

DEAR ALL, I'M A LADY NOW — YOURS TRULY, KEN

THE item in the parish magazine wasn't the usual chatty gossip.

Villagers were amazed when they read it.

For it was a "Please be kind to me" appeal from a man who is changing sex.

SUNDAY MIRROR REPORTER

The letter from someone they knew as nurseryman Ken Reed, was signed CAROL.

His plea is in the latest edition of the church magazine at Windlesham, near Bagshot, Surrey, which goes in to hundreds of homes.

Ken says that he is about to have an operation at Guy's Hospital, London, to make the transformation complete.

The letter says: "I am asking for your help in being able to mingle among you in my new role.

"I do not wish to make people afraid of me, nor to be made to look ridiculous.

"I need help from shopkeepers, hairdressers and pub landlords, I need your understanding, not your pity."

The rector of Windlesham, the Rev. Jeremy Piersene, says in the magazine: "We hope you will accept Carol Reed with understanding."

Sex-change Ken, 38, who has lived in the

village for a year, said last night:

"I was thinking of the best way to tell people in the village about myself when the parish magazine dropped through my letter-box. I thought it would be a good way to express myself to everyone.

"I saw the vicar and he supported me. I am hoping he will be able to introduce me to clubs or societies in the village."

CHEERS, OLD FOLK!

WELFARE workers want £30,000 to buy a pub in Petersfield, Hants, and turn it into a pensioners' centre.

At home—Ken Reed, who has changed his name to Carol.