

# Berkhamsted Notebook

By TOWNSMAN

## FLOWERS ALL THE WAY

If you have not walked along the towpath from Castle Street to Raven's Lane recently, I strongly advise you to do so. There are flowers, flowers, nearly all the way.

Several Station Road residents have carried enthusiasm for gardening beyond their fences and walls, and their neat little canal-side flower beds show what can be done in a very restricted space. For good measure an immobilised wheelbarrow full of growing flowers tempts one to stop, look and admire.

Then, on approaching Raven's Lane bridge, we know why the lock-keeper's house has suddenly become one of the most photographed buildings in the town. It has always been an attractive house, and now, smartly painted and surrounded by flowers (and there are more flower beds on the opposite side of the lock) it arouses as much interest as the lock, the boats, and the people who mess about in boats.

I must warn you that taking a camera along this short quarter-mile can be an expensive business. There are so many scenes to catch the photographer's eye and lens: large and small boats in gay colours, the old and new buildings of the timberyard, the bridges, and above all the flowers which have turned the towpath into a garden path.

To the lock-keeper and his public-spirited neighbours, our very best thanks.

## CANAL-SIDE HAZARDS

Speaking of the towpath, do take care if you walk beside the canal from Dudswell to the Cow Roast bridge. Here and there the path has been washed away and walkers who press on regardless soon collect canal water in their shoes.

A little nearer Berkhamsted, between Dudswell and Northchurch, I was dismayed to find the towpath strewn with cartons, bags, newspapers and tins—the long-lasting relics of lunches, teas and snacks. Hitherto the towpath has

been fairly free of litter, and I hope that anglers will try to catch the culprits and not let them get away.

It seems very unoriginal to bang the anti-litter drum, but this nuisance is with us all the time. An hour or so before writing these notes I saw two youths fling empty cigarette cartons out of their car windows while waiting for the traffic lights to change. Won't they ever learn?

## HIGH STREET CHANGES

At the time of writing, Waitrose's premises are being hacked to pieces. The thought occurred to me that when rebuilding is completed, Sketchley's, Woolworth's and Waitrose's will comprise the longest row of post-war buildings in the town centre.

The grocer's shop which has just vanished belonged to Mr. G. Chilton in late Victorian times. About the turn of the century it became Blunt and Lindsay's, and a few years after the first World War it was taken over by H. Kingham & Sons, who, many years later, sold the business to Waitrose.

Many of us remember the confectionery shop which became part of Waitrose's; earlier still we knew it as Meek's china shop.

## THE TOWN SIGN

Outside the Civic Centre stands a carved wooden post topped by the Berkhamsted coat of arms. This post, or totem pole, as it is sometimes called by the irreverent, has been looking rather the worse for wear for some time; the base is turning green with age and the cracks in the wood seem to be widening.

In early August, or maybe it was in late July, someone prised off the brass plate which stated that the town sign was presented by the Berkhamsted Citizens' Association on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. A small brass plate was also removed from one of the public seats outside the Civic Centre.

How silly can some people get?

## GEORGIAN EVENING

With the backing of the Berkhamsted Arts Association, three or four local societies are combining to present a 'Georgian Evening' in the conference room of Ashridge College on Saturday, 19th October.

The idea is to re-create something of the atmosphere and spirit of Georgian England, with excerpts from contemporary plays and music by Handel and Mozart. The performers will be in period costume and the setting could not be more appropriate.

A further announcement will be made shortly. In the meantime, you may care to book the date.

## ALTAR SERVERS

### ST. PETER'S—SEPTEMBER

1st 8 a.m. D. Crawley; 9.15 a.m. V. Snell, A. Barratt, M. Bean (Cross: S. Collins). 8th 8 a.m. J. Sutcliffe; 9.15 a.m. E. Alsop, R. Tomlin, D. Arnfield (Cross: D. Platt). 15th 8 a.m. D. Milroy; 9.15 a.m. G. R. Salter, N. Barber, P. Morris (Cross: A. C. Conway). 22nd 8 a.m. L. C. P. Deal; 9.15 a.m. D. Lovely, S. Dunford, S. Beddall (Cross: E. Alsop). 29th 8 a.m. D. Crawley; 9.15 a.m. H. Todd, D. Milroy, M. Tanner (Cross: A. C. Conway).

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