"Have A Go!" Comes To Handcross—After Ten Years!

Suddenly a red light flicked on and everybody was singing. "Have A Go!" was on the air and the voices of the 200-strong audience in the Handcross Parish Hall were being transmitted "live" to millions of listeners.

It was 7.31 p.m. on December 19 that a 10-year-old dream finally came true and the little village of Handcross became the subject of Wilfred Pickles' famous radio programme.

A request that the show should visit Handcross was made to the B.B.C. 10 years ago by Mr. Horace Mills and it was fitting that Mr. Mills was one of those to appear in the programme.

The secret of the show, of course, is that everyone should be relaxed and natural and forget that he or she is broadcasting.

Everything is spontaneous; there are no rehearsals or recordings, and it was not until about 10 minutes before the programme started that the final choice of who was to appear was made.

Pianist Harry Hudson "warmed up" the audience before the show began and soon the hall had taken on a party atmosphere.

Wilfred Pickles' own brand of friendly humour helped put everyone at ease and, with his wife Mabel "at the table," the show was more like a huge family gathering than a live broadcast.

MRS. DENGATE, AGED 95,
THE STAR

Star of the show was 95-year-old Mrs. Agnes Dengate, of High Street, Handcross, who told Wilfred that she attributed her age to "choosing the right ancestors." This wonderful old lady recalled her early life in the district and gave some forthright views about television.

Former forester and now a part-time worker in the Slaugham churchyard, 71-year-old Bill Funnell spoke about his "workmate," a robin, who eats cake instead of bread, and in his rich Sussex accent described life in the countryside around Handcross.

Also on the programme were Mrs. Nora Ray, wife of Mr. Roger Ray, the newsagent and stationer; Mr. Horace Mills, Chairman of the Handcross Social Club; and the Rev. Edward Bradbrooke, Rector of Slaugham.

The Parish Church choir, led by the Rector, took part.

The jackpot—£3, plus a host of prizes donated by local residents and organizations, was won by the Rector.