

# BERKHAMSTED REVIEW



## In and around Berkhamsted

by 'BEORCHAM'

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### The Leisure Guide

The first edition of the town's Official Leisure Guide could not have appeared at a better time, for in recent months there has been a considerable influx of new residents. The long list of associations and clubs shows that there is plenty to do in one's spare time, and when a second edition is published I hope that the "General Information" page will include a list of churches and ministers.

The appearance of this guide book caused a friend to remark that it is high time we had a new street directory. The last one, for 1970-1, was prepared and published by the Berkhamsted Round Table. At current prices I doubt whether anyone would be in a hurry to bring out a new edition, even if volunteers again took on the enormous task of collecting and checking names and addresses. One can, of course, consult the Register of Electors, and the telephone directory is increasingly useful now that so many people are on the 'phone.

### Brighter Berkhamsted

The shopping centre is all the brighter now that W. H. Smith & Sons have occupied premises which had been an eyesore for far too long. Another improvement is on the way now that men are working on the skeleton of an old house opposite the Outspan building. Can we now look forward to a face-lift for the empty premises between the Civic Centre and the new shop at Prince Edward Street corner?

Speaking of shops, several people have commented on a change at the top of Holliday Street. A fruiterer's shop is now devoted to the needs of motor-cyclists, thereby reminding older residents of the time when Holliday Brothers catered for cyclists and motorists in the same premises. John Holliday, wheelwright is mentioned in a directory of 1839, and the family name will not be forgotten so long as we have a Holliday Street.

### "Master of One"

I wish I had the space to do justice to a very welcome new book by Mr. Dorian Williams. His autobiography, "Master of One", relates an extraordinarily busy and versatile life. Millions enjoy his radio and television commentaries. Many thousands admire his work at Pendley, especially the annual Shakespeare festivals. Many societies have been proud to include a talk by Mr. Williams in their programmes.

In Berkhamsted we remember his great work in 1966, writing the script and producing the hugely successful Pageant in the Castle grounds. He again spent much time here in 1972, when he wrote and produced a Pageant of Living Tableaux to mark the 750th anniversary of St. Peter's Church.

Now we can all read the story of an enviable life. Thank you, Dorian, for giving pleasure and inspiration to so many of us.

### Over the Border

Ashley Green is no farther away than Potten

End, but for all the news we read of the Buckinghamshire village it could be in China instead of an adjoining county and diocese. However, we should all know that Ashley Green (and Whelpley Hill, which has its own small church) will be included in the parish of Chesham when the present vicar, the Rev. J. H. Bennion, leaves Ashley Green. Thus he is the last vicar of a parish which was formed in 1873. This is part of a scheme to include two Chesham churches, St. Mary's and Christ Church, in one parish.

The cost of building Ashley Green Church (£2,000) was borne by Miss Dorrien, who also gave £6,000 to endow the church. For the consecration service on 31st December, 1873, the Bishop of Oxford was taken from Haresfoot to Ashley Green by horse-drawn sleigh, the owner-driver being Col. Algernon Smith-Dorrien.

### Late Deliveries

On 27th September I received two letters from Wakefield, one from Leeds and one from Harrogate. Each one was posted on September 21st, and on the back of each envelope were two additional postmarks, Barnet and Potters Bar. So there were two ports of call before the letters reached Berkhamsted. By the same post I received a letter posted at Cannock and bearing a Hertford postmark on the back; this was only four days in transit.

I am sure that our excellent local Post Office staff wish that their colleagues elsewhere would not be so careless.

### Temperate Zone

For as long as I can remember I have heard season-ticket holders say that after a hot day in London they sense a marked drop in the temperature when the train is passing through Bourne End. In the days of steam trains, drivers and stokers were known to make the same comment. I have myself noticed a certain coolness (if the windows are open) when the journey is almost over.

November is scarcely an appropriate month to raise such a topic, but weather-wise readers may care to let me have their comments on the Bourne End temperate zone.

### County Pride

Commenting on my recent reference to a meeting held some 30 years ago to discuss the possibility of transferring Berkhamsted to Buckinghamshire, Mr. H. H. S. Hayward, of Castle Hill Close, tells me that he was then

living at Tring, where the Ratepayers' Association called a similar meeting.

"From the platform", he writes, "we were urged strongly to vote unanimously for a transfer to Buckinghamshire, but I picked up courage and mine was the sole hand against the suggestion. Since then I have lived for 30 mainly happy years in Hertfordshire, which I am now regretfully about to leave."

Many readers will join me in wishing Mr. Hayward happy years in his new home.

### Answers, please!

As another *Review* contributor provided a quiz a short time ago, I would like to invite readers to answer just one question: What have Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Oxford and Merthyr Tydfil in common?

Answers to the Editor at 9 Shrublands Road, please. The sender of the first correct answer will receive a copy of "Bygone Berkhamsted".



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