

Berkhamsted Notebook

By TOWNSMAN

BORDERLINE CASE

Here is a question that was put to me the other day: 'I know we are in Hertfordshire, in the Home Counties, in the Diocese of St. Albans, in the Bedford telephone district, in the Eastern Gas and Electricity areas, and so on. But what *weather* area are we in? As one who reads and listens to the forecasts, I would like to know.'

I understand that, weather-wise, we are in (but only just in) South East England. We are also on the verge of both the South Midlands and the London area.

Why not more and smaller areas? Well, then there would be even more borderline cases than there are today.

When I hear of heavy rain at Potten End while Berkhamsted remains dry, or vice versa, I am glad that I am not a weather forecaster. I just look at the sky over Wigginton way and hope for the best.

BETTER LATE

Britain leads, America follows. An historical association has just been formed at Barkhamsted, Connecticut.

It's marvellous how these new countries are catching up with us!

SUNNYSIDE UP

Bouquets to everybody concerned in what I have heard described as the town's most attractive event since the Pageant. We even had 'pageant' weather for the Flower Festival at St. Michael and All Angel's, Sunnyside.

Goodness knows how much love and skill and time went into this wonderful display. Many people expressed the hope that it will become an annual event, but it is one thing to make suggestions and quite another to carry them out. If we do not have another Flower Festival next year, perhaps there will be one the year after? I hope so!

Townswomen's Guild

There are women who return to Holloway prison because they are lonely outside. Miss Isabelle Granger, a regular visitor to the prison made the point in an interesting talk at the June meeting. She told many anecdotes, some funny, some pathetic. This large-hearted woman collects clothing and gifts throughout the year for distribution to the inmates at Christmas, is Godmother to their babies, witness at their weddings and often temporarily opens her home to ex-prisoners.

Mrs. Pond reported on the National Meeting at the Albert Hall. The chairman thanked Mrs. Cole for holding a very successful coffee morning and all who helped to run the superb side show at the Whit Fete.

Mrs. Noble has arranged a visit to Syon Park Gardening Centre, Brentford on Monday 22nd July. Please contact her if you wish to go.

Oxfam Collection

Berkhamsted Oxfam Group have just run a massive gift drive, touring the town to collect goods of all kinds for sale at Watford and Harpenden Oxfam Gift Shops. Children from Ashlyns School delivered leaflets round the town to pave the way; some acted as crew for the twelve cars which undertook collecting trips.

Gifts of the white elephant type are always welcome, particularly glass, china, copper, brass, jewellery or books. Inevitably some people were out when called on, so if you have anything you would like to give, the chairman, Mrs. Hole of 2 Dellfield Close (phone 6236) will receive it at any time or will arrange its collection.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Friends Refugee Clothing Collection (normally Thursdays 2—3.30p.m. at Meeting House, 289 High Street) is closing for the holiday period 25th July—12th September.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW...

Why is it so difficult to buy a bus time-table nowadays?

When will the steep section of the canal towpath by the lock at New Road, Northchurch, be repaired? It is dangerous at all times, and a particularly slippery slope in wet weather.

When will signs indicating the way to the Post Office be placed on telephone kiosks and pillar-boxes in the town centre? Strangers are forever asking the way to the G.P.O.

When will the footpath from the top of Billet Lane to Northchurch Common cease to be used as a dump for junk and garden refuse?

TRING MUSEUM

Just as I was thinking of going to bed, someone rang up to ask if I knew when Tring Museum was open. I do not know why I should be regarded as an information bureau and/or a museum piece, but this may not be a bad time of the year to tell the thousands of Berkhamstedians who have never been to Tring Museum that there is an absorbingly interesting place to visit in the next parish but one.

The museum is open from 2—5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 2—4.30 on Sundays. (Bank Holidays from 10—12 noon and 2—5 p.m.) Admission is free; some of the exhibits are also priceless.

£15 A YEAR

At the County Record Office, Hertford, I came across the following advertisement in a newspaper of 1780:

'Bourne's Charity. The Trustees of this Charity will meet on Tuesday the 12th Day of December, at the School-house in Berkhamsted St. Peter's, at Twelve at Noon precisely, for the Election of a School-Mistress, in the room of Mrs. ALICE ROLPH, deceased; The Salary is £15 per Annum, with a yearly Allowance of £2 10s. for Firing, and a House live in.

'The Duty required, is to instruct Ten Girls in Reading and Working, and with them constantly to attend Public Worship on Sunday and Holidays.

'Petitions are to be delivered, or sent Post-paid to me, on or before the 1st day of December, after which no Petitions will be received. T. Healy, Treasurer. Great Berkhamstead, Herts. Nov. 9, 1780.'