

# A BERKHAMSTED NOTEBOOK

BY TOWNSMAN

## Daffodil Time

The forthcoming Pageant may be responsible in part for a rise in the number of visitors to the Castle grounds. An added attraction in the past month or so has been the well-filled moats; not for a long time have I seen so much water surrounding the Castle, which would be an island but for the causeway across the moats. It is at times like these that one realises how formidable the water defences must have been.

Hundreds of daffodils on the banks have added to the beauty of the Castle grounds. I believe it was the Citizens' Association which provided the first daffodils; but that was many years ago.

And speaking of daffodils, I was pleased to see a very nice display in the old stone horse-trough outside the Goat Inn. Ah, those were the days, when horses called to refresh themselves, and traction engines and steam lorries were not unknown to transfer water from the trough via short, hefty pipelines to thirsty boilers.

But it is a long, long time since the trough outside the Goat Inn was used for its original purpose. A more ornamental trough, with drinking fountain and an iron cup for use by passers-by, once stood outside the Town Hall.

## Unfriendly? Bah!

A short time ago I met someone who was 'jolly glad to be leaving Berkhamsted.' She had been here for two years or so and didn't like the climate (too much wind and dampness) and didn't like the people ('an unfriendly lot').

Well, we cannot do much about the weather. But rain and wind are not exclusive specialities of the town. As for the charge of unfriendliness, how on earth dare anyone make this sweeping assessment of 14,000 individuals?

I don't expect everybody to love my home town, but it's a jolly good place to live in, and anyone who continually meets with unfriendliness must have only himself to blame.

Any comments?

## Cheap Outings

Do you fancy a day at the seaside? Would 7s. 6d. be too much for a trip to North Wales? Read on.

'An excursion to Llandudno has been arranged for Tuesday, 7th July, which our choir hope to take advantage of. It is open to any of our friends who may wish to join. They must, however, make application to the clergy or the organist for tickets not later than 15th June, in

order that sufficient accommodation may be provided. The fare, returning same day, will be 7s. 6d.; or if extended to three days, 11s.; to seven days, 14s.'

Now, don't get excited. You are reading this invitation 70 years too late. It appeared in the June 1896 issue of the *Berkhamsted Parish Magazine*.

Those who went on the trip enjoyed tours round the Great Orme's Head and a voyage to Conway. Shortly after this jaunt for St. Peter's choir and friends, a party of 26 from All Saints went to Brighton, where half a gale was blowing. But there was no rain.

## In Victorian Times

Here are some more news flashes from the 1896 magazine:

At a Temperance Society meeting, Mr. Eardly Wilmot condemned 'that despicable type of temperance work which consists entirely of an entertainment where an address on the greatest national sin is wedged between two comic songs.' . . .

Mr. Wilmot referred to a boy eight years old who had been taken to hospital suffering from delirium tremens, and warned Berkhamsted parents not to send children to a public-house, 'where often the first sip was snatched from the jug.'

Refreshment of a different sort was provided by the Berkhamsted Nursing Association. The district nurse made 2,795 visits in the year, and the following were given away: 2,890 pints of milk, 186 pints of mutton broth, 171 pints of beef tea, 70 milk puddings, and 1,118 eggs.

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