refused, it was decided to abandon the idea of a clubroom, and concentrate on the provision of a third hut, preferably on the Fife Coast, and with accommodation for larger numbers. Loch Earn Hut had 4 beds in one room and Myrehaugh 3. Over the next year or two various huts and sites were investigated by the Committee, but because of post-war building restrictions, no progress was made. By 1950 it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Myrehaugh Hut (presented originally to the infant D.A. in 1922 by Mr. Wm. Brown Senior, Dunfermline, one of the first members), was such, that extensive repairs or total replacement would have to be considered. It was decided that a new enlarged hut would be built containing two bedrooms and a common room, plus bicycle annexe and toilet, to be added later.

It was obvious that this larger hut and the rising cost of materials would require much more money than had originally been collected. Members of the Bullen family generously donated to the fund, and during the following months various activities to raise extra money were undertaken: Beetle Drives, Jumble Sales, Raffles, etc. and a further sum of £99:10:3 was collected. It would be invidious to mention any particular member – everyone helped, baking, cooking, organising, donating money to rent halls, etc. and these efforts went on for some time after the hut was erected, to provide extra equipment for both this hut and the one at Loch Earn, also to ensure an adequate fund for future administration.

During the next few years the hut was to prove very popular with the members. Both huts are well equipped – the Bullen Hut has just received, from Hut Funds, a Jubilee Year present of a Tilley Lamp and Calor Gas cooker. The use of the huts has fallen off during the last few years reflecting possibly not just a fall off in cycling, but also the fact that longer holidays are tempting members to venture farther afield; perhaps in this Jubilee Year members' thoughts will turn hutwards again – THE HUTS AWAIT YOU!